

SEASONS: SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

When to Go & What to Pack



SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

PLEASE NOTE: Online / google weather forecasts will generally show rain and thunderstorms.

Príncipe is on the equator off the West Coast of Africa. It is an extension of the African rainforests in Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Congo. The island has a high rainfall together with very balmy days and brilliant sunshine. Although the island is small it has many micro-climates and there is seldom a day when you are not able to head out somewhere to catch the best weather for your chosen activity.

January to March

TURTLE SEASON

Peak turtle season, nesting takes place from November to early February and eggs hatch 45 days later. January is still considered to be the Dry Season, with maximum temperatures reaching a high of 29°C / 84°F. A wonderful time for birding as birds adopt bright breeding plumage in January and with between 21 - 29 endemic species it is certainly a bird lover's paradise. February and March bring the long rains, but temperatures are still high.

JANUARY: Dry season with high temperatures.

FEBRUARY: Long rains and maximum temperatures.

MARCH: Long rains and maximum temperatures.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day 29°C / 84°F

Average Night 22°C / 72°F

WHAT TO PACK

Loose fitting clothing, light shirts and pants of natural fibers (cotton, linen) or synthetics that breathe, possibly a light sweatshirt for the evening; light raincoat or umbrella for the rain showers.

April to June

A BIT OF BOTH

A mix and match of seasons, April and May experience long rains and temperatures and humidity are at their highest during April. June marks the start of the dry season and is a slightly cooler period, in conjunction with July to September this is one of the best months to go hiking or trekking.

APRIL: Peak rainy season. Temperatures are at their hottest during this time. Humidity can be stifling.

MAY: Long rains.

JUNE: Cool and dry season.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day 29°C / 84°F

Average Night 21°C / 70°F

WHAT TO PACK

Loose fitting clothing, light shirts and pants of natural fibers (cotton, linen) or synthetics that breathe, possibly a light sweatshirt for the evening; light raincoat or umbrella for the rain showers. From June you can add a light jacket for the evening.

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July to September

BEST TIME TO GO

The best time to go! Temperatures are slightly cooler, skies are cloudy, and water temperatures reach a maximum. A great time to explore the island and go hiking. Humpback whales, killer whales and dolphins can be seen off the Northeast coast during August and September.

JULY: Dry season, slightly cooler with cloudy skies.

AUGUST: Dry season, slightly cooler with cloudy skies.

SEPTEMBER: Dry season, slightly cooler with cloudy skies until mid-September.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day 27°C / 81°F

Average Night 20°C / 68°F

WHAT TO PACK

Loose fitting clothing, light shirts and pants of natural fibers (cotton, linen) or synthetics that breathe, possibly a light sweatshirt for the evening. From July to September, you can add a light jacket for the evening.

October to December

MARINE AND BIRD LOVERS SEASON

During October and November there are short rains and the humpback whales, killer whales and dolphins can still be seen off the Northeast coast. November marks the start of the turtle nesting season and eggs hatch 45 days later. Temperatures are warm, and the sun is perfect for getting that elusive tan.

OCTOBER: Warm season with short rains.

NOVEMBER: Warm season with short rains.

DECEMBER: Warm and dry season.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Average Day 28°C / 82°F

Average Night 21°C / 70°F

WHAT TO PACK

Loose fitting clothing, light shirts and pants of natural fibers (cotton, linen) or synthetics that breathe, possibly a light sweatshirt for the evening; light raincoat or umbrella for the rain showers.