Cape Verde Turtle Conservation

Visit the far flung islands of Cape Verde and contribute to the conservation and protection of some of the world's most enchanting inhabitants of the ocean.

The Cape Verde islands lie like an exquisite jewel necklace scattered in the endless blue of the vast Atlantic Ocean. Positioned off the coast of Western Africa, their culture is a heady mix of Brazilian and Senegalese influences; you will find the hypnotising rhythm of South America infiltrating the French colonial and Moorish elements, inspired by Dakar's ancient mystique. The waters that surround this serene island archipelago are abundant in marine life, including six of the seven sea turtle species. These placid creatures have followed ocean currents to the shores of the islands for more than 150 million years, the females seeking out the safety of the beaches to lay their precious cargo of eggs in a carefully dug nest. Tragically, however, in recent decades thousands of these mothers to be have been slaughtered before they are able to lay, literally crawling into the arms of the poachers. This vital project seeks to provide an action group to patrol beaches, rescue injured turtles, monitor numbers and much more. Travel to Cape Verde for an amazing conservation experience and discover an island idyll that is one of Africa's best kept secrets!

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Make lifelong friendships
- Work with the rare & beautiful sea turtle
- Discover a hidden pocket of splendour

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- Please check availability when applying for this project!

FAST FACTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cape Verde</th>
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| Activities | Contributing ecological & other information to the national environmental databases  
| Identification & population assessments of the different species  
| Establishing the location of & excavating nests  
| Rescuing & rehabilitating injured or sick hatchlings  
| Day & night beach patrols to prevent the poaching of eggs |
| Transport | Pick-up from the airport  
| Transport to the project site |
| Accommodation | Beach camp |
WHAT DOES THE PROJECT DO?

Cape Verde's pristine beaches are fringed by the tempting waters of the Atlantic Ocean which provide a home for an incredible array of marine flora and fauna. Explore its shallows to see clown fish, starry triggerfish, barrier reef anemone fish and eagle rays, amongst many more. Venture to deeper waters by taking a boat trip or scuba dive and see marlin, dolphins and maybe even catch a glimpse of a blue whale. By spending time in this exotic paradise, you will begin to appreciate how precious and valuable these ecosystems are.

The unregulated use of marine habitats is the biggest threat to species and habitats. Six of the world's seven species of sea turtle, all highly endangered, nest along the coastline and have suffered massive overexploitation for eggs, meat and shells. The threat to these beautiful creatures comes from a variety of sources; the extensive and unplanned development of tourism, the unsustainable harvesting of turtle feeding grounds and the polluting and bleaching of the coral reefs. However, the continued exploitation of both turtle meat and eggs for sale on the illegal market remains the single biggest threat – surveys have revealed that egg collection rates have been unsustainably high for at least the last 30 years. Action must be taken to initiate and facilitate the implementation of sustainable marine turtle conservation strategies through education, research and community participation. As a volunteer you will be an integral part of this process, as well as taking practical action to track and protect the turtle populations, all this along with having an unforgettable travel experience.

Your environmental education and awareness-raising work will focus on encouraging indigenous people away from harmful practices such as harvesting turtles and encourage marginalised communities to recognise that rational use of these coastal resources are key to their preservation for the future. You will live the Cape Verde lifestyle, camping on beach survey sites and tasting the best in native local cooking. We try and ensure that in every way possible our project work is sympathetic to the lives of local community members.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Your work on the project will take place mainly from dusk until dawn. It will include a wide range of activities that all contribute to the successful monitoring and protection of six species of sea turtle – leatherback, green, olive ridley, kemp's ridley, loggerhead and hawksbill. The site has been selected for its suitability and high biodiversity value.

The activities that you are participating in include;

- contributing ecological and other information to the national environmental databases
- identification and population assessments of the different species
- establishing the location of and excavating nests
- rescuing and rehabilitating injured or sick hatchlings
- day and night beach patrols to prevent the poaching of eggs

Depending on when you join you may find yourself working alongside other committed and highly motivated volunteers who all share a passion for travelling in developing countries and saving endangered life. Your project staff will be experienced and friendly individuals dedicated to turtle preservation.
If this is your first time doing conservation work, don't worry! It will only take a short while for you to feel totally at home on camp and confident with the conservation work. Although the work is intense you'll find that living in such a beautiful and inaccessible environment alongside friends who share your passion for turtle conservation will be the experience of a lifetime!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

You will fly into Boavista airport where you will be met on arrival. From here you will be escorted to your project site on Boavista Island.

WHERE WILL I BE STAYING?

Whilst you are on this project you will enjoy authentic beach camp life as you stay in shared tents on the shore. There are washing facilities and a washing machine is available.

WHAT WILL I BE EATING?

Camp food is delicious, simple and nutritious and consists largely of rice, vegetables, beans and noodles, all of which are purchased locally in order to help support the local economy. If you try local restaurants or cafés, popular local dishes include melon with local cheese, salted goat meat, or the famous diable dentro, which translates as "pastry with the devil inside", and is pastry filled with tuna, onions and tomatoes.

HOW WILL I GET TO WORK?

Once on site, you will be within walking distance of your work site – the beach!

COSTS

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<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>US$ 1,445</td>
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DEPARTURE DATES

June to October. Volunteers welcome any time

PLEASE CHECK AVAILABILITY WHEN APPLYING FOR THIS POPULAR PROJECT!

DURATION

You can join this project for a minimum of 4 weeks

WHAT'S INCLUDED
Before you go

- Pre-departure support
- Travel & medical advice & documentation
- Equipment advice
- Discounted medical kit
- Free Frontier t-shirt (UK only)

In-country

- Food
- Accommodation
- Local orientation and training
- Project equipment & materials
- Ground transfers & in-transit accommodation
- Airport pick-up
- In-country emergency support
- 24-hour international HQ backup

CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us on 020 7613 2422 (UK) / 1 949 336 8178 (US)

Mail us on info@frontier.ac.uk

Check out our social media here:

Project details were correct at the time this document was generated. Price, dates and other details are subject to change. Please see our website for current details for this project.