INTRODUCTION
The uninhabited islands were discovered and colonized by the Portuguese in the 15th century. Following independence in 1975, a one-party system was established and maintained until multi-party elections were held in 1990. Cabo Verde continues to sustain one of Africa’s most stable democratic governments and one of its most stable economies.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Jorge Carlos FONSECA
Head of Government
Prime Minister Ulisses CORREIA E. SILVA
Government Type
parliamentary republic
Capital
Praia
Legislature
unicameral National Assembly (72 seats)

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
tourism-dominated economy benefits from the country’s relative close proximity to Europe; 2009 Financial Crisis halted economic growth for seven years; leveraging export-based growth; COVID-19 decimated economic growth and recovery; high external debt
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $3.36 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $6,000 (2020 est.)
Industries - food and beverages, fish processing, shoes and garments, salt mining, ship repair
Agricultural products - sugarcane, tomatoes, bananas, cabbages, coconuts, cassava, pulses nes, vegetables, milk, goat milk
Exports $420 million (2020 est.)
processed and frozen fish, mollusks, clothing, scrap iron (2019)
partners: Spain 65%, Portugal 14%, Italy 8% (2019)
Imports $1.02 billion (2020 est.)
refined petroleum, delivery trucks, coal tar oil, cars, rice (2019)
partners: Portugal 36%, Netherlands 16%, Spain 11%, China 6% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
589,450 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.24% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Creole (mulatto) 71%, African 28%, European 1%
Language
Portuguese (official), Krioulo (a blend of Portuguese and West African languages)
Religion
Roman Catholic 77.3%, Protestant 4.6, other Christian 3.4%, Muslim 1.8%, other 1.3%, none 10.8%, unspecified 0.7% (2010 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 67.1% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 1.83% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)