

Tarrafal, São Nicolau, Cape Verde

One of Cape Verde's least-touched islands, São Nicolau rewards curious cruisers with volcanic highlands, ancient dragon trees, a therapeutic black-sand beach, and an authentically Cape Verdean pace of life.

 Tender port

 Typical call: 6–8 hrs

 Euro & Cape Verdean Escudo

 Portuguese / Cape Verdean Creole

 Seasonal: Nov – Jun

MY DAY IN PORT

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

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Tender to Tarrafal fishing harbour

Walk to centre: 5–10 min flat walk from tender quay

Best For: Hiking, authentic culture, off-the-beaten-path

Don't Miss: Carbeirinho rock formations & Monte Gordo dragon trees

Getting around:  Taxi  €1.60–€5 ·  Rideshare  not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Monte Gordo National Park Hike** — Trek into the cloud-forest highlands of Monte Gordo (1,312 m) to find rare dragon trees (*Dracaena draco*), lush ferns...
- Ribeira Brava Historical Town** — The colonial capital sits in a deep green valley 30 minutes from port.
- Carbeirinho Coastal Rock Formations** — Just north of Tarrafal, wind and water have sculpted the volcanic coastline into smooth, surreal lunar formations...
- Tarrafal Black Sand Beach** — The jet-black volcanic sand right beside the port is rich in titanium and iodine.
- Cape Verdean Seafood Lunch in Tarrafal** — Pull up a chair at a local restaurant for fresh-caught octopus, tuna, or wahoo; the national stew catchupa; and a shot...

BEST WALKS

- Tarrafal Town & Waterfront Stroll** 45 min · Easy · Flat — From the tender quay, walk along the seafront to the black-sand beach, then loop back through the market and past the blue-and-white...
- Praia de Baixo da Rocha Walk** 1 hr each way · Moderate · Coastal path — Follow the coastal track south from Tarrafal to reach a secluded white-sand beach that's often completely empty.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	76°	69°	0d
Jun	79°	72°	0d
Aug	83°	76°	5d
Sep	84°	77°	6d
Oct	84°	77°	1d

 **DAYLIGHT & MONEY**

Apr 6:22AM–6:52PM · Jun 6:04AM–7:11PM · Aug 6:21AM–7:01PM · Sep 6:25AM–6:38PM · Oct 6:30AM–6:15PM

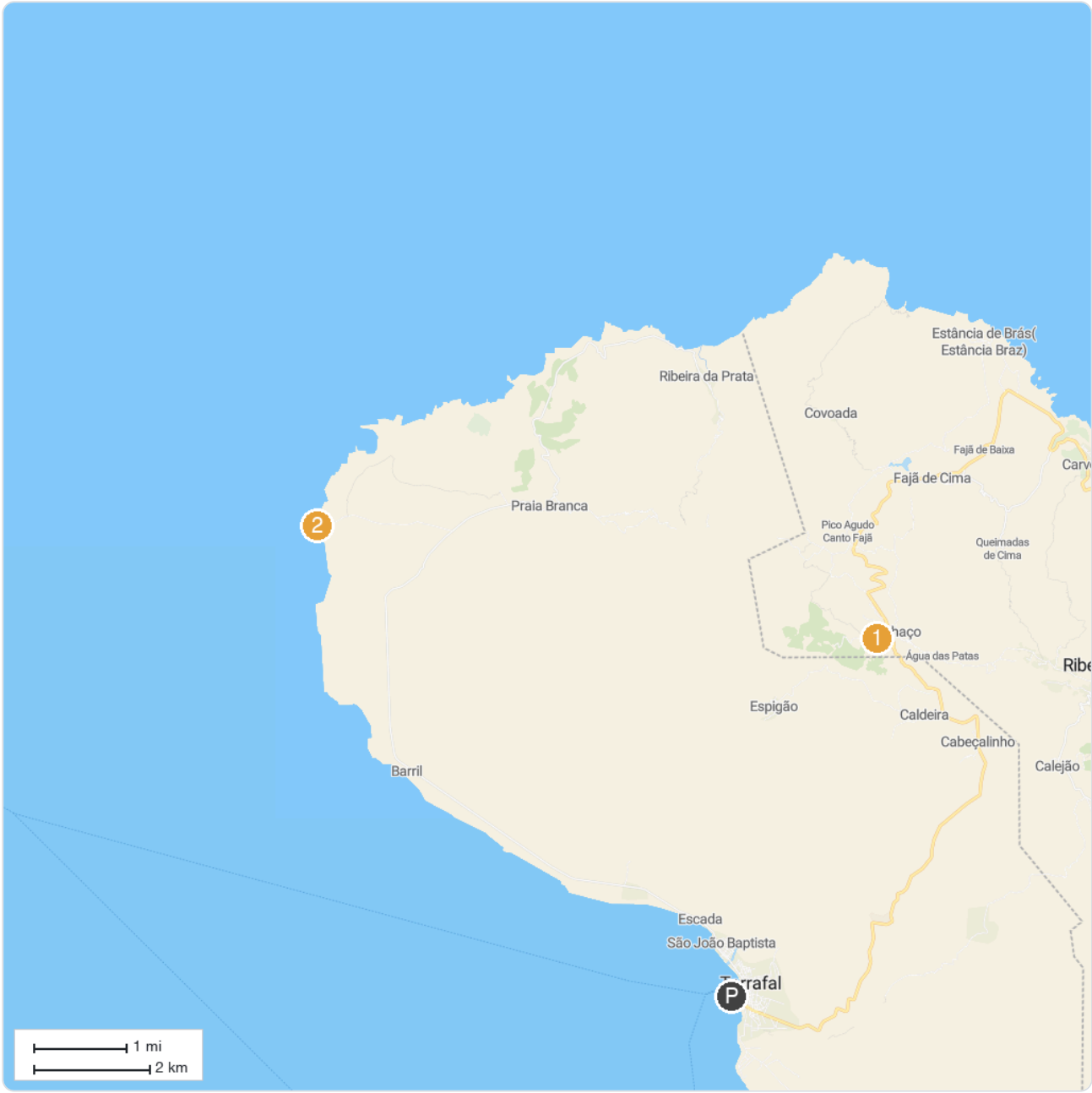
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Cash is king. Euros are widely accepted in Tarrafal and Ribeira Brava; change may come back in Cape Verdean Escudos. ATM availability is uncertain — bring small Euro bills from...
- Sunday closures matter. If the ship calls on a Sunday, most shops, markets, and restaurants will be shut. Only a few tourist-facing...

Tarrafal, São Nicolau, 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** Parque Natural Monte Gordo São Nicolau's highest mountain, a natural park for hiking.
- 2** Carbeirinho Natural volcanic rock pools, perfect for a refreshing swim.
- P** Cruise port / terminal