

Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde

Where West Africa meets Portugal — Mindelo is a sun-bleached port city famous for morna, the soulful music of Cesária Évora, pastel colonial streetscapes, and one of the Atlantic's most scenic natural harbors.

Docked (Porto Grande)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Cape Verdean Escudo (EUR widely accepted)

Portuguese & Cape Verdean Creole

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Porto Grande pier, 1 km walk to city center

Best For: Culture, music, beaches, island hiking

Walk to Center: ~10–15 min on foot; taxis at port gate

Don't Miss: Live morna at a Mindelo bar or café

Getting around: **Taxi** €1.50–€5 (150–500 CVE) to city center · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Mindelo City & Morna Music Walk** — Explore the Palácio do Povo, Mercado Municipal, and the Torre de Belém harbor replica.
- Monte Verde Summit** — São Vicente's highest peak (750 m) rewards with panoramic views of Mindelo harbor and, on clear days, the green ridges of Santo Antão across the...
- Day Trip to Santo Antão** — A 1-hour ferry from Mindelo drops you on one of the Atlantic's most dramatic islands — steep ribeiras (valleys), terraced farms, and coastal cliffs...
- Baía das Gatas & Salamansa Beaches** — A 20-minute taxi ride to the natural lagoon beach at Baía das Gatas or the windsurf-friendly sands at Salamansa.
- Sea Turtle Snorkeling at São Pedro** — The sheltered waters around São Pedro (southwest coast of São Vicente, near the airport) host green sea turtles, often drawn close to shore by local...

BEST WALKS

- Porto Grande to City Center** 1 km · 10–15 min · flat waterfront — Follow Av.
- City Center to Praia da Laginha** 1.5 km · 20 min · flat coastal path — From Praça Amílcar Cabral head north along the waterfront to Mindelo's popular city beach.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	76°	68°	0d
Jun	79°	71°	0d
Aug	83°	75°	4d
Sep	84°	77°	6d
Oct	84°	76°	2d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:24AM–6:55PM · Jun 6:06AM–7:14PM · Aug 6:23AM–7:04PM · Sep 6:28AM–6:41PM · Oct 6:32AM–6:18PM

Cape Verdean Escudo (EUR widely accepted)

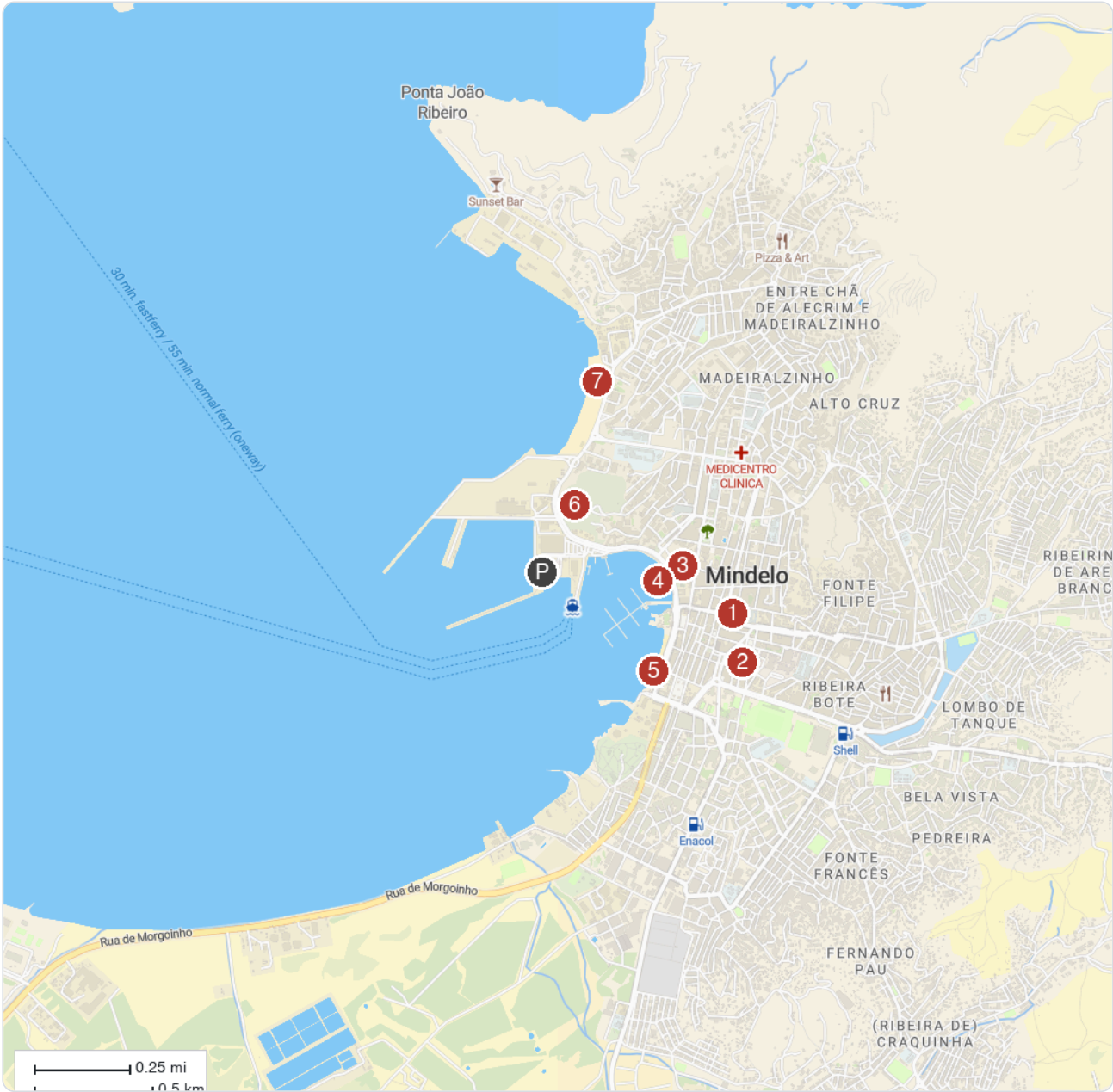
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Euros are widely accepted in Mindelo's tourist-facing shops, restaurants, and taxis, so you don't need to exchange cash unless shopping at the market.
- Morna music is Cape Verde's soul — don't leave without hearing it live. Several bars near the Praça Amílcar Cabral play it during the day when ships are in port.
- Santo Antão ferry takes time — the ferry crossing is 1 hour each way. Only attempt it if you have 8+ hours in port and know your ship's departure time precisely.
- Negotiate taxi fares before you go — there are no meters. Drivers generally speak some English or Spanish; have your destination written down in Portuguese.
- It's hot and sunny most of the year — bring sunscreen, a hat, and water. Most port calls are in the dry season (November–June) when temperatures sit around 24–28 °C.
- Mercado Municipal is the best spot for local fruit, pão (bread), and artisan crafts. Hagglng is acceptable at stalls but be polite about it.

Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | People's Palace | Historic colonial government palace, now a cultural landmark. | 2 | Núcleo Museológico Cesária Évora | Museum dedicated to legendary 'Barefoot Diva' Cesária Évora. |
| 3 | Zoom Zoom Mindelo | Indoor playground and amusement center for children. | 4 | Mansa Floating Hub | Unique floating platform for events, dining, and leisure. |
| 5 | Belem Tower Replica Museum of the Sea | Replica tower housing a museum of Mindelo's maritime history. | 6 | Fortim do Rei | Historic small fort offering panoramic views of Mindelo bay. |
| 7 | Laginha Beach | Popular city beach with white sand and calm waters. | P | Cruise port / terminal | |