

## Cape Verde and the Azores Islands Rich and Cheryll Odendahl – 2017

Rich found an incredible deal at Travelzoo.com. \$999/person for flights from Boston to Cape Verde, 4 nights hotel, a flight on to the Azores, 3 more nights hotel, and then a return flight to Boston. This was during the prime season of early June, but who vacations in Cape Verde? As it turns out, there were 20 very experienced travelers who could not pass up this deal. The included flights were on Azores Airlines. They have been plagued by delays and strikes, but we made it eventually to Cape Verde, just off the western tip of Africa.



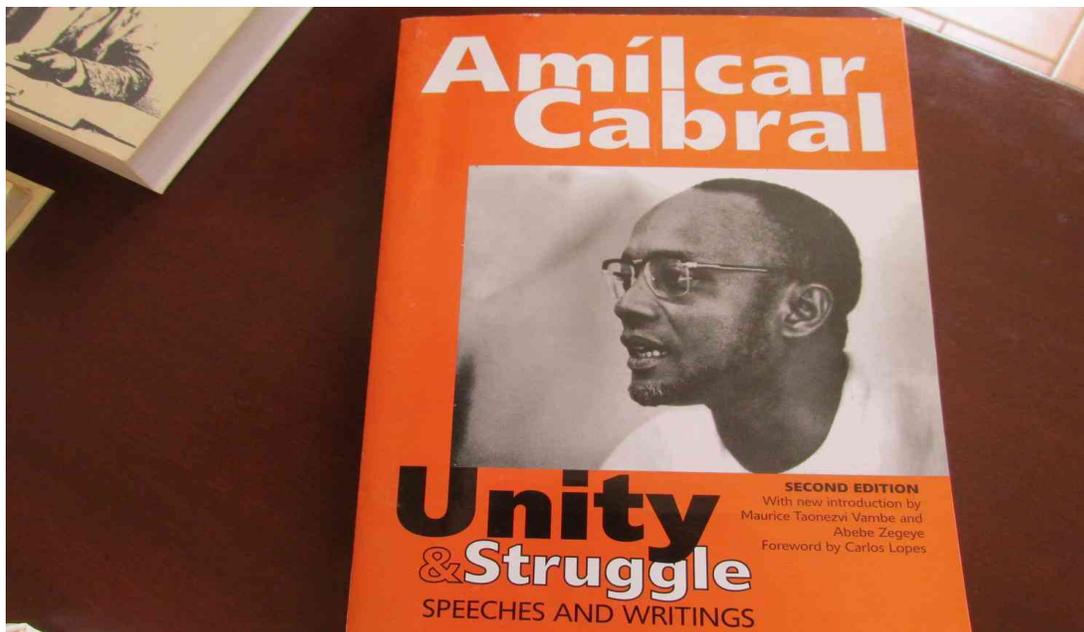
Cape Verde (Cabo Verde) was colonized by the Portugese during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Its location, a few hundred miles from the coast of West Africa, provided the slave traders with a secure location to resell and then transport their human cargo on to various points in the Americas.



Slaves were chained to this post for auction.



Today, Amílcar Cabral is a national hero. He led the struggle for independence from the Portuguese. The Portuguese fought much harder than other European Countries to keep their African colonies, but the Cape Verdeans eventually gained independence in 1975. Today, the leading contributor to the economy is remittances from Cape Verdeans who have traveled abroad to find work.



An impromptu market appears whenever a boat arrives with fresh catch.



Many goods are still transported in the traditional manner.



Never too young to learn the fine art of making gang signs



The local market



Cheryll prefers this type of shopping.



Scenery from the center of the volcanic island



This man walked barefoot over volcanic rocks, down a steep cliff to go fishing.



The butcher at the local fish market. Eat it quickly, there is no ice here.



This beach was adjacent to our four-star hotel in the Cape Verdean capital of Praia.



Praia Flora



It was a four-hour flight (delayed of course) to Ponta Delgada, the capital and largest city in the Azores. This was our hotel; very nice for the price.



June is the perfect month for a ride around the Azorean coastline.



We shared a rental car with John and his wife, Kay. They also found this package at Travelzoo. Both are intrepid, experienced travelers. John is 76 years old, and still does a hand-stand in each country they visit.



Here we've descended into the caldera of a mostly-extinct volcano.



Lunch was a pile of assorted meats, sausages, potatoes and vegetables cooked by these guys in an active volcanic fumarole.



There is a history of whaling in the Azores.



Millions of hydrangeas line the roadways and fields.



Flowers and greenery are everywhere!



Many small towns dot the valleys.



The locals make the best of the rugged beaches on a Sunday afternoon.



It was a six-hour flight back to Boston. True to form, Azores Airlines was late, and the Boston Airport was a mess when we arrived. It took four hours from our landing until we left with a rental car. We drove to visit our friends Jess and Mike in Rhode Island. They were very gracious hosts in spite of our 3:00 AM arrival. After a too-short visit, we returned home to Michigan.



We've now been to 149 countries. Stay tuned at our website for more trip reports from our international adventures!

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