

## ASCENSION ISLAND

We arrive at anchorage off the coast of Ascension Island at lunchtime. Passengers have been queuing since 9am for tender tickets for the transport to the shore. There are no tours planned on the island, although a local hotel offers minibus tours on a "first come first served basis".



We are due to disembark on the 5<sup>th</sup> tender boat, but can see immediately that the tendering process will be very dangerous, and as such will be unlikely to go ahead. We can see huge breakers crashing onto the rocks, and sweeping up the deeply shelving beaches.

After trying for an hour to launch the first of the Van Gogh's tenders, the safety officer, cruise director, and ultimately the Master, take the decision to abandon the process.

Obviously passengers are disappointed, and a quick change of direction by the Master allows us to sail around Ascension to Bird Island. Here we are delighted to see thousands of Frigate birds, white long tailed Tropic Birds, various Petrels, some Boobies and finally a school of Dolphins who amaze us with their somersaults.



We now have 4 days at sea before our next port of call in the Cape Verde Islands.