

# Condé Nast Traveller

## DRIFT AWAY

### ISLAND LIFE

SICILY  
MALDIVES  
ANTIGUA  
CRETE  
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE  
MADEIRA  
SEYCHELLES  
ICELAND  
SRI LANKA  
VANUATU

THE BEST  
FAMILY ADVENTURES FOR  
2021 AND BEYOND

### FAR-OUT GETAWAYS

DECAMP AND GO ROVING AT THESE EXTRAORDINARY LOCATIONS



### SUNDRY PRAIA PRINCIPE, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Arriving here feels as if you have slipped off the map somewhere between Robinson Crusoe's island and *The Last World*. Cast adrift from the west coast of Africa, Principe is an integral adventure of natural highs. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the smallest of the two-island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe, it is also the focus of a sustainable tourism project dreamed up by South African millionaire and philanthropist Mark Shuttleworth. Locals are employed at his three hotels run under the name Hava Ba Drogaria, Born Born, Boca Sundy and Sundry Praia, the smartest of the trio. Its 15 terraced villas have taken root in a thick tangle of almond and banana trees to avoid disorientating the turtles that frequently settle on the deserted scope of sand. The extraordinary landscape begs exploration – the emerald northern's biodiversity has earned it the title of the Galapagos of Africa. A hike with a guide to Príncipe's O Que Pipa waterfall turns into a hot-dog class with lacy white tattoos, followed from fern leaves for little arms, followed by a cooling dip under the falls. Then there are night-time excursions to see turtles nesting on Praia Grande and a visit to Boca Sundy's chocolate factory, while a boat trip to castaway beaches ends at the pin-up Praia Banana, where the captain encourages plucky plungers into the clear blue water. At Sundry Praia's cathedral-like Ora restaurant there's a chance to taste the exotic local bounty, fresh hot-gilled in banana leaves and calulu soup made with produce from the hotel's organic farm Paciência. It's all a subtle lesson for curious young minds about different cultures and the challenges facing Príncipe's precious flora and fauna. Splendid isolation does not come more splendidly isolated than this.

**INSIDER TIP** To really bring the country's geography to life, head to the southern coast of São Tomé where Rollas Island is sliced in two by the equator line and stand with one foot in the northern hemisphere and the other in the southern.

**BOOK IT** Doubles from about £620 half board. [sundryprincipe.com](http://sundryprincipe.com)

