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Three Perfect Days in Aruba - A Journey Connected Travel Guide

Trip Summary

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Aruba Catamaran Sail with Snorkeling

Paseo Herencia - Paseo Herencia

Day 2

Fontein Cave - Fontein Cave

Arikok National Park - Arikok National Park

Andicuri Beach - Andicuri Beach

Conchi Natural Pool - Conchi Natural Pool

Day 3

Palm Beach - Palm Beach

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Palm Beach Plaza - Palm Beach Plaza

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Day 1



Eagle Beach

Another much-loved tourist spot, Eagle Beach is located walking distance from the low-rise hotel area, and it's quieter and usually less crowded than Palm Beach. It looks stunning with its fine sugary sand, and is the perfect spot to relax under the shade of umbrellas or the characteristic divi trees. Bars and cafes await right on the sand, and snorkeling here is great.



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Aruba Catamaran Sail with Snorkeling

Explore the waters around Aruba aboard a 65-foot (20-meter) catamaran, the 'Arusun'. During your cruise, relax on the spacious deck and enjoy hospitality from your friendly captain and first mate. Find a spot in the sun, the shady back end of the boat, or in the nets up front. Enjoy snacks and drinks from the open bar. Stop to snorkel at the Antilla Shipwreck and Catalina Bay using the complimentary snorkel equipment. Sail the waters around Aruba on the 'Arusun', a 65-foot (20-meter) catamaran Spread out and relax in the sun or shade on the spacious deck, enjoying snacks and drinks from the open bar Stop to snorkel at some of the island's best sites using the provided snorkel equipment Hotel transfers, an open bar, and snacks make this a great value

[Aruba Catamaran Sail](#)



Paseo Herencia

Another good spot for shopping and entertainment, Paseo Herencia is a miniature town with a cheery atmosphere, where all revolves around shopping. It is open at night, often organizes shows, and also includes a cinema.



Paseo Herencia

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 382, Palm Beach
+297 586 6533

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Day 2



Fontein Cave

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Arikok National Park

Apart from the well-decorated western touristic area, Aruba offers miles of a breathtakingly wild desert land, protected by the Arikok national reserve. Visit this windy, atmospheric place, and see some of the island's most loved natural attractions. You can choose to visit the park by yourself, by renting a jeep and using a sat nav, or to join a guided tour. Either way, prepare for an intense, adventurous journey.



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Andicuri Beach



Andicuri's wild beauty makes it a unique spot on the island. It sits on the windy, underdeveloped eastern coast, inside the Arikok National Park. An organized tour is probably the best way to reach it. Its crystal waters are moved by strong waves, which make them great for experienced surfers and not safe for swimming. There are no amenities, and you should bring your own food.



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Conchi Natural Pool

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Day 3



Palm Beach

One of the main hubs for cheerful tourist life, surrounded by resorts and full of things to do, this beach is likely the one you saw in the ads for vacations in Aruba. Swim in the calm, sparkling blue water, take long walks along the fine sand of the shoreline, and seize the occasion to do some people-watching. Be aware that the beach can get crowded.



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Aruba UTV Tour with Natural Cave Pool and Cliff Jumping

Swap sunbathing on the beach for a more exciting experience of Aruba. This UTV adventure promises an adventurous and exhilarating ride through the island's rugged desert and coastline. Along the way you'll stop at landmarks including Philip's Animal Garden (the island's largest exotic animal sanctuary), the Alto Vista Chapel and Bushiribana Ruins. Exciting and adventurous tour of Aruba by UTV Get a different perspective on the island and its landscapes Stop at some of Aruba's most important points of interest Hassle-free pickup from your Aruba accommodations



Palm Beach Plaza

To find many entertainment options as well as a selection of stores, head to Palm Beach Plaza: it is open until late at night and features a huge cinema, different game rooms, and spaces for children, plus fountains and beautiful decor. Shops are not cheap, but you'll find some hidden gems.



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L.G. Smith Boulevard 95, Palm Beach
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Aruba Island Guide



Aruba - The Island

Sheltered as it is from oceanic winds and tides, the northwestern area of Aruba has become a holiday haven, perfected by the tourism industry. Whether swimming in the calm blue water, snorkelling, venturing to do some water sports, or joining beautiful sunset cruises, it's quite difficult to get bored there. Funny flamingos and refreshing divi trees are characteristic parts of the scenery. You'll find the best entertainment in the popular areas of Palm and Eagle Beach, and in Oranjestad, the charming and compact capital city.

When looking for accommodation in this popular area, you have two main options. The high rise hotels are huge beachfront palaces located in the busiest and most central position. One mile north from there, low rise hotels offer a more private and relaxed atmosphere.

A visit to the more genuine town of San Nicolas, in the southern area, will be rewarded with hidden food gems and beautiful views. Reach the wind-swept Eastern coast and you'll find yourself in an undeveloped natural treasure (which can, of course, be explored as part of plenty of guided tours).

Aruba has a fascinating history of pre-Columbian tribes, colonization, and peoples' encounters. Arawak Amerindians came to the island around 1,000 BC and stayed for millennia; traces of their presence are left in the ancient wall drawings of Fontein Cave. After being discovered by European explorers, the island was colonized by Spain; fortunately, it was never big on slave trade, because the climate was too dry for plantation settlements. The Netherlands took over in the 17th century and ruled until the first free elections in 1986. Oranjestad preserves beautifully restored Dutch architecture from the Colonial period.



Top Things to See and Do in Aruba



Aruba - Do & See

Unwind on the pristine beaches, forget about the rut of everyday life exploring the dining and nightlife scenes, or catch some thrills taking part in water sports and outdoor exploration. However you decide to experience it, Aruba has all the trappings of an all-around perfect vacation destination.



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Baby Beach

Baby Beach, San Nicolas

To find refuge from tourist masses, head to this beautiful, secluded beach in the island's very south. Reaching the place will take around 30 minutes by car, and some patience if you're driving your own vehicle – signage isn't too clear. However, it's worth the exploration: locals love Baby Beach because it's calm and less crowded. Its waters are clean and good for swimming, and the local fauna is beautiful, featuring gorgeous tropical fish and sea turtles.



Arikok National Park

San Fuego 70, Aruba
+297 585 1234

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Aruba Archaeological Museum

Schelpstraat 42, Oranjestad
+297 582 8979

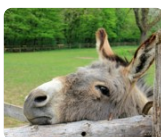
If you're passionate about history and want to use every occasion to learn more, even on vacation, visit the local museum in Oranjestad. The displays focus on the pre-colonial period and Amerindian culture, and it's located inside an elegant colonial house. Some of the artefacts in the exhibition were crafted millennia ago.



Butterfly Farm

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard, Oranjestad
+297 586 3656

This colourful, well-maintained reserve is fascinating for children and adults, and a great option when you don't feel like going to the beach or exploring. Educational guided tours are available, and if you're gentle and follow the staff's suggestions, you may manage to get a butterfly to land on your fingers. The staff is clearly passionate about the place's mission.



Donkey Sanctuary

Bringamosa 2z, Santa Cruz
+297 593 2933

Funny for children and relaxing for adults, this unassuming but heartwarming ranch is great for spending a couple of hours and having some rest while in the Arikok Natural Park area. Bring some veggie snacks to get extra love from these cute creatures.

Aruba Top Ten



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Aruba Dining, Bars and Nightlife



Aruba - Dining

Aruban cuisine is a mouth-watering fusion of cultures — mostly Spanish, Dutch, French, and African. Specialities like goat cheese and funchi, the local variation of polenta, are must-tries. Dining in Aruba is also about the setting and the experience: you will find restaurants located right on the sand, or in picturesque manors. There are plenty of cultural influences, and — as hard as it can be to believe it — very affordable options.



Barefoot Restaurant

L.G. Smith Boulevard 1, Oranjestad
+297 588 9824

Feel the warm sand under your feet and admire the sunset while enjoying yummy food. This breezy yet stylish restaurant is located right on the beach and offers fresh ingredients and good wines. The staff is extremely helpful with dietary restrictions.



Gasparito

Gasparito 3, Noord
+297 594 2550

Gasparito is very well-loved for the authentic Aruban dining experience it provides. Located in a historical country house, it also offers outdoor seating in a patio, with a view over a beautiful fountain. The warm-hearted staff are happy to share their knowledge about the dining traditions of Aruba. Prices are honest.



Yemanja Woodfired Grill

Wilhelminastraat 2, Oranjestad
+297 588 4711

If you're looking for a sophisticated dining experience and budget is not an issue for you, try out Yemanja Woodfired Grill. Located centrally in Oranjestad, it is very well appreciated for tasty food made with fresh ingredients and professional service. If in doubt, start your meal with the delicious truffle potato soup.



Papiamento

Washington Road 61, Noord
+297 586 4544

Family-run Papiamento serves tasty local cuisine in an outstanding location — an atmospheric old farmhouse filled with antiques, boasting a pretty courtyard and a pool that gets lit at night.

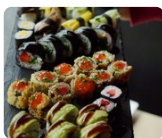
Fun fact: "Papiamento" is one of the official languages of the island, a creole formation based on Portuguese. This romantic, relaxing experience can get a bit pricey, especially if you choose to order cocktails.



Así Es Mi Peru

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 64, Eagle Beach
+297 588 3958

For a tasty culinary trip to the South, this restaurant provides authentic Peruvian specialties at reasonable prices. It is located a stone's throw away from the seaside. You can choose to dine in a covered patio or in a cozy dining room inside, adorned with characteristic art from Peru.



Omakase Japanese Sushi Bar

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 55, Oranjestad
+297 522 3444

Sushi lovers don't panic, not even if vegetarian: you won't suffer from withdrawal in Aruba. Omakase is an elegant and affordable sushi bar near the beach, and it has earned many enthusiastic reviews. The concept of 'omakase' means diners leave it up to the chef to select the dishes they'll be served, which adds an extra element of excitement to the experience.



Zeerovers

Savaneta 270a, Savaneta
+297 584 8401

A real insider tip for dining on Caribbean specialties while on a budget is heading to Zeerovers. This informal restaurant boasts a stunning location right by the sea, and its wood-defined decor gives it a carefree summer village atmosphere.



Aruba - Cafes

While relaxing on the beach all day, or jumping from one exciting experience to another, you will likely need a proper coffee break. Stay hydrated with fresh fruit smoothies, find sweet comfort in local desserts like kesio (a local version of creme caramel), or go full tropical with the banana chips snacks. Also, discover some great spots in the less touristy parts of the island.



Santos Coffee With Soul

Zoutmanstraat 7, Oranjestad
+297 280 8070

For good coffee in a hip ambiance, Santos is a good option. Located in the capital city, it offers quick eats along with hot and cold drinks, and it has an upbeat interior design. Free WiFi inside.



Aruba Coffee Roasting Company

Caya Betico Croes 101a, Oranjestad
+297 588 5569

In addition to roasting coffee beans in-house, which was a first for the island back the time of opening, this cafe offers a mouth-watering selection of gelato. Take a break in its cosy, retro-inspired decor, and maybe purchase some souvenirs from the shop inside.



Diana's Pancakes Place

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 370, Palm Beach
+297 586 6444

To start the day with a delicious sweet treat, try Diana's traditional Dutch pancakes. Choose from the rich offer of toppings, and complete the breakfast with coffee or freshly squeezed orange juice. The menu also includes savory pancakes, perfect for a brunch. Service is great and portions are generous.



Eduardo's Beach Shack

Playa Linda Beach Resort, J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 87
+297 594 2534

To keep cheerful and energetic throughout your day at the beach, you'll need some fresh fruity snacks. Eduardo offers plenty of healthy options right on the sand: from smoothies and fruit salads to more substantial bowls and wraps. It's the place to go in the town of Noord.



Kamini's Kitchen

St. Christoffelbergweg, San Nicolas
+297 587 1398

Delicious food all day long, and at incredible prices, has earned Kamini's a reputation of one of the best eateries on the island. Located in the southern area, this place is lively and unassuming, and the owner is extremely well-loved. Try their curry specialities that are different from the familiar Indian flavours.



Aruba - Bars & Nightlife

Quirky party places, mainstream clubs, and more sophisticated bars are all available in Aruba, especially in resort areas and downtown Oranjestad. Here are a few suggestions so you can start exploring the nightlife scene in Aruba.



Craft Coffee & Bar

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 348a, Palm Beach
+297 586 6999

A chill cafe and bar with a relaxing atmosphere all day long, Craft serves a wide choice of wines, beers and well-mixed cocktails, both classic and more creative. Relax in their chic decor and enjoy a great selection of music.



Kukoo Kunuku

Noord 128p, Noord
+297 586 2010

For an evening of whimsical fun, join one of Kukoo Kunuku's nightlife tours. This bright party bus is just what you'd expect from cheerful Caribbean entertainment: animated by an energetic couple, it will show you around local pubs and/or restaurants, with some drinks and shots included. A good way to discover Aruba's nightlife and have a blast.



The Wine Room

L.G. Smith Boulevard 126, Oranjestad
+297 737 0019

For a sophisticated wine tasting evening, The Wine Room is a well-reviewed option. Although not cheap, it boasts knowledgeable staff and an eye for detail. The tasting menus also include appetizers and desserts, as well as entire meals. It sometimes hosts live music sessions. A must-try are the chocolate truffles.



Saloon Bar

South Beach Mall, Palm Beach 55
+297 280 9911

This frisky country bar offers craft beers and music to let loose after a day at the beach. You can choose your favourite songs and mingle with a diverse crowd, enjoying the cheerful, carefree atmosphere.

Aruba Tourist Resources



Aruba - Tourist Information



Passport / Visa

Citizens of the European Union member-states, the majority of countries in the Americas and Europe, as well as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and a handful of others do not require a visa for stays of up to 90 days.

Visitors of other nationalities might need to apply for a visa in advance. The visa for Aruba is not an equivalent to a Schengen Visa, and does not allow holders to enter the European part of the Netherlands.

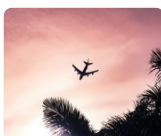
Visitors will need to provide a passport that is valid for the duration of the stay and has some unused pages. They also need to have a valid Embarkation and Disembarkation card (ED-Card), a valid return ticket, and the necessary documents for returning to the country of origin. Finally, they can be requested to demonstrate that they have arranged for accommodation in Aruba, and that they have the financial means to support themselves while staying there.



Best Time to Visit

The weather in Aruba is always nice, with an average temperature of around 28°C (82°F) at all times of the year. Budget-wise, the best time to visit Aruba is from April to December, during the low season. During the rest of the year, prices increase significantly as more tourists come down from the north to escape winter.

The perceived temperature is a bit hotter in September, when trade winds cease.



Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA)

Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix, Sabana Berde 75
+297 524 2424

The modern Aruba Queen Beatrix International Airport is located in the western part of the island, 5 km from the downtown area and 7–10 km from the resorts area. It is served by a number of daily or weekly flights from North and South America, the EU, United Kingdom, and many others.

The airport tax ("PFC", Passenger Facility Charge) is usually included in the price of the flights, but it's worth checking.

Check-in for flights to the US is 3 hours before departure; check-in for other flights can be 2-3 hours before departure according to your airline. If your flight is going to depart during a peak hour (Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm), arrive earlier.

There are many different ways to get to and from the airport.

Aruba's public bus service, Arubus, has several lines stopping at the airport. You can take any of these to Oranjestad, reach the town's bus station and change to another line to reach your hotel; many are served by line 10.

You will find car rental offices in front of the arrival terminal; alternatively, take the shuttle bus outside the airport to reach other car rentals that are not located at the airport.



Cruise Terminal

The Aruba Cruise Terminal is located on the Western coast of the island, a few minutes walk away from the centre of the capital city Oranjestad.

Right at the terminal you will find information booths and ATMs. Shops are also available inside the terminal.

The public bus service in Aruba, run by Arubus, is good and affordable, and the Oranjestad bus terminal is located a few steps away from the port, on Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard.

However, you can also decide to hail a cab at the taxi rank on the left of the terminal exit. Alternatively, find car rentals in front of the terminal exit.

If you're visiting Aruba during a cruise and only have one day to spend on the island, follow our suggested itinerary to experience the best of it.

Aruba is mostly well-known for its beautiful touristic beaches. Eagle Beach, one of the best, is quite close to the ship terminal, and boasts flamingos, cute turtles, typical divi divi trees and plenty of facilities. For a morning of perfect beach life, take the Arubus line 10 from the Oranjestad bus terminal and get off at the Eagle Beach stop.

If you're still in the mood for touristic beaches in the afternoon, visit the very popular Palm Beach (bus line 10 to Malmok, stop at Palm Beach Plaza). To take a break before getting there, spend an hour at the colourful Butterfly Farm (same bus, stop at Divi Resort).

If you're looking for a more adventurous day, save the afternoon for a tour of the wilder Eastern part of the island. A convenient solution is booking a half-day guided tour. Swim in the breathtaking Natural Pool, just in front of the ocean, with colourful fish under the surface. Most tours depart directly from the cruise ship terminal and brings you back there at the end of the trip.

However, you decide to experience the island, take some time to explore the picturesque Oranjestad city centre. It only takes 15 minutes on foot from the terminal to Oranjestad's cute main street, Caya G.F. Beltico Croes. Here you can admire colourful Dutch revival architecture and typical palm trees; this is also where you'll find some of the best shops on the island. Another good shopping and entertainment hub is the whimsical Royal Plaza mall, just a 5 minutes walk from the cruise ship terminal.



Public Transport

+297 520 2300

Public transport in Aruba is inexpensive and easy to use. The Arubus service covers Oranjestad and the resort areas, with stops at beaches and supermarkets; it also reaches the airport. Check their website for schedules and ticket prices. The bus line 10 to Malmok is probably the most convenient to reach hotels and points of interest near Eagle and Palm Beach.

The central bus station is located in downtown Oranjestad, next to the Royal Plaza shopping mall, on Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard. The bus runs every 15 minutes from 5:45 am to 6 pm and every 40 minutes from 6 pm to 11:30 pm.

Arubus also operate a streetcar route that runs from the Port of Call, through the downtown area, along Schelpstraat, Havenstraat and Caya Betico Croes. The tram loops at Plaza Nicky.



Taxi

Taxi fares in Aruba are set according to the destinations; meters are not used. An additional charge is applied after 11 pm, on Sundays and official holidays. The cabs bear a "TX" sign to indicate that they are licensed.

Taxis are often available at hotels and popular sights; otherwise, it is best to hail them by phone. If you're making an excursion to a less popular spot, you may want to arrange with the same taxi driver to pick you up and bring you back to the hotel when you're done.

Find two taxi companies at:

Arutaxi
 +297 594 1998
www.arutaxi.com
info@arutaxi.com

Aruba Taxi Company
 +297 587 1300
www.arubataxicompany.com



Post

Post Aruba Head Office, Juan E. Irausquin Plein 9
 +297 528 7678

If you have to send a letter, look for red post boxes. The Post Aruba Head Office is in Oranjestad. You can also visit the other office in San Nicolas.



Pharmacy

Botica Di Servicio Eagle, Caya Punta Brabo 17
 +297 640 8443

Pharmacies in Aruba are usually open from Monday to Saturday between 8 am and 7 pm. At night, on Sundays and during official holidays, they place out an announcement where you can check which of them is on duty at that time.

In Oranjestad, check out Botica Di Servicio Eagle. In San Nicolas, try Benu Pharmacy San Luca.



Telephone

Country Code: +297



Electricity

Power sockets type A, B (US-style with flat prongs) and F (EU-style with round prongs). Bringing a universal travel adapter is a good idea. 127 V / 60 Hz