

Its in our ture



WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM





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.



<u>VISITOR ENTRY TAX:</u> Visitors to Bonaire are required to pay a entry tax of \$75 per person, valid for 1 month.

Learn more on www.bonaireisland.com

HERE IS ANOTHER WAY:

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.



GETTING AROUND

THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS TO EXPLORE BONAIRE



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 BFING 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.

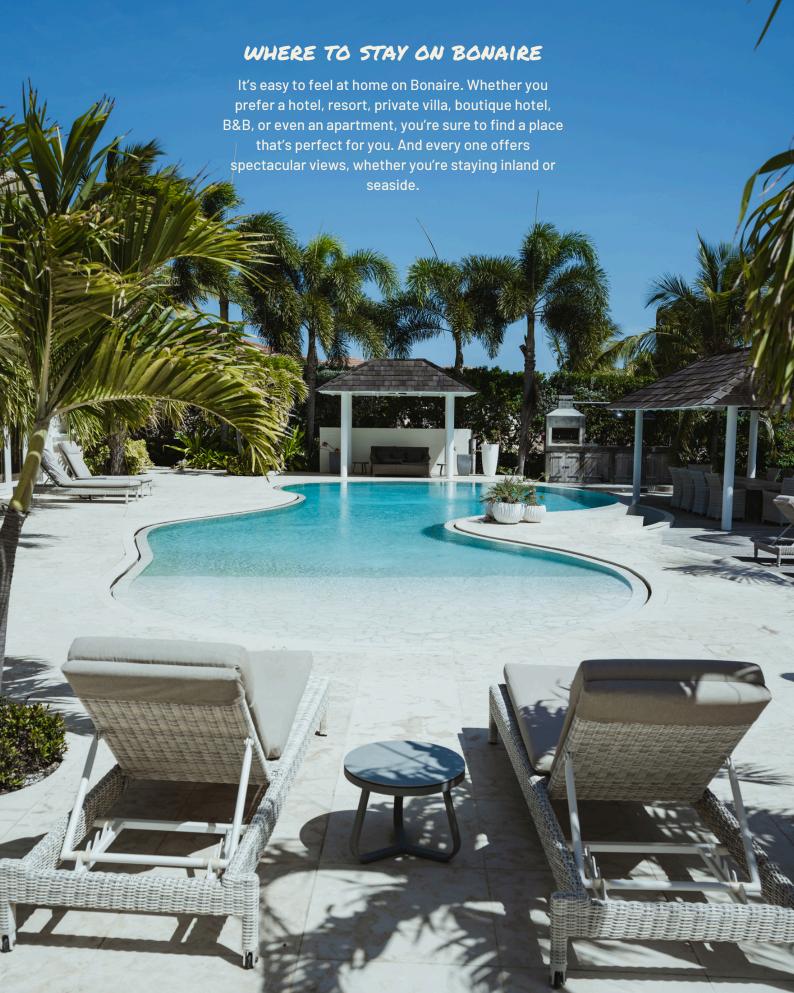
MOTORCYCLES, SCOOTERS, GOLF CARTS AND BICYCLES

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 is your best option for getting there. Different operators offer various departure times. Check with each provider for schedules, service areas and fares.





UHERE MOTHER NATURE LOVES HUMAN NATURE OVES MOTHER NATURE LOVE HUMAN NATURE







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 HELPS PROTECT BONAIRE'S WILDLIFE

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.







TAKE THE PLEDGE

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.

THE CORAL CAMPAIGN

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 by adopting a coral tree through the Reef Renewal Bonaire foundation on behalf of visitors that commit to this cause with their signature. These coral trees nurture over 100 pieces of coral each, so the donation goes directly back into restoring Bonaire's reefs – beloved by the exquisite marine life the island is known for, as well as visitors and locals alike.



EXPLORE BONAIRE'S TROPICAL SEAS

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 FVFRY SKILL I FVFL

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

VISITING 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 ecofriendly 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 & No Name Beach.

GREAT FOR WATERSPORTS:

Kitesurfing at Atlantis, Kayaking at Lac Cai & 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.





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 BONAIRF

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 bluepainted 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.

INTRODUCTION TO 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.

RECONNECT WITH YOURSELF

REJUVENATE IN PARADISE

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.









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!

A TASTE OF THE TROPICS

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE WITH CARIBBEAN FLAIR

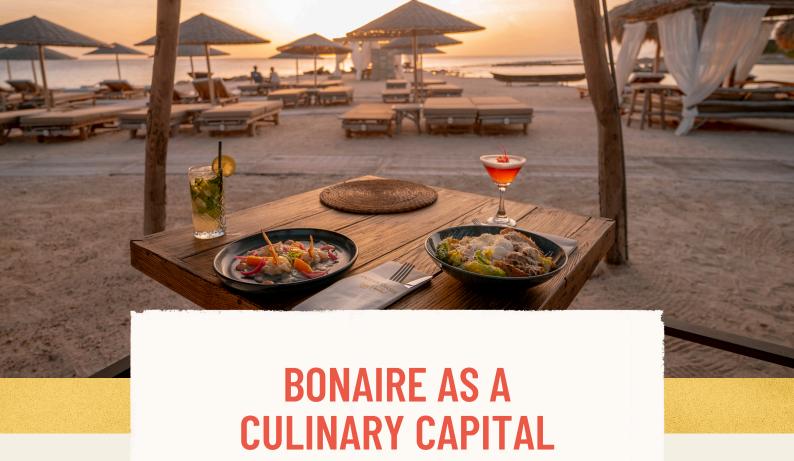
There's no better way to experience the soul of the Caribbean than to dine on Bonaire. Enjoy the unique restaurants featuring award winning regional and international chefs who add their personal touch for your ultimate eating experience.

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.



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.



A PARADISE FOR FOODIES

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





SOME VISITORS ARE MORE LIKE FAMILY

THE BONAIRE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

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!





- Stay at an apartment, hotel, villa, or private home during your visit
- Visit Bonaire over consecutive years
- Submit the Ambassador Application form



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.



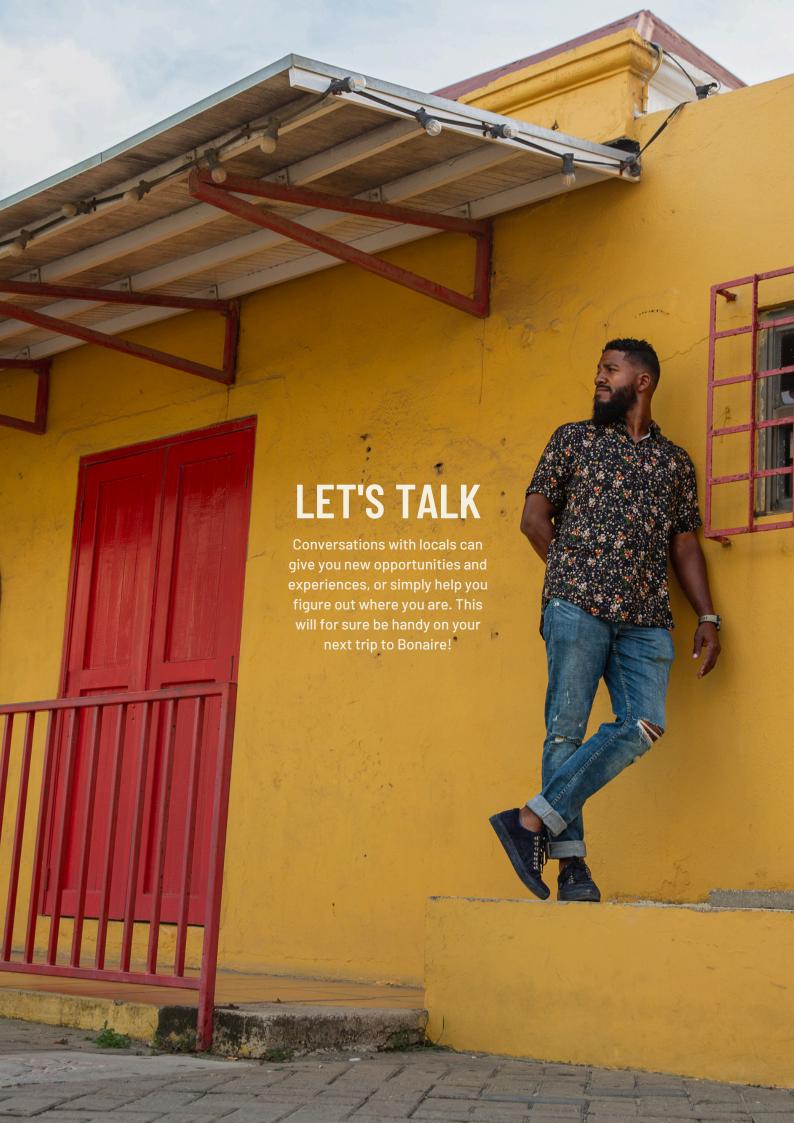
FEEL THE RHYTHMS

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.



UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER

THE BASICS

PAPIAMENTU

Si

No

Danki

Di nada

Mi ta pèrdi

Mi mester di yudansa

Kuantu esaki ta kosta?

Bo ta papia Ingles?

Mi no ta papia Papiamentu

ENGLISH

Yes

No

Thank you

You're welcome

I'm lost

I need help

How much does this cost?

Do you speak English?

I don't speak Papiamentu



GREETINGS

PAPIAMENTU

Halo

Kon ta bai?

Bon danki, i abo?

Tur kos ta bayendo bon

Kon yama bo?

Mi nòmber ta:

Bon dia

Bon tardi

Bon nochi

Ayo

Despensa mi

Por fabor

Pasa un bon dia

Te aweró

Te ku un otro biaha

ENGLISH

Hello

How are you?

Fine thanks, and you?

Everything is going well

What's your name?

My name is:

Good morning

Good afternoon

Good evening

Goodbye

Excuse me

Please

Have a good day

See you later

Till next time



TRAVEL

PAPIAMENTU

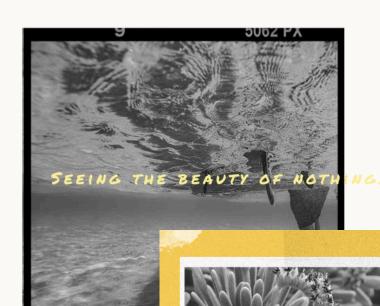
Bo por yama un taksi pa mi?
Bo por hiba mi na e adrès aki?
Bo por hiba mi aeropuerto?
Unda e baño mas serka ta?
Unda mi por kumpra algu pa kome?
Bo por mustra mi e riba un mapa?
Bo por skirbi esei pa mi?

ENGLISH

Can you call a taxi for me?
Please take me to this address
Please take me to the airport
Where is the nearest bathroom?
Where can I get something to eat?
Can you show me it on a map?
Will you write that down for me?



FUN FACTS







CURRENCY US Dollar POPULATION 26,550

DOCUMENTS

Passport & airplane ticket. A visa may be needed; check with your national consulate

TRAFFIC

There is no traffic lights on the island

LANGUAGES

Papiamentu Dutch English Spanish

WIFI

In Kralendijk there are various restaurants that offer Wi-Fi

EVENTS

Bonaire is the scene of many events of international stature, including: Carnival, Simadan, Dia di Rincon, Taste of Bonaire, King's day, Regatta International Sailing are among others.

MAXIMUM STAY 90 Days SURFACE 39 KM long 5 - 11 KM wide

TEMPERATURE

Average: 82° F (27.8° C) Water: 80° F (26.7° C)

SHOPS

The shops in Kralendijk are generally open from 8:00am to 6:00pm and close for lunch from noon to 2:00pm.

DRINKING WATER: You can safely drink the water from the tap

