



APCI

Agência de Promoção de
Comercio e Investimento

INVEST SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Invest in Tourism & Integrated Complex

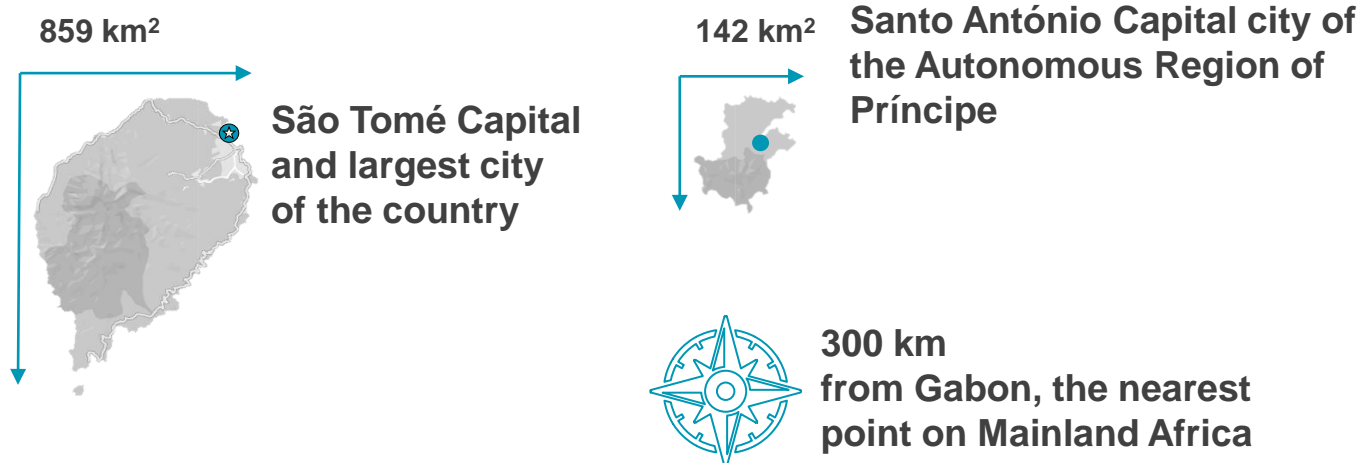


INVEST SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE



About São Tomé And Príncipe (STeP)

Located less than a 6-hour flight from Lisbon, Portugal, and just 2 hours from major Central and West African cities, São Tomé and Príncipe is a stable nation with a rich trade history and strong democratic institutions. Its strategic location makes it an ideal business hub, offering unique opportunities for investors looking to tap into the dynamic markets of the wider region.



232,000
Population in 2023



Portuguese
official language



\$670m
GDP



\$2,900
GDP per capita

Endowed with rich natural resources and a strategic location in the Gulf of Guinea



Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) 160 times bigger than its land territory



International subsea cable currently landed in São Tomé and Príncipe, an important connection between France and South Africa



Potential to tap into **offshore assets** for substantial hydrocarbon revenues, which could fund significant national infrastructure projects

Stable macroeconomic fundamentals



Stable growth record for over 3 decades, with most recent GDP data showcasing economic resilience, particularly when compared to the regional average



Strong GDP growth forecasts expected with growth rates of 2.4% in 2024, 3.1% in 2025 and 3.6% in 2026 driven by strong tourist arrivals, infrastructure projects and oil and gas investments



Stable, Fixed Exchange Rate: São Tomé and Príncipe Dobra is pegged to the euro, with the exchange rate fixed at 1 EUR = STN 24.5



The only country in Central Africa considered **Free** by the Freedom House Index



4th in Africa in the Index of Economic Freedom



6th in Africa in the Legatum Prosperity Index



If you would like to find out more or have any questions about São Tomé and Príncipe, [reach out us](#) or [click this link](#) to find out more.



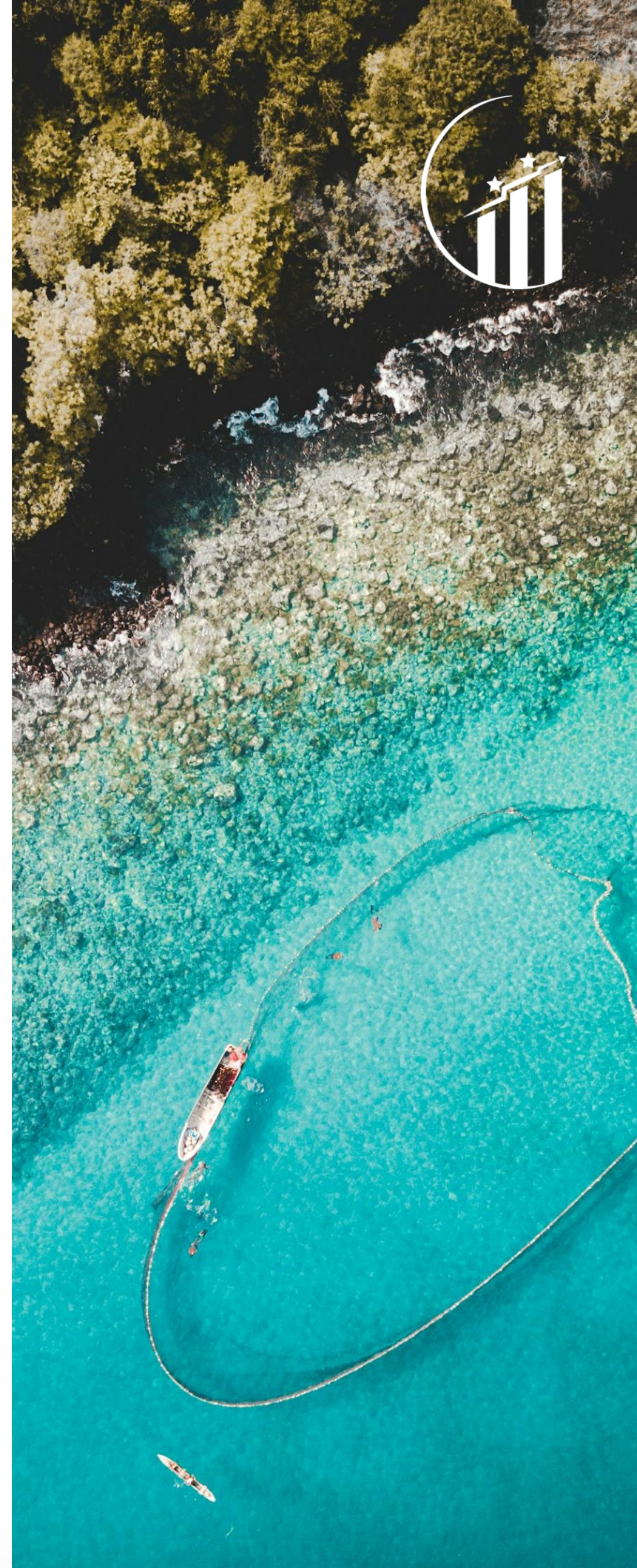
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Why tourists visit STeP?

STeP offers a rich blend of cultural and natural wealth, providing tourists with diverse entertainment options, including vibrant biodiversity, sun and sand amenities, and elegant plantation heritage hotels.

Strong commitment to protecting the Archipelago's biodiversity and culture

- > Island destination with Pristine beaches, tropical rainforests and an average annual temperature of 28°C.
- > STeP contains 181 species with a high incidence of endemism across birds, mammals and amphibians, with the opportunity for whale sightings and sea turtle nesting.
- > STeP's multicultural heritage showcases a blend of Portuguese, Brazilian and African influences, reflected in the country's culture, cuisine, historic architecture and hospitable local community.
- > Unique cultural celebrations including São Lourenço Festivity, Autonomy Festivity, and Day of King Amador.
- > The country is recognized as one of the safest countries for tourists on earth, registering the lowest crime rate in Africa³, and is designated with a low travel security risk rating by International SOS, comparable to major tourist destinations such as France, Spain and the United States.



Dense virgin rainforests among the most important biological areas in the world



Rich network of colonial Roca's suitable for restoration



Artisanal coffee and cocoa experiences throughout the country's growing regions



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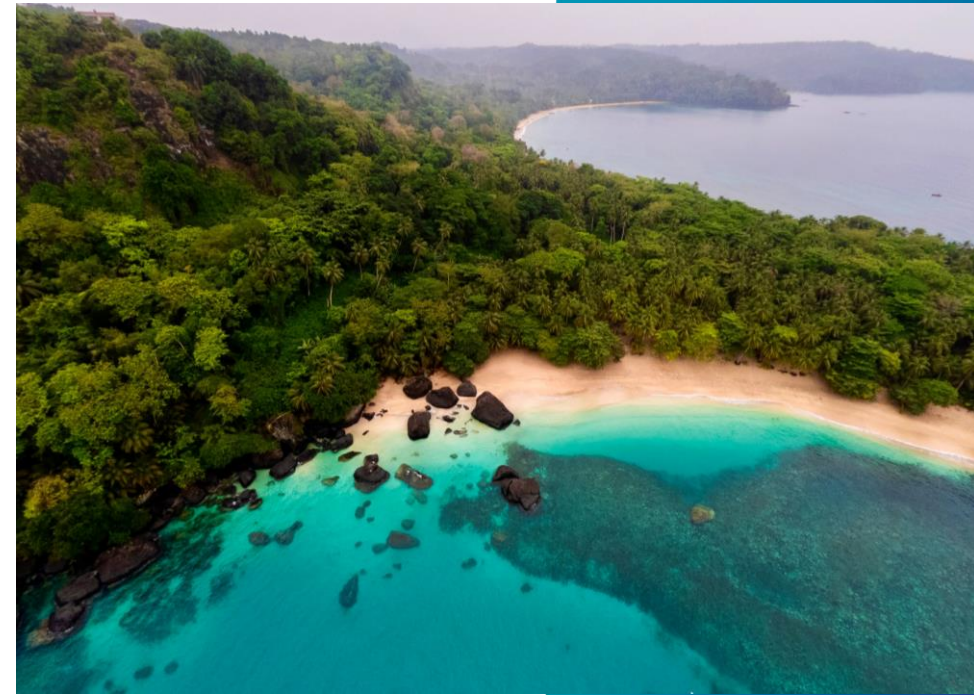


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Fast-Developing Tourism Sector



Over the past decade, São Tomé and Príncipe's tourism sector has seen remarkable growth, attracting increasing numbers of international visitors. Known as an undiscovered gem, this alternative vacation destination offers significant investment opportunities. From 2018 to 2022, STeP welcomed 120,000 overnight tourists. With a strong post-pandemic recovery, the region now caters to high-end, adventurous travelers, making it an ideal spot for investors looking to tap into a growing and lucrative market.



Tourism has become a major contributor to São Tomé and Príncipe's economy



12%

Of GDP in 2022



13%

Of employment



Portugal

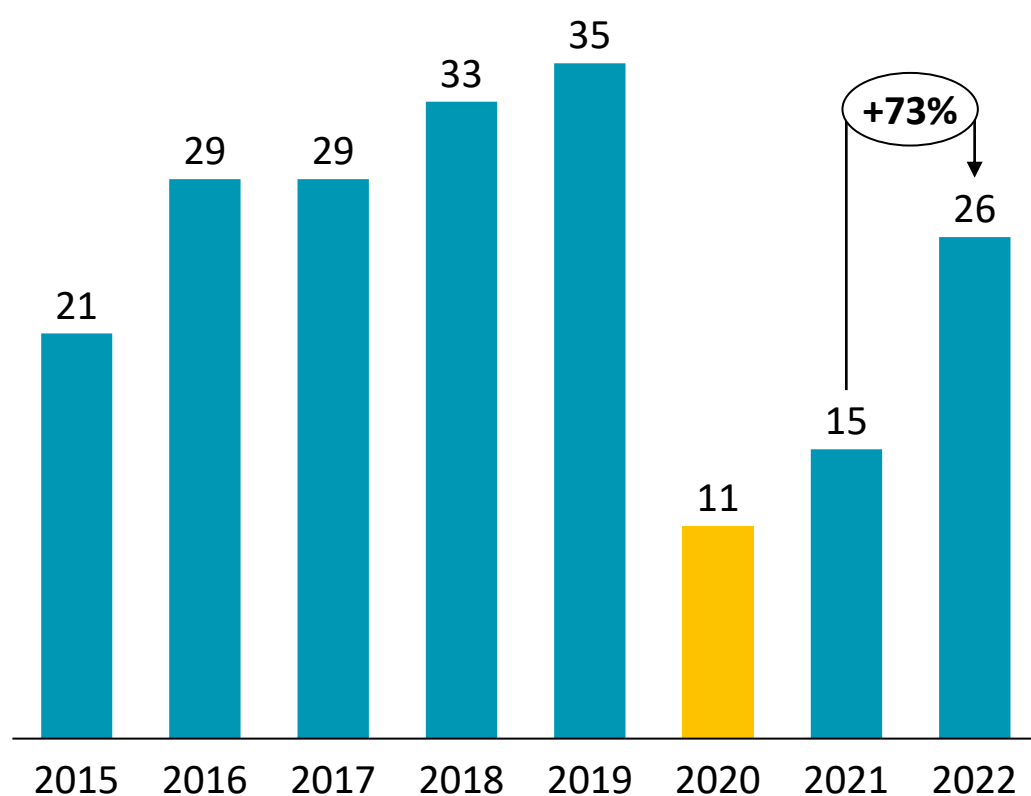
Main country of origin for tourists



70%

Average annual hotel occupancy rate

International tourist arrivals in São Tomé and Príncipe 2015-2022 (000s)



■ Covid-19 pandemic



US\$ 47.5 million of international visitor spending in 2022, an annual increase of 60.9%



48% of total exports and 10% of capital investments in São Tomé and Príncipe are generated from tourism



São Tomé and Príncipe has approximately **70 lodgings**, with an accommodation offer of **872 rooms and 1,958 beds**



If you would like to find out more or have any questions about São Tomé and Príncipe, [reach out us](#) or [click this link](#) to find out more.



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Investment Opportunities



São Tomé and Príncipe boasts a rich blend of cultural and natural wealth, offering tourists diverse entertainment options, including vibrant biodiversity, stunning beaches, and elegant plantation heritage hotels. Investment opportunities are abundant, leveraging the country's natural and cultural assets. Key areas include Sun & Sea Tourism, nature and eco-tourism, restoring colonial roça plantations into hotels and agro-tourism hubs, and developing integrated complex facilities.



Sun & Sea Tourism investment opportunities

The local characteristics of the topography, and the panoramic vistas of the islands, present a valuable tourism asset for STeP, with [beaches reputed for their natural beauty, pristine waters, and year-round tropical weather](#). To facilitate the construction, expansion and modernization of hotel units and infrastructure assets, [new development projects are subject to tax incentives](#).



Nature & Eco-Tourism investment opportunities

STeP is a perfectly suited location to support investments leveraging its natural assets, with a growing demand for ecotourism due to the [country's unique biodiversity, fauna and flora](#). At the same time, the country still lacks infrastructure to access remote territories with many natural resources and offer eco-tourism services one there, creating [opportunities for tourism infrastructure investors](#).



Integrated complex investment opportunities

Investment opportunities exist in STeP for large-scale development that combines various tourism-related facilities and services within a single environment, including [accommodation, recreation, entertainment, and residential components](#). Projects for investors to develop on São Tomé that leverage the Island's most popular tourist attractions are available to international businesses.



Roça network restoration investment opportunities

[Colonial "Roça" plantation houses](#) are located all over the islands with cultural and historical significance, [not found anywhere else in the world](#). Investors have the [opportunity to convert old structures into functioning hotels](#) offering a blend of comfort and culture, alongside agricultural and ecotourism activities due to the cultivation of cocoa and coffee on the islands and proximity to excellent biodiversity.



If you would like to find out more or have any questions about São Tomé and Príncipe, [reach out us](#) or [click this link](#) to find out more.



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Government Support

São Tomé and Príncipe's Strategic Marketing Plan for Tourism (PEMT) aims to transform the tourism sector by 2025. This forward-thinking plan outlines strategic actions to boost tourism development, significantly increase national employment, and enhance revenue generation. By investing now, you can be part of São Tomé and Príncipe's burgeoning tourism industry and capitalize on the growing market potential.



The most preserved island tourist destination in Equatorial Africa, with unique nature and biodiversity, paradisiacal beaches, where Santomean hospitality, based on its historical-cultural legacy of coffee and cocoa farms, shares his way of life and the warm way of welcoming”



Increase tourism sectors contribution to **\$76 million of GDP** and **8,500 jobs by 2025**



Increase total investment in the tourism sector to **\$13.8 million**



Increase the number of arrivals to the country to **40,000** and number of rooms on the Island's to **980**

General benefits for investment projects



Income Tax Rate

25% tax rate on resident and non-resident income reduced to 10%.



Accelerated depreciation

On investment assets in tourism, education, health, new technologies and export activity.



Import duty exemption

0% payment on import duties for goods and equipment for new activities or expansions.



Income tax deductions

50% of the amount invested in specialized equipment within 5 years of the start of an activity of the amount invested in the training of Santomean workers.



Tourism Investments

The rehabilitation, construction, expansion or modernization of hotel units and their complementary or related parts, whose main purpose is the production of tourism and hotel services.

The development of rural and/or ecological tourism.



Tourism Reinvestments

Reinvestment is the application, in whole or in part, of the net profits obtained in a year, after taxes, in the expansion, diversification or modernization of installed capacity.

Reinvested capital benefits from a deduction from the tax base of an amount equal to 30% of the value of profits invested in the year, up to the fifth year following that of reinvestment.



How can we help you?

APCI is a one-stop shop for investment in São Tomé and Príncipe, offering personalized service and support before and after your project approval. If you would like to take the next step to set up in STeP or have questions about expanding your business, please contact us.



**Provide
customized
services for
your projects**



**Advisory
services and
support with
applications for
investment
incentives**



**Coordinate with
government
departments to
accelerate
investment
projects**



**Policy advocacy
actions to
promote
reforms
conducive to
strategic
investments**

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