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### Former St. Fransiscus Convent

The Sisters of Roosendaal started a school north of the church in 1856 where about 30 girls from Bonaire became Catholic sisters. Later the school was moved to the building east of the convent. All the Dutch Sisters have returned to the Netherlands and the Bonairean Sisters now live within the community. Behind the convent is a chapel and home for the elderly.

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### Old Hospital

Built at the end of the 19th century it was the former house of Richard Muskus (Villa Jane), a merchant and influential person in the community. The building was restored in 1944. Since the opening of the modern hospital in 1977, the building has been used for offices and the elderly. Currently it is a school.

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### Chapel at the Old Hospital

This chapel welcomes visitors of all religions.

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### Historical Cannons

The cannons are located across the street from the Old Hospital. They are from a British ship, the Barham, that ran aground in 1829 near the Orange Obelisk on the South coast of Bonaire. The anchor was found in the same general area.

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### Museo Boneriano

Different artifacts from the past of Bonaire can be found here. In the past this building complex was a slave hospital on Bonaire and has later served as different government offices for Bonaire. Now it houses the government museum (SKAL).

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### Kas di Van der Dijns (Terramar museum)

This monumental building is built in the 1860s and is the former house of family Boyé. Later it has become known as Kas di Van der Dijns, a family who lived there. Thereafter it has been used as government offices (DOW) followed by a music school. The building has been completely renovated in 2015-2016 and has lately served as the new archeological and historic museum.

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### Plasa Machi Mimi

Built in 1935 as a market place for fishermen. Until recently Venezuelans used to sell their fruit and vegetables here.

### Rincon

Rincon village is the oldest village on Bonaire. Additionally, it is the oldest in continual existence within the former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Originally settled by the Spanish in the early 1500's, Rincon was strategically nestled within a valley to ward off impending danger from pirates and other threats. Slaves were brought to Bonaire and worked tending crops and in the salt pans. Slaves lived in Rincon with families and walked to the salt pans in the south to work, and stayed there for the work week. They returned to Rincon to gather supplies at Mangazina di Rei (King's store house), and family visits before heading back to the salt pans.

### Culture

The culture of Bonaire can be seen in the faces of its people. The different features and hues tell the story of dozens of ethnic and racial influences. Indian, African, Asian and European inhabitants have all contributed to what Bonaire is today. Two of the most unmistakable features are the smiles that break out when greetings are made and the soft yet firm handshakes that pass between old and new friends. Bonaire's culture is rooted in religious and holiday celebrations. Many traditions take their origin from African homelands and European harvest and feast days. The music is a blend of tribal beats but using modern instruments and makeshift farming tools instead.

### Celebrations

This is what we do best. The traditional celebrations calendar in Bonaire is filled with exciting activities throughout the year. Most of these celebrations have some main elements in common, which is uniting people with food, music and dance. The celebrations on Bonaire are an important part of the culture on Bonaire. It's a form of reminding everyone that life is about having fun and dancing to the rhythm of the music.

### Tradition

Being very resourceful, the people of Bonaire have combined their different ethnic backgrounds to produce a truly unique dance style. The rhythms are reminiscent of African drum beats yet contain modern influences making them seem fresh and new.

The Simadan, one of Bonaire's most widely known dances, is traditionally done in celebration of a successful maize harvest and takes place in fall. Everyone in the village plays a part in bringing in the crops and celebrating with food and drink.

The Bari is another Bonaire dance with harvest roots. It is strongly influenced by the Waltz, the Mazurka, the Polka, and a local dance 'Baile di Sinta,' which is performed around a maypole. These all originate in Europe. The Rumba, Carioca, and Meringue came to Bonaire from northern Caribbean islands, while Latin America contributed the Danza and the Joropo.



### Music & Instruments

The Bonaireans were quite resourceful in creating musical instruments. Of note was the Bari. It is a small rum barrel covered with a stretched sheepskin to create a drum. The Bari is used especially during the Simadan. Many other instruments were fashioned from broken or discarded tools. The "Chapi" was a small percussive instrument made from the metal end of a hoe and struck with a small metal bar. A plow blade was used to make an Agan. For Simadan, a hollowed out calabash floating in a tub of water was used to tap out a beat. Conch shells and cow horns were valued instruments. A dried donkey jaw with teeth intact was used as a shaker creating a unique vibrational sound. Today, local musician Gaby Mercera creates and sells traditional instruments.

### History

In 1499 (possibly September 6th), Alonso de Ojeda and Amerigo Vespucci arrived in Bonaire and claimed Bonaire for the Spaniards. By 1636, after having been to Bonaire before, the Dutch took possession of the Island. A plaque in Wilhelmina Park honors Mr. van Walbeeck, the Island's first Dutch Commander. From the late 1600's, African slaves were brought to work on the Island until abolishment of slavery in 1863. During the period of 1799 - 1816, sometimes referred to as the "time of confusion," the Island was occupied off and on by various countries and individuals. This was due to changing European politics, which in turn affected the Caribbean Islands. In 1816, Bonaire was returned to the Dutch.

### Description of the Bonaire flag

The flag contains the colors red-white-blue representing our respect for the Dutch Kingdom's tricolor. At the upper end of our flag we have a yellow triangle, which is the bright light for our sun and also the beauty of our nature. Most Bonairean flowers are yellow like Kibrahacha, Kelki hel, Brasilia Hobada, Cucu, Sente-bibu, Anglo, Watapana and many others. The blue triangle is the color of our beautiful sea. Seen as a gigantic wave or a high mountain that we have to climb to reach the top for the progress of our nation. The white symbolizes peace, liberty and tranquility. In the white area there is a black ring with four points of the navigation-compass. That compass is what our indisputable navigators have used to travel all over the world. In the ring there is a six-pointed red star. The color symbolizes blood, as the fighting and surviving spirit of the six traditional neighborhoods which form together the people of Bonaire.



### Coat of arms of Bonaire

According to the heraldic regulations an island belonging to the Kingdom of the Netherlands has a right to carry the Duke's crown over its Coat of Arms. The ships wheel represents the Bonaireans who were always recognized as the best navigators (sailors) in the region. The compass card symbolizes the determination to maintain the course. The six pointed star represents the six traditional neighborhoods of Bonaire. The blue color represents our unity with the sky and the sea. The colors of the Caribbean Sea, which has always connected us to the rest of the world and which plays an important role in our economy.

### Tourism Corporation Bonaire

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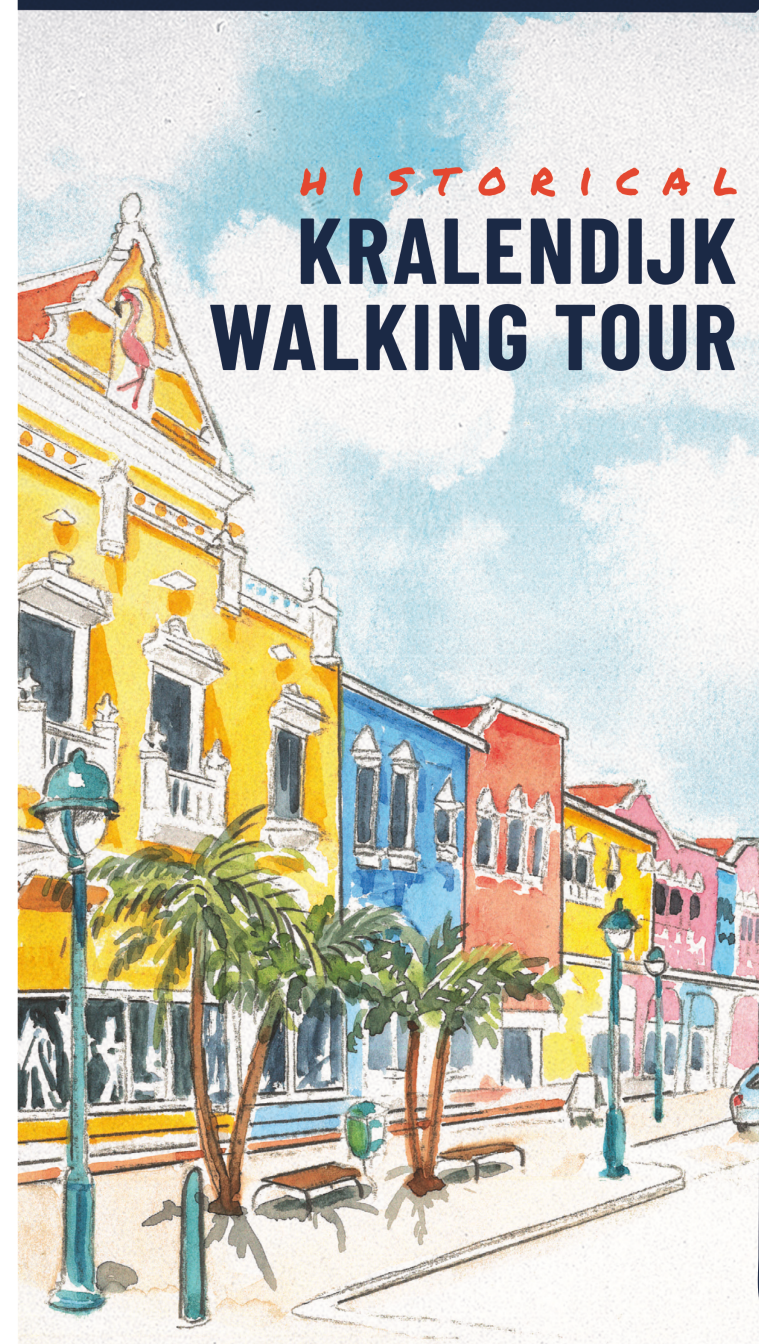


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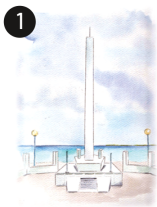
# HISTORICAL KRALENDIJK WALKING TOUR



It's in  
our  
nature

**BONAIRE**  
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**World War II Monument**

In memory of the Bonaireans who lost their lives during the war. Most were killed when German sub-marines hit the tankers that were manned by Antilleans. Bonaire lost more sailors than any of the Dutch islands.



**Pasanggrahan**

Built in approximately 1890 as home of the Debot family. In 1921 it was made into a government guest house for visiting government officials. Later it became the office of the water supply and public works. After a complete restoration it opened as the Island Parliament House in 1980 where the island council meets. During the years 2012 till 2014 this beautiful monument was restored again and adapted to the latest requirements such as a disabled entrance, a stair lift, sound system for the hearing impaired, a guide path for the blind and sanitary facilities with alarm and a moisture-regulating installation.



**Oranjeschool (Cuba Compagnie restaurant)**

In 1849 the Oranjeschool, a public school, was started north of the Protestant church and placed under care of a protestant teacher, Willem F. Meinhardt. He was the first official teacher on Bonaire. An amount of 300 guilders was used by the government for part of

the construction of the school. This sum was received as compensation for the freedom of a government slave named Aldersina Janga.



**Van Walbeek Monument**

Commemorating the 300th anniversary (1636 -1936) of the first director in Curaçao of the Dutch West India Company. The original structure is gone but the original memorial plaque has been placed in a new column.



**Eleanor Roosevelt Monument**

In remembrance of Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to the American troops during World War II (1944). It is debatable if Mrs. Roosevelt was ever in Bonaire. Her diaries show that she visited Curaçao. A mystery yet to be solved?



**Protestant Church**

The congregation was established in 1843. The church was built in 1847, mainly for Dutch immigrants living on Bonaire. The church tower was added in 1868.



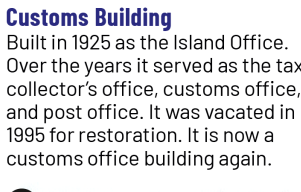
**Wilhelmina Park**

Park named after former Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.



**Welcome Seat**

Dedicated August 31, 1923. A place where people would sit and wait for family and friends coming from Curaçao. The plaque is dedicated to former Queen Wilhelmina. The "W" stands for "Welcome" and "Wilhelmina." The seat was renovated during the construction of the boulevard at the end of the 90s. A parchment tube has been bricked in.



**Government Office Building**

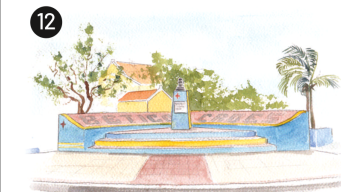
Built in 1837 as the commander's home and office (around 1850s changed to the lieutenant governor). It was restored in 1972 and is the island's government's main office building.

**Fort Oranje**

Probably built at the end of the 1700's. The commander of the island lived here until 1837 when his new home was built next door.



The fort never saw any action. The cannons are old English cannons - they date between 1808 and 1812. A wooden lighthouse was built around 1868 and was replaced by a stone structure in 1932.



**Betico Croes Monument/Bust**

The person who fought for the "Status Aparte" of our sister island Aruba. He had a special relationship with Bonaire.



**Post Office**

The first post office was established in 1890 and moved to this building in 1974. It was recently restored.



**Telephone Company (TELBO)**

The first telegraph connection with Curaçao was in 1911. The tele-phone lines were laid to Rincon in 1921. The construction of the Kralendijk telephone system began in 1944 and became automatic in 1961. In 1975, Bonaire was the first Dutch island to direct dial internationally. In 1999, we had our first fiber optic connection via a cable on the ocean floor.



**Tourist Information Office**

The building was built in the early 60s and used to be the former Bonaire Commercial Bank. Now it is the home of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) - A report in 1956 indicated that tourism could be the #1 source of income for Bonaire! You can get a lot of information about Bonaire here.



**Bonaire Museum of Natural History**

The Bonaire Museum of Natural History is located on Kaya J.C. van der Ree #7. The house was built in 1885 by a Venezuelan plantation owner and was bought by the Herrera family, one of the influential families on Bonaire. At that time, the house was called the 'Van der Ree house'. The house became a small shop with cow and goat meat from the Washington plantation, charcoal, vegetables, canned food and later on also beer and lemonade.



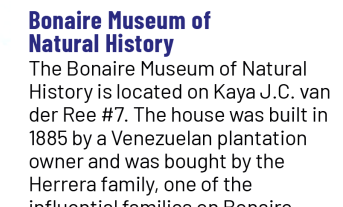
**Simon Bolivar Monument/Bust**

Commemorating his 1816 visit to Bonaire seeking safety during the war for the independence of Venezuela.



**Plasa Fraternal di Tilburg**

Monument dedicated to the brothers of Tilburg which were involved with education on the island from 1915 until 1991.



Small park in honor of former Queen Juliana of the Netherlands. It is now a roundabout named after the Sisters of Roosendaal.



**St. Bernardus Church**

The parish was established in 1827. The original building was built in 1829 and then replaced in 1948. The church complex included the home of the priest.



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