Variety Cruises

THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS

7-DAY CRUISES FROM/TO SAL
EXCLUSIVE SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE

November 2026 to February 2027

IMPORTANT: Due to limited availability, guests are requested to submit their tour booking requests no later than two weeks prior to embarkation.
As capacity with our local providers must be secured in advance, bookings requested after embarkation can only be confirmed subject to remaining availability on each tour.





DAY 2

BOA VISTA

SAL REI

AUTHENTIC BOA VISTA: DESERT LANDSCAPES, TRADITIONS & SANTA MONICA BEACH

- Duration approx. 7 hours – active tour/medium difficulty*
- Full-day tour including Transportation by pickup-trucks, English speaking Guide, Lunch
- Per Person: Euro 114

NOTE: Boa Vista tour must be pre-booked 2 weeks ahead of embarkation!

Boa Vista, the easternmost and third-largest island of Cape Verde, truly lives up to its name, which means "Beautiful View." Our exploration begins in **Sal Rei**, where a short stroll through the island's charming capital offers a glimpse into local life and culture. We then continue to Rabil, one of Boa Vista's oldest settlements, to visit a traditional pottery workshop where skilled artisans transform local clay into beautiful, handcrafted pieces, preserving a centuries-old craft.

Next, we venture into the striking **Viana Desert** for a short photo stop amid its sweeping sand dunes. Traveling further south through Boa Vista's rugged and sparsely populated interior, we arrive at the natural **Santa Monica Beach**, Weather and sea conditions permitting, we may enjoy a quick refreshing swim in the Atlantic Ocean.
Following our beach stop, we continue along scenic coastal tracks and rolling sand dunes to a local restaurant. Before returning to the ship, we visit the **Santa Maria Shipwreck**, whose rusting remains have become a symbol of Boa Vista's maritime history and a favorite photographic highlight.

Note: Guests will be seated both inside and outside the vehicles, with rotation during the tour to ensure everyone enjoys the best possible views.

Activity Level: Moderate; This excursion includes exposure to heat, sun, dust, and some bumpy off-road sections. However, the unique landscapes, authentic cultural encounters, and spectacular coastal scenery make it an exceptionally rewarding experience.



DAY 3

SANTIAGO

PRAIA

CAPE VERDE THROUGH TIME: PRAIA AND UNESCO CIDADE VELHA

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Half-day tour including Transportation, English speaking Guide, Entry fees
- Per Person: Euro 62

The excursion begins with a visit to the Plateau, the historic heart of Praia, the vibrant capital of Cape Verde.
Here, we explore **Alexandre de Albuquerque Square**, surrounded by elegant colonial-era buildings including the **Palace of Justice**, **the Church of Nossa Senhora da Graça** (dating from 1900), the **City Hall**, the **Palácio da Cultura Ildo Lobo**, lively local markets, and the bustling pedestrian shopping streets offering a glimpse into everyday Cape Verdean life.

A scenic 30-minute drive then brings us to **Cidade Velha** (formerly Ribeira Grande), the first capital of Cape Verde and a designated **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Dominated by the impressive **São Filipe Fortress**, this historic settlement played a key role in the transatlantic trade routes of the 15th and 16th centuries.
During our visit, we stroll through the charming village, see the historic **Pelourinho** pillory, explore the evocative ruins of the old cathedral, visit the beautifully preserved **Church of Nossa Senhora do Rosário**, and walk along the famous **Rua da Banana**, considered the oldest street in the Cape Verde archipelago and a remarkable reminder of the islands' early colonial heritage.
Explore the vibrant capital of Praia and the UNESCO-listed Cidade Velha, where centuries of Cape Verdean history come vividly to life.



DAY 4

FOGO

SAO FELIPE

FIRE & RESILIENCE: EXPLORING FOGO'S VOLCANIC HEART

- Duration approx. 7 hours
- Full-day tour including Transportation, English speaking Guide, Lunch & Fogo wine tasting
- Per Person: Euro 105

A visit to **Fogo Natural Park** is an unforgettable journey through Cape Verde's most spectacular landscape, dominated by the island's majestic volcano.
Beginning in **São Filipe**, explore the charming main square, colorful produce market, historic City Hall, and beautifully restored colonial Sobrados that reflect the island's rich heritage.

Travel inland through the fertile highlands, stopping at **Forno** to learn about the innovative drip-irrigation techniques that help local farmers thrive despite the island's dry climate. Continue to **Achada Furna**, where new communities were established following the eruptions of 1995 and 2014, and on to **Cabeça Fundão** for stunning views over ancient craters and dramatic volcanic scenery.
Entering the remarkable Natural Park of **Chã das Caldeiras**, nestled within the vast volcanic caldera beneath Cape Verde's highest peak, witness a landscape shaped by fire and the extraordinary resilience of its people.
Visit one of the villages devastated by the 2014 eruption and discover how residents returned to rebuild their homes and lives against all odds.

Enjoy a traditional lunch at **Marisa's House**, accompanied by a tasting of the renowned local **Manecon wine**, produced from grapes cultivated in the volcanic soils of the caldera. Before returning to the ship, there will be an opportunity to purchase some of Fogo's acclaimed coffee, considered among the finest in the world.



DAY 5

SAO VICENTE

MINDELO

ISLAND TOUR DISCOVERY & CESARIA EVORA HERITAGE

- Duration approx. 5 hours
- Half-day tour including Transportation, English speaking Guide & the museum visit
- Per Person: Euro 74

São Vicente is renowned not only for the vibrant cultural capital of Mindelo, but also for its striking landscapes, golden beaches, and volcanic scenery.
Our island discovery begins with a panoramic drive through Mindelo before ascending to Monte Verde (744 m), the highest point on the island, where breathtaking views stretch across São Vicente and, weather permitting, opportunities to spot local birdlife.

We then continue to **Salamansa**, a charming fishing village framed by a beautiful white-sand beach, with time to enjoy the scenery.
Following the scenic eastern coastline and its rolling sand dunes, we reach **Calhau**, where we stroll through the village and visit natural volcanic pools shaped by the Atlantic Ocean.
Nearby, the fertile **Calhau Valley** offers a surprising contrast, where local farmers cultivate fruits and vegetables despite the island's arid climate.

Returning to Mindelo and if road traffic allows, we stop at the cemetery to visit the grave of the famous singer Cesaria Evora. Our tour will conclude with a short city walk and a visit to the **Cesária Évora Museum**, celebrating her life, music, and enduring cultural influence.



DAY 6

SANTO ANTAO

PORTO NOVO

FASCINATING VALLEYS, VILLAGES AND VOLCANOES

- Duration approx. 8 hours
- Full-day tour including Transportation, English speaking Guide, Lunch
- Per Person: Euro 98

Discover the highlights of **Santo Antão**, one of Cape Verde's most spectacular islands.
Drive along the island's renowned coastal road, offering great ocean views as we travel to **Cidade das Pombas** and into the breathtaking **Paul Valley**, a verdant oasis of terraced fields, picturesque villages, and fertile landscapes. After exploring traditional rural communities, we pause for a refreshing morning break in the highlands before setting out on a short walk through the lush valley.
Along the way, you will encounter sugar cane plantations and visit a local distillery to sample **grogue**, the island's traditional sugar cane spirit. Guests will also have the opportunity to purchase bottles directly from the producer.
Continuing along the scenic coastline, we arrive in **Ponta do Sol** charming fishing village. Following a brief stroll through the town, we enjoy lunch in a rural setting, featuring locally sourced specialties such as breadfruit and sweet potatoes.
The afternoon takes us across the island via the historic mountain road, passing through **Ribeira de Torre, Água das Caldeiras**, and the spectacular **Cova de Corda Caldera**, undoubtedly one of the island's most impressive natural landmarks.
From this dramatic viewpoint, we begin our descent back toward **Porto Novo**.
Before returning to the ship, we make a final stop to admire the vibrant murals created during a local wall-painting competition, adding a colorful cultural touch to the day.
This comprehensive tour beautifully showcases the remarkable contrasts of Santo Antão, from the rugged, arid landscapes of the south to the forested mountain peaks and the lush, green valleys of the north.
Rich in scenery, culture, and local traditions, this is an experience not to be missed.



DAY 7

SANTO ANTAO

PORTO NOVO

A JOURNEY THROUGH NATURE, GEOLOGY AND GENUINE ISLAND LIFE

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Half-day tour including Transportation, English speaking Guide, a refreshment
- Per Person: Euro 65

Set off on an unforgettable safari adventure through striking volcanic landscapes, fertile agricultural fields, and remote villages where local communities continue to practice traditional drop-by-drop irrigation techniques, cultivating the land amid challenging yet beautiful surroundings.
Marvel at bizarre basalt rock formations, rugged mountain terrain, and deep canyons of extraordinary beauty that tell the story of the island's geological past. In the Sul region, discover the visible layers of ancient volcanic eruptions that have shaped the landscape.

Travel along the impressive **Cha de Morte Canyon**, stopping at a panoramic viewpoint overlooking a tiny settlement nestled deep within the canyon. Here, locals still transport goods using a small but ingenious steel cable car that clings dramatically to the steep slopes. As the route continues into the mountains, admire a landscape defined by unique crops and plantations, enhanced by the stunning contrast between lush vegetation and the black volcanic rock.
In **Forquilha**, enjoy breathtaking views over **Alto Mira** and **Ribeira das Patas**, two of the island's most picturesque valleys.
Descending toward the coast, gain insight into the daily life of local residents and observe the traditional agricultural practices that continue to sustain these resilient communities.

REMARKS:

-**Minimum number** of participants for the operation of the above tours: **12 paying** guests. Maximum number depending on availability (limited). Guests with pre-bookings will be prioritized when a tour operates.

-**Tours include:** Private transportation for the exclusive use of the VARIETY CRUISES passengers, friendly local guides or escorts, entrances where applicable and light traditional meals (if mentioned in the program). Please note that when guided by local escorts in remote areas with limited or no tourism infrastructure, the experience may be less structured, and language barriers may occur. We thank you in advance for your understanding and hope that you will enjoy these more authentic and immersive experiences offered.
-Transportation takes place by Toyota or similar Minibuses or Jeeps with no A/C no P/A (microphone)- as per island standards.

-**The level of the tours** is considered easy (guests with normal mobility condition) except for Boa Vista which is considered slightly strenuous (sun/sand and transportation is taking place with pickups vehicles).

-Prices or descriptions are subject to changes due to operational or other unforeseen issues. Guests will be informed ahead of time – prior signing in, should any changes occur.
Cancellation fees up to 100% may apply for cancellations acknowledged by our experience leader in less than 48 hours from the tour booked.

Please contact the Travel Professional with whom you made your cruise reservation to pre-book your desired Shore Excursions. Payment can be made at the end of the cruise, together with any other onboard expenses, by cash or card.

