

Introduction

*This guide and exhibition are addressed to all young participants that were a part of the youth exchange in Cape Verde, between 6 and 26 July 2008 or to other potential partners and participants in the framework of the European project “**On Youth Hands** - International Programme of Youth Non-formal Education for Inclusion, Equality and Active Citizenship”.*

This project aims to strengthen the cooperation between three continents – Europe, Asia and Africa - , through the creation of an international long-lasting network, that will promote youth policies and through the development of youth exchanges. Project partners have met for the first time in Poland, where they carefully planned the two youth exchanges in Cape Verde and Nepal. These exchanges are based on non-formal learning experiences, voluntary work and cultural and sportive activities. The first project mobility is the youth exchange in Cape Verde, followed shortly after by the mobility in Nepal. The conclusions of the two exchanges will be drawn at the final conference that will take place in Romania.

We hope that the info provided by the pocket guide can be of real help, once you are deciding to visit Fogo Island! If you want to find out more about the magnificent scenery that we spent, but also about the traditions and culture of the people on the islands, go through the short but useful description of the Islands of Cape Verde...

With all this being said, we wish you a pleasant journey and we hope that this experience will bring you unforgettable memories!

Chapter 1.

About Cape Verde...

With a total land area of 4,033 km, Cape Verde is one of the five Atlantic Archipelagos of the Macaronésia - the others are Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands and the Savage Isles -. The Archipelago of Cape Verde is situated at the cross-road of the three continents that border the Atlantic Ocean. It is located 450 km off the coast of Senegal and it is composed of 10 islands and 8 islets. Of volcanic origin and positioned between parallels 15 and 17 of the North latitude, Cape Verde is made up of two distinctly different types of islands. Its six inhabited islands, located more to the West, are characterised by their mountainous landscapes, whereas the remaining three are distinguished by their long sandy beaches.

The islands are divided into two groups named according to the trade winds that reach them from the African Continent: *windward* and *leeward*. The first group consists of the islands of Santo Antão, S.Vicente, Santa Luzia (inhabited), S.Nicolau, Sal, Boavista, and the second, more to the South, comprises the islands of Maio, Santiago, Fogo and Brava. The sun spreads its warmth the whole year round, soothed by the fresh sea breeze. The climate is tropical and dry. The

average temperature is approximately 25°C and changes do not exceed 10°C. The Atlantic Ocean near Cape Verde is an area of tropical cyclone formation; since these storms have the whole Atlantic over which to develop as they move westward, they are among the most intense hurricanes, and are called Cape Verde-type hurricanes. Regarding the political aspects, the country is known for its stability and absence of any type of conflict. Because it is strongly influenced by Western culture, the people are mainly Christian and the majority of these are Catholic.

A little about its History

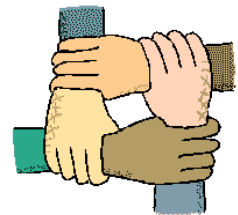
In 1460, at the beginning of their adventurous discoveries, navigators in the service of the Portuguese Crown, landed in Cape Verde. Although there is no actual proof, there are indications that the Romans and the Carthaginians were aware of the existence of the Archipelago. It is also speculated that in the XII century, Arab seafarers may have reached the then inhabited islands.



Two years after its discovery, the islands of the Archipelago were colonized and, soon after, Cape Verde developed a largely mestizo population with its own unique culture that had been influenced by many other countries.

Free Europeans and slaves of the African coast intermarried to form their own way of life and their own dialect - the "Creole". Together these formed the roots of the country's culture.

Consequently, side by side, there can be found the large wooden pestle and the European stone grinder, the drumming sound of characteristic of the African dances and the sound of the Portuguese triangle as well as the West African game 'banco de ouri' which is played by everyone.



Since the origin of their history, the Cape Verdeans have been a largely mestizo: 80 per cent of the population is mestizo, 17 per cent black and 3 per cent white. Little by little Cape Verde formed its cultural identity and then began to search for its own political identity. They finally obtained this with the National Independence, on the 5th of July 1975 after a long fight for the national liberation. On the 13th January, 1991, they finally settled upon the multi-party system with all the institutions of modern democracy. Today, Cape Verde is a rapidly developing country that enjoys peace and social stability

Health and Education

As far as health services, education and quality of life are concerned, Cape Verde is ranked the 4th in Africa. Hospitals, Health Centers and Pharmacies are to be found on all the islands, and are available in case of necessity. Despite being near to the African continent, Cape Verde has exemplary sanitary standards, with no

contagious or endemic diseases, and with good coverage on all the islands. Its levels place it among the first of African countries.



The literacy rate in Cape Verde is about 70 percent, and the demand for primary and secondary education is 85 percent and 48 percent, respectively. Most professionals are college graduates with degrees from European and American universities. Total investment in education accounted for 12 percent of the country's estimated budget for the period 1992-1995.

An Emigrant People

The poor resources and the long and constant droughts which have always struck the country forced Cape Verdeans, more than three centuries ago, to look for other places in search of a better life. Therefore, the emigrating population (500 thousand) is well above the local resident population (350 thousand). This makes Cape Verde a country of emigrants, who, however, maintain very close relations with their home-land. This can be seen in the culture, particularly in the music and in the development of the country. The remittance of moneys sent to the members of their families resident in the Archipelago, constitute an important source of incoming currency.

Political context



Cape Verde is divided into 22 municipalities (called *concelhos* in Portuguese), and subdivided into 32 parishes (called *freguesias* in Portuguese). Generally, Cape Verde enjoys a stable democratic system. The elections have been considered free and fair, there is a free press, and the rule of law is respected by the State. In acknowledgment of this, Freedom House granted Cape Verde two 1s in its annual

Freedom in the World report, a perfect score. It is the only African country to receive this score.

The recent political background shows that following independence in 1975, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) established a one party political system. This became the African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV) in 1980, as Cape Verde sought to distance itself from Guinea-Bissau, following unrest in that country.

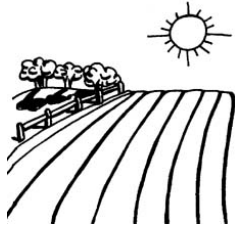
In 1991, following growing pressure for a more pluralistic society, multi-party elections were held for the first time. The opposition party, the Movement for Democracy (MpD), won the legislative elections, and formed the government. The MpD candidate also defeated the PAICV candidate in the presidential elections. In the 1996 elections, the MpD increased their majority, but in the 2001 the PAICV returned to power, winning both the Legislative and the Presidential elections.

Economy & Agriculture

Cape Verde is considered a Developing country, and is included on the list of the United Nations Small Island Developing States. In 2007 the United Nations

graduated Cape Verde from the category of Least Developed Countries, only the second time this has happened to a country.

Cape Verde's low per capita GDP reflects a poor natural resource base, including serious water shortages exacerbated by cycles of long-term drought. During periods of normal rainfall, only 4 of 10 islands (Santiago, Santo Antão, Fogo, and Brava) support significant agricultural production. Mineral resources are salt, Pozzolana (a volcanic rock used in cement production), and limestone. The



economy is service-oriented, with commerce, transport, and public services accounting for almost 70% of GDP. Although nearly 70% of the population lives in rural areas, the share of agriculture in GDP in 2000 was only 13%. A large part of the economic flow is due to foreign investments, mostly in industry, tourism, fisheries and services. In the more humid areas, agriculture is based on the cultivation of corn, beans, squash, sweet potatoes and manioc. In the past the cultivation of sugar cane, coffee, pine nuts and Angola weed, amongst others, basically meant for export and which did in fact play an important part in the commercial balance of the Archipelago. Banana continues to be a product for exportation.

Flora and Fauna

The natural vegetation was practically destroyed to make way for cultivation fields, thus only in the highest areas those species are still to be found. There are still some rare species such as the "Dragoeiro", in S. Nicolau, and which is considered today one of the symbols of the country. The wild life is not abundant and mainly consists of birds, of which there are about 75 different species distributed throughout all islands.

Seascape

One of Cape Verde's main riches is the sea, due to its very abundant maritime fauna, the underwater platforms and the purity and temperature of the water that varies between 21° to 25°. Among the many permanent species of fish there is the dory, the sawfish, the victor fish, the moray and the grouper. There are also many migratory species such as the tuna, dolphins, whales, sperm whales and killer whales. But it is for its abundant and varied shellfish that the seas of Cape Verde are often visited.

Lobster, various kinds of crabs and shellfish with magnificent shells, together with the coral are the delight of any collector. Turtles that are considered an endangered species all over the world, choose the beaches of the Archipelago for laying their eggs, and Cape Verde is considered the preferred habitat of diverse types of this species.

Culture

The culture of Cape Verde reflects its mixed African and Portuguese roots. It is well known for its diverse forms of music such as *Morna* and a wide variety of dances: the soft dance *Morna*, and its modernized version, *passada*, the *Funaná* - a sensual mixed Portuguese and African dance, the extreme sensuality of *coladeira*, and the *Batuque* dance. These are reflective of the diverse origins of

Cape Verde's residents. The term "Criolo" is used to refer to residents as well as the culture of Cape Verde. The Culture of Cape Verde features literatures including Claridade, Negrume and others and writers including Sergio Frusoni, Manuel Lopes, Ovídio Martins and more. Capeverdean singers known throughout the world include Cesária Évora and Tcheka.

About Fogo Island

Location

The island of FOGO west of Santiago, is almost round in shape, and looks as if it is just a volcanic mountain. The surface area is 476 Km² and, although only the fourth biggest island of the Archipelago, it is the highest with the top of the volcano reaching a height of 2829 m.



The volcano is in fact the main tourist attraction of the island. The volcanic cone rises from a sort of plateau about 8 km in diameter, called CHÃ DAS CALDEIRAS the walls on the western side reach almost 1000 m and end in a crater 500 meters in diameter and 180 meters deep.

This is truly the most spectacular scenery in the whole of the Archipelago. The original volcanic cone must, at one time, have reached a height of 3500 m. The volcano was active right up to the XVIII century, when the main cone ceased activity and all that remained as testimony to it were the volcanic vapors and deposits of sulfurs. There have been sporadic eruptions and the last one was in 1951, when the lava poured out of one of the two chimneys on the southern side of the volcano.

History

Fogo was discovered at the same time as Santiago and Maio, on May 1st. 1460. At first it was called S.Filipe but later, and quite appropriately its name was changed to Fogo (Fire).

Once discovered it was immediately occupied, in order to expand the agriculture in Santiago. The two main agricultural products introduced were coffee and grapes. The coffee was well known for its high quality and special aroma. The wine produced, called *Manecom*, was also well known and at one time was exported to Brazil. Other activities also developed at the same time, the famous cloth weaving for example. As a result of this development, villages grew up in S.Filipe, Aldeias da Igreja, Mosteiros and Fajazinha.

The whalers were frequent visitors to the island during the XIX century and not surprisingly many of the inhabitants that joined them ended up in America. These emigrants returned later to the island much richer than when they left and the result was a change in the social structure of the island. They bought out the most important families at the time, who were forced to sell their possessions due to the effects of terrible droughts.