

# Kitesurf Cabo Verde

## Hiace

A hiace is a local mini-bus operated by private drivers. Their schedules are unpredictable but you can increase your chances of catching one by knowing that: 1) they are more predictable during week-days and are least predictable between 1pm and 3pm and during school holidays. A major place to catch the hiaces is at Praca Estrela (close to the fish market). Once you found one, you may have to endure the frustration of having to wait up to 30min before it gets full with fellow-passengers.

On the positive side: taking a hiace is a great way to be with and observe the locals. Moreover, the ride is very cheap (e.g. 1 euro for the 35min drive from Mindelo to Salamasa).

## Taxi

Taxis are available everywhere in the city of Mindelo where they are easy to catch- just wave with your hand and they will stop for you. If you are outside of Mindelo: do not expect to be able to catch a taxi. This means that when you plan to spend time to do something outside of Mindelo (such as kitesurfing in Salamansa), you need plan your day carefully to be sure to be able to get back to Mindelo. You can for instance ask the taxi driver to wait for you at a particular place, at a particular time to get your ride back (make sure to take pen and paper with you so you can write it down to avoid misunderstandings).

The rates for taxis are enforced by the local government. Evening rates are higher than day rates. Before getting in ask for the price of the ride (many drivers try to increase the rate for tourists). To give you some sense of prices during the day: Mindelo to Salamansa costs between 1000 and 1200 CVE (10 euros) , a drive within Mindelo should cost you no more than 200 CVE (2 euros).

## Aluguer

An aluguer is a pick-up truck with sign on the roof (aluguer). They are convenient when you have big equipment to transport (wave boards, etc) or if you need to share a car with between 5 and 10 passengers. Aluguers are not easy to find. Ask a local to contact one for you (phone). Note their name and number so if you are happy, next time you can call the same driver (for instance to get back to Mindelo). The cost of an aluguer should not be much higher than the cost of a taxi.

## Car rental

Renting a car (and any motorized vehicle) is very expensive in Cape Verde so it could be a good idea for short term.

Because the island is very small you can visit most of it in 2 days.

Very often the car rental employees don't speak any English therefore it is not so easy to have clear understanding. Please be aware that when sending an e-mail in English (to reserve your car) you will not get any answer. The best is to have a local arrange the reservation for you. If you want us to be the intermediary – no problem. Feel free to request this by e-mail on: [ola@kitesurfcaboverde.com](mailto:ola@kitesurfcaboverde.com)

The cost of car rental is between €40per day for a Fiat Panda and €50per day for a small 4x4 jeep (Suzuki Jimmy).

## **How to get from Mindelo to the kitesurf spot (Salamansa)**

Salamansa beach is about 10 km from Mindelo with a cobble road over the hills. By car (rental/taxi/aluguer) the journey takes 20 min, by hiace about 35 min.

### **From Mindelo to Salamansa**

This is not super complicated. Taxi is easiest but will cost 10 euros. The hiace is a lot cheaper (1 euro) but will take you a lot longer.

If you decide on the hiace, it is best to take it from Praca Estrela. Ask around for the Hiace to Salamansa to get pointed to the correct mini-bus. Try to go any in the morning. Avoid trying to get the hiace after 1pm during weekdays and avoid it during weekends and school holidays (it may take you hours to find a hiace).

If you need help with arranging an aluguer – please let us know: [ola@kitesurfcaboverde.com](mailto:ola@kitesurfcaboverde.com).

### **From Salamansa to Mindelo**

The more difficult part is getting back to Mindelo from Salamansa. Waving for a taxi is not an option because there are no taxis available outside of Mindelo/the airport. Same holds for aluguers.

So it is important to plan ahead. Either you agree with a taxi/aluguer driver to pick you up from the kitesurf center or you need to take your chance and hope the hiace will be riding.

The hiaces don't drive during lunch time (1pm-3pm), nor during weekends, nor during school holidays.

To get back from Salamansa during week, late afternoon there is usually a hiace leaving Salamansa around 17:00 -17:30 pm. The hiace leaves from the town of Salamansa (not the kitesurf center).

If you miss that bus the only way to get back is to (have a local) call a taxi.