

Explore the countryside of BARA DI KARTA



STARTING POINT DRIVING TRAIL



STARTING POINT HIKING TRAIL



STARTING POINT MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAIL



ACTIVITIES

GOLF CLUB PIEDRA SO
www.piedraso.com - Tel: +599 7178684

KRUSADA REHAB & DAYCARE CENTER
Local vegetables, woodwork, arts and crafts for sale
Monday - Friday 8 AM - 4.30 PM
Tel: +599 7172233 www.krusadabonaire.org

KUNUKU DI MAMAI ROSA
Guided tours on the kunuku and in the area
Tel: +599 7966664

KUNUKU DI RUMAN
Guided tour on the kunuku of sisters Elsmarie (+599 786 6016) and Anneline (+599 796 1330) about reforestation, living off the grid, growing their own food and sampling local food.
Email: ebeukenboom@gmail.com

MANGROVE INFO CENTER
Guided kayak and solar boat tours
www.mangrovecenter.com - Tel: +599 7805353

ONIMA ALOE VERA PLANTATION
Guided tours
onima.aloe@gmail.com - Facebook/Onima Aloe

RANCHO WASHIKEMBA
Horseback riding and trail rides
www.rancho-washikemba.com - Tel: +599 7888668

ROOI LAMOENCHI KUNUKU PARK
Historical and cultural tours
Tel: +599 7178489

WANAPA LODGE
Tours, archery and snorkeling
www.wanapalodgebonaire.com - Tel: +599 7010700

ZARPIN
Local store; fish, meat, ice cream and drinks
Monday - Friday
8.30 AM - 12.30 PM / 3 PM - 6 PM



LOCAL FOOD & SNACKS

EL GRAN CHAPARAL
Local food and Caribbean music
Saturday & Sunday
11 AM - 4 PM and 9 PM - 12 PM for DJ or live music

MAIKY SNACK
Goat stew and local food
Friday - Sunday
11.30 AM - 3 PM

WEEKEND LAC BAR
Fresh fish and live music
Sunday
8 AM - 8 PM lunch and live music

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Usage of the driving, hiking and bike trails is at your own risk
- Follow the yellow route signs
- Conditions of the road can vary, drive with limited speed
- Cars with high ground clearance are recommended
- Don't leave any valuables in your vehicle
- Sometimes the police are having target practices. Please acknowledge red flags and follow instructions.

Hiking

In the area of Bara di Karta there are 3 walking trails, marked with pink stones. The trails Red Hill, Mamai Rosa and Bara di Karta take respectively about 90 minutes, 40 minutes and 30 minutes. In general the surface is uneven and slightly hilly. The trail Bara di Karta consists of a relatively steep climb to the top where you will find an amazing view over the island. Hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen and drinking water are recommended. For guided tours see Kunuku di Mamai Rosa.

Mountain biking

Bara di Karta can be explored on a mountain bike. The blue markers in the field guide the mountain bikers around Red hill (5.5 km) and Yatu Baku (12-20 km). Experienced mountain bikers can combine the two trails or make multiple loops. Contact the Freewieler for more information. Be aware of other people who use the trail.





Explore the countryside of BARA DI KARTA

Visit the website Explore-Bonaire.com for more information and to watch the movie about Bara di Karta.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exploring the countryside gives every visitor the opportunity to see a different side of the island and explore the high variety of landscapes, a different kind of nature and many hidden treasures...

You are about to enter the area of Bara di Karta. The area is named after the hill 'Bara di Karta'. A driving trail and various mountain biking and hiking trails are marked to experience Bara di Karta at its best. The driving trail of Bara di Karta is approximately 15 kilometers long. If driven non-stop with limited speed, it will take you about one and a half hours to drive through the area.

There are many attractions to visit like a Bonairean farm or the horseback-riding ranch. Advanced reservations are recommended for visiting the attractions. You can have lunch at one of the Bonairean restaurants, some of which have live music in the weekends

WASHIKEMBA FORMATION

1

Bonaire is the top of a volcano that erupted in the sea. Movement of the continental shelf forced Bonaire to the surface. The Washikemba formation is the name of the volcanic soils, which you can find here in Bara di Karta and around Rincon. The red soils are mixed with black, brown and red rocks. If you pick up a rock here, you can feel how heavy it is compared to coral stone.

The rest of the island is covered with white coral stone. These parts of Bonaire remained under water for a longer period of time, allowing coral to grow.

PLANTATION WASHIKEMBA

2

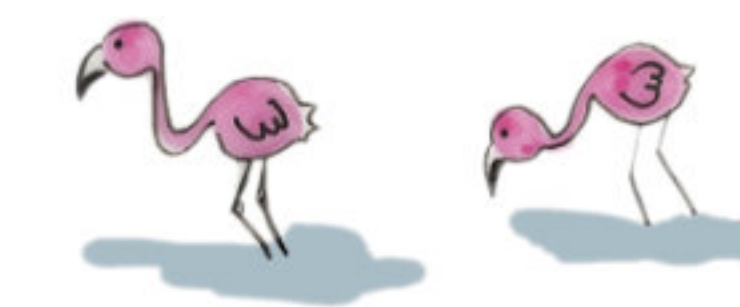


The Washikemba plantation was one of the bigger plantations on Bonaire that was mainly used for the production of aloe vera. This plant has been used for centuries for its medicinal and skin care properties.

The beautiful mansion was the center of the plantation and served as the living area for the owner. The mansion has been uninhabited for a long time. Rumors persist that the house is haunted and ghosts visit it regularly.

SALIÑA WASHIKEMBA

3



Saliñas are 'salt lakes', supplied with rainwater and seawater. They catch the rainwater with mud, which flows from higher grounds towards the sea. The mud settles in the saliñas, which prevents it from suffocating the coral reefs.

Saliñas attract many water birds, including the Caribbean flamingo. They are also very important for birds that migrate between North America and South America. In the dry season there is no water in the saliñas.

THE LONGEST TREE OF BONAIRE

4



Close to where saliña Washikemba descends into Boka Washikemba the longest tree of Bonaire (28 m.) is growing in an east-west direction. The shape of the tree is the result of the almost constantly blowing Eastern Trade winds.

The tree is called Buttonwood mangrove. The leaves have two red notches located at the base. The soil where the plant grows is salty. To survive these harsh conditions the salt is ejected through the two red notches. When it rains, the salt is washed away from the plant.

The next part of the driving trail is rough. This only lasts for about 300 meters. Drive slowly!

DRIVE • HIKE • BIKE



BOKA WASHIKEMBA

5

For millions of years, powerful waves eroded the limestone terrace exposed on the East coast. Parts of the coastline collapsed due to tsunamis and earthquakes. The result of these natural forces is the creation of many 'bokas'. The meaning of 'boka' is 'mouth' in English.

Litter consistently washes up along the coast of Bonaire. Most of the litter originates from the rivers of South-America where the environmental legislation often isn't in place. The bokas are cleaned up regularly to provide nesting grounds for the sea turtles that lay their eggs on the beach. Unfortunately the litter keeps washing in.

PUNTA BLANKU PLAIN

6

On this plain you can see free roaming donkeys, goats and sheep. Even though it seems nothing edible grows in this desolate area, they forage on the mosses that they find in between the rocks.

On a clear midday it's possible to see a mirage (fata morgana) while staring over the plain in the Southern direction. This is the direction of the driving trail.

TSUNAMI TRANSPORTED BOULDERS

7



These huge boulders are deposited by tsunamis. Bonaire has had to deal with significant tsunamis coming from the East, some of them over 9 meters high. Scientists have found that a devastating wave struck the island about 3,000 years ago.

STERKE YERKE

8

The story of the Sterke Yerke starts in 1974. A group of boys from the Netherlands built a raft, called Sterke Yerke to sail on the Frisian lakes. More rafts followed. The last and third raft was built for crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

After a 137-day voyage from the Netherlands to Curacao, in the night of December 15th, 1979, the raft is wrecked on the rocks of Washikemba. All members of the crew were saved. Captain Don, a famous diver of Bonaire, was one the rescuers. He broke his leg, which resulted in the loss of part of his leg.

A monument is built here in memory of the stranding of the raft.

KUNUKU DI MAMAI ROSA (1882-1975)

9



On Bonaire the small-scale farms are called kunukus. The owner of this kunuku, Onnie Emerenciana, visits his kunuku every day to take care of his vegetables and goats. He wants to keep the old tradition of how his family ran the kunuku in the past and also introduce new agriculture techniques of this time. To protect his kunuku he has built a typical Bonairean cactus fence. The thorns of the cactus and the height of the fence keep goats and intruders out.

Tourists are welcome to visit this kunuku after making an appointment. During a visit, Onnie will show you the former aloe vera plantation next to his kunuku.

TRADITIONAL KUNUKU

10



This is another example of a traditional farm. Sheep and goats are held and vegetables and maishi chikí (a wheat from Africa) are grown. This farm has its own water well and windmill to pump up groundwater for the goats and sheep. Some of the kunukus have been deserted over the last decennia while others are only used as a weekend getaway.

POS BARA DI KARTA

11



Communal wells with windmills are important for the farmers. Most of the groundwater on Bonaire is brackish, but goats are able to drink this water. Only two windmills in the Bara di Karta area provide fresh groundwater that can be used for irrigation of vegetables. Close to the windmill a dam has been constructed to catch the rainwater, hereby increasing the groundwater supply. The slopes of these dams were often used to grow watermelons and pumpkins in the dry season.

BARA DI KARTA HILL

12



The hill Bara di Karta (about 57 m) is prominent in this generally flat area. You can reach the top with a 15 minute hike. From the top of Bara di Karta the East and the West coast, Lac and the salt pans are visible. A black and white land measuring point is located on top of Bara di Karta. These black and white structures that are used for spatial planning can be seen in various locations around the island.

CACTI ON BONAIRE



If you visit Bonaire during the rainy season, you will be amazed by how green the island looks, but if you come during the dry season the island looks almost greyish-brown. The only green you will see, are the cacti.

Bonaire has five cacti. The dominant cacti species is the candle cacti: the kadushi (Cereus repandus), yatu (Stenocereus griseus) and kadushi di pushi (Pilosocereus lanuginosus). The slaves, working in the salt flats, started making soup from the kadushi. Kadushi soup is sometimes on the menu in the local restaurants. Nowadays liquor is distilled from the kadushi in Rincon. The yatu is used for the cactus fences.

The prickly pear (Opuntia wentiana) and melon cactus (Melocactus sp.) are the other two cacti that can be found along the driving trail through Bara di Karta. Prickly pear can be found all over the kunuku areas, the melon cactus grows on the rocks.

The cacti on Bonaire flower and fruit during the dry season, and provide food for a variety of bats, birds and iguanas.

NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES



Traha huntu na un desarojo duradero pa Boneiru

Look for the maps of Rincon and Tras di Montaña



BARA DI KARTA Kunuku Mamai Rosa 796 6664

