

Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde

Africa's windswept gem drops you onto a desert island where Saharan dunes meet turquoise Atlantic surf — and loggerhead turtles outnumber the tourists.

- Tender port (no cruise pier)
- Typical call: 7-9 hrs
- Cape Verdean Escudo (CVE) / Euros accepted
- Portuguese (Kriolu widely spoken)
- Turtle nesting: July–October

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date:	Arrive:	All aboard:
Excursion:	Notes:	

GETTING ASHORE

- Docking:** Anchor in Sal Rei Bay; tender to waterfront pier
- Best For:** Beaches, desert tours, snorkeling, turtle watching
- Walk to Center:** < 2 min from tender pier to Sal Rei town
- Don't Miss:** Viana Desert quad tour & Cabo Santa Maria shipwreck
- Getting around: Taxi €10–€22 · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Viana Desert Quad or Buggy Tour** — Saharan sand carried by trade winds has built a true desert in the heart of Boa Vista.
- Santa Monica Beach Day** — A roughly 18 km sweep of white sand on the island's southwest coast, consistently ranked one of Africa's finest beaches.
- Loggerhead Turtle Night Tour (Jul–Oct)** — Boa Vista hosts one of the Atlantic's most important loggerhead sea-turtle nesting sites.
- Catamaran Snorkel & Swim** — Sail around Sal Rei Bay past Djeu Island, snorkel over coral reefs and shipwreck debris, and swim in clear Atlantic waters.
- Sal Rei Town & Chapel Walk** — Compact and walkable, Sal Rei has colonial-era architecture, a lively market, and the Igreja de Santa Isabel on the main square.

BEST WALKS

- Sal Rei Waterfront & Town Loop** 1.5 km · 25 min · Easy — From the tender pier stroll north along the waterfront past fishing boats, then into the small market square.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 6:16AM–6:46PM · Jun 5:59AM–7:04PM · Aug 6:16AM–6:55PM · Sep 6:20AM–6:33PM · Oct 6:24AM–6:10PM	
Apr	77°	68°	0d		
Jun	79°	71°	0d		
Aug	83°	76°	6d		
Sep	85°	77°	8d		
Oct	85°	77°	2d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Euros are widely accepted by tour operators and many restaurants, but carry some Cape Verdean Escudos (CVE) for the market and smaller stalls. ATMs exist in Sal Rei but can run out of cash on busy port days.
- Agree taxi fares before you get in — there are no meters. Fares to Santa Monica Beach or the Viana Desert can be steep; pre-booking a tour is usually better value.
- Wind and sand are relentless — pack a bandana or buff for desert tours, protect your camera lens, and secure hats. Trade winds are strongest November–March.
- Watch the last tender time. Remote excursions (desert, Santa Monica) can run long. Set a phone alarm 90 min before all-aboard and head back early — there's no other way to the ship.
- Turtle season is July–October. If your call falls in this window, book a guided night tour through a reputable local NGO — it directly funds conservation and the experience is extraordinary.
- Sal Rei itself is limited for shopping — small craft stalls near the waterfront sell local textiles and jewellery. Don't expect a developed tourist strip; the appeal here is nature and emptiness.

Boa Vista Island, Cape Verde — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Chamine de Chaves | An iconic old brick chimney landmark, a remnant of a former salt-processing operation. | 2 Praia de Chaves | A long, wide sandy beach on the island's east coast. |
| 3 Praia da Atalanta | A beach famous for the rusting hulk of the Cabo Santa Maria shipwreck offshore. | 4 Sal Rei Fort | A small 19th-century coastal fort overlooking Sal Rei's waterfront. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |