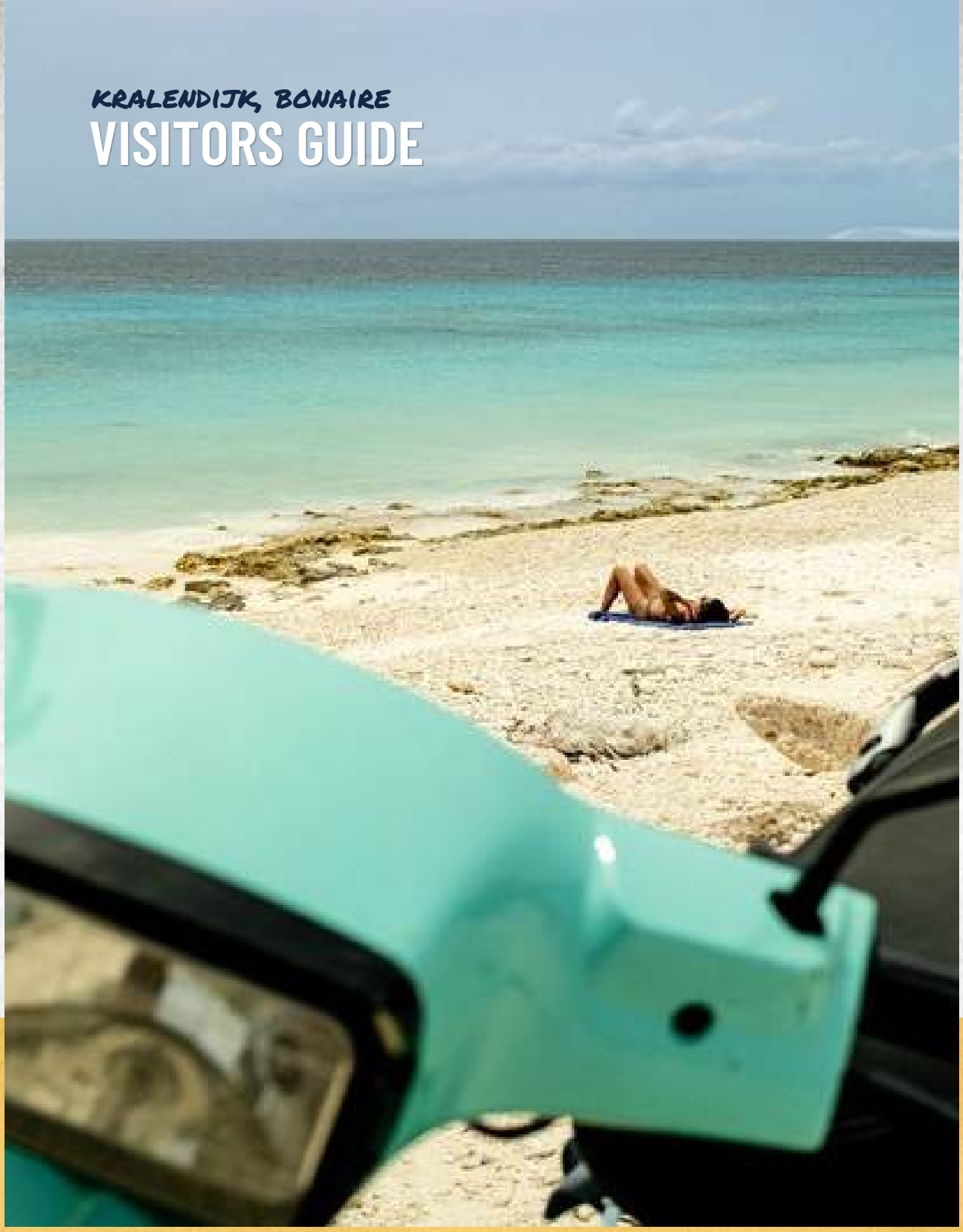
KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE

VISITORS GUIDE



It's in our nature

BONAIRE

WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM

WELCOME TO BONAIRE

TWO NATURES, ONE ISLAND

Human nature and mother nature rarely see eye to eye. More often, they seem like opposite sides of the same coin, but not on Bonaire. Here we have protected marine reserves and animal sanctuaries, along with some of the most welcoming people in the world. Here we have warmth, culture and wonder. Ours is an island unlike any other and while we're fiercely protective of it we can't help but share it with you.

WHY?

IT'S IN OUR NATURE.

THE ESSENTIALS

BONAIRE AT A GLANCE

Location	Southern Caribbean; neighboring islands are Aruba and Curaçao
Status	Special municipality of the Netherlands
Capital	Kralendijk
Population	Approximately 27,600 residents
Island Size	39 km (24 mi) long
Width	5–11 km (3–7 mi) wide
Currency	U.S. Dollar (USD)
Time Zone	Atlantic Standard Time (UTC-4)
Languages	Papiamentu, Dutch, English, Spanish
Temperature	82°F (27.8°C) year-round average
Water Temperature	80°F (26.7°C) average
Maximum Tourist Stay	90 days (subject to nationality and immigration requirements)
Documents Required	Valid passport, airline ticket and Visitor Entry Tax
Drinking Water	Safe to drink directly from the tap throughout the island
Internet & Wi-Fi	Available at most hotels, resorts, and many restaurants and cafés
Traffic	No traffic lights anywhere on the island
Driving	Right-hand side of the road
Electricity	127V U.S. style plugs and 220V European outlets
Shopping Hours	Most shops open 9:00 AM–6:00 PM, often closing from 12:00 PM–2:00 PM for lunch break. Supermarkets generally operate from 8:00 AM–8:00 PM
Best Known For	World-class diving, snorkeling, windsurfing, marine conservation, and flamingos

HELPFUL NUMBERS

911 Police (24/7) **912** Ambulance / medical **919** Fire & rescue **913** Coast guard, emergencies at sea
133 Decompression chamber **+599 715 8900** Fundashon Mariadal hospital **+599 717 8100** Taxi
+599 717 9292/+599 795 9292 Caribbean Road Service

BEFORE YOU PACK

SUN, WIND & NATURE

Bonaire's dry, semi-arid climate favors cactus and thorny scrub over lush rainforest, contributing to the clear diving conditions and abundant sunshine. Trade winds blow steadily year-round, keeping the warmth comfortable even at midday. The driest months typically span from April to September, while brief showers are more common from October to January. Because Bonaire lies outside the hurricane belt, tropical storms rarely disrupt travel plans.

CLIMATE

Air ~82°F (27.8°C). Water~80°F (26.7°C) year-round. Bonaire sits outside the hurricane belt, with steady trade winds and low humidity.

REEF-SAFE BY LAW

Bonaire prohibits sunscreens containing oxybenzone or octinoxate to protect its coral reefs. Look for "reef safe" or mineral formulas before you arrive.

WHAT TO PACK

Reef-safe sunscreen, a hat, light breathable clothing, water shoes for rocky shorelines, a reusable water bottle, and a light layer for breezy evenings.

A DEEP-ROOTED PAST

THE STORY OF BONAIRE

Long before it became a diver's bucket-list destination, Bonaire was shaped by indigenous settlers, colonial powers, and the enslaved people whose labor built its salt trade, a history the island now honors through preservation and remembrance.

~500 AD The Caquetío, an Arawak-speaking indigenous people, are believed to be Bonaire's earliest inhabitants.

1499 Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda charts the island, naming the region "Islas de los Gigantes."

1636 The Dutch West India Company takes control of Bonaire from Spain.

1639 Fort Oranje is built in Kralendijk to defend the harbor, it still stands today.

17TH–19TH C. Salt harvesting anchors the economy, historically worked by enslaved Africans; small stone slave huts near the southern salt pans mark this era.

SEPT 30, 1862 Slavery is abolished on Bonaire, freeing hundreds of government and privately held slaves.

1940–1947 During WWII an internment camp operates on the site of today's Divi Flamingo Resort; Flamingo Airport is built by the U.S. Army in 1943–1945.

1962 STINAPA, Bonaire's national parks foundation, is founded.

1969 Washington Slagbaai National Park opens — the first national park in the former Netherlands Antilles.

1979 Bonaire National Marine Park is established, protecting the island's entire coastline.

2010–2011 Bonaire becomes a special municipality of the Netherlands and adopts the U.S. Dollar as its official currency.

PAPIAMENTU

LEARN THE BASICS

Conversations with locals can give you new opportunities and experiences, or simply help you figure out where you are. This will for sure be handy on your next trip to Bonaire!

BON BINI

UNDERSTANDING EACHOTHER

SPEAK LIKE A LOCAL

GREETINGS

ENGLISH	PAPIAMENTU
Hello	*Halo*
How are you?	*Kon ta bai?*
Fine thanks, and you?	*Bon danki, i abo?*
Everything is going well	*Tur kos ta bayendo bon*
What's your name?	*Kon yama bo?*
My name is:	*Mi nòmber ta:*
Good morning	*Bon dia*
Good afternoon	*Bon tardi*
Good evening	*Bon nochi*
Welcome	*Bon Biní*
Goodbye	*Ayo*
Excuse me	*Despensa mi*
Please	*Por fabor*
Have a good day	*Pasa un bon dia*
See you later	*Te aweró*
Till next time	*Te ku un otro biaha*

THE BASICS

ENGLISH	PAPIAMENTU
Yes	*Si*
No	*No*
Thank you	*Danki*
You're welcome	*Di nada*
I'm lost	*Mi ta pèrdi*
I need help	*Mi mester di yudansa*
How much does this cost?	*Kuantu esaki ta kosta?*
Do you speak English?	*Bo ta papia Ingles?*
I don't speak Papiamentu	*Mi no ta papia Papiamentu*

TRAVEL

ENGLISH	PAPIAMENTU
Can you call a taxi for me?	*Bo por yama un taksi pa mi?*
Please take me to this address	*Bo por hiba mi na e adrès aki?*
Please take me to the airport	*Bo por hiba mi aeropuerto?*
Where is the nearest bathroom?	*Unda e baño mas serka ta?*
Where can I get something to eat?	*Unda mi por kumpra algu pa kome?*
Can you show me it on a map?	*Bo por mustra mi e riba un mapa?*
Will you write that down for me?	*Bo por skirbi esei pa mi?*

TRAVELING TO BONAIRE

FLY IN TO BONAIRE

Bonaire International Airport (Flamingo Airport) receives both regional as well as international flights. Bonaire is accessible from Europe, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean. It is also possible to travel to Bonaire via Aruba or Curaçao. For complete routes and details please contact the airlines servicing Bonaire or your favorite booking agent.

**Flights have a stopover in Willemstad, Curaçao*

VISITOR ENTRY TAX:

Visitors to Bonaire are required to pay an entry tax of $75 per person, valid for 1 month.
Learn more on www.bonaireisland.com

HOP ON A CRUISE

Ships have called on Bonaire for centuries, and today we happily welcome ships and visitors from the world's most popular cruise lines, including AIDA, Carnival, Celebrity, Holland America, Norwegian Cruise Line, Princess, Royal Caribbean, and many more.

Whether you disembark from our North or South Pier, you will be within walking distance of downtown Kralendijk. There, you'll enjoy our culture, cuisine, and our legendary hospitality. Don't forget to book a trip with our tour operators to get the full experience.

THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO EXPLORE BONAIRE

GETTING AROUND

There are plenty of ways to get around on Bonaire, giving you the choice of anything from a rental car to a mountain bike and everything in between. We drive on the right side of the road and follow international road signs. And we take things slow, with a speed limit of just 40 kph in urban areas and 60 kph outside. We urge all visitors to obey speed limits and use caution, especially since you're sharing the road with pedestrians, cyclists, and the occasional donkey or goat.

WHETHER YOU PREFER RIDING ON FOUR WHEELS, TWO WHEELS, OR BEING TRANSPORTED

CAR RENTALS

Since Bonaire is on the smaller side, renting a car will let you explore much of the island. As the shore diving capital of the Caribbean, a double cabin pick-up is extremely popular. A pick-up or a jeep with high ground clearance is also required to visit Washington-Slagbaai National Park. If you do decide to rent a car, you'll have your choice of well-known, reliable rental agencies. Most require renters to be at least 23 years of age with a major credit card and a valid driver's license. Nearly all rental cars on Bonaire are stick shift, so reserve early if you need an automatic. You'll also need to reserve your rental well in advance if you plan on visiting around holidays.

TAXIS

If you ever need a lift to get where you're going, you can always call a taxi at +599 717 8100.

MOTORCYCLES, SCOOTERS, GOLF CARTS AND BICYCLES

If you love the feeling of the wind in your hair, you may prefer a more casual way to get around. You're in luck! Bonaire has a number of shops that offer sportier rentals from golf carts to Harleys. If bicycling is more your speed, you can choose anything from a sturdy touring bike, perfect for paved roads, to rugged mountain bikes that can take on our hundreds of kilometers of off-road trails. As with car rentals, to rent any motorized vehicle, you'll need a valid driver's license and a major credit card. Remember to make your reservations well in advance.

FERRIES

Thinking about a day trip to Klein Bonaire? A ferry/water taxi is your best option for getting there. Different operators offer various departure times. Check with each provider for schedules, service areas and fares.

WHERE TO STAY ON BONAIRE

MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE

It's easy to feel at home on Bonaire. Whether you prefer a hotel, resort, private villa, boutique hotel, B&B, or even an apartment, you're sure to find a place that's perfect for you. And every one offers spectacular views, whether you're staying inland or seaside.

WHERE MOTHER NATURE LOVES HUMAN NATURE LOVE HUMAN NATURE
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PRESERVING BONAIRE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

When you live on an island, you quickly become aware of how connected you are to nature. It's one reason we're so fiercely overprotective of the lands, seas and reefs that have been entrusted to us. We see ourselves as stewards of the island, preserving it for future generations. That's why we developed a strategic master plan to keep development from spoiling the gifts nature has given us.

HOW WE'RE PROTECTING BONAIRE'S NATURAL WONDERS

Home to some of the world's most fragile habitats as well as several endangered species, Bonaire is a true ecological marvel. So we work every day to preserve our piece of paradise. The Ramsar Convention protects wetland nesting and feeding sites for turtles and birds, as well as layover destinations for migratory birds. Keeping the seas healthy means protecting and restoring our reefs, providing breeding and feeding grounds for fish and sea turtles. Finally, we've embraced sustainable energy, aiming to be completely carbon neutral in a few years.

OURS IS AN ISLAND PARADISE THAT WILL FOREVER REMAIN UNTOUCHED.

YOUR NATURE FEE

All users of the Bonaire Marine Park and Washington Slagbaai National Park are required to purchase the Nature Fee of $40.00, valid per calendar year. Your contribution helps to keep these natural parks wild and untouched for generations to come.

THE OCEAN IS CALLING
Bonaire is the answer

TAKE THE PLEDGE

THE BONAIRE BOND

RESPECT THE WAY OF LIFE

If you are visiting our island we know you understand and respect our oceans, people, land and ethos.

By taking this pledge you become an integral part of maintaining our bond to the environment, our unique identity, and each other.

- I pledge to be mindful of the ocean and how I treat it to keep Bonaire blue.
- I pledge to be courteous to the wildlife and capture photos, not animals.
- I pledge to be eco-conscious, skip the plastic and to drink the water.
- I pledge to be safe, careful, tread lightly and leave no trace
- I pledge to respect the home and culture of the local community as if they were my own family and always be a friend.

YOUR COMMITMENT

The Bonaire Bond is designed to serve as a reminder of how critical sustainable tourism is to the livelihood of its local community and to take it a step further, the island reinvests in its conservation efforts on behalf of visitors that commit to this cause with their signature. By signing the Bonaire Bond, visitors not only pledge to uphold these values during their stay but also contribute to long-term initiatives aimed at preserving the island's natural beauty for future generations. The commitment extends beyond words; it's about fostering a deeper connection with the environment and the people who call Bonaire home.

EXPLORE BONAIRE'S TROPICAL SEAS

DIVING IN AN UNDERSEA WONDERLAND

Whether you're an experienced diver or you've always wanted to learn, Bonaire offers untouched dive sites that are among the last truly unspoiled places on earth.

Keeping Bonaire's reefs healthy is critical to keeping the Caribbean healthy as well. And while we've spent generations protecting the reefs, it was the vision of Captain Don Stewart that really made it happen. As early as 1962, he was the first to recognize the importance of our reefs. In that year, Captain Don not only established the first dive operation on Bonaire but was instrumental in organizing Bonaire's Marine Park.

Today, we use all we've learned about our reefs to keep them healthy for generations to come. Thanks to Captain Don's leadership and our unwavering dedication, today you'll find over 85 dive sites beneath our turquoise seas, with 54 of them easily accessible from shore. Once under the surf, you'll find thriving reefs teeming with more than 350 species of fish and 57 species of coral. And thanks to our tropical climate, you can dive 365 days a year, seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

DIVING ADVENTURE

FOR EVERY SKILL LEVEL

Our calm, crystalline Caribbean seas offer spectacular underwater scenery and unparalleled visibility. And, our multilingual diving instructors, representing more than a dozen countries, are among the world's best. You'll also find a range of international certifying agencies throughout the island.

For beginners, dive operators offer snorkeling, one-day introductory courses and open water SCUBA certification. Seasoned divers can learn intermediate and advanced specialities such as NITROX, wreck, navigation and night diving. Many dive operators also offer dive leader training, including dive master, dive control specialist, assistant instructor and full instructor training. Truly adventurous divers can take Technical Diving courses, including Extended Range, Decompression Procedures and Tri-mix. You'll also find many dive courses for those with a disability through IAHD (International Association for Handicapped Divers).

For additional information on dive course certification, visit the PADI website at www.padi.com/scuba or the NAUI website at www.naui.org.

FOR CHILDREN

On Bonaire, we believe a love of the sea should extend to children, where diving is a sport for the whole family. Here, you'll find dive operators who'll teach the basics of SCUBA to children as young as 10. Many offer full snorkel certifications, one-day introductory SCUBA classes, as well as junior and full, open water certification classes. Ideally, it give youngsters a life-long passion for the sea.

TECHNICAL DIVING

Beyond the shallow reefs ideal for SCUBA, Bonaire also offers deeper dive sites for both novice and experienced divers, including the world famous Windjammer wreck. Divers can reach these sites with technical diving operators offering courses taught by highly experienced instructors. These operators offer the necessary instruction, techniques, equipment, and gas mixes to help manage the increased risks of deeper diving. For more information on technical diving, check with Bonaire's dive operators. In the event of diving emergencies, Bonaire has a Recompression Chamber.

FREEDIVING

Those who seek a more natural way to experience tranquility beneath the waves can also try freediving. Whether you're a beginner or an accomplished free diver, you'll find many knowledgeable diver operators offering both education and training to help you learn the sport or improve your skills. To learn more about free diving on Bonaire, check with one of the island's many diver operators to find out if they offer lessons.

TROPICAL SAND BETWEEN YOUR TOES

THE BEACHES OF BONAIRE

With over 22 tropical beaches on Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, you're sure to find your own personal paradise. Leave the world and your cares behind as you stroll the soft, cool sand and head out to explore the reefs just past the breakers.

You'll find some beaches covered in soft, bright-white sand, while others have more crushed shells and corals, making the sand darker and more coarse. That's what happens when you have healthy, thriving reefs right offshore.

And keeping our reefs healthy means keeping our beaches clean. So, we always take trash with us and wear eco-friendly sunscreen. It also means leaving shells where they are, since they provide shelter for hermit crabs and other creatures. Joining our annual beach clean ups is a great way to give back and get to know our friendly people.

GREAT FOR SWIMMING:

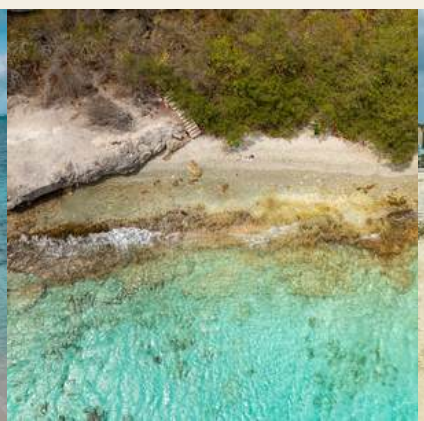
Chachacha Beach, Te Amo Beach, Playa Palu di Mangel, Seven Body Beach, Pink Beach, and No Name Beach.

GREAT FOR WATERSPORTS:

Kitesurfing at Atlantis, Kayaking at Lac Cai, and Windsurfing at Sorobon.

GREAT FOR EXPLORING MARINE LIFE:

1000 Steps, Bachelor's Beach, Boka Slagbaai, Playa Benge, Playa Frans, Playa Funchi, Playa Lechi, and Wayaka.



THIS IS THE FEELING
YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR

BONAIRE EXPERIENCES

EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN

No matter your favorite activity, you'll find it on Bonaire. From diving into our warm tropical seas to exploring every inch of our natural landscape to unforgettable meals, you'll find exactly what you're looking for right here.

RECONNECTING WITH THE NATURAL WORLD ON BONAIRE

If you like the outdoors, you'll love Bonaire. Blessed with sunshine and warm trade winds nearly every day of the year, we naturally spend a great deal of time outside connecting with nature. No matter your favorite outdoor activity, you'll enjoy it even more on Bonaire.

BIKING

With over 300 km of trails, from goat paths to dirt roads, you can explore nearly all of Bonaire on two wheels. Choose a guided tour through Washington Slagbaai National Park, Rincon and Kralendijk. Or, explore the island on your own by following the blue-painted rocks that mark our bike paths. Find bike rentals, sales, repairs and guided tours at local bike shops and many hotels.

HIKING

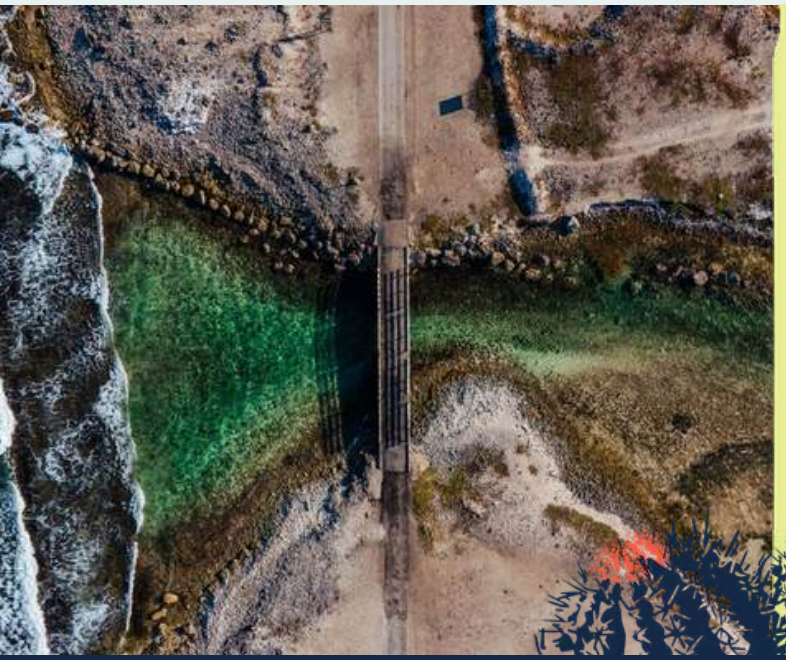
To really get close to Bonaire, you have to leave the modern world behind. Slip into your most rugged hiking boots and head to Washington Slagbaai National Park and find one of the best spots on island to hike. The park's varied terrain offers challenges for hikers of all abilities. Those who choose to climb some of the steeper hills will be rewarded for their efforts with majestic views of the island and the turquoise seas around us.

CAVING

With our extensive system of over 400 caves, Bonaire boasts virtually every possible ecosystem nature has to offer. Our caves have been at the heart of the island's ecosystem since they formed tens of thousands of years ago. Take a guided tour and discover ancient stalactites and stalagmites that took millennia to form. The caves also offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for adventure. Cave guides can take you into secluded caverns where you can snorkel in the dark in crystal clear water. Don't forget a flashlight!

BIRD WATCHING

Bonaire is home to more than 200 species of birds, including shore birds, sea birds and land birds. Of course, you don't have to be a certified birdwatcher to take in our most popular feathered resident, the flamingo. You'll find them at the salt ponds in the National Park, at Gotomeer and at Pekelmeer. Bonaire is also home to the Yellow-shouldered parrot, the only surviving native population outside of Venezuela. The parakeets can be found anywhere on the island. The critically endangered parrots are mainly found in fruit trees and the cactus fields on the north side of the island.



SIGHTSEEING

A great way to explore and discover Bonaire is by touring around the island. Hop on your ride and drive to the north side of the island to be surrounded by beautiful untouched nature and great sceneries. Drive to the south side to learn more about the unique historical sights. Don't forget to bring your camera with you because Bonaire is definitely a picturesque island that is worth taking as many images to share with your loved ones.

AND MUCH MORE...

OUR WATERSPORTS

As a small Caribbean island surrounded by crystal clear tropical seas, Bonaire offers as much adventure in and on the water as on land. If you think you love the ocean now, you'll fall in love all over again under our gentle waves.

BOATING & SAILING

There's no more idyllic setting for boating and sailing than the legendary Caribbean sea. What could be more romantic than following the routes sailed by adventurers and privateers of centuries past? Take to the seas around Bonaire and feel the thrill of crisp white sails as they catch the wind, or listen to the water gently lap the sides of your boat as the setting sun lights up the evening sky. The adventures are endless. Snorkel off the side of your sailboat. Visit Klein Bonaire and picnic on a tropical island. It's up to you and your imagination.

WINDSURFING

Our blustery trade winds and crystal clear waters come together to form one of the most idyllic windsurfing destinations. So it's no surprise so many award-winning and champion professional windsurfers call Bonaire home. Both professionals and novices come together at Sorobon, one of Bonaire's crown jewels. Here you can get close to our windsurfing professionals and see them in action. Even better, you can learn from them too, since many also teach classes for children and adults at all levels.

FISHING

On Bonaire, you will notice our local fisherman sitting peacefully along the coast or on their boats fishing for the catch of the day. They have been doing this for decades which is a big part of our culture. And of course we would like to share our ways with you. Here you'll find numerous fishing boat operators offering sport fishing charters for you to experience this tradition.

KITESURFING

If you're a fan of kitesurfing, you won't find a more perfect place to get in some serious time on the water. The trade winds that caress Bonaire also create the ideal conditions for kitesurfing almost every single day of the year. The kitesurfing area is located on the south-west tip of Bonaire and can be found by following the brightly colored kites soaring through the air.

KAYAKING

There's no better way to explore our tranquil corner of the Caribbean than by kayak. Feel yourself relax as you glide gently over the surface of our calm waters. Both sides of the island offer countless places to explore. On the windward side, you'll find Lac Bay, a lagoon surrounded by mangrove trees that form stunning natural tunnels and wildlife. But if you're really in the mood for an adventure, you'll find operators on the leeward side of the island where you can rent a kayak and visit our own deserted tropical island, Klein Bonaire.

AND SO MUCH MORE...

When you live on a Caribbean island, the seas are always calling. That's one reason Bonaire offers so many activities you can enjoy on the water, from wake boarding to waterskiing, tube riding and much more. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced boarder, the seas around Bonaire await.

You'll find many operators offering a variety of water sports opportunities.

CLIFF JUMPING

BOCA SLAGBAAI, BONAIRE

FEEL THE ADRENALINE

THIS IS THE FEELING YOU HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR

REJUVENATE IN PARADISE

RECONNECT WITH YOURSELF

The island's climate and steady sunshine promotes a general atmosphere of fitness, health and wellbeing. Bonaire's terrain and natural beauty lends itself to outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, swimming, snorkeling, diving, kayaking, and more. In addition, indoor facilities and fitness centers are available at some resorts and elsewhere for guests preferring air-conditioned comfort or specialized classes like Yoga.

No trip to the Caribbean is complete without a relaxing and rejuvenating trip to the health spa. Bonaire's wellness professionals pamper and spoil each guest by catering to the body's needs. Health spa providers offer a complete menu of popular spa services including massages of all types, holistic treatments, facials, manicures, salt scrubs using local salt and more.

THE CAPITAL

EXPLORING DOWNTOWN KRALENDIJK

Kralendijk, meaning "coral dike or coral reef" in Dutch and affectionately known by locals as "Playa," is the vibrant, colorful capital of Bonaire. This charming town is easy to explore, making it the perfect place to experience the island's relaxed atmosphere, rich history, and welcoming culture.

Stroll along Kralendijk's scenic waterfront boulevard, stretching from Playa Pariba to Playa Pabou, where the Caribbean Sea is never far from view. This lively promenade is lined with local trees, boutique shops, local galleries, and inviting cafés, creating the ideal setting for a leisurely walk.

Kralendijk is also home to a wide variety of restaurants, offering everything from authentic Bonairean and Caribbean specialties to Italian, Dutch, Asian, and other international cuisines. Whether you're looking for a casual seaside lunch, fresh seafood, or an elegant dinner with ocean views, Kralendijk has something to satisfy every taste.

Just behind the waterfront, Kaya Grandi serves as the town's main shopping street, featuring local boutiques, artisan shops, souvenir stores, and cozy cafés. At the heart of the waterfront, Wilhelmina Park provides a peaceful place to relax beneath the shade of tropical trees while enjoying views of the harbor.

For cruise visitors, both the North Pier and South Pier are conveniently located within a short walking distance of the town center, making Kralendijk an easy and enjoyable destination to explore at your own pace.

DON'T MISS THIS:

- **Fort Oranje:** Built in 1639, it is the oldest building on Bonaire
- **Plasa Machi Mimi:** Bonaire's former fish market, now a historic landmark
- **Historical Walking Tour:** Pick up the free self-guided brochure at the Tourist Office and discover 25 historic sites throughout Kralendijk

THE ISLAND'S FIRST VILLAGE

THE HEART OF RINCON

Founded in 1527, Rincon is the oldest continuously inhabited settlement in the Dutch Caribbean. The village was established inland, away from the coast, to protect its residents from pirate attacks while providing easy access to fresh water and fertile land for farming.

Today, with a population of around 1,850, Rincon remains the cultural heart of Bonaire. Visitors can experience the island's traditions, history, and local way of life through its colorful streets, welcoming community, and historic landmarks.

Every April 30, Rincon comes alive during Dia di Rincon, Bonaire's largest cultural festival. Celebrating the end of the Simadan harvest season, the event features live music, traditional food, dancing, and a festive parade that attracts thousands of visitors from across the region.

DON'T MISS THIS:

- **Mangazina di Rei:** The second oldest building on Bonaire. A historic cultural park showcasing Bonaire's rural heritage, traditional crafts, and local cuisine.
- **St. Louis Bertrand Church:** One of Bonaire's oldest churches and a landmark in the heart of Rincon.
- **Cadushy Distillery:** Sample the island's famous cactus liqueur and learn about Bonaire's distillery.

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE WITH CARIBBEAN FLAIR

A TASTE OF THE TROPICS

There's no better way to experience the soul of the Caribbean than to dine on Bonaire. Enjoy the unique restaurants featuring award winning regional and international chefs who add their personal touch for your ultimate eating experience.

Bonaire's diverse ethnicities will delight your palate. Since we live on a tropical island, many of our dishes naturally feature fish in a dizzying array of combinations. You'll also find local stews and soups featuring goat or iguana. Many of these recipes also include some of the few local fruits that grow on the island, including soursop, limes, mangoes, shimaruku (a local cherry) and mispel.

If you have a sweet tooth, you'll enjoy the end of the meal as much as the beginning. There is, of course, our tantalizing and world famous rum raisin cake (bolo pretu). But living in the tropics has also given us a taste for cool, sweet ice cream and sorbet. And at any time of the day pick up a 'Blond beer' which will satisfy your thirst.

On Bonaire, we've long believed that sharing a traditional meal is the best way to bring families together and make new friends. So, we've saved a seat for you!

TASTE OF BONAIRE EVENT

Experience the popular **'Taste of Bonaire'** events, organized by the Tourism Corporation Bonaire. During this event you get the opportunity to try different dishes from local to international cuisine. These tasty events are accompanied by musical and cultural presentations by local groups and speeches of local VIPs.

PALITO
KAASBAL
PASTECHI
WEBU YENÁ

A PARADISE FOR FOODIES

BONAIRE AS A CULINARY CAPITAL

What makes Bonaire stand out more in the culinary world is that the World Food Travel Association has certified Bonaire as a Culinary Capital. Through this program, the WFTA, a non-profit organization recognized as the world's leading authority on food and beverage tourism, vets destinations based on their scores across five culinary criteria: culture, strategy, promotion, community and sustainability. The program was launched to give food lovers confidence to travel to new and unexpected food and beverage destinations by assessing, certifying, and promoting places that showcase their unique gastronomy and culinary culture to visitors.

With dining offerings ranging from chefs' tables to food trucks, Bonaire is the second destination to be honored as a Culinary Capital. This certification is a great boost for Bonaire and all the hardworking professionals who have put the diverse culinary culture of our small island on the map in recent years. It's also an important step in our overall vision to develop and promote our gastronomic scene along with other island experiences that go beyond the fantastic diving we've always been known for.

"I LOVED READING BONAIRE'S APPLICATION BECAUSE IT OPENED UP A RICH CULINARY CULTURE THAT WE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT BEFORE. NOW THE REST OF THE WORLD WILL BEGIN TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE FANTASTIC FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTS AND EXPERIENCES THAT THIS DESTINATION OFFERS."

- Erik Wolf, WFTA's Executive Director and Founder

CULINARY CAPITALS

THE BONAIRE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

SOME VISITORS ARE MORE LIKE FAMILY

For some visitors, our gentle island breezes and warm tropical magic are just too much to resist. In fact, on average, two out of every five visitors return to Bonaire year after year. So we created the Bonaire Ambassador Program as a way to reward their loyalty.

BECOMING A BONAIRE AMBASSADOR

When you live on a small island, you really get to know the people who return year after year. They're not really tourists. They're more like family. So, we've chosen to recognize our most loyal visitors by designating them official Bonaire Ambassadors. These visitors represent us to the outside world, sharing the warmth and enchantment of Bonaire with co-workers, friends, and family. Hopefully, our Ambassadors will inspire others to visit our island paradise or simply bring them along on their next trip!

THE CATAGORIES

- **Bronze (10 – 14 years)**
- **Silver (15 – 19 years)**
- **Gold (20+ years)**
- **Platinum (30+ years)**

THE REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A BONAIRE AMBASSADOR:

- Stay at an apartment, hotel, villa, or private home
- Visit Bonaire over a minimum of 10 consecutive years
- Submit the Ambassador Application form

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A BONAIRE AMBASSADOR? APPLY NOW ON WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM

EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE

Influences from around the world have been combined on Bonaire in a truly unique mixture, testifying to how successfully the people have been able to integrate their different ethnic backgrounds. This unique history and culture of Bonaire can be seen in the faces of its people.

Bonaire's culture is deeply rooted in African traditions with religious celebrations, harvest festivals and is influenced by European traditions.

FEEL THE RHYTHMS

From Africa comes the great festival dance of the Simadan and the Bari, with their polyphonic musicality and a whole range of percussive instruments.

Their tribal rhythms are played with modern instruments. Musicians on Bonaire proved unusually resourceful in their ability to create new instruments from broken tools. A small percussive instrument known as the Chapi is made from the metal end of a hack and is struck with a small metal bar. These, along with the cow-horn and the conch, form some of the traditional musical instruments of Bonaire.

Bonaire also has had different European influences since the colonial years. This is why Dutch has become its official language with Papiamentu spoken nationally. Spanish and English are also spoken on the island.

If you would like to better understand and experience Bonaire's culture be sure to visit its museums. Here you will learn all about the rich culture and history Bonaire has. When leaving the museum you will see much more outside with all the knowledge you received from the experts.

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS

THE ISLAND IN CELEBRATION MODE

MASKARADA
(January 1)

Masked performers dressed in colorful costumes travel through neighborhoods with music, dance, and playful theatrical performances, bringing good wishes for the year ahead.

CARNIVAL
(January – March)

Bonaire's biggest annual celebration fills the streets with colorful parades, elaborate costumes, live music, and dancing in the weeks leading up to Lent, creating an unforgettable island atmosphere for all.

DIA DI RINCON
(April 30)

Bonaire's largest cultural festival celebrates the end of the Simadan harvest season with a flag-raising ceremony, parades, live music, traditional food, and festivities that attract more than 12,000 visitors.

TASTE OF BONAIRE
(June - September)

A culinary festival showcasing the island's best restaurants, local specialties, and international cuisine, accompanied by live music and cultural performances.

DIA DI BONEITU
(September 6)

Celebrate Bonaire's official island day with cultural performances, music, ceremonies, local food, and festivities honoring the island's history and identity.

BONAIRE REGATTA
(October)

Held annually since 1967, this week-long event brings together local and international sailors for exciting races, waterfront festivities, food, and a festival.

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