

# TRAVEL INFORMATION SHEET

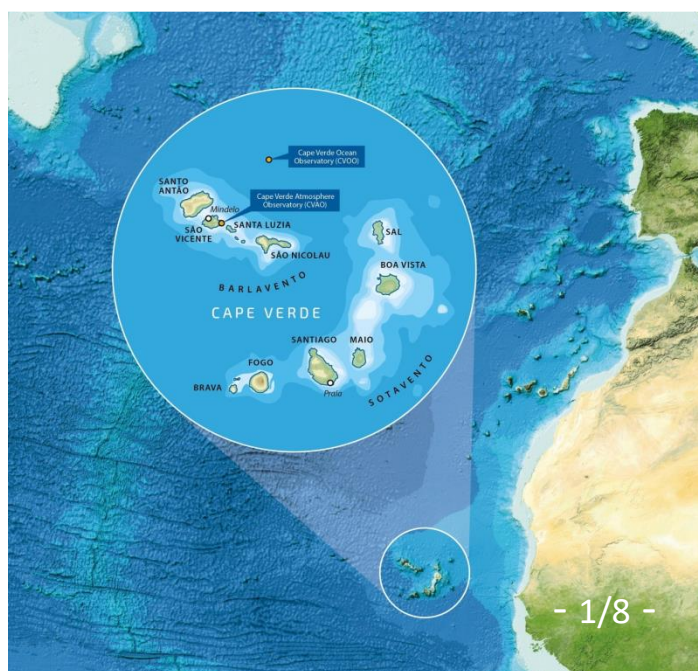
## Welcome to the OSCM and Mindelo, Republic of Cabo Verde



The Ocean Science Centre Mindelo is a joint facility of the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Germany, and the National Institute for Fisheries Development in Mindelo (INDP), Cabo Verde. After two and a half years of construction, the OSCM opened its doors to the international scientific community in November 2017. As a permanent modern research hub the OSCM aims to provide a long-range and multifunctional basis for long-term ocean observation and field research in the tropical Northeast Atlantic region and to create opportunities to strengthen capacities and academic education in West Africa.

With its associated research infrastructures of the Cape Verde Ocean Observatory (CVOO), the Cape Verde Atmosphere Observatory (CVAO) and the Research Vessel ISLANDIA it seeks to attract a wide range of research projects in the region with a special focus on West Africa and the tropical Northeast Atlantic and serve as a platform for knowledge exchange and networking across the Atlantic Ocean.

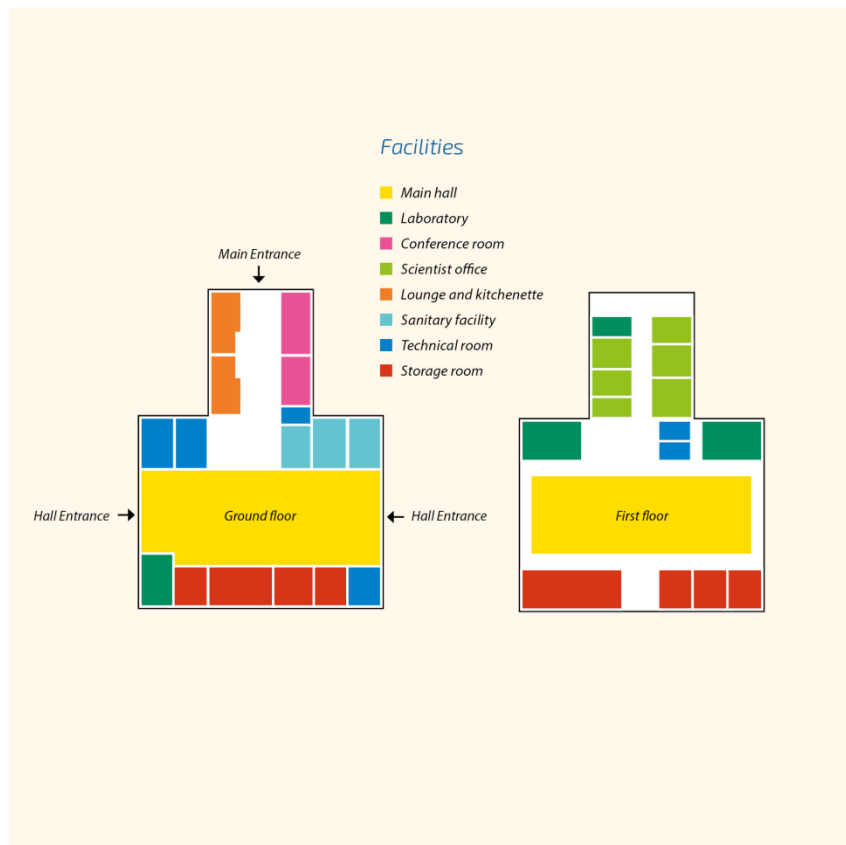
**Location:** The Cap-Vert, the “Green Cape”, near the Senegalese capital Dakar is commonly considered the western most point of Africa. But this only applies to mainland Africa. Located about 600 kilometers off the coast of Senegal in the midst of the wide Atlantic Ocean one comes across an archipelago of 15 islands, nine of which are inhabited: The Cape Verde Islands.



## OSCM – Facilities:

As state-of-the-art infrastructure, with more than 1,700 square meters of multi-functional floor space the Ocean Science Centre Mindelo intends to significantly improve future opportunities to conduct marine research in the tropical Northeast Atlantic and the West African region.

A central component of the OSCM is a drive-through hall in which large marine scientific equipment such as deep-sea robots and manned submersibles can be serviced. Connected to the two-storey-drive-through-hall, the OSCM offers an electronics and a mechanics workshop, two multi-purpose laboratories and a wet laboratory as well as storage rooms for equipment, samples and chemicals.



A further building wing comprises guest offices, conference rooms and social rooms. A large corridor at the main entrance allows for poster exhibitions and receptions.

WLAN is accessible throughout the building. Furthermore, the OSCM provides space to set up containers both outside and inside the building. The production of liquid nitrogen is an additional asset. A dedicated team of scientists and technicians from both Cape Verde and Germany will assist guest scientists in the planning and execution of research campaigns and ensure for a successful stay of scientists that want to take advantage of this new facility.

## Impressions of past events





## ***OSCM Conference & Meeting Room Facilities***

### ***Conference / Seminar Rooms & Hangar:***

The OSCM provides a conference room with technical equipment which can be split up into two smaller units. Each unit can accommodate up to 30 people, and 60 in total. Large events with up to 200 people can be hosted in the central hangar.

### ***Office Space:***

The OSCM offers several offices, with 14 extra desks. In the offices you will find internet connection, but no PCs nor laptops, so please bring your own.

### ***Poster Stands/Exhibition Space***

Poster stands will be available at the OSCM. The OSCM has a large entrance corridor where exhibits and posters can be presented. Conference rooms or the main central hall can be used likewise.

### ***Social Room & Lounge:***

The OSCM has a social area and a lounge where a small kitchenette for self-service can be found as well as internet access.

## ***INDP Conference & Meeting Room Facilities***

### ***Auditorium***

The INDP offers a large auditorium for up to 100 + 20 people, equipped with beamer, screen and audio technique.

### ***Seminar Room***

In addition, a seminar room is available for up to 35 people, also offering the possibility for presentations and discussion rounds.

### ***Library***

Upon request, INDP can provide a library where you can also find good internet access. The room offers seats for up to 15 people.





## **Currency**

The Cabo Verdean Escudo (CVE) is the official national currency with coupled fixed exchange rate with the Euro (1 € = 110,265 \$). For other foreign currencies, please look up the current exchange rates. VISA and MASTERS credit cards are accepted in many places in Cabo Verde and where displayed with an emblem at the entrance. There are various ATMs at the airport and distributed over city centre.

## **Entering Cabo Verde / Visa**

As of January 1st, 2018, there is no visa requirement anymore for European citizens staying less than 30 days. Travellers without a visa requirement are obliged to register on the Internet platform [www.ease.gov.cv](http://www.ease.gov.cv) up to 5 (five) days before commencement of their journey, providing passport data, travel period (date of entry and exit), flight number and place of accommodation. When registering on [www.ease.gov.cv](http://www.ease.gov.cv), an airport security fee must be paid. The fee for domestic flights is 150 CVE (approx. € 1.36) per passenger. The fee for international flights is 3,400 CVE (approx. € 30.83) per passenger

Citizens of the ECOWAS member states and PALOP countries are exempt from visa as well. If you are traveling from any other country you may please inquire about visa requirement at your nearest consulate or embassy. Any traveler must have a passport validity of six months subsequent to the day of departure. If this is not the case, please renew your passport as quickly as possible as this may take several weeks.

## **Arriving by plane**

Airport destination: Cesária Évora International Airport, IATA Code: VXE

Location: Island of São Vicente, Rep. of Cabo Verde: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesária\\_Évora\\_Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cesária_Évora_Airport)

General note: Flight connections to the Island of São Vicente exist on most of the days. Best connections are available via Lisbon with TAP, Amsterdam with KLM or Paris with TACV (Cabo Verdean Airline). Sometimes, a further stopover via Praia (Capital, Island of Santiago) or Sal (most northeastern island) is included. From Dakar, there are connections three times a week to the capital of Praia. From the Canary Islands, the airline Binter CV offers direct flights on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

With TAP, direct flights from Lisbon to Mindelo are available on Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. in the morning (09:25-12:45), outgoing again from Mindelo to Lisbon on the same days in the afternoon (13:35 - 18:30). Connections to and from Lisbon need to be studied depending of point of departure/arrival. An overnight stay in Lisbon may sometimes be necessary.

Fares may differ a lot depending from the country of departure. From Africa and Europe, flights range from about € 600.00 to € 1,300.00, from North or South America fares may range between 1,200 to 2,000 euros.



## ***Transportation***

Hotel pick-up service from/to airport: Most hotels offer a pick-up service from and to the airport. Please contact the reservation desk at your chosen hotel.

Public transportation to and from the airport is not given, but taxis are a common means and easy accessible.

Taxis: easily recognizable by their white color. The daily fare for a taxi ride is 150 CVE, the nightly fare is 180 CVE independent from the distances you take as long as you remain in the city of Mindelo. A taxi fare at daytime or nighttime from or to the airport is 1000 CVE. Euros are accepted in bills, for small amounts people appreciate exact change in the local currency CVE.

Public transport: Public transport, consisting of small busses, is available and very cheap but usually limited to Mindelo. Only during weekends in the summer busses will go to Calhau and Baía das Gatas.

Aluguer: For trips over the Island, minibuses or communal taxis called “Aluguer” can be booked with up to 8 people. Prices depend on the time and distances and need to be fixed with the driver before beginning the tour. Aluguers can be found at Praça Estrela in Mindelo.

[https://www.openstreetmap.org/search?query=praca\\_estrela\\_mindelo\\_cabo\\_verde#map=19/16.88362/-24.98915](https://www.openstreetmap.org/search?query=praca_estrela_mindelo_cabo_verde#map=19/16.88362/-24.98915)

## ***Accommodation***

Mindelo offers a large variety of hotels. Standards in hotels are high, comparable with European standard. Hotel rates usually include breakfast. A tourist tax to a price of 2.00 € per person per night (max. 10 nights) is required in addition. Apart from hotels, you may find a large variety of charming and reasonably priced pensions or private accommodation in the city centre of Mindelo (max. 15-20 min walking distance from the OSCM). Please search common online travel sites for Mindelo, Cabo Verde. A small choice of recommended hotels can be found here:

### **Large groups:**

- Oasis Atlantico Porto Grande Hotel: <https://www.oasisatlantico.com/en/porto-grande>
- Don Paco Hotel: <https://donpacohotel.com/en/>

### **Further accommodation:**

- Terra Lodge: <http://www.terra-lodge.net/>
- Residencial Mimagui: <http://residencialmimagui.com/>
- Mindelo Residencial: <https://www.mindeloresidencial.cv/>
- Casa Café Mindelo: <http://www.casacafemindelo.com/>
- Residencial Alto Fortim: <http://www.altofortim.com/>
- Residencial Beleza: <http://rsbeleza.com/>



### ***Board/Meals***

Breakfast is usually included with your hotel reservation. There are some places that already open in the morning hours around 09:00 am that also offer breakfast (i.e. Café Mindelo, Dokas etc.).

For lunch, you'll find some smaller restaurants close by or a good variety in the city centre.

For dinner, we recommend various restaurants in Mindelo. Food is fresh and not very costly.

### ***Health Issues***

General information on health issues can be accessed via:

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

Or at the German Federal Foreign Office:

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/DE/Laenderinformationen/00-SiHi/CaboVerdeSicherheit.html>

### ***Vaccination***

Most vaccinations for Cabo Verde are not obligatory, however vaccinations or an update of the usual childhood-diseases and hepatitis are recommended. If travelling from a yellow fever country, a vaccination certificate is required.

### ***Hygiene and water-borne diseases***

Standards in hotels are high, comparable with European standard. However, when travelling the first time, it is recommended to stick to the following basic rules when touring the archipelago or visiting restaurants:

- Wash hands
- Cook it or peel it
- Buy sealed bottled water for drinking
- Carry a small travel pharmacy against gastrointestinal disorders

### ***Climate***

The archipelago has a semi-desert, sub-tropical mix of climates. The weather in Mindelo is generally dry and mild. The average annual daily temperatures range between 25°C (January) and 29°C (August/September). There is almost always a constant trade wind blowing on the Cape Verde islands, with January through March experiencing on average the strongest wind.

### ***Voltage***

The standard voltage in Cabo Verde is 230 V. The standard frequency is 50 Hz. The power sockets used are European standard (Type C/F).

# Site Visits in Mindelo and on & from the Island of São Vicente

## Island of São Vicente, Republic of Cabo Verde



## The Cape Verde Atmosphere Observatory (CVAO)

The CVAO, running since 2006, has become one of the flagship “global” stations of the WMO-Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) network. The CVAO is run in partnership with the Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia e Geofísica, Cape Verde, the University of York/National Centre for Atmospheric Science, UK, the Max-Planck-Institut für Biogeochemie, Jena, Germany and the Leibniz-Institut für Troposphärenforschung, Leipzig, Germany. The Observatory has gained a reputation as a high quality international facility, providing vital data to the global atmospheric communities.

It provides a powerful tool for characterising transport and transformations of greenhouse and reactive gases, aerosols, pollution and dust from the US, Europe, and Africa to the tropical Atlantic. The site is located in Calhau, about 20 min by bus from Mindelo.



## RV Islandia

Located at Porto Grande and built in 1994 in Iceland as a fisheries research vessel for the Government of Cape Verde, R/V Islândia today serves as an oceanographic platform to conduct field campaigns in the tropical Northeast Atlantic and monthly sampling at the Cape Verde Ocean Observatory. Under the cooperation of INDP and GEOMAR, the vessel obtained a moderate refit in 2006 including installation of two oceanographic winches. Regular sampling campaigns are conducted at the CVOO site to measure a range of oceanographic parameters.



# Site Visits in Mindelo and on & from the Island of São Vicente



## **Mindelo Fish Market**

Fresh fish every day, with a jetty right behind the market where fishermen unload their daily catch



## **Monte Verde Mountain**

750 m high, with a view to neighboring islands



## **Santo Antão**

The neighboring Island of Santo Antão can be reached by ferry daily with a 50 minutes trip back and forth. The island is very attractive for hiking along the crater "Cova".

**For further information on the Ocean Science Centre Mindelo visit us on:**

- [www.oscm.cv](http://www.oscm.cv)
- <https://twitter.com/OSCM>
- <https://www.facebook.com/OSCMindelo/>

**Contact:**

- [info@oscm.cv](mailto:info@oscm.cv)

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