

## SUNDY PRAIA NAMED ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP ECO-FRIENDLY HOTELS



National Geographic Traveller Magazine has named Sundry Praia on the equatorial Island of Príncipe among the [13 best eco-friendly hotels](#) in the world. Sundry Praia is the first five-star accommodation to open on this West African island, which is the smallest of the two islands that make up São Tomé and Príncipe, Africa's second smallest nation. This collection of fifteen individual tented beachfront villas was designed with low-impact luxury in mind and has spearheaded a series of sustainable initiatives since its opening in December 2017.



Conceived by award-winning French architect Didier Lefort, each distinctive villa is ingeniously anchored into the ground with retractable screws to reduce impact on the surrounding forest. The structure of its undulating open-walled restaurant was entirely crafted in bamboo in under five weeks and showcases a plethora of local craftsmanship from the chandeliers braided with palm leaves to the curtains held together by strings of large seeds.

Among its eco initiatives, Sundry Praia embraces the philosophy of zero-miles gastronomy, with seasonal menus showcasing fairly negotiated local produce, including tuna and wahoo, passion fruit and pineapple, herbs and spices sourced from the hotel's organic plantation farm. To further reduce imported goods to a minimum, soaps, creams and spa oils used at the wellness centre and offered within the rooms are developed in an organic laboratory to incorporate local forest ingredients.

While striving to eradicate plastic from the island, the lodge has succeeded in becoming free of single-use plastics, from straws to shower gel dispensers. To further encourage the reduction and recycling

of plastic water bottles, drinking fountains have been installed across the island and over 8000 stainless steel bottles have been introduced, making drinking water more available to the people of Príncipe. Used glass bottles are taken from the lodge to a local waste recycling cooperative where they are turned into jewellery, providing employment opportunities for women on the island.



Sundy Praia is just one of three properties on Príncipe owned by HBD and is part of a larger initiative invested in supporting the local communities and environment. Príncipe is one of the poorest and least visited islands in the world, but it has a wealth of flora and fauna that is not found anywhere else on earth. In 2012 it was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and along with São Tomé, the islands have been called ‘the African Galapagos’ because of their high number of endemic species. With the commitment of the

island’s president, investment from HBD and support from key charitable organisations, Príncipe is setting a global example of how to develop its tourism offering sustainably whilst protecting its unique biodiversity, providing high quality jobs and a fair income for its communities, as well as working towards a goal of reaching 10 of the 17 UN Sustainability goals by 2030.

In order to support the objectives of the island’s government and to fulfil its own strong commitment to responsible tourism and to supporting Príncipe’s unique biodiversity, HBD established the Fundação Príncipe in 2015. Today, the foundation is self-funded and its current projects include the creation of volunteer-led Biosphere trails across the island; monitoring whales, dolphins, porpoises and establishing a network of marine protected areas; assessing tree diversity and identifying new species; and promoting beekeeping and agroforestry as an alternative income. The foundation also has a significant turtle conservation programme called Protetuga, with Sundy guests invited to monitor nesting female sea turtles and 20% of the income from the excursions donated to this programme.

The price of a one-night stay at Sundy Praia will start from 935 euros per night, based on two sharing a one-bedroom villa on half board basis. The price doesn’t include flights, which can be booked with TAP Air Portugal from London Gatwick via Lisbon to São Tomé from around £800 return. Air charters between São Tomé and Príncipe cost from £150 return. Visit [www.sundyprincipe.com](http://www.sundyprincipe.com)