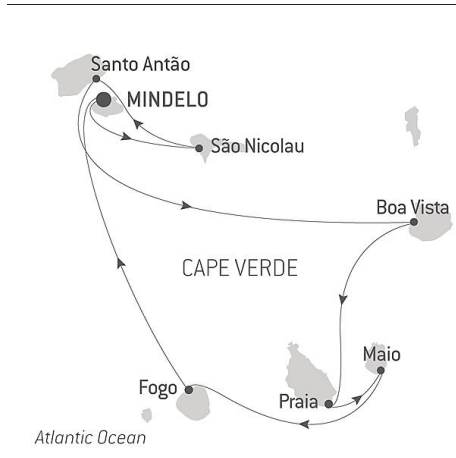


# The many faces of Cape Verde

From **09/12/2023**  
to **16/12/2023**

Ship: **LE PONANT**

From **Mindelo**  
to **Mindelo**



On the Cape Verde Islands, formed from volcanic lava and sculpted by the power of the Atlantic's waves, you will experience the raw beauty of incomparable nature. There are of course the strains of morna coming from Mindelo. There is the history of a former Portuguese colony that still bears traces of its past and has a geographic situation that has meant many influences for this string of islands. Above all, though, Cape Verde represents an indefinable feeling of freedom. Carried by the wind, *Le Ponant* will take you into a unexpected world where the elements will imbue you with new emotions.

Soft music rises from **Mindelo**, the music of Cesária Évora, "the Barefoot Diva", who is inextricably linked to her island and her town, where she remains revered. The pastel colours of the façades and the former colonial buildings dot the Cape Verdean towns and villages that you will discover from the sea. Aboard *Le Ponant*, you will enjoy the privilege of an intimate atmosphere in the hushed comfort of the ship. As your cruise unfolds, you will discover the historic city of **São Filipe** inexorably turned to the sea, on the island of Fogo, and you will explore **Praia**, the capital of Cape Verde with its diverse influences, planted with tamarind and silk trees. Wherever you go, you will be captivated by the markets with their bright colours and fragrance-filled stalls.

The sky and the sea, unspoiled nature and the Cape Verdean soul will sweep you away aboard *Le Ponant*. Everywhere you look, you will see surprising and larger-than-life landscapes. The highest island in the archipelago, **Fogo**, is like a painting featuring a palette of colours, at times emerald, at times grey, revealing old lava flows amidst lush vegetation. In **São Nicolau**, the steep hillsides soon rise on the horizon, while the deep valleys will welcome you to discover the dragon trees, these ancient trees with a majestic silhouette. **Boa Vista** offers another face of Cape Verde, with its dunes of fine sand stretching as far as the eye can see, revealing the cerulean blue of the Atlantic. And volcanos are everywhere here, watching over the landscape, their sharp contours unveiling the power of wild nature.

The changing winds will set the pace of your odyssey, freedom will surge up on the horizon, in the soft calm offered by the interior of PONANT's

emblematic yacht. If you look to the sky, you will perhaps glimpse some of the many bird species that can be found in this piece of land lost in the Atlantic Ocean. You are sure to be surprised by the variety of activities during your trip, from hiking the paths of the archipelago to lazing on the bridge of the ship or on a Cape Verdean beach, to cultural discoveries and the exploration of a fascinating heritage.



The information in this document is valid as of 23/03/2023

# The many faces of Cape Verde

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### MINDELO

Embarkation 09/12/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 09/12/2023 at 21:30

Set on the shores of the Porto Grande bay on the north-west coast of São Vicente, Mindelo is considered to be Cape Verde's cultural capital. Here in singer Cesaria Evora's homeland, you can listen to real **morna** in the bars of the old town, where you can also sip the local **grog**, a Cape Verdian sugarcane spirit. A few streets from the elegant floating resort of Pont d'água you'll see the pastel-coloured houses and **colonial buildings of the historical district**. Other landmarks are the facades of the old Governor's Palace and the busy municipal market.

### SÃO NICOLAU

Arrival 10/12/2023 early morning

Departure 10/12/2023 evening

Located south-west of São Vicente, the island of São Nicolau is a dramatic sight with **steep, richly forested mountains** that reach their peak at Mt Gordo. Near the summit, the island's attractive capital, Ribeira Brava, nestles in a deep green valley. Not far off, you can hike along the **mountain paths of Fajã**, where you'll see rare and extremely old dragon trees growing naturally on the high plateaux. Coastal landmarks include the Blue Hole, peaceful Tarrafal beach and the picturesque **fishing village of Preguiça**.

### MINDELO TO SANTO ANTAO

Arrival 11/12/2023 at night

Departure 11/12/2023 late afternoon

From **Mindelo**, the cultural capital of Cape Verde and the hometown of the legendary Cesária Évora, you will be able to travel to the neighbouring island of **Santo Antao**. On the horizon, the island's sharp contours, a result of volcanic activity in the region, rise out of the Atlantic Ocean. Long deemed impassable, Santo Antao has been partially tamed by man who successfully adapted to the mountain chain that crosses it, in particular by establishing terraced farming there. This unique form of agriculture gives the island an extraordinary beauty which blends in with its wild nature, at times lush, at times mineral. With its deep valleys and jagged peaks, the territory offers stunning panoramas that promise unforgettable memories.

### BOA VISTA

Arrival 12/12/2023 midday

Departure 12/12/2023 late afternoon

The third largest island in the Cape Verde archipelago, **Boa Vista** offers visitors stunning white-sand beaches and

emerald water. Dubbed “the sand dune island”, it is particularly well-known for its wild, desert landscapes that are windswept all year round. Sand dunes, oases and arid plains form the landscape of this small stretch of land that is barely 30 km (20 miles) long. Make the most of your stop here by experiencing the joy of swimming amid abundant marine life.

## PRAIA

Arrival 13/12/2023 early morning

Departure 13/12/2023 late evening

The capital of Cape Verde, Praia, is located on the southern tip of Santiago island. You can dally in the districts planted with Tamarind and Albizia trees. Above the harbour, the **statue of Diogo Gomes** pays homage to the man who discovered Cape Verde in 1460. A few streets away, in the old centre, the **Ethnographic Museum** presents the diversity of the archipelago's cultural origins. Its historical building with transom windows is one of the city's more unusual curiosities.

## MAIO

Arrival 14/12/2023 midday

Departure 14/12/2023 early evening

Discovered in 1460 in the month of May, as its Portuguese name indicates, Maio lies east of Santiago in the Cape Verde archipelago. At the southwestern end of the island, you will discover the **city of Porto Inglês**, also known as **Vila do Maio**, where the pastel houses nestle against rounded hillsides. This port city played a pivotal role in the export of salt by the English in the 17th century. Overlooking the city, the fortress built in the 18th century as protection against pirate attacks still bears traces of its turbulent past. The long beaches of white sand that edge the island are now an invitation to enjoy the peace and serenity.

## FOGO

Arrival 15/12/2023 early morning

Departure 15/12/2023 early afternoon

Lying west of Praia, the volcanic island of Fogo is Cape Verde's highest landmark. The foothills of **Pico de Fogo** are ideal for hiking, with an immense caldera surrounding the active crater. Trails start at the little town of Chã das Caldeiras and you can see recent lava flows and older ones sprouting with new growth. Along the rocky coastline you'll come across picturesque Mosteiros and the **historic town of São Filipe**, where elegant colonial houses overlook the Atlantic.

## MINDELO

Arrival 16/12/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 16/12/2023 at 08:00

Set on the shores of the Porto Grande bay on the north-west coast of São Vicente, Mindelo is considered to be Cape Verde's cultural capital. Here in singer Cesaria Evora's homeland, you can listen to real **morna** in the bars of the old town, where you can also sip the local **grog**, a Cape Verdian sugarcane spirit. A few streets from the elegant floating

resort of Pont d'água you'll see the pastel-coloured houses and **colonial buildings of the historical district**. Other landmarks are the facades of the old Governor's Palace and the busy municipal market.