



Countless Exciting

ACTIVITIES

EXPERIENCE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER





BONBINI



WELCOME TO THE

One happy island!

Attractions

The attractions in Aruba extend well beyond the beaches in the hotel areas. Explore Aruba's cactus-studded countryside and discover hidden beaches, coves, and caves with Indian petrography. And visit some of our iconic spots like the California Lighthouse, the gold mill ruins at Bushiribana and Balashi, and the Alto Vista Chapel. Go hiking at the Arikok National Park where you will find 29 rugged miles of rocky trails. Discover Aruba's beauty by the sea and set sail on a glorious catamaran cruise on the coastline. To learn more about sightseeing in Aruba, please visit our website at www.aruba.com.



FISHING OR SAILING

The warm waters of the Caribbean make for excellent game-fishing. A variety of charter companies offer half- and full-day deep-sea fishing excursions in well-equipped boats manned by reliable crews. You can also enjoy the water without a rod and reel by trying a sailing excursion. Just about every day is a good day for sailing on Aruba's turquoise waters. Take your group on a snorkeling adventure, a sunset sail, or a dinner cruise for a fun and unique bonding experience. Or put your own sailing skills to the test by renting a Hobie Cat and taking it on the water all by yourself.

SNORKELING AND DIVING

Just off Aruba's shores, snorkelers and divers can explore numerous reefs and wrecks in order to see a huge variety of underwater creatures. A number of scuba resort courses give non-certified individuals the opportunity to experience scuba diving. Dive operators offer expert instructions for PADI and NAUI courses. After learning how to deal with fins, mask, tank, and regulator, many go on to a shallow dive. Or stay dry while you sit in an air-conditioned semi-submarine just five feet below the surface to behold an amazing underwater panorama.



SKYDIVING

Tandem skydiving in Aruba guarantees an exhilarating experience at one of the most scenic drop zones in the world. Soaring from 10,000 feet up, brave souls are rewarded with a free-fall at 120 mph while harnessed to an experienced instructor.

WATERSPORTS

The constant 15-knot trade winds and excellent flat-water conditions have made Aruba one of the most popular spots on earth for wind- and kitesurfing. Novice wind- and kitesurfers can take advantage of the instructions and rental equipment offered by several board-sports operators located at the Fisherman's Huts. Wakeboarders favor the Bucuti inlet just south of the airport, spending entire days perfecting tricks. The Aruba Wakeboarding School offers lessons for all levels, as well as equipment rental for those looking to experience this intense, exhilarating sport.



JEEP SAFARI TOURS:

The safari adventure takes you on an adrenaline-pumping tour of the island's countryside. Along the way, you will venture through some of Aruba's main sightseeing hotspots such as the California Lighthouse, the Gold Mill Ruins, and the Alto Vista Chapel.

GOLF

Golfing in Aruba combines the challenge of constant trade winds and tropical sun with the wonder of desert beauty and sweeping Caribbean views. Tierra del Sol is a unique 18-hole championship desert course with an ocean view, designed by Robert Trent Jones II. The Links at Divi Aruba is a nine-hole course designed by leading architects; golfers play on paspalum grass, over water and beautifully landscaped lagoons.

BEACH TENNIS

Introduced to Aruba in 2002, beach tennis is inarguably one of the most popular sports on the island. Players of all ages and levels of athletic ability are welcome to competitively or recreationally participate in weekly and monthly events. The easy camaraderie of the sport guarantees a good time for everyone. Lighted courts and racket rentals are available at Tropicana Resort Aruba and Moomba Beach Bar.

SHOPPING

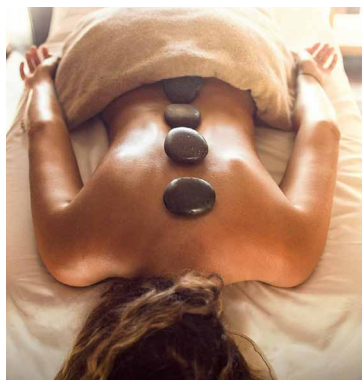
Shop till you drop! Aruba boasts the Caribbean's widest variety of luxury brands—from Louis Vuitton and Gucci to Cartier and Rolex. Duty Free prices will fill those shopping bags, with savings from 10-35% off U.S. prices. Scroll though outdoor downtown bazaars and plazas for oodles of souvenir and gift opportunities, and nighttime shopping can be had in the malls and plazas in the high-rise hotel area.

SPAS

Aruba's calming breezes and extraordinary beauty go a long way in rejuvenating the mind, body, and soul. So why not take it a step further and treat yourself to a luxurious day at the spa? Their extensive menus offer something for everyone. The island's spas are located at most major hotels and on the Renaissance Island, and De Palm Island.

YOGA

There are a variety of yoga classes offered on the island; from early morning to sunset yoga classes on the beach. Many resorts also offer yoga classes, programs, and even yoga & wellness vacation packages. Yoga takes to the water as well with SUP yoga, held on paddleboards.



About Aruba

Aruba is located in the heart of the southern Caribbean, approximately 16 miles from the South American coastline. The island is 19.6 miles (31.5 km) long and 6 miles (9.7 km) across at its widest point, with a total area of 70 square miles (112.6 km²). Our topography and vegetation are unusual for a Caribbean island.

On the south and west coasts there are miles of pristine white beaches that rank among the most beautiful in the world, rimmed by calm blue seas with visibility in some areas to a depth of a hundred feet. The interior is desert-like, with a variety of cacti and dramatic rock formations. There are about 108,000 inhabitants on Aruba, representing more than 96 different nationalities – all living peacefully together.

History

Aruba's earliest inhabitants arrived in small vessels about 4,000 years ago from the south American mainland. These first Indians were hunters and gatherers who lived in small, scattered groups. The crop-growing Caquetio Indians of the Arawak tribe arrived about 1,000 A.D. and settled in three large villages. The first European to land on Aruban shores was the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda, who is thought to have arrived around 1499. The Spanish exported the Indians to Hispaniola, putting them to work in the copper mines.

During the years that followed, ownership of the island changed hands several times. In 1636, near the culmination of the Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Netherlands, the Dutch took possession and remained in control for nearly two centuries. In 1805, during the Napoleonic Wars, the English briefly took over Aruba, but it was returned to Dutch control in 1816.

In 1824, gold was discovered in Rooi Fluit on the north coast. Mining was done by hand until machinery was imported. In 1872, a large smelting works was built in Bushiribana, followed by another site 25 years later in Balashi. Gold mining ended in 1916 when World War I broke out.

In 1928, Royal Dutch Shell built the Eagle Oil Refinery, followed by Lago Oil and Transport Company Ltd. in San Nicolas. After many challenges, the refinery closed down in 1985, opening a window for tourism, which has now become Aruba's principal industry. Coastal Oil Company of Houston, Texas, also known as Valero Energy Corporation, reopened the refinery in 1991. In 2012, refinery operations were halted, and today the facility operates as a terminal for tankers.

Museums

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Schelpstraat 42.

Exhibits artifacts from the island's prehistoric period.

Open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Telephone: 582-8979.

ARUBA ALOE MUSEUM AND FACTORY

Pitastraat 115.

Tour the factory and farm that produce Aruba's famous aloe products.

Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Telephone: 588-3222.

Authentic Aruban Cuisine

Aruba's potpourri of cultures has created an exotic menu of cuisines and beverages that may have become a part of island traditions. Here are a few of our favorites:

AYACA

A traditional holiday food adopted from South America that Arubans incorporate into the Christmas season. It is a mixture of ingredients like cornmeal, raisins, olives, chicken, pork, prunes, cashews, and spices boiled to perfection.

COCONUT WATER

Sipped from a coconut that has had its top freshly cut off, vendors commonly sell coconut water street-side.

KERI-KERI

Delectably prepared with drier types of firm white-flesh fish, such as barracuda, Keri-Keri is a fish fillet that has been boiled in salted water and sautéed in butter with tomato, bell pepper, onion, fresh basil, black pepper, and annatto spice.



KESHI YENA

Meaning “stuffed cheese,” is an Aruban dish traditionally made by filling the left-over rind of an Edam or Gouda cheese wheel with ingredients like spiced meat, olives, raisins, and capers before being baked in the oven until hot and bubbly.

PAN BATI

Like flatbread and pancake, this Aruban goodie is made from cornflour and is cooked in a traditional clay baking dish which originally comes from Spain and is called a cazuela.

PASTECHI

This national snack of Aruba is made by stuffing a pocket of slightly sweet dough with savory fillings such as cheese, ham, beef, and chicken and is deep-fried to tender perfection.

STOBA

Regardless of the high temperatures, Aruba has assortments of stew recipes that are much enjoyed. For example beef, goat, and conch stews.

MADE IN ARUBA

PICA DI PAPAYA

A variety of all-natural, made-in-Aruba hot sauces blend the exceptionally hot Madame Jeanette pepper with Papaya and a variation of spices.

GOECOEI

A dark-red liquor; combining rum, cane sugar, and the sap of agave leaves, is used to spike a variety of tropical cocktails.

PONCHE CREMA

A creamy, smooth, and refreshing beverage made of egg yolks, cream, rum, and a variety of spices.

BALASHI BEER

Aruba's national beer is a deep golden color and is easy on the foam. It has a soft bitterness, an aroma of fresh hops, and a short aftertaste.





Did you know..

CURRENCY

The official currency of Aruba is the Aruban Florin (AFLs.), which is divided into 100 cents. Silver coins are in denomination of 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents, one florin, and 5 florins. The 50-cent florin coin, which is square, is probably Aruba's best-known coin. The Aruban Florin is pegged to the dollar with an exchange rate averaging 1.79. However, US currency is widely accepted throughout the island. Many establishments also accept major credit cards.

FOODIE PARADISE

Aruba has over 200 restaurants to choose from, both in walking distance as well as accessible by car. The abundance, full of flavor and diversity of cuisines prepared by world-class chefs; fine international wines; casual, elegant and creative ambiances, and attentive service combine to create very special dining experiences. Indeed, the tiny island nation of Aruba provides an impressive world culinary tour rivaling the most cosmopolitan of cities.

TIPPING

If there is a service charge, a tip is not obligatory, but a token amount left for excellent service is greatly appreciated. If there is no service charge, a tip of 10 to 20% is appropriate.

CASINOS

There are 13 casinos on the island. Offering much more than familiar table games and machines, Aruba's casinos feature theme-night events, tournaments, bingo, entertainment, special offers, and prizes. Some have sport books for betting on the international sporting events of the day. Hours vary seasonally, so please check before making plans. Only adults over 18 are allowed in casinos.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Travel to Aruba from the USA, Canada, South America, Europe, and the Caribbean is possible via most major carriers. A current passport is required and must be valid through your stay here. American, Canadian, EU citizens do not require visas, nor do most South Americans. For those countries requiring a visa or for complete entry requirements go to www.aruba.com/sigma/Entry_Req-Eng.pdf.

ARUBA CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Besides articles for personal use, persons over 18 are allowed a fifth of liquor, 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, and 250 grams of tobacco. Aruba abides by CITES regulations in monitoring against the international trade in endangered species.

TAXIS

Taxis have no meters; fares are set by the government. Feel free to ask your driver to confirm the fare or show you the rate sheet. Minimum fare is US \$7.00. Please note that most drivers only accept cash. See www.aruba.com for complete listing of taxi fares.

BUSES

There is a daily bus service all along the hotel strip. Retour cards, AWG. 8.75 (local currency) or US \$4.00, can be used for two trips (for example, from downtown to the beaches and back). A day pass is AWG. 17.50 or US \$10.00 and is valid for one day of unlimited transportation on all of Arubus routes across the island. Visit www.arubus.com for more information.



DRIVING AND CAR RENTAL

Driving is on the right-hand side of the road, no right turns on red. Vehicles on the right generally have right of way. Foreign and international drivers licences are accepted (age restrictions may apply). For more transportation information, please visit www.aruba.com.

TELEPHONES, INTERNET & CELLULAR PHONE RENTAL

The country code in Aruba is 297. There are several options for making international calls, but please keep in mind that international calls can be very expensive. You can call internationally from your hotel, the Setar Teleshop office in Palm Beach (in front of the Hyatt Regency Aruba), and at telephone booths throughout the island with an Aruban phone card, which are available at Setar Teleshops and at most refreshment centers, gas stations, and retail stores.

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

If you are on a GSM network, you can arrange for international roaming on your personal cell phone via your service provider. If you are not, there are several cell phone rental companies, including Setar and Digicel (both have kiosks at the airport), that will rent cell phones and sell SIM cards.

INTERNET

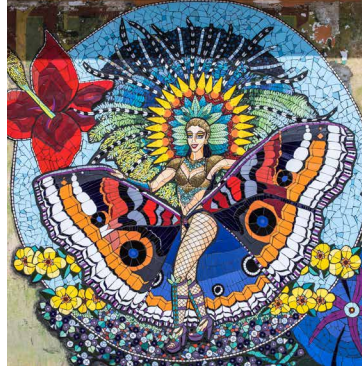
Most resorts offer Wi-Fi services in public areas and/ or guest rooms. Additionally, there are many free Wi-Fi zones in renowned places around the island.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical voltage in Aruba is 110 A.C. (60 Hz).

DRINKING WATER

Aruba's water meets the highest quality standards of the World Health Organization. The desalination process takes place at WEB N.V., the world's second largest desalination facility, located in Balashi, resulting in the fresh water that flows directly from the tap.



CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Aruba is a premier destination for meetings, conventions, and incentive travel. For more information on planning group meetings, or to request the official Meeting Planner's Guide, please visit the website of the Aruba Convention Bureau at www.arubaconventionbureau.com.

WHEN TO VISIT

Temperatures are consistently mild, the island lies below the hurricane belt, and the sea temperature hovers around 82 degrees F (27.7 degrees C) all year long. The most popular time to visit is during Carnival, starting in January and lasting until March, is the most popular time to visit. The island is animated with parades, festivities, and parties. During the shoulder period commencing in mid-April through the rest of the year, Aruba is an ideal destination for gateways, "One Cool Summer" programs, and our annual music festivals. September, October, and November are excellent and timely months that attract corporate meetings, incentive group travel programs, conferences, and conventions. Aruba is also known to be one of the world's top destination wedding and honeymoon locales!

MEDICAL SERVICES

Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital, L.G. Smith Blvd., Oranjestad.

This hospital is modern and well equipped. Hemodialysis and oxygen tanks are available. For more information visit www.arubahospital.com.

Telephone: 527-4000.

FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAP

Limited facilities for the handicap are available. Hotels offer ground-floor rooms and doors wide enough to fit wheelchairs. In most cases, wheelchairs and/or canes are available if checked in advance with your hotel.

IT'S ONLY A HOP TO THE PARADISE OF ARUBA

The one happy island of Aruba is easily accessible by air from North America, South America, and Europe on a selection of international carriers.

AIR SERVICE

Queen Beatrix International Airport is served by American Airlines, Avianca, Delta Air Lines, KLM, Surinam Airways, United, Jet Blue and Southwest Airlines. Most major carriers fly direct into Aruba from multiple gateways such as New York, Atlanta, Newark, Charlotte, Miami, Boston, and many more. KLM serves Aruba from Europe via Amsterdam. Aruba is also served by various charter airlines from the U.S., Canada, and Europe. With the completion of the expansion and modernization program, the Aruba Airport Authority (AAA) is attracting even more airlines and direct routes to Aruba. Our airport offers both U.S.A. immigration and customs pre-clearance.

Language

While the official languages of Aruba are Dutch and Papiamentu, most Arubans are fluent in several languages, including English and Spanish. Papiamentu is a lilting, melodic language which has evolved over the centuries from an eclectic mix of Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese with a sprucing of Arawak Indian, English, and French. Here are a few Papiamentu phrases to get you started:

BON BINI: Welcome

UN SUNCHI: A kiss

BON DIA: Good morning

CON TA BAI?: How are you?

BON TARDI: Good afternoon

MI TA BON: I am fine

BON NOCHI: Good evening

HOPI BON: Very good

DANKI: Thank you

MI TA FELIS: I am happy

DI NADA: You are welcome

BIDA TA DUSHI: Life is good

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Happy



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DIVING	BEACHES	PHOTO SPOT	POLICE STATION	MAIN ROAD
RESTAURANTS & BARS	CHURCH	SHOPPING	GAS STATION	PAVED ROAD
MEDICAL SERVICES	NATURE SITE	HISTORICAL SITE	CRUISE TERMINAL	GRAVEL ROAD

CARIBBEAN SEA