

CABO VERDE

TXUBA STA TXOBI E ÁGUA STA KORRI*

*the perfect waves & crystal clear water

LET'S EXPLORE CABO VERDE THROUGH THE SOUL OF MATCHU LOPES.
THE WAVE AND WIND CHASER WHOSE ROOTS ARE FOREVER
INTERTWINED WITH HIS HOMELAND..



SUNSET AT @WINDCLUBFG (BOA VISTA - CABO VERDE)

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In a personal conversation, Matchu shares his feelings about the unique qualities of his island and how they have shaped his life and kitesurfing career. For him, kitesurfing is more than just a sport — it's a way to embrace and celebrate the purity, culture, and traditions of his homeland, while sharing them with the world.

"WE ARE SO TINY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN,
PEOPLE CAN BARELY SEE US ON THE MAP
BUT WE FEEL THAT WE ARE STRONG."

CABO VERDE, HIS TERRA TERRA

*expresses a deep emotional connection to one's roots, land, or place of origin.

"Terra" means "land" or "earth," so it's a term that reflects the importance of one's heritage and the emotional attachment to the homeland



STREETS OF SAL REI (BOA VISTA - CABO VERDE)

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Matchu spends much of his time traveling — competing, doing promotional shoots, and teaching in various clinics — but one constant in his life remains: his desire to return to Cabo Verde. He describes how life as a professional kitesurfer often keeps him away from home for nine or even ten months each year. Though the places he visits are incredible, there is no place he holds closer to his heart than the island where he grew up. "The people are amazing, the food is fantastic, the weather is always great, and the kitesurfing conditions are perfect," says Matchu, reflecting on the beauty of his homeland.

**"NHA CORAÇÃO STA SEMPRE NA
TERRA TERRA, MESMU KI STA FORA."**

*"My heart is always in my homeland, even though I'm far away."



6AM FISHERMEN GATHERING (BOA VISTA - CABO VERDE)

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What makes Cabo Verde so special, is the unspoiled nature. He points out that there's more than just ideal conditions for kitesurfing — there's an abundance of other activities like spear fishing, surfing, hiking through the dunes, and exploring the island's many hidden gems. The islands themselves are diverse, with ten unique islands, each offering its own charm and opportunities for exploration.



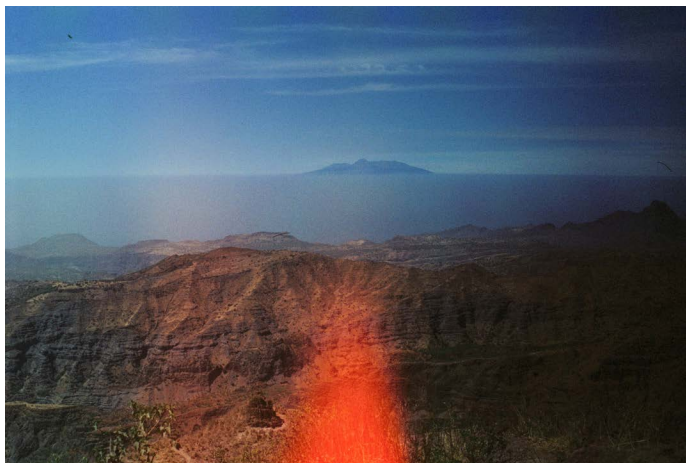
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PICKING SÃO CAETANO (SANTIAGO CABO VERDE)



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KIDS PLAYING AROUND THE FISHING BOATS (SANTIAGO CABO VERDE)



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ON TOP OF PICO DE ANTONIA — VIEW ON FOGO (SANTIAGO CABO VERDE)

MORABEZA

*the feeling of being received with openness, warmth,
and kindness, making visitors feel at home

What truly makes Cabo Verde stand out is its authentic culture. "There's so much character, there are traditions, dancing, the language, food and there's music that you won't find anywhere else," he says. The island offers a pure, laid-back lifestyle where people genuinely know and help one another — something becoming increasingly rare in the modern world. The beauty of the nature around them is reflected in the way people treat each other: welcoming, friendly, and always ready to lend a hand.



PLAYING CARDS (BOA VISTA CABO VERDE)

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ANASTACIA (SANTIAGO CABO VERDE)

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It's not just the physical aspects of the island that resonate with him but also the way of life. He describes how the simplicity and purity of his homeland deeply touch him. There are no worries about modern bureaucracy or technology, and while Cabo Verde may lack some of the conveniences found in Europe or the U.S., there's a sense of freedom and adventure. It's a way of life that harkens back to a time without modern distractions — when people lived more fully in the moment.

**"WE ARE AFRICAN PEOPLES. WE HAVE NOT INVENTED
MANY THINGS. WE DO NOT POSSESS TODAY THE SPECIAL
WEAPONS WHICH OTHERS POSSESS. WE HAVE NO BIG
FACTORIES. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE FOR OUR CHILDREN THE
TOYS WHICH OTHER CHILDREN HAVE. BUT WE DO HAVE OUR
OWN HEARTS, OUR OWN HEADS, OUR OWN HISTORY..."**
— AMILCAR CABRAL

Amílcar Cabral was a pivotal figure in the fight for Cabo Verde's independence. As a revolutionary leader and founder of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde (PAIGC), Cabral played a crucial role in the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule. His leadership, strategic vision, and commitment to the liberation of Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau inspired many, and his legacy remains integral to the country's path to freedom. Cabral's ideas on identity, unity, and the importance of cultural independence continue to resonate in Cabo Verde today.



AGUA AZUL (SANTIAGO · CABO VERDE)

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MUSIC TIP:

Césaria Évora's music became a voice for the Cape Verdean people's longing for a brighter, liberated future. Songs like "Sodade" reflect a sense of nostalgia for the homeland, a sentiment that echoes the sacrifices made for the country's liberty.

FOOD TIP:

Catchupa is the national dish of Cape Verde, a hearty and flavorful stew made with corn, beans, and various meats like pork, beef, or sausage. It's a comforting, one-pot meal that reflects the country's blend of African, Portuguese, and Caribbean influences. Often enjoyed for breakfast or lunch, catchupa is considered a symbol of Cape Verdean culture and tradition, offering both nourishment and a taste of the island's history.



SUSPIRA MARKET (SANTIAGO · CABO VERDE)

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LIBERDADE

For Matchu, kitesurfing is a way to share his passion for his island with others.

"It's pure freedom," he says, "and that's exactly what I want to share with the world." Despite having kitesurfed in some of the most beautiful and exotic places on Earth, he remains steadfast in his love for Cabo Verde. It's the unique kitesurfing spots and the connection with nature that make the island so irresistible.

"If you come here, you can learn to kitesurf," Matchu explains. "You've got the best, flat water to learn on, with top-quality gear and certified instructors. But if you already know how to kitesurf, I'm showing you the best spots, with pristine waves and secluded beaches. You can go discover the islands, the little towns, get to know the story we have - which is significant for me.. It makes us who we are."



MATCHU WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER (CABO VERDE)

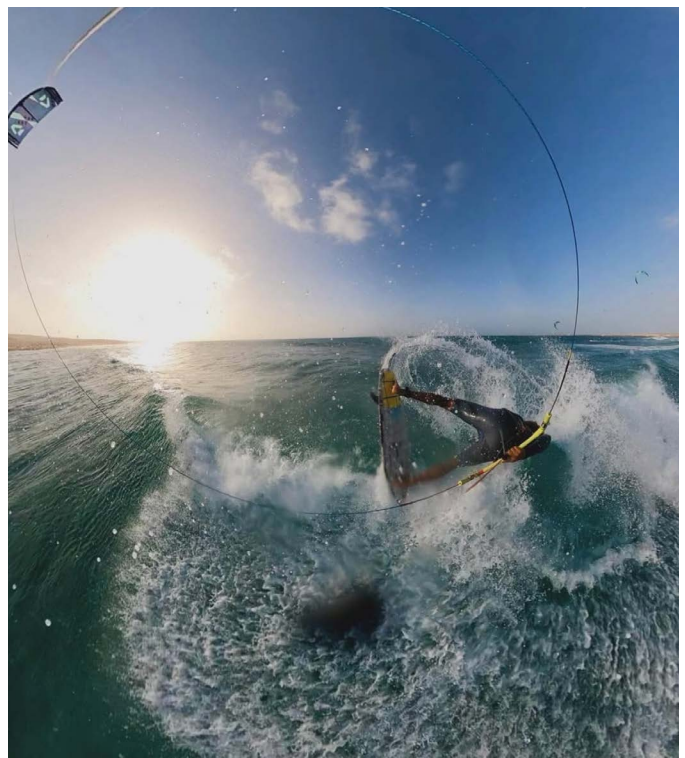
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**"PEOPLE REALLY GET HOOKED ON IT," HE SAYS.
"THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL. SOMETHING PURE,
SOMETHING YOU CAN'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE."**

There are still so many undiscovered spots on the island. "I still haven't found all the places to kite on Boa Vista," he says. "There are some amazing spots, but they're so remote — there's no road, no this - no that, nothing. It's mind-blowing."



REMOTE KITESPOT (BOA VISTA - CABO VERDE)



© Matchu Lopes



© Matheu Lopes

REMOTE KITESPOT (BOA VISTA · CABO VERDE)

**"I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE MY HOME
FOR NOTHING ON THIS EARTH.
THERE IS NO PRICE FOR THIS EXPERIENCE."**

"People really get hooked on it," he says. "There's something special, something pure, something you can't find anywhere else." For him, it's not just about experiencing his home, but about sharing it with others. "I ended up inviting the people that I met so that they can come to see where I come from. Like who I really am, where I grew up, what the reality is here, what's the thing here.."

BEST ISLANDS OF CABO VERDE FOR KITESURF

NOVEMBER UNTIL MAY

BOA VISTA

Praia de Chaves

The spot at Boavista Kite at Iberostar offers a side-shore wind, but it is not always accessible. From December to February there are waves, so they teach with boats. The first lessons are generally on the beach, and then they teach from a boat in front of the hotel. When it is not possible they move the lessons to their other boat in Sal Rei Bay.

WIND: SIDE-SHORE
WAVE: YES
SHOREBREAK: SOME

Varandinha

The spot lays on the south-western tip of the island, but be cautious as there is no room for error at this spot; 500m downwind and you are out into the open ocean with no rescue around, or if you are lucky, you are washed onto volcanic cliffs.

However, for experienced riders, Varandinha brings lots of fun with their big and slow waves. The wind is side-off-shore from the right.

WIND: SIDE-OFF-SHORE FROM THE RIGHT
WAVE: YES
SHOREBREAK: YES

Ponta Antonia

Ponta Antonia is a nice bay with side-onshore wind and some waves. Quite a big flat area between waves, so you can practice freestyle tricks here too. You will need a 4x4 car to get to this spot. Pont Antonio is generally safe for beginners with steady onshore winds, but maybe not the easiest place to learn because of the waves.

WIND: SIDE-ONSHORE
WAVE: YES
SHOREBREAK: NONE

Riu

At this big sand-castle-hotel, there is a lagoon with completely flat shallow water, but with gusty winds. You can go here by car, scooter, or do a downwinder from the city with the kite.

WIND: GUSTY OFF-SHORE
WAVE: NONE
SHOREBREAK: NONE

Morabeza beach

Morabeza Beach is walking distance from the city. The wind is side-off to off here, so super gusty. But no chop, only flat water. The waves are generally smaller than on the other spots on the west side. However, the wind is cross off-shore and gusty which makes riding waves pretty tricky. Getting back to shore requires good upwind riding skills and sometimes may take a while.

WIND: SIDE-OFF TO OFF (GUSTY)
WAVE: NONE
SHOREBREAK: NONE

DECEMBER UNTIL JUNE

SÃO VICENTE

Salamansa

Salamansa is a wave riding spot and one of the most popular ones. Just in front of the main beach, the spot isn't so good cause the wave breaks quite fast and the wind blows almost on shore. Go to the east-side to get the best waves, trust me!

Freestyle and freeride aren't the best disciplines here due to the wave and choppy water. But you can enjoy some big jump thanks to the waves that create excellent kickers, but please watch out the distance to the shore as the wind is on shore.

WIND: ON - SIDE ON SHORE
WAVES: IN FRONT OF THE BEACH -
THE BEST IS FURTHER ON THE RIGHT.
SHOREBREAK: SOME

Baia das Gatas

Although very small, Baia das Gatas is the only permanent flat water, knee-to-waist deep spot on the Cape Verde islands and is not far from Salamansa; it's a natural swimming pool. The spot's tiny, two kites are going to be enough to fill up the pool.

WIND: CROSS-SHORE
WAVES: NONE
SHOREBREAK: NONE

Praia Grande

Praia Grande is a wave spot for advanced kites, and most of the spots around there are not easy to reach, the best and easiest way to get there is to either rent a car or ask to a taxi to come back and pick you up. Located 1.5 km northwest of the village Calhau, the beach is next to volcanic rocks of nearby Monte Calhau.

WIND: CROSS - ONSHORE WIND
WAVES: REEF BREAK FROM THE RIGHT WITH 0.3
- 2.5M WAVES
SHOREBREAK: YES

NOVEMBER UNTIL APRIL

SAL

Kite beach

Kite beach is by far the most popular spot on the island. It offers a good mix of flatter water and waves, so is very popular amongst wave and twin tip riders. During high season, it can get a little busy so it usually better wait for a late afternoon session or for everyone to take a lunch break. The wind is a very comfortable cross-on, so perfect for beginners and Kite Beach is also one of the few places on the island where you can learn to kitesurf (most schools teach here)

WIND: CROSS ON FROM THE LEFT
WAVES: YES
SHOREBREAK: YES

Ponta Preta

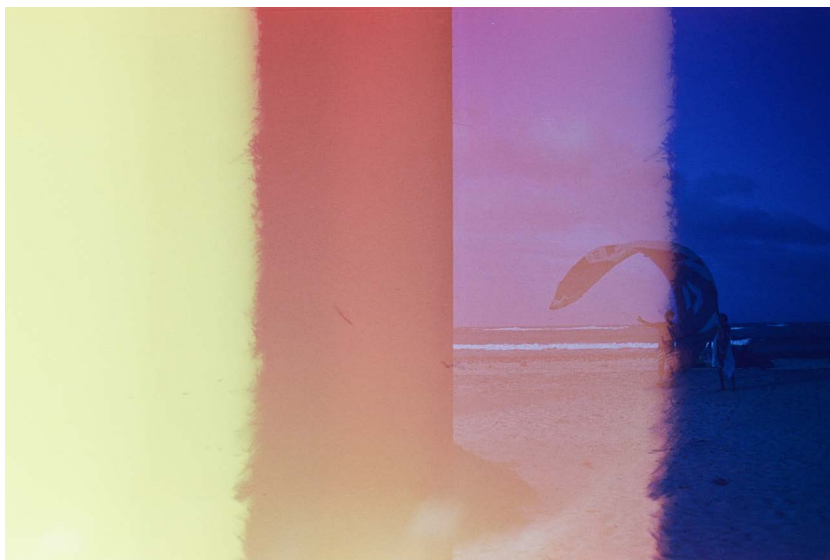
Ponta Preta is an advanced kitesurfing spot especially when it is big! Ponta Preta recently hosted 2018 GKAevent and for a good reason. With good swell, it generates a long ride that closes dangerously close to the rocks (offshore winds help you to get out of it though). Challenging but rewarding!

WIND: OFFSHORE
WAVES: YES
SHOREBREAK: YES

Ponta Leme

A short downwinder from Kite Beach, you reach Ponta Leme. Home to a very nice left wave (with the right direction of the swell) When it's on (and it doesn't happen often) it gets busy, so keep your eyes open and be prepared!

WIND: SIDE-ON
WAVES: YES
SHOREBREAK: YES



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FILM SUGGESTING NEW KITE COLOR COMBO FOR 2026 :-> (PONTA ANTÓNIA - BOA VISTA - CABO VERDE)

Through his travels and interactions with people from all over, he has had the opportunity to promote his island and its culture, while also emphasizing how invaluable it is to stay true to your roots. The freedom, connection, and untouched beauty of Cabo Verde make it a place unlike any other. In Matchu's words: "There is no price for this experience. This is something you can't find anywhere else."

NEXT UP: GKA KITE-SURF WORLD CUP 2025 SAL – CABO VERDE

LOCATION: SAL ISLAND, CAPE VERDE
DATES: 13–21 MARCH, 2025
ALL EVENT INFORMATION IS [HERE](#)



MATCHU LOPES

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