



THREEMASTEDTOPSAILSCHOONER

OOSTERSCHELDE

CAPE VERDE

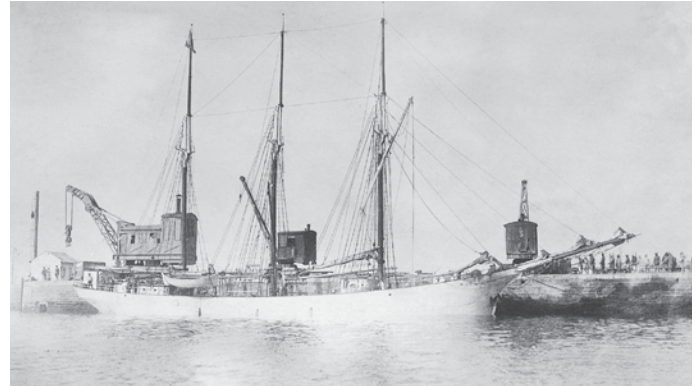
ROTTERDAM - THE NETHERLANDS

## HISTORY OF THE 'OOSTERSCHELDE'

The three-masted topsail schooner 'Oosterschelde' was built in 1917 as a sail-powered freighter. The vessel plied the European waters and was regularly seen off the coast of Morocco and in the Mediterranean Sea. In 1930 heavier and modern diesel engines were placed and the rigging was reduced. From 1939 the vessel sailed under foreign flags and underwent a drastic conversion ten years later into a modern coaster. She kept sailing cargo until 1988 until she was brought back to the Netherlands. The Rotterdam Sailing Ship Foundation and Shipping Company Oosterschelde were founded to restore the vessel to its authentic condition. Thanks to a large group of supporters, companies and institutions the restoration was a big success. Never before and never since, such a big ship was restored with this eye for detail.

The 'Oosterschelde' is registered as a monument with great cultural and historic value by the Dutch ministry of Culture.


The ship is self-maintaining and is deployed in domestic and foreign ports for presentation and promotion activities for businesses and other organizations. The vessel also sails along interesting coasts and these trips can be booked individually. After the restoration we visited over 50 countries on 5 continents and made two voyages around the world. The ship sailed in the tropics, but also made polar expeditions to Spitsbergen, Antarctica, the Falklands and South Georgia.



## THE AREA

The islands of Cape Verde are situated in the Atlantic Ocean, over 600 kilometers west of Senegal at approximately 16 degrees north. Cape Verde consists of 9 inhabited and a few uninhabited islands. At the end of the 15th century, the Portuguese colonized the islands, which were uninhabited at the time. The islands were used as transit ports for the slave trade. There were also plantations situated on the islands. It was not until 1975 that Cape Verde became independent and since 1992 there is a parliamentary democracy.

Cape Verde is one of the smallest and poorest countries of Africa. The official language is still Portuguese, however most inhabitants speak Creole or sometimes English or French. Cape Verde has approximately 530.000 inhabitants; a mixture of different African

A background map of the Cape Verde archipelago is visible, showing various islands and their names in Portuguese. The map is overlaid with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The islands shown include Santo Antão, São Vicente, Santiago, and Maio, among others. The map is rendered in a light, semi-transparent style.

races and Portuguese, French and Italian race. Apart from that, there are many Cape Verdean communities abroad, for instance in The Netherlands (Rotterdam). A voyage to Cape Verde is a voyage to Africa. We are able to see the most idyllic spots on these tropical islands, but we will also be confronted with the poverty in which a great deal of the inhabitants live. Cape Verde has one of the most stable governments in Africa. The government keeps bread and water prices artificially low so that it is available for everyone as is medical care.

## CLIMATE, FLORA AND FAUNA

The climate is tropical. The sea has an almost constant temperature of 25 degrees Celsius and the sometimes-strong breeze – the trade wind – comes from the northeast almost whole year round. Incidentally it rains, and the sun almost always shines. However, frequently there are days on which the fine desert sand in the air blocks the sun (and even the view). All the islands are volcanic, but still each island is unique. The islands suffer from different states of weathering as one island is flat with beautiful white beaches, the next has a height of 3000 meters with sharp cliffs and lush overgrowth. The water is filled with flying fishes, tuna, wahoo, sea turtles and whales. Steep terrace fields with banana- and coffee plantations, black volcanic slopes and a fierce foaming, deep blue sea define the landscape.

## SAILING ON THE OCEAN

Sailing with a large and genuine sailing ship is a special experience. Account has to be taken of the vagaries of weather at all times. Conditions at sea are never constant. Sailing between the islands lends itself to great sailing. There is a permanent wind (NE trade wind, force 4 up to 7 Bft) and the 'Oosterschelde' is in her element on the long ocean swell. There are very little other ships on the water, except for a fisherman boat every now and then. On board of the 'Oosterschelde' you are part of the guest crew. You will be assigned in a watch together with the crew to sail, steer and navigate the ship. The crew will also explain how you can help out with life on board and what to do in an emergency. Sailing experience is not required. The crew will be happy to explain the function of all the ropes, halyards and sheets to you. Our experience is that most people on board want to participate actively in sailing the vessel. Of course, we take your wishes and possible limitations into account.



## EXCURSIONS

These voyages offer a great mix between active sailing and discovering a unique country. Every day (and sometimes night) of sailing, will be followed by a full day on one of the islands. The landing places are carefully selected. And, in most cases, there is an organized excursion ashore to give you a good impression of the island. Participating in the excursions is not mandatory; you can also explore the islands on your own. The costs for the excursions are low and will be charged at the end of the voyage. If you participate in every excursion this will cost about € 140,- per person.

## LIFE ON BOARD

The 'Oosterschelde' has become a favourite of sea and nature fans. You can't compare a sailing trip with a luxury cruise. The main feature is always active sailing and direct exposure to the sea and exploring the area. The ship is furnished comfortably and supplied with all modern conveniences. All cabins are fitted with a washbasin with hot and cold running water. A few cabins have their own shower. The other showers and the toilets are communal. In the spacious and stylish saloon there are reading tables, seating areas and a piano. All cabins have forced ventilation and have the option to open a window or a hatch. The always-present wind provides a pleasant temperature on the lower deck. There are quiet corners where you can write a letter, read a book or to select and edit the photos you took along the way. Please do keep in mind that you bring the right adapter for your electronics. We have two-pin European sockets type F (230 volt).

During your voyage the captain or first mate will keep you updated throughout the trip on the progress of the voyage, the weather forecast and the plans for the day. The library offers books on the area being travelled, the flora and fauna and other ships. General literature is also available, as are a TV with a number of DVD's or to show photos on. Probably the most important person on board is our professional cook that will make life on board even more enjoyable with his/her lovely meals.

## THE CREW

Our crewmembers are all experienced sailors, which often sail full time on board the 'Oosterschelde'. The crew holds all the required certificates and diplomas and is qualified to sail worldwide. The atmosphere onboard is friendly and informal. Because we often have an international crew and guests the main language on board is English.

## EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

The 'Oosterschelde' is equipped to sail worldwide. The qualified and experienced crew also contributes to ensure safe passage. Each sailing area requires special preparations because there are no facilities along the way to repair something or to obtain spare parts. We usually have to manage with whatever is on board. There is a large amount of drinking water on board and we are able to produce drinking water from seawater using a filter system. Just before departure the food stores are topped off with fresh goods. And we will bunker 16.000 litres of diesel oil for heating, the

generators for electrical power supply and for the main engine. There are two rubber dinghies onboard with outboard motor and a wooden sloop for transport to shore.

## ITINERARY

On this voyage, we will visit at least six islands. These are approximately a day of sailing apart. After each leg, we take the time to explore the island of our destination. At night, we will mostly be anchored, but in some cases, we will keep sailing through the night. The landing places are carefully selected. On all islands, we organize an excursion with local guides that you could join.

### DAY 1

Upon arrival on Ilha do Sal, you travel to Palmeira on your own accord, for example by taxi. The 'Oosterschelde' is waiting for you there, anchored in the bay. Palmeira is a rustic town where you will find few tourists. The island of Sal is desert-like, with miles-long sand beaches. On the south side of the island there is the fishing village of Santa Maria where the larger hotels and busy tourist attractions are located.

### DAY 2

The following morning you have time to take a stroll, visit the town or take a dive in the ocean before we set sail. While sailing from the windward to the leeward islands we have the wind in our back. The passengers are divided in shifts and are encouraged to participate in all duties on board, like navigation, steering and

trimming the sails. Those who dare can climb the mast to see the world from up a yard of a big sailing vessel. The crossing to Santiago is approximately 110 miles; we expect to arrive sometime during the night.

### DAY 3

We anchor in the beautiful bay of the village Tarrafal. Santiago is completely different from Sal with its mountains and green valleys. We will spend the entire day on the island. With a taxi bus, we travel across the island to see everything the island has to offer. Our first stop is the village of the Rabelados. Since the '40 the Rabelados are a symbol of resistance. This group has been living in the mountains for the past 70 years and have managed to preserve their traditions, culture and way of living. Our next stop is Agua Barragem, a huge reservoir where we can spot birdlife. We have lunch in a Cape Verdean restaurant and taste typically Cape Verdean dishes. After lunch, we drive down narrow curvy roads into a green valley. At the bottom, there is a huge Kapok tree, probably the biggest you have ever seen. Then we will visit the National Park of Serra Malagueta where you will go on a beautiful hike. At the end of the day we will return to the ship. Spontaneous beach parties start here, where everyone is dancing to the swinging Cape Verdean music.

### DAY 4

The crossing from Santiago to São Vicente is the longest leg of this journey. Close-hauled and with most of the sails set, we push 'Oosterschelde' to her limits. If the wind is strong, this could be a

beautiful, but a bit rougher crossing. If visibility is good we can spot the active volcano Fogo, which rises 3000 meters from the sea. We will spend the night at sea.

### DAY 5

Upon sunrise we will see land. First São Vicente and then Santo Antão. To reach the bay of Mindelo, we sail between the two islands. Because of the venturi-effect the winds are usually very strong. Mindelo, on São Vicente, is the largest harbour and the second largest city of Cape Verde. There are restaurants, an indoor market, cafés and souvenir shops. In the afternoon there is time to explore the town. Or you can go to a little beach for swimming. At night one of the crew members will take you to a bar with live music where the local community gathers to dance.

### DAY 6

Santo Antão is considered the most beautiful island of the archipelago. It is also the greenest and most fertile of the islands. With the ferry from Mindelo we sail to Santo Antão and let a taxi bus take us to the edge of the volcanic crater. From this point, we take a hike down a steep and narrow trail to Ribeira Grande. If the hike is too strenuous you can also choose to join the driver and drive down an amazing route to the other side of the island, where we will pick up the hikers. The diverse landscape and the breath-taking views make this an unforgettable excursion.

## DAY 7

Today we sail close past the coasts of several uninhabited islands. On our way to São Nicolau we pass Santa Lucia. The sea is full of fish here, so we throw out a fishing line to test our luck. Later today we pass by Ilheu Raza and Ilheu Branco before São Nicolau appears. On the leeward side of the island, where the sea is a bit flatter, we regularly spot big groups of dolphins.

## DAY 8

The destination on São Nicolau is also called Tarrafal. We drop anchor just in front of the harbour. Tarrafal is a peaceful fisherman's village where we will be welcomed with open arms. There is barely any tourism here, and at least half of all fisherman sail instead of using motorized boats. On São Nicolau, we visit the beautiful worn basalt formations and drive up to the last remainders of a primeval forest in the national park 'Monto Gordo' for a hike. There are Grogue distilleries here and if a distillery is open, we will make a stop to see how this process works.

## DAY 9 AND 10

Another amazing leg of our voyage will take us to Boa Vista. A considerable distance from the village we drop anchor, as it will not be possible to come closer to the shore. The rubber dinghy is used to go to shore, but due to safety precautions we only undertake this during daylight. Boa Vista is one of the islands where mass tourism is developing. Along the

## OOSTERSCHELDE

coastline, several resorts have risen from the ground. The beaches are indeed beautiful, and the inland is known for its remarkable moving sand dunes.

Our guide is waiting for us amongst the local fishermen on the pier of Sal Rei. He tells us about the island, the history and the turtle protection program he's working for. They try to protect the second largest population of loggerhead turtles. He can tell us a lot about the turtles, but unfortunately this time of year we probably won't see them. We walk through town for a small city tour and when we arrive on the town square the 4x4 trucks are there to take us to Santa Maria Beach to visit the shipwreck. Then, we drive to 'Deserto de Viana', a snow-white dessert with here and there an acacia tree and pieces of basalt rock. We end our tour with a visit to a workshop where they make crockery.

### DAY 11 AND 12

The last crossing, from Boa Vista to Ilha do Sal, will probably be made with help of the engine. If we can see Sal, we will set the sails and we will tack a few times at the leeward side of the island before we drop anchor at Palmeira. We celebrate our last night with a barbecue on deck. The next morning, after breakfast, it is time to say goodbye to the crew and ship.

Depending on wind and weather conditions the travel plan could be altered, however we always try to sail as much as possible. The weather in Cape Verde is usually very stable. The prevailing wind is between north and east, force 4 to 6 Bft. The sea can be rough which is noticeable on the close-hauled legs.





## HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION?

You can make a reservation by completing the booking form on our website. We ask for your passport details, date of birth etc. We need these details in order to prepare the mandatory passenger list for customs. For this reason, we ask you to complete the form in full. Of course, this information will be treated confidentially. After receiving the form, we will send you a confirmation and invoice with the terms of payment. You will receive the final joining instructions 14 to 7 days prior to departure.

## PRIVACY

Of course, we will treat the information you send us with care. The shipping company will not forward any details to third parties. Your passport and medical details will be automatically removed from our system. You can read our full privacy statement on our website.

## WHAT TO BRING

Every berth is supplied with a duvet, pillow and sheets. There is a towel on board for each guest, but we advise to bring an extra one. A small rucksack or bag is convenient during excursions or walks on shore. Suitcases take up a great deal of space in the cabin; it's better to carry your luggage in (soft)bags. On deck we recommend robust shoes with soft soles for grip. On land we advise firm, waterproof walking boots. Other practical items are your health insurance papers and of course a valid passport. Please also bring enough personal items like medication and or an extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses.

Other items to be considered are:

- Binoculars, not only for watching birds, dolphins and whales, but also for looking at the coast.
- Sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Water- and windproof jacket. Sailing gear or boots are not necessary in this area.
- Photo and or a video camera.
- Swimming gear.

## SEASICKNESS AND HEALTH

The pressure of the wind in the sails results in a sailing ship lying much steadier in the water than a motorized ship. Almost everybody becomes used to the movement of the ship within one day. However, if you are prone to seasickness you can put special plasters behind your ears or take seasickness pills.

The shipping company provides optimal safety for all guests, but that does not relieve you of your own responsibilities. On a moving ship accidents can happen easily and when you are dependent on medicines, seasickness can have a serious effect. At sea medical care is not directly available, so if your mental or physical health is not optimal you will be at extra risk during a voyage. In case of doubt we urgently ask you to consult your doctor. On the booking form you have to fill in all medical information that might be of importance on board.

## TIME DIFFERENCE AND VACCINATIONS

In winter the time difference between Cape Verde and central Europe is two hours. Vaccinations are not obligatory but advised. We advise you to contact your physician for information on the current regulations 4 to 6 weeks before the start of the voyage.

## CONTACT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Family and friends at home can read frequent updates from the ship on our website [www.oosterschelde.nl](http://www.oosterschelde.nl). It is also possible to follow the ship via the site. Every six hours a new position will be updated.

There is no Wi-Fi on board and mobile phones stop working when the ship is at sea. In case of an emergency the ship can be reached directly by Iridium satellite telephone. The number is: +881677721849. Calling a satellite phone is costly. The shipping office is in daily contact with the ship, therefore we recommend contacting the shipping office first. You can reach the office via +31104364258 or per email [info@oosterschelde.nl](mailto:info@oosterschelde.nl).

## INSURANCE

The vessel has third party liability insurance to cover your time onboard. However, the 'Oosterschelde' does not cover any damages obtained on your transfer to and from the ship or during trips ashore. Therefore, you need to arrange travel insurance for your trip, to cover the cost of repatriation in case of illness or accident abroad. You need to confirm that you have travel insurance on our booking form. NB: if you don't have insurance we are not able to confirm your booking.



It often happens that you book your voyage a long time before the actual embarkation date. In between the time of booking and embarkation anything can happen with you or your family. Therefore, we strongly recommend you to arrange trip cancellation insurance for the voyage fare, but also keep in mind any additional costs like flight and hotel costs.

## **MONEY DURING THE TRIP**

In Cape Verde you can pay with the Escudo, 100 CVE is ± € 0,91, or with Euros. There are ATM's on the islands. We advise you to bring some cash money (Euros) too.

Before your departure the shipping company will send you an invoice for your stay and the meals during your stay onboard. At the end of the trip you can pay your bar bill and excursions in Euros, British Pounds or American Dollars. We are not able to take (credit)card payments on board.

## **MEALS ON BOARD**

Our experienced cook will prepare three delicious and varied meals a day. Snacks will be served in between the meals. Coffee, tea, milk and water are included in the voyage fee. Other drinks will be charged at normal bar prices at the end of the voyage.

## **FLIGHT TICKETS**

There are several airlines that fly on Ilha do Sal. TAP Air Portugal flies via Lisbon, which is reachable from most airports in Europe. From some countries, for instance Germany, there are direct

flights to Ilha do Sal offered by TUI. Or from the UK with Thomson or Thomas Cook Airlines. The costs for the flight tickets strongly depends on the period of the voyage and time of booking. Most flights do not connect directly to the schedule of the 'Oosterschelde'. In that case we advise you to book accommodation in Santa Maria on Ilha do Sal for the nights before or after the voyage. Please ensure that you are on board on time.

## **PASSPORT AND VISA**

It is your responsibility to have the right travel documents for all countries you visit during your stay on board 'Oosterschelde'. Please check the requirements for your own nationality well in advance of the trip. Since 1 January 2019 European passport holders staying not longer than 30 days will not need a visa. They will need to pay tourist tax of €31 on arrival at the airport.



INFORMATION AND BOOKINGS:

SHIPPING COMPANY 'OOSTERSCHELDE'

P.O. BOX 23429, 3001 KK Rotterdam

T +31 (0)10 436 42 58, F +31 (0)10 436 21 00

info@oosterschelde.nl www.oosterschelde.nl