



Country Profile: Cape Verde

The Republic of Cape Verde consists of nine inhabited and several uninhabited volcanic islands off the western coast of Africa. Most are rugged and mountainous; three (Sal, Maio, and Boa Vista) are flat, desert islands with sand beaches. Praia, the capital, is on the island of Santiago, and Cape Verde’s major shipping port is Mindelo on the island of Sao Vicente. Portuguese is the official language. Praia’s new international airport opened on October 6, 2005, from which Cape Verdean Airlines (TACV) now offers direct flights between Praia and Boston once or twice a week, depending on the season. Cape Verde has another international airport (Amilcar Cabral Airport) located on Sal Island, more than 100 miles northeast of the capital. While the tourist industry brings ever-growing numbers of visitors, facilities on many islands remain limited. Sal has the most developed tourist industry. See the section “Special Circumstances” below regarding issues that impact inter-island transport.

Cape Verde enjoys a stable, democratic government with an elected president as head of state, a prime minister nominated by the National Assembly (the national legislative body) as head of government, and elected members of the unicameral National Assembly. The judicial system is comprised of numerous courts, culminating in a Supreme Court.

Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Cape Verde for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Cape Verde
Continent:	Africa
Capital City:	Praia
Boundary Countries:	No land boundaries.
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Praia: Hospital Agostinho Neto Mindelo: Hospital Baptista de Sousa
Main Cities:	Praia, Santa Maria, Mindelo, Tarrafal, São Filipe
Country Size:	4,033 sq km
Population:	423,613

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Portuguese, Crioulo (a blend of Portuguese and West African words)
Currency:	Cape Verdean escudo (CVE)
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic (infused with indigenous beliefs), Protestant (mostly Church of the Nazarene)
National Holidays:	Independence Day, 5 July (1975)
Economic Status:	This island economy suffers from a poor natural resource base, including serious water shortages exacerbated by cycles of long-term drought. The economy is service-oriented, with commerce, transport, tourism, and public services accounting for 66% of GDP.
Security:	People's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARP): Army, Coast Guard (includes maritime air wing)
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Praia Rua Abilio Macedo 6 Praia, Cape Verde Phone: +238 260 8900 Fax: (238)-261-13-55

Major Airports:	<p>Airports: 7, Airports w/paved runways: 7</p> <p>Amilcar Cabral International Airport (SID/GVAC) Sal Airport, Cape Verde, PO Box 58, Espargos, Sal Island, Cape Verde Sal Airport, Cape Verde, Airport Administration, Espargos, Sal Island, Cape Verde Tel: +238 241 1394, +238 241 1468, +238 241 1135, +238 241 1309 (Operations) +238 241 1372 E-mail: info@asa.cv Website: www.asa.cv Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +238 241 1222 Fax: +238 241 1222</p>
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