Bonaire, the most beautiful island in the Dutch Caribbean. You will fall in love with its magic.

Just 60 miles off of the coast of Venezuela, Bonaire is a paradise for scuba divers; whether you are an expert or an amateur.

Its entire coastline is a marine park; a beautiful natural paradise with crystal clear turquoise water, temperature in the mid 80’s year round, a colorful and abundant marine life, the most amazing coral reefs on the planet and 86 dive sites. 54 of which are accessible from the shore.

This is Bonaire... ideal for you!

Bonaire is the example of responsible development on a global level. Washington Slagbaai National Park is one of their greatest achievements where the flamingo lives, which is the island’s symbol.

You will also find all the eco-adventures you can imagine and desire, enough for the entire family. It is easy to recognize why visitors keep coming back and why our slogan is: Once A Visitor, Always A Friend!

How to travel to BONAIRE

Bonaire is accessible from Europe, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean. You can visit the island by plane or by cruise. Flamingo International Airport receives both local airlines as well as international flights.

Direct flights from the USA to Bonaire are available with American Airlines from Miami, United Airlines from Newark and Houston, and Delta Airlines from Atlanta. It is also possible to fly via Aruba or Curaçao to Bonaire. For complete routes and details please contact the airlines servicing Bonaire or your favorite booking agent.
Influenced by the Dutch, Spanish, African and South American colonies, all these cultures have created a diverse population that turns its visitors into friends.

This is why Dutch has become its official language with Papiamentu spoken nationally and Spanish and English also spoken on the island. Take a look at the faces of the Bonaireans to discover their history.

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

Their tribal rhythms are played with modern instruments.

Visit tourist and cultural sites located on the North side of the island.

Rincon is one of the most ancient towns in Bonaire but also in the former Netherlands Antilles. This town was built to prevent pirate attacks. On the South side of the island you can still visit the slave huts and salt pans, which are key tourist spots. If you would like to better understand Bonaire’s culture be sure to visit its museums.

Coming to Bonaire intensifies the senses and brings you into harmony with nature. Relaxing ambience, gorgeous beaches, with white sand and crystal clear water, where one can immerse oneself and become part of the illusive underwater paradise and multi-color corals.

Continuous trade winds facilitate all eco-adventures for the entire family to enjoy and Bonaire’s friendly and helpful residents create a unique experience so that all visitors will want to come back time after time.

It is no surprise that Bonaire’s untouched wildlife is protected. Bonaire has been a leader in environmental conservation since 1960 with its flamingo sanctuary and its turtle nesting areas. The creation of Washington Slagbaai National Park and the Bonaire National Marine Park sealed their commitment to preserve its natural resources.

It is no secret that Captain Don Stewart was a fundamental part of creating the Bonaire Marine Park, in 1979 together with Carel Steensma and Parks Foundation of Netherlands Antilles.

Captain Don’s legacy has continued with projects of coral reproduction and the conservation of its native parrots. These are some of the abundant benefits that make Bonaire such a special island.

Come and discover the best-kept treasure of the Caribbean!

www.tourismbonaire.com/getting-here
**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Bonaire, is a leader in sustainable tourism, who believes in growth without adversely affecting its nature and culture. Its goal is to establish itself as the Blue Destination of the Caribbean.
- Bonaire’s seawater is distilled and purified to become one of the purest drinking waters in the world.
- There are several spots where free Wi-Fi is available. In Kralendijk there are various restaurants that offer Wi-Fi including the Wilhelmina park.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- **Surface:** 39km long, 5 to 11km wide
- **Population:** 19,000+
- **Dress code:** casual / informal
- **Currency:** dollar
- **Languages:** Dutch, Papiamentu, Spanish, and English
- **Documents:** Passport, airplane ticket. A visa may be needed; check with your national consulate.
- **Maximum stay:** 90 days

- **Bonaire has a reputation for being one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, however visitors should take normal precautions and keep personal properties secure. Hotels have safes to store passports, tickets and other valuables.**
- **Bonaire is the scene of many events of international stature, including: Carnaval, Simadan, Dia di Rincon, Taste of Bonaire, the King’s day, Freediving, Pro Kids windsurfing, Sorobon Master and Kitesurfing competition, Regatta international sailing, Biking Duo Xtreme Bonaire, are among others. For more information: [www.tourismbonaire.com/bonaire-events](http://www.tourismbonaire.com/bonaire-events)**
- **Unique boutiques and shops are scattered throughout Bonaire and at island resorts. However, downtown Kralendijk, with colorful, quaint and picturesque architecture, offers the majority of shops and reflects a real Caribbean vibe. The shops in Kralendijk are generally open from 8:00am to 6:00pm and close for lunch from noon to 2:00pm. Check with individual shops for hours and offerings.**

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**Bonaire’s beaches**

**Natural paradise**

**Soft sand and crystal clear water... a perfect escape**

Bonaire, a gorgeous island surrounded by a beautiful marine park, one of its kind worldwide. Its soft sandy beaches and multicolor corals are easily accessible from many beaches and create a delightful dive experience.

A tour of the island by car or bus will take you to beaches for the ultimate relaxation and for beautiful photography. With your local guide you will learn about Bonaire’s history, interesting facts about its culture, flowers and birds of the island.

**Great snorkeling beaches: Lac Cai, Te Arno Beach and Pink Beach.**

**Great for exploring marine life: 1000 Steps, Bachelor’s Beach, Boka Slagbaai, Playa Benge, Playa Frans, Playa Funchi, Playa Lechi, Seven Body Beach and Wayaka.**

One of Bonaire’s greatest treasures is Sorobon Beach located on the South side of the island. Qualy shallow water and continuous trade winds make a great combination that is ideal for windsurfing and kids. If you like kite surfing, Atlantis is the beach for you.

Boka Kokolishi, in Washington Slagbaai National Park, is a hidden paradise full of beauty and seduction.

Playa Chiku, not for swimming. A beautiful bay with white sand where turtles lay their eggs regularly.

Come and make your own memories on Bonaire’s beautiful beaches and help us maintain their beauty and cleanliness. Clean beaches are directly bound to the life of its corals. As they are part of the same eco-system: please keep Bonaire clean, it is prohibited to take coral or seashells. Want to volunteer to clean up in our annual sweeps? You will have fun!

Have you picked out your favorite beach? Enjoy Bonaire!
Think of Bonaire as your first option if you are looking for an amiable and safe place where your children can enjoy all water activities. The island offers many access points with shallow water and plenty of marvelous marine life to discover. Bonaire has plenty of activities for the whole family. The perfect dosage for adventure and safety. Its infrastructure and facilities are unique to this island.

In Bonaire, we have year round activities for children: windsurfing, kayaking, sailing and more. There are also dive and snorkeling lessons. We guarantee that they will enjoy a unique and unforgettable experience. International cuisine and marvelous climate make this island perfect for you and your family.

Wellness

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, SCUBA 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.

For more information visit: www.tourismbonaire.com/bonaire-activities-events/details/wellness
All the treasures aren’t underwater—
DISCOVER BONAIRE
On its surface and be surprised

Beyond diving, Bonaire offers even more adventures on the surface. Water, wind, sand, sun and a lot of adrenaline makes Bonaire the best eco-adventure destination in the Caribbean. Whatever your favorite activity is, our professionals will make sure your adventures are extraordinary so that you will want to come back soon.

Snorkel
You do not have to know how to dive in order to enjoy the beautiful wonders of our ocean in Bonaire. Its unbelievable visibility allows the snorkeler of any age to enter an exuberant submarine world full of reefs and colorful wildlife. Also, yellow stones mark all snorkel sites.

Windsurf
Bonaire’s champions remain #1 in world competitions. Sorobon, in Lac Bay, is one of Bonaire’s windsurfing treasures. With a combination of continuous winds, sun, warm and shallow water; makes this an ideal spot for all levels.

Kitesurf
Be adventurous and try kite surfing on the coast of Atlantis located on the southwest corner of the island. Kites of intense color will elevate you to surf the air and enjoy other sensations. Fresh trade winds offer the perfect ambiance to kite surf all year round.

Cycling
This is the most popular way to tour the island. More than 30 kilometers of trails, blue stones will guide you through bike paths. Cyclists can also explore on their own or through guided bike paths in Washington Slagbaai National Park, Rincon Washikemba and South of the island.

Kayak
Kayaking is a nice way to explore mangroves, the protected wetlands for their biological richness and migratory birds. The guide will give information on this delicate eco-system.

Caves
There are many caves in Bonaire but only three are open to the public. Make time and explore ancient stalactites and stalagmites and scuba in their little opening to discover magical eco-systems that exist in these caves. Tour Guide necessary!

Climbing
For those who are looking for adventure and can’t live without altitude and want a shot of adrenaline; Bonaire offers limestone cliffs to climb and repel. Brandaris in Washington Slagbaai National Park is one of the easiest hills to climb. Reach the top and enjoy a complete panoramic view of the entire island at 241 meters.

More information on activities visit www.tourismbonaire.com
A HOME FAR FROM HOME

Our visitors will always find the accommodations they desire whether looking for a room in a luxury hotel, resort, an apartment or private villa. The island is pleased to offer a variety of choices for the whole family. The majority of our hotels are beachside and most have their own activity centers and run their own dive operations.

Apartment and villas offer paradise accommodations, equipped to make you feel at home. Envision yourself relaxed in a hammock enjoying a sunset or taking part in a happy hour.

All your dreams will become reality in our tranquil accommodations in beautiful Bonaire. You will always feel like part of our family.

For more information on accommodations visit our website: www.tourismbonaire.com/where-to-stay

Get to know the real pleasure of eating in BONAIRE

We recommend our restaurants, featuring award winning regional and international chefs who add their personal touch for your ultimate eating experience.

Bonaire also has its Bonaire Culinary Team that competes yearly at the Taste of the Caribbean. Winning gold and silver awards.

Bonaire’s diverse ethnicities will delight your palate. Dutch cuisine, French, Italian and more reinforce our islands gastronomy.

You CANNOT leave the island without tasting our goat and iguana stew, also two of our main local dishes Funchi and Tutu. Visit our ice cream and pastry shops to finish your culinary experience.

And at any time of the day pick up a “Blond beer” Bonaire’s own beer which will quench your thirst. Or visit the Cadushy Distillery in Rincon to try a cactus liquor.

For more information visit our website and check the restaurants: www.tourismbonaire.com/dining
BONAIRE

National Marine Park (BNMP)

Bonaire has a long standing tradition of marine preservation that starts with the protection of the turtle (1961), harpoon fishing also prohibited (1971), and the protection of their coral reef (1975), amongst many environmental measures. In 1979 the Bonaire National Marine Park was created. All users of the park are required to pay a fee put forth by law. Dive tags can be purchased at your Dive shop or operator of choice. The collection of this “tag” started in 1992 and today is a symbol of Bonaire’s nature protection and divers proudly display them.

Points of interest:
- starts at high tide and goes for 60 meters deep around the island
- each dive site is marked by its name on a yellow stone
- every 700 meters there are buoys for anchoring of boats
- Klein Bonaire is part of the marine park and is dive site number 90

STINAPA

STINAPA is the foundation for protection of the Washington Slagbaai National Park and the Bonaire National Marine Park. Visit their website to obtain more information: www.stinapa.org

Washington Slagbaai National Park

Refuge to wild life, iguanas, donkeys and parrots. Salt lake Gotomeer with different bird types is also the flamingos’ sanctuary.
Very few places in the world meet the perfect conditions to dive like in Bonaire. Its warm and crystal clear water are the most beautiful blue. Its marine life is one of the most spectacular in the world and its corals are protected by the first marine park in the Caribbean.

Bonaire offers various dive packages including car rentals, which will allow you to dive at any time of the day or night. There are 54 dive sites around the island marked by yellow stones. Amongst other 26 located on the island of Klein Bonaire, just a short boat ride away from the mainland.

To dive you must be certified, dive tags are valid for a calendar year, attend a safety meeting and “do” one orientation dive. Then you can choose your site, your equipment and “realize” why Bonaire is considered the ideal place to dive. Bonaire is also great for beginner divers.

Another 3 sites on the Eastern side where the waves are rougher, recommended for advanced divers.

26 more dive sites around the island of Klein Bonaire are marked in letters on the map and are only accessible by boat.

The North side of the island is mountainous making the dive platform short and just a few meters from the close shoreline walls of sponges and corals.

But the Southside of the island is a bit plainer making the sea floor less hilly and in some places there are two parallel rows of corals forming a valley of white sand between them.

In Klein Bonaire the wall descends to an abysmal depth.

Dives in Bonaire are sensational. No matter how you get there whether by car or boat. There will always be a memorable moment that will always remain with you.
Bonaire is known internationally for being the best spot to dive on the coast. In the last years it has become the ideal spot for technical dives. Bonaire has all the logistical conditions on land and is diversified enough in its dive sites that you can obtain your dive certificate and training unlike any other place in the Caribbean.

SCUBA TECH SUPPORT:
View www.tourismbonaire.com for more information on technical diving operators

Tech Dive sites:
- **Buddy Reef**: Ideal for practices, dive certifications and courses. “Trimix” up to 45 meters.
- **Hilma Hooker**: Submerged boat on South end of island. 27 to 30 meters of depth and 80 meters in longitude.
- **Red Slave**: South end of island. Depth is ideal at 40 to 70 meters and there are 7 anchors from the slave era, which are about 400 years old.
- **Klein Bonaire**: This island also known as, “little Bonaire”, is directly in front of the mainland just a short boat ride away. Its wall is steep and spectacular with as much depth as you want.
- **Munk’s Haven**: On the other side of Klein Bonaire you will find a second reef. Depth is between 40 to 60 meters.
- **La Dania’s Leap and Karpata**: Classic walls to Bonaire. Depth is between 40 to 70 meters. If you want to dive both walls best bet is to take a boat since it is a drift dive.
- **Windjammer**: The cherry on top for advanced divers who like to see shipwrecks. Its history is incredible. A steel cargo ship rests between 54 to 61 meters deep and it is split in half. If trained and certified you can go inside. Decompression is along the wall of the reef that is 45 to 60 meters long.

Without a doubt Bonaire is the ideal destination to tech dive. Put it on your bucket list. You will be dazzled with the logistical ease and support as well as its beauty and exciting experiences.

We are waiting for you…

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**Bonaire Ambassadors**, Once a Visitor Always a Friend!

Bonaire recognizes its visitors that have been visiting Bonaire year after year. Bonaire’s tourism consists mainly of 40% return visitors. Therefore the importance of letting our return visitors know how special they are to Bonaire is key and that with this recognition they become official Ambassadors. The Bonaire Ambassadors program recognizes Bonaire’s loyal visitors with an official certificate and ambassador medal. Are you an ambassador? Apply Now! www.tourismbonaire.com/bonaire-ambassadors

**HONOR to whom honor is due**

It is well known that Captain Don Stewart is considered the founder of our dive industry in Bonaire and the leader of the island’s environmental conservation especially of its marine eco-system.

Captain Don founded the Bonaire Marine Park and led the charge for the preservation of its reefs. When he arrived in Bonaire in 1962 he wrote, “It’s a fantastic underwater island”. Soon demonstrating to the world that he was right.

Today Bonaire is recognized as one of the top 10 places for scuba diving. Thanks to his efforts and the many people who understood the importance of his words. Captain Don passed away in May 2015 in Bonaire, the place he called home since his arrival.

In Bonaire we are very proud of Captain Don and honored him with a “Lifetime Achievement Award.”

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**BONAIRE TECH, Your next destination**

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FREE DIVING

So much more than snorkeling

Is your passion exploring the sea? Have you tried snorkeling and are looking to submerge yourself a bit more without heavy equipment? Then we invite you to discover Free Diving!

Free diving is the most natural and relaxing way and truly the sportiest way to submerge yourself into the sea. Free diving has had rapid development these last few years. We have a few schools on the island that teach this exciting sport step by step.

Bonaire is one of the most complete places to explore the possibilities for educational development and practices for free diving for all levels. Calm, tropical, crystal clear water all year round and depths accessible from the coastline are just a few reasons.

“Free diving in Bonaire is an extraordinary experience of connection with yourself and the ocean” Carlos Coste. Deepsea free diving school and training center Bonaire. Carlos is a world class free diver and record holder.

CORAL FARM,
an example to follow

Bonaire is one of the first to associate itself with the “restoration” of corals. This program was initiated in 2012 to protect and restore the most beautiful corals in the Caribbean for many generations to come.

Thanks to a permit given by the islands counselors and under the supervision of Bonaire National Park, Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire (CRFB) was able to collect some fragments belonging to different genotypes of coral. Staghorn and Elkhorn to transfer to coral farms located in more shallow waters. The largest coral farm is in Klein Bonaire; public access is limited.

Other farms for growing, development and training for volunteers are located in front of the resorts that support the cause; Buddy Dive, Harbour Village and Eden Beach.

Thanks to this initial program there are now second and third generations of coral. This means that CRFB has been able to populate farms that now house over 9000 corals.

After about eight months in the farm the healthiest and most mature corals are strategically transplanted promoting genetic diversity to the compromised sections of reefs. These are the restored spots.

Divers visiting the island are welcome to take part in the spectacular effort as volunteers gain a truly gratifying experience. A program is developed in a few days and includes technical sessions, practice workshops, three dives that teach how to work in the farms and lastly, how to transplant corals.

Trained divers can choose one or more days to volunteer according to their availability.

The program offers options for those that want to be part of this movement from a distance. Adopt a coral, a tree from a coral farm or a section to restore. All of these options are wonderful and direct ways to contribute something back to our marine eco-system.

Bonaire will keep making efforts to make sure that its reefs remain as they are for the delight of divers and lovers of the sea that keep coming back to the island.

Info@crfb.org – www.crfbonaire.org
Bonaire is a unique destination with unmatched visibility between 18 and 30 meters of distance. Sunny days make up a major part of the year and an abundant and serene sea life. Although reefs are protected, cared for and restored, divers can still get close enough to enjoy their beauty.

All reasons that make this marine paradise perfect for you and your photography. So if photography of sea life is your passion come capture the most incredible images in our depths on the island.

Sea life photography in Bonaire is simple due to our environmental conditions. It is undoubtedly number one in microphotography at all dive sites; its varied, abundant, colorful and there are very little if no currents. But if your choice is wide-angle images you can also get the greatest pictures of turtles, stingrays, shoals and sunken ships. You can get as close as you want as natural light reaches up to 20 meters. Count on the best visibility for your favorite objects.

Or you can take beautiful pictures of the many landscapes, flora and fauna when you are exploring the island.

Bonaire is a favorite for birdwatchers. With over 200 species of birds living on the island, Washington Slagbaai National Park and Pekelmeer are two of the most popular locations to spot Bonaire’s two legged feathered friends. Bonaire’s birds can be classified into three categories: shore birds, seabirds and land birds The best place to watch Bonaire’s feathered symbol, the flamingo, is at the island’s salt ponds in the National Park, at Goto Meer or at the southern end of the island at the Pekelmeer Sanctuary. The flamingos can be seen from the road, it is important to keep your distance and not disturb the birds.

Bonaire has the pleasure of welcoming many cruise lines to the island such as: Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Holland America Line, AIDA Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, and Carnival Cruise Lines, just to name a few.

Bonaire LookBook App

Download the Bonaire LookBook and you’ll imagine yourself in the warm sunshine. Enjoy the beautiful pictures. Below and above water. It gives an excellent impression of the island. This free app is available in English and Dutch and is available for Android and Apple.