

Riskline / Destination Report

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CABO VERDE

Overall risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
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The Overall Risk Level will be determined by the higher of the Security Risk Level and Covid-19 Risk Level.

Security risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Safe, with few security risks	Generally safe, with some predictable security risks	Not completely safe, but typically presents predictable security risks	Can be dangerous and may present unexpected security risks	Extremely dangerous and presents unpredictable security risks
Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Travel is possible, but there is a potential for disruptions	Chaotic; travel impossible

Covid-19 risk level

Low Take normal safety precautions	Moderate Take normal safety precautions	Medium Exercise caution	High Reconsider travel	Extreme Defer non-essential travel
Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Low Risk locations, which have limited or no restrictions on international travel and domestic activities.	Travellers should take normal precautions when travelling to Moderate Risk locations, which have few restrictions on international travel and limited or no restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should exercise caution when travelling to Medium Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should take normal precautions. These locations may have some restrictions on international travel, but few restrictions on domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should reconsider their need to travel to High Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should exercise caution. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and partially restricted domestic activities.	Unvaccinated travellers should defer non-essential travel to Extreme Risk locations, and vaccinated travellers should reconsider their travel. These locations may have severely restricted international travel and domestic activities.

Overview

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events scheduled

Travel Advisories

Summary

Overall ● Moderate Risk

Cabo Verde is a **Moderate Risk** destination: take normal safety precautions.

Security ● Moderate Risk

Moderate Risk locations are generally safe, with some predictable security risks. Travel is possible with an expectation of routine disruptions and delays.

Covid ● Low Risk

Authorities have previously implemented travel restrictions as well as localised lockdowns. The country has lifted all COVID-19 measures.

Political Instability ● Low Risk

Considered one of Africa's most successful democracies, Cabo Verde abandoned one-party rule in favour of democracy in 1990. With a population of roughly 556,000 and a limited role in world trade and politics, Cabo Verde has long enjoyed political stability.

Conflict ● Low Risk

Cabo Verde has not experienced significant internal conflicts or wars in its modern history. However, like any nation, it has faced challenges and issues that may have led to social unrest or tensions.

Terrorism ● Low Risk

Cabo Verde is not considered a significant target for terrorism, and there are no known active terrorist organizations operating within the country.

Unrest ● Low Risk

Cabo Verde is generally considered politically stable and has not experienced widespread protests or significant civil unrest.

Crime ● Moderate Risk

Cabo Verde has a relatively low crime rate compared to many other countries in the region. Petty crime and burglaries occur, particularly in bustling marketplaces, festivals, street fairs and public gatherings. Individuals perceived as affluent, regardless of their nationality, are often targeted by criminals. Violent crime is relatively uncommon, however, drug trafficking is a significant concern due to the country's strategic location between South America and Europe.

Natural and Environmental ● Moderate Risk

Cabo Verde is of volcanic origin, and while volcanic eruptions are not frequent, the country is exposed to the potential risks associated with volcanic activity. The country is also occasionally affected by tropical cyclones and hurricanes, especially during the hurricane season (June to November). These storms can bring heavy rainfall, strong winds and storm surges, resulting in flooding and damage to infrastructure.

Local Travel ● Moderate Risk

The public transport network, which is mostly made up of buses and taxis, is only available in major cities. Where present, public transport is generally reliable and in good condition as are the roads. However, driving standards, particularly after dark and during the rainy season, are poor and speeding is common. For inter-island travel, ferries and domestic flights are available, but sudden weather changes can affect their schedules.

Health and Medical ● Medium Risk

Access to medical care, including in the capital **Praia**, is restricted, and the availability of healthcare services diminishes significantly in more isolated regions. Air evacuations may not be possible in some areas due to inadequate infrastructure. While pharmacies are in abundance, critical medicines may be in short supply. Water- and food-borne diseases, as well as many tropical diseases, are common.

Political Overview : ● Low Risk

President José Maria Neves of the African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde (PAICV) was elected in October 2021 after winning about 52 percent in a vote marked by low turnout. President Neves previously served as prime minister. The low turnout was likely a product of voters losing faith in the political process amid an ongoing economic recession, which began under former president Jorge Carlos Fonseca. The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on tourism, which along with remittances from abroad, remains integral to the country's economy. Despite that, the former president's Movement for Democracy (MpD) won the legislative elections that were held in April 2021, securing 49 percent of the vote.

There exists an amicable relationship between the two rival parties, with both constituencies contesting political power without any unfair restrictions or regulations. There have similarly been no reports of government initiatives to limit private criticism of its policies, while public condemnation of the government has not induced any form of governmental reprisal.

There are no known ethnic or religious tensions prevalent in the country. Over 90 percent of the Cabo Verdean populace is nominally Roman Catholic. Protestants account for a small portion of the island's Christian population. Other denominations include the Seventh-Day Adventists and various Pentecostal and evangelical groups. There are also small groups of Muslims and Baha'is. Several traditional African religions are practiced, especially in **São Tiago**, with some traditional elements infused into other religions. Despite there being no official state religion, the Catholic Church enjoys a somewhat privileged status, including officially observed religious holidays.

There are no recent incidents

Conflict : ● Low Risk

Porous Borders: The European Commission reports that Cabo Verde's remoteness has made it an attractive location for drug trafficking, particularly cocaine. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated that Brazilian police had identified Cabo Verde as a transit point for narcotics travelling from northeast Brazil to Africa and Europe. Although the issue does not pose an immediate threat to domestic instability, countries which are considered prone to drug trafficking are often entrenched in protracted drug wars between rival cartels and local security services.

Terrorism

Response Preparedness: The state's security and emergency services may face significant challenges in the event of a terror incident. Emergency services are notably underdeveloped and security personnel have limited training in disaster response. Moreover, there is a lack of coordinated structures among emergency services to effectively address potential terror threats.

There are no recent incidents

Unrest : ● Low Risk

The country experiences occasional protests and demonstrations on specific issues. These protests have typically been peaceful and focused on matters such as labour disputes, social issues and economic concerns. The government generally respects the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

There are no recent incidents

Crime : ● Moderate Risk

Petty Crime: Gangs of street children are often blamed for petty crimes, but children under 16 are exempt from criminal sanctions. Bag-snatching and bag-slashing are common in busy areas, especially in the capital, Praia. Sometimes, victims may face threats from a group of young men or street kids, so it's best to avoid resistance. Bag-slashing typically occurs in crowded areas at night, where the perpetrator cuts the bag and steals its contents.

Beware of your surroundings, do not leave your belongings unattended and exercise general personal safety for travel. Only carry what is needed, do not flash expensive valuables or large sums of money, and keep cash, identification and mobile phones in front pockets, or in a zipped or concealed pocket or pouch rather than in a bag. Secure belongings when using public transport or when frequenting markets and other crowded public areas; secure bags diagonally across the body against the chest, keep bags within sight and away from the street. Refrain from using mobile phones or laptops in congested public places; avoid putting bags containing valuables on the ground. Avoid walking in poorly lit and isolated areas. Stay in groups. Reject rides or drinks from strangers and never leave drinks unattended. Exercise extreme caution when purchasing and consuming alcohol in public venues. Do not accept pamphlets in the street or shopping centres; these could be impregnated with potent and disorienting drugs, which permeate the skin. If you start to feel unwell, tell staff or close friends and do not leave the venue alone or with strangers. Shout to attract attention, if needed.

Violent Crime: Violent crimes, including murders and muggings, have been on the increase, but remain low when compared to regional standards. Most violent crime occurs at night, in poorly lit, secluded areas of the larger towns

Commonsense measures are best kept to ensure against becoming the victim of a violent crime. Travellers are advised to remain vigilant at all times and exercise general personal safety for travel: avoid walking alone at night, do not venture down roads with poor lighting and few access points. Be careful when using taxis and public transport and plot route bypasses around rowdy crowds. Seek local advice for areas to avoid. If you are held-up by an armed robber do not become confrontational as any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Property Crime: Residential break-ins occur frequently. Tourists and visitors may be

targeted due to their perceived wealth.

Travellers are advised against leaving valuables in hotel rooms. Deposit important items in the safe. Be sure to lock hotel/house doors, even when you are present. Home invaders often conduct thorough investigations of their victims' routines and whereabouts prior to an attack. Avoid visible displays of wealth and check for signs of being followed when returning to one's place of residence. If you do happen to be burgled, remain cooperative as perpetrators are likely to be armed and any resistive behaviour may cause more violence by the attackers.

Organised Crime and Gangs: Cabo Verde is a drug-trafficking transit point and this criminal activity has led to an increase in violent crime, although this is unlikely to affect foreign nationals.

Violence is often contained within inter-gang rivalries, though bystanders may be caught up in drive-by shootings, street shootings and armed or arson attacks. Avoid the epicentres of criminal activities, which are often located on the outskirts of urban areas. Seek local advice on specific areas to avoid. Restrict travel in unfamiliar areas to daylight hours. Visitors should avoid association with members of any groups or individuals they suspect of being involved in such activities.

Fraud and Scams: Fraud and scams have been reported as potential security concerns in Cabo Verde, particularly in tourist areas and when dealing with unfamiliar individuals or services.

ATM fraud: Always refuse unsolicited assistance while at an ATM, and avoid ATMs other than at malls and banks. Keep a 24-hour emergency number for ATM cards on hand to prevent illegal withdrawals from the account if such incidences occur.

Credit Card fraud: Visitors should only use credit cards when an electronic transaction is possible and when the transaction can be completed directly in front of them. Never let a clerk, sales assistant or waiter take a card to another location for the transaction to be processed. If this cannot be avoided, visitors should insist upon going with the individual to the point of sale to witness the transaction. Keep an eye on the card at all times. Always ensure that you receive a receipt and check the amount to be correct.

Kidnapping: Kidnapping incidents in Cabo Verde are relatively rare compared to some other regions. The country has a generally low risk of kidnappings targeting tourists or foreigners. However, it is always essential to stay informed, exercise caution, and follow personal safety guidelines.

Travellers should remain aware of their surroundings and follow the latest advisories for their destination. Maintain communications and your itinerary with local contacts, authorities or embassy staff, especially in locations with a higher risk of kidnapping. Consider a local guide or security escort for the highest risk locations.

There are no recent incidents

Law

Overview

The Cabo Verde legal system is based on the Portuguese legal system. The judiciary is independent. However it is seriously backlogged and understaffed; trial delays can be up to six months or more.

Traffic Infractions and Speeding: Drivers and front seat passengers must wear seatbelts at all times. Children under 12 must sit in the backseat of the vehicle. Motorcyclists are required under Cabo Verdian law to wear a crash helmet at all times. All motor vehicles must be insured with third-party insurance, or risk being fined by the police. A driver that causes an accident may be made to pay a fine and a driver that causes an accident that results in a death may be imprisoned.

Drugs and Alcohol: Penalties are harsh for drug use, trafficking and possession in Cabo Verde. Foreign nationals can be arrested for possession of unlabelled medication, Riskline advises to ensure all prescription medication be labelled and be accompanied by a letter from a doctor.

Corruption

Travellers: Foreign nationals can often be solicited for bribes by public officials, especially the police and border/customs officials. Bribery is illegal in the Cabo Verde and foreign nationals should never offer bribes to any officials to avoid arrest and prosecution. However, there is poor enforcement of these laws and minimal instances of prosecution.

Residents: When applying for Visas, work/residency permits it is common to be offered 'efficient' service in exchange for a bribe. Using a relocation agency/lawyer is a useful alternative to avoid these situations. Traffic police might demand 'on the spot fines' for supposed infringements. This is illegal and should be refused and reported at a police station.

Business: When applying for government tenders, especially, businesses should avoid offering 'incentives/commissions' to officials involved in tendering processes. European businesses are advised to comply with the OECD conventions on corruption so as to avoid possible prosecution in their home countries.

Security Services

Overview

The Judiciary Police Force, Public Order Police, Treasury Police and Maritime Police are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs. Foreign nationals in Cabo Verde will generally only see the Judiciary Police, which has primary responsibility for maintenance of law and order.

Efficiency: The Cabo Verdean Police are generally helpful and responsive, though capacity to assist and respond effectively is limited by lack of resources and little language capability beyond Portuguese and perhaps French. The police are though ill-equipped, underfunded, poorly trained and meagrely remunerated, which negates their efficiency drastically.

Professionalism: Overall, police are professional though poorly trained. There have been cases of police officers demanding bribes or spot fines. This is illegal and should be politely, but firmly refused.

Abuses/Misacrrriages of Justice: Police can at times be excessive in their use of force when called out to respond to protests and demonstrations. However, the levels of abuses are negligible.

Emergency Contact: In the event of an emergency the police can be contacted by dialling 132.

Natural Risks : ● Moderate Risk

Cabo Verde is of volcanic origin, and while volcanic eruptions are not frequent, the country is exposed to the potential risks associated with volcanic activity. The country is also occasionally affected by tropical cyclones and hurricanes, especially during the hurricane season (June to November). These storms can bring heavy rainfall, strong winds and storm surges, resulting in flooding and damage to infrastructure.

Volcanic Eruptions

A volcanic eruption occurs when lava, rocks and gas are discharged from a volcanic vent. Eruptions can also trigger volcanic ash clouds and landslides called lahar.

Most of the Cabo Verde archipelago is volcanic. Although most of the volcanoes are dormant, some remain active on the **Fogo, Brava and Santo Antao islands**. In November 2014, a volcanic eruption on **Fogo Island** affected hundreds of people living in the **Chã das Caldeiras**, with subsequent lava flows, small explosions, gases and ashes that lasted for several months and destroyed infrastructure and around 444 hectares (1.7 sq km) of land. In August 2016, authorities evacuated hundreds of people from the villages of **Cova de Joana, Nossa Senhora de Monte and Faja de Agua** on **Brava Island** due to an increase in seismic activity.

In the event of a volcanic eruption, listen to your radio or television until you are told all is safe or you receive instructions to evacuate. Local authorities may elect to vacate specific areas at greater risk. If instructed to remain indoors, stay inside with windows and doors closed and all heating and air conditioning systems turned off. Move to a ground level interior room without windows. If you are caught in an outdoor rock fall, roll into a ball to protect your head. Immediately evacuate an area when volcanic fumes and gases begin to cause an irritation to your sensory or respiratory organs. Your symptoms should dissipate when you are no longer in contact with the gases or fumes. Keep your vehicle engine switched off. Avoid driving in heavy ashfall. Ash and debris may clog a car's engine, causing the vehicle to stall. If driving is unavoidable, ensure that all windows are rolled up and that the air conditioning system is turned off. In the event of volcanic activity, avoid travel within the radius of the danger zone established by authorities. Volcanic ash clouds may also impact air travel if the volcano is located within range of an airport; confirm updated itineraries with airline

representatives if this occurs.

Hurricanes/Typhoons/Tropical Cyclones

A cyclone/typhoon/hurricane is essentially a large mass of air that spirals around a low-pressure centre. It is an organised collection of thunderstorms embedded in a swirling mass of air. This mass of air is called a cyclone if it forms in the Indian or South Pacific oceans, a typhoon if formed in the West Pacific Ocean and a hurricane if formed in the East Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Cyclones/typhoons/hurricanes normally bring gale-force winds, heavy rainfall and high tides, with the potential of causing significant or destructive damage and widespread travel disruptions.

Although infrequent, the Cabo Verdean archipelago may experience cyclones and other tropical storm systems during its *tempo das chuvas* (rainy season) between August and September, with associated flooding. Damaging storms that generate gale force winds and a storm surge are reported on an average of once every one to two years. Meteorological services issue warnings before a storm's approach, and may include evacuations from low-lying and seaside areas during storms. Flights through Praia (RAI/GVNP), Amílcar Cabral (SID/GVAC) and Aristides Pereira (BVC/GVBA) international airports and ferry services can be disrupted. In August and September 2018, authorities issued warnings for Tropical Storm Florence and Tropical Storm Helene, which both passed near the southern part of the archipelago, particularly affecting the southern Sotavento islands of Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava.

Follow local radio or television broadcasts for information and evacuation instructions. If not under an area with mandatory evacuation orders, remain indoors. Locate and secure important documentation, including passports, photo identification, travel permits and any indispensable personal effects. Be advised that the calm 'eye' is deceptive and should by no means be interpreted as a sign that the storm has passed. The second winds are likely to be worse and may destroy trees and buildings damaged in the first pass. If caught in a region hit by a cyclone/typhoon/hurricane, remain indoors until the storm passes. If there is a need to move to an evacuation centre, evacuate in a calm manner and ensure you carry important personal identification. Avoid all low-lying coastal areas due to storm surges. Confirm the viability of overland travel routes due to the risk of flooding. Air and sea travel are also likely to be impacted. Anticipate disruptions to power, communications and other essential services.

There are no recent incidents

Health and Medical: ● Medium Risk

Overview

Access to medical care, including in the capital **Praia**, is restricted, and the availability of healthcare services diminishes significantly in more isolated regions. Air evacuations may not be possible in some areas due to inadequate infrastructure. While pharmacies are in abundance, critical medicines may be in short supply. Water- and food-borne diseases, as well as many tropical diseases, are common.

Before you travel

Consult your doctor or a healthcare provider who specialises in travel medicine at least six weeks before your departure. If you have a medical condition, you should also share your travel plans with your doctor.

Outbreaks and Other Diseases

Malaria

Areas with Malaria:

- No indigenous cases reported since 2018
- Previously, rare cases on Santiago (São Tiago) Island and Boa Vista Island

Recommended chemoprophylaxis:

- None (insect bite precautions and mosquito avoidance only)

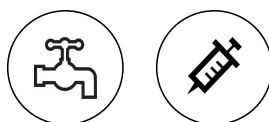
Yellow Fever

There is no risk of Yellow Fever infection.

Vaccinations, Medicines and Documentation

Note: Requirements and recommendations for vaccines and other medicines as well as Yellow Fever vaccine are based on guidelines from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Yellow Book 2024. All other entry requirements are based on Riskline research.

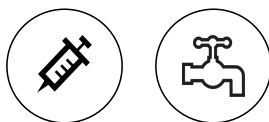
Routine vaccines



Make sure you are up-to-date on all routine vaccines before every trip. Some of these vaccines include

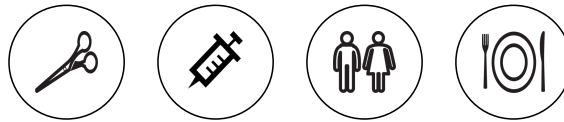
- Chickenpox (Varicella)
- Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
- Flu (influenza)
- Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
- Polio
- Shingles

COVID-19



All eligible travellers should be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines.

Hepatitis A



Recommended for unvaccinated travellers one year old or older going to Cape Verde.

Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series.

Travellers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given.

Unvaccinated travellers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.

Hepatitis B



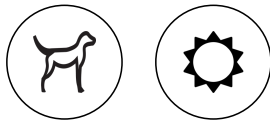
Recommended for unvaccinated travellers of all ages traveling to Cape Verde.

Measles



Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.

Rabies



Cape Verde is free of dog rabies. However, rabies may still be present in wildlife species, particularly bats. CDC recommends rabies vaccination before travel only for people working directly with wildlife. These people may include veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers working with specimens from mammalian species.

Typhoid



Recommended for most travellers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.

Required documentation

Yellow Fever entry requirement (Source: USA CDC):

Required for travellers one year and older arriving from countries with risk for YF virus transmission.

Other entry requirements:

Health document

Travellers must submit a completed health questionnaire at least five days before departure and an Airport Security Tax Form (TSA) upon arrival. Document link:
[https://registration.cv.zetes.com/\(S\(sjoodomnraxskicw0a4l1yr5\)\)/Pages/CapeVerde/PersonalInfo.aspx?language=en-US](https://registration.cv.zetes.com/(S(sjoodomnraxskicw0a4l1yr5))/Pages/CapeVerde/PersonalInfo.aspx?language=en-US)

Note: Documentation requirements are subject to change. Consult your destination embassy or consulate prior to departure for confirmation.

While you are there

Emergency services

Emergency services exist on the island of **Santiago**, however, may be extremely limited or non-existent on other islands.

Evacuation

In the event of severe injury or illness, medical evacuation will be required. Note that the islands of **Brava** and **Santo Antão** no longer have functioning airports, making air evacuation impossible.

Routine care

Medical facilities through Cabo Verde are limited. Public hospitals are available in **Praia** and **Mindelo**, and smaller, private facilities are available in other locations as well. Treatment and facilities may be inadequate, including in the capital **Praia**. Medical facilities are extremely limited on the island of **Boavista**.

Medicine

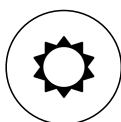
Despite having an extensive network of pharmacies, critical medicines may be in short supply. Travellers are advised to carry their prescription scripts and a letter from a medical doctor explaining the need for the medication and justifying the quantities needed.

Payment

Up-front or cash payments may be required prior to treatment, even for individuals with medical insurance. Whenever possible, check with medical providers for payment requirements prior to treatment.

Ailments

Altitude Sickness



Altitude sickness can occur on tall mountains on some of the islands.

Altitude sickness is a pathological effect on humans caused by low partial pressure of oxygen at altitudes above 2,400 metres (8,000 feet). Typical symptoms resemble those caused by influenza, including headache, fatigue and dizziness; severe symptoms can include fever, persisting shortness of breath, loss of consciousness or haemorrhages. While preventative treatment and acclimatisation can prevent or lessen symptoms, the only effective treatment is to descend to lower altitudes.

Cholera



Outbreaks take place sporadically throughout the islands.

Cholera is a bacterial infection transmitted through contact with infected food or water – usually by infected faeces – and is most prevalent in areas with poor sanitary standards. Symptoms include heavy, watery diarrhoea, vomiting and muscle cramps. If left untreated, cholera can rapidly become fatal. Cholera can be treated with a course of rehydration and antibiotics.

Dengue Fever



Outbreaks of dengue fever have been recorded in the past.

Dengue fever is a viral infection, transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and is commonly found in urban areas. Symptoms include a high fever, joint pain and headaches, although severe cases may cause significant falls in blood pressure and/or haemorrhaging, which can be fatal. There are no vaccines or treatments for dengue fever.

Hepatitis (A, B, C, D and E)



There is a high prevalence of Hepatitis B within the population.

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. The three main variations (A, B and C) are caused by infections from parasites, bacteria or viruses, but are transmitted by different means.

Polio



The risk of polio is very low on the island of Santiago, however that risk is elevated during the rainy season from July until December.

Polio is an acute viral infection, transmitted via infected faecal matter, usually in contaminated food or water supplies. In most cases poliovirus is asymptomatic; in cases where symptoms are present, they can range from the mild – including a high fever, joint pain, nausea and headaches – to the severe, resulting in paralysis. There is no treatment for polio after infection.

Rabies

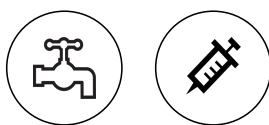


Rabies may be carried by bats, but has not been reported in domestic or wild animals.

Rabies is a serious viral infection, transmitted through close contact with saliva from infected animals (i.e. bites, scratches or licks on broken skin and mucous membranes). Travellers who suspect they may have come into contact with a rabies-infected animal should seek immediate emergency attention: post-exposure treatment has a high success rate if administered early. Late-stage rabies (when

symptoms begin to occur) is untreatable and fatal.

Tuberculosis (TB)



Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection transmitted via the coughing and sneezing of infected persons. Symptoms – which may take years to develop if a person has latent TB – include fever, night sweats, chest pain, coughing up blood, weight loss and fatigue. TB can be treated with a course of antibiotics; the length of treatment is significantly longer once the disease becomes active and is no longer latent.

Traveller's diarrhoea (TD)



Water outside resorts is unsafe for drinking, however even those in luxury accommodations may experience Traveller's Diarrhoea due to contaminated water or fresh fruits and vegetables.

Traveller's diarrhoea (TD) is a catch-all term for a number of minor or moderate bacterial, viral and parasitic infections, generally transmitted through infected food or water. In the majority of cases antibiotics or anti-diarrhoeal medication is unnecessary; travellers experiencing TD should ensure that they remain hydrated and well rested until their symptoms dissipate. Most cases of TD last less than three days; if diarrhoea continues for longer periods, travellers should consider consulting a medical professional.

Zika Virus



There is a risk of transmission of the Zika virus.

Zika virus is a viral infection transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito, which is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours and commonly found in urban areas, as well as through sexual contact with an infected person. Most cases of Zika virus are asymptomatic; where symptoms occur they are usually mild and include fever, headaches, conjunctivitis, rash and joint and muscle pain. Zika has been linked to microcephaly in unborn children. There is no treatment for Zika virus, beyond rehydration and bed rest.

Recent incidents

22 November 2023 - 23 November 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Dengue fever cases recorded in Praia, other areas

Health authorities announced that there at least 12 confirmed cases and 24 suspected cases of dengue fever were recorded in the capital, Praia, as of 22 November. Dozens of other suspected cases have also been recorded nationwide. Surveillance has been stepped up to prevent the further spread of the disease.

01 March 2023 - 02 March 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Authorities report increase in cases of Shigellosis among travellers

Local sources reported an increase in the number of cases of Shigellosis, a form of dysentery, among foreign travellers returning from Cabo Verde since August 2022. Most of the reported cases stayed in the region of Santa Maria, Sal island, including in all-inclusive hotels.



Summary

Authorities have previously implemented travel restrictions as well as localised lockdowns. The country has lifted all COVID-19 measures.

What is the current nationwide Policy?: None

Policy starts: 14 September 2022

Policy ends: indef

Policy explanation:

The state of alert has been lifted; alongside all remaining domestic restrictions.

Policy source: <https://covid19.cv/category/comunicacao/>
<https://covid19.cv/medidas/>

Last update: 03 November 2023



Infection

Infection Level: Low

Infection rate: 0.0 cases per 100k in the last 14 days

As of date: 09 November 2023

Hotspots: -



International Travel

International Flights

Is there a ban on international commercial flights? No
Through what date? indef

Flight Ban Explanation:

Regular international flights have resumed.

Last Update: 06 December 2023

Entry and Borders

Is there a ban on entry for any travellers? No
Through what date? indef

Travellers from where are banned?

Land border:

Maritime border: Open

Entry Rules Explanation:

The country's borders are fully reopened to international flights and maritime transportation, including cruise ships.

All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions. Travellers will have their temperature checked.

Entry Rules: https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/bo_14-09-2022_89.pdf
<https://covid19.cv/cabo-verde-deixa-de-estar-em-situacao-de-alerta-devido-evolucao-satisfatoria-da-situacao-epidemiologica-nos-diferentes-concelhos-do-pais/>
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cape-verde>

Last Update:

Testing

Do travellers need to take a COVID-19 test No

When?

Is it mandatory or optional?

Test Type:

Minimum age requirement:

Pre-travel test validity, in hours:

After arrival test days:

Testing Explanation:

Testing Rules: -

Last Update: 06 December 2023

Health and Travel Documentations

Do arriving travellers need any health and/or travel documentation? Yes

Documentation Explanation:

Health document

Travellers must submit a completed health questionnaire at least five days before departure and an Airport Security Tax Form (TSA) upon arrival.

Health Document: [https://registration.cv.zetes.com/\(S\(sjoodomnraxskicw0a4l1yr5\)\)/Pages/CapeVerde/PersonalInfo.aspx?language=en-US](https://registration.cv.zetes.com/(S(sjoodomnraxskicw0a4l1yr5))/Pages/CapeVerde/PersonalInfo.aspx?language=en-US)
Last Update: 03 November 2023

Tracing App

Do travellers need to use a contact tracing app after arriving? No

Tracing App Explanation:

There is no mandatory national contact tracing app at this time.

Last Update: 03 November 2023

Quarantine on Arrival

Who needs to quarantine on arrival None

Travellers from where need to quarantine?

How many days is quarantine?

Is it self-quarantine or operated by the government? Self

Quarantine Explanation:

Quarantine Rules: <https://cv.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>

Last Update: 2023-12-06

Exit

Is there a ban on exit for any travellers? No

Are there special requirements to exit? No

Exit Requirements Explanation:

Exit Requirements (URL): <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cape-verde>
Last Update: 06 December 2023

Vaccination

Percent vaccinated with at least one dose: 64.162 as of 25 Sep 2022

Percent fully vaccinated: 52.05 as of 25 Sep 2022

Is vaccination mandatory for entry? No

Fully vaccinated are exempt from: -

Minimum age for vaccine requirements for travel:

Exemptions for vaccine requirements for travel:

"Fully vaccinated" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted vaccines, validity and special age restrictions:

Is mixing of vaccine doses authorised?

Are specific combinations of mixed doses required?

"Boosted" is defined by the destination as:

Accepted boosters:

"Recently recovered" is defined by the destination as:

Recovery status is valid from days until after .

Vaccination certificates accepted:

Vaccination certificates accepted in the following languages:

Recent recovery document required:

Recent recovery document accepted in the following languages:

Explanation:

Sources:

https://covid19.cv/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/bo_14-09-2022_89.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cape-verde>

**Last change to
vaccination policy:**

01 July 2022

Last Update:

06 December 2023

 **Other International Travel Restrictions**

Exit Requirements Explanation:

Last Update:



Domestic Situation



Areas on Lockdown

Last Update:



Areas under Curfew

Last Update:



Domestic Travel

Domestic Travel Explanation:

Last Update:



Other Domestic Restrictions

There are no domestic restrictions in place.

Last Update: 03 November 2023

Resources

Government COVID Site: <https://covid19.cv/>

Health Dept COVID Site: <https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.insp.gov.cv%2F&data=02%7C01%7CColej%40state.gov%7C4948988a302d4c38210f08d7c6a873e6%7C66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b%7C0%7C0%7C637196299111426881&sdata=ZvsFLIVhcm2d%2B60nKij%2Fr9fcb%2FC1zTPxnmkNuDfiMw%3D&reserved=0>

There are no recent incidents

Local Travel : ● Moderate Risk

Travel Safety

Air Travel:

- **Amílcar Cabral International Airport (SID/GVAC)**, also known as **Sal International Airport** on the island of **Sal**, is the main international airport of Cabo Verde. Some of the international carriers that operate at the airport are Corendon Dutch Airlines, Luxair, Novair, Smartwings, TAP Air Portugal, TAAG Angola Airlines, Transavia and TUI Airways. **Sal Airport** is also the main hub for Cabo Verde's national airline, Cabo Verde Airlines, and serves as a base for the domestic carrier Cabo Verde Express. Domestic connections are serviced by airlines, including TACV Cabo Verde and Cabo Verde Express. The airport complies with international safety regulations, and its facilities are modern and comfortable.
- **Nelson Mandela (Praia) International Airport (RAI/GVNP)** on the island of **Santiago** offers direct connections to Africa, Europe, the United States and South America, and also to domestic destinations. **Praia Airport** is a major departure hub for Africa, notably to Senegal and Angola. Some of the international carriers that operate out of this airport are Air Senegal, TCV, Azores Airlines, ASKY Airlines and Royal Air Maroc.
- **Aristides Pereira International Airport (BVC/GVBA)** on **Boa Vista** Island offers multiple flight connections to major European cities. Theft from checked baggage is not uncommon; travellers are advised to stay alert.

Airspace: Regular international flights have resumed.

Borders and Entry: The country's borders are fully reopened to international flights and maritime transportation, including cruise ships.

All travellers, regardless of whether they are fully vaccinated or previously infected, are allowed to enter without restrictions. Travellers will have their temperature checked.

Road Travel: Traffic moves on the right in Cabo Verde. Most roads on the islands of **Santiago, Sal** and **São Vicente** are asphalted and in good condition, while on the islands of **Fogo, Brava, Maio, São Nicolau** and **Boa Vista**, most roads are still paved with cobblestone, narrow and winding. Travellers are strongly advised to drive

defensively. Driving practices and conditions are frequently unsafe; the new asphalt roads often lack speed bumps and enable reckless, high-speed driving. Drivers should exercise caution driving after dark as streets in rural areas are often unlit, with pedestrians and livestock presenting an additional hazard. Roadside assistance is not widely available. The speed limit is generally set at 50kph (31 mph) in urban areas and 80kph (50 mph) on highways.

Public Transport

Ferries and Boats: Maritime travel in Cabo Verde is considered risky due to the prevalence of submerged rocks and rough seas. Locals and visitors rely on hydrofoils, which have an exemplary safety record and provide the most comfortable means of maritime transport between the islands. There are daily connections between **Mindelo (São Vicente)** and **Novo Porto (Santo Antão)**. There are also small boats that provide transport between islands. Cargo ships may also accept passengers and regular services connect **Santiago, Fogo** and **Brava**. Travel to the southern islands of **Fogo** and **Brava** can often be disrupted by poor weather. Travel by ferry is more expensive and longer in duration than similar trips by plane.

Buses: Buses are generally in good condition and cheap. There are regular bus services running within the urban limits of **Praia** on **Santiago Island** and **Mindelo** on **São Vicente Island**; buses can be flagged down in the street. Buses depart to destinations once enough fares have been secured and thus do not adhere to a specific timetable.

Taxis: Taxis are available and in good condition. Travellers are advised to negotiate the fare before setting off, as not all taxis are metered.

Vehicle Hire: Car rental, including those of international companies, is available on the main islands of **Santiago, São Vicente, Sal, Boa Vista** and **Santo Antão**. Foreign visitors are advised to book well in advance. Only book vehicles from reputable companies and ensure that the vehicles are insured and in good running condition.

Recent incidents

16 November 2023 - 18 November 2023

- **Moderate risk:** Bestfly cabin crew threatens to strike nationwide on 16-17 November

Bestfly Cabo Verde cabin crew, represented by the Union of Transport, Telecommunications, Hospitality and Tourism (SITTHUR), are threatening to strike nationwide on 16-17 November over several work-related grievances.

Cities, Towns, Villages: Bag-snatching and petty theft can occur, especially in the city of **Mindelo**, on the island of **São Vicente**, and in **Praia**, on the island of **São Tiago**.

General Areas: Although crime levels are considered to be low on the island, there has been a marked increase in petty theft and burglaries in certain areas. Marketplaces, such as **Sucupira Market** in **Praia**, are generally considered to be hotspots for potential criminal activity.

Safety

Emergency Numbers

General emergencies and assistance	130	
Fire	131	
Medical emergencies and ambulance services	132	

Beaches and Public Areas: Strong currents and riptides are common; water sports can be dangerous. Travellers should obey any local warnings and stay alert; never swim alone and stay within the eyesight of the lifeguard.

Begging: Begging can occur and is perpetrated by both adults and children. Visitors are advised to be extremely wary of individuals requesting food and small change, as petty thieves often pose as beggars. Violence is uncommon, but brawls can break out between beggars over money.

Drugs and Alcohol: Drug laws are strict and those convicted of possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs in the country can face jail sentences and heavy fines. Travellers are also advised not to carry unlabelled pills.

Food and Drink: Street food may not always meet the same hygiene standards as established restaurants. Be cautious when consuming street food and choose vendors who appear to maintain cleanliness. When ordering beverages, particularly those with ice, ensure that ice is made from bottled or purified water. Also, consider ordering bottled or canned drinks instead of those prepared on-site.

Water Safety: Tap water is generally safe to drink in most urban areas, including the capital, Praia, and major tourist destinations. However, in some more remote or rural areas, the water infrastructure may be less developed, and tap water quality can vary. In such cases, it is advisable for visitors to drink bottled water or use water purification methods, such as boiling or using water purification tablets, to ensure safe drinking water.

Fuel and Electricity: Power outages occur occasionally, particularly in more remote or rural areas. Power supply reliability can vary from one island to another within the

archipelago. It is not uncommon for residents and businesses in Cabo Verde to have backup power sources, such as generators, to deal with occasional power interruptions.

Culture

Racial tensions exist between nationals of African descent, who make up 56 percent of the population and whose ancestors were brought to the country as slaves, and nationals of European descent, whose ancestors owned slaves. However, these tensions have not triggered significant political polarisation, incidents of violence or unrest.

Specific Traveller Advice

Female Travellers

Local Customs and Laws: There are no local customs or laws that a female traveller should take into consideration in Cabo Verde. Familiarise yourself with your destination prior to travel, and be respectful and mindful of any cultural sensitivities, which may include dress, behaviour and topics of discussion as there are some political and cultural sensitivities prevalent in society.

Safety: There are minimal safety concerns that a female traveller should take into consideration in Cabo Verde, one of the safest countries in West Africa for women travellers. Few incidents involving sexual harassment have been reported, and when they have it is usually in isolated areas during nighttime, but it is not a widespread concern. Public transportation like buses is very safe for women to use, even after dark. Exercise personal safety awareness if walking alone at night. Stick to main, well-lit streets and avoid walking through desolate areas or unfamiliar neighbourhoods, particularly in **Boavista**. Refrain from wearing headphones while walking in the evening. The response of police to reports of crimes is very slow outside of major cities like **Praia**, due to limited resources. Consider consulting your home consulate/embassy for legal advice and ensure you receive a copy of the police report.

Health and Wellness: Women have access to some specialised gynaecological and reproductive health services, medicines and rape kits and feminine hygiene products on the other islands or in remote areas of Cabo Verde. A few competent private clinics run by doctors trained overseas are present in the capital of **Praia** on **Santiago Island** and on **Sal** and **São Vicente islands**. However, the availability of rape kits, healthcare clinics, female-specific OTC drugs and products, and prescription contraceptives are limited, especially outside urban areas, while emergency contraceptives are not available in the territory. Abortion is legal for up to the first 12 weeks of pregnancy in Cabo Verde; beyond that term, abortion is legal only if the pregnancy poses a risk to a woman's physical or mental health or if the foetus is impaired. Consult a health professional prior to travel. Consider bringing an adequate supply of common female-specific OTC drugs or products and oral contraceptive pills, which may not be available locally.

LGBT+

Homosexuality has been legal in Cabo Verde since 2004 after a penal code amendment. There are some legal protections for LGBT+ persons in the country,

including a ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace as well as housing. Same-sex marriage is illegal. While Cabo Verde is widely seen as one of the most tolerant countries in the region and commonly hosts gay pride events, LGBT+ travellers are nonetheless advised to keep their sexual orientation and gender identities private and avoid excessive public displays of affection in areas where attitudes towards the LGBT+ community are unknown or generally not accepted. Refrain from engaging in any conversations about sexuality or LGBT+ issues. Consider booking separate hotel rooms or hotel rooms with two separate beds. Transgender travellers are advised to have a passport and identification changed to reflect their new gender before travelling.

Technology & Communication Risk

Travellers are unlikely to face risks related to information and communication technology (ICT) in Cabo Verde.

Internet access and social media have no restrictions. There are no concerns related to device searches or sensitive technology. Device searches and inspections at the border are unlikely. There are no restrictions in relation to bringing or operating sensitive equipment, which may include photo cameras, satellite phones, drones, and other GPS systems, in the country. State or criminal penetration of private data is unlikely. Authorities implement minimal state surveillance of ICT networks in the country.

Travellers should exercise basic ICT safety precautions. However, travellers should note that ICT laws and practices are subject to change on short notice, and travellers are recommended to confirm the legality/appropriateness of their specific ICT needs prior to departure.

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