Discover the Unique Culture, Cuisine & Heritage of Curaçao
With its pristine dive sites, secluded beaches, and rich local cuisine, Curaçao offers a little something for everyone. Located less than 50 miles off the coast of Venezuela, tucked away on the outer fringes of the hurricane belt, the island of Curaçao is often referred to as the Caribbean’s “Hidden Treasure”.

Small but sophisticated, rich with history and culture, Curaçao has attracted divers for years because of its stunning coral reefs. The island boasts more than 65 distinct dive sites and 35 beaches. Curaçao’s European influence is evident in its colorful Dutch architecture showcased in the unique capital city of Willemstad, declared a UNESCO World Heritage City. Curaçao thrives with local flavor - including a well-documented Jewish history. Most of the island’s residents speak Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu, a rich indigenous dialect.

Visiting Curaçao is an unforgettable experience, a treat for the discerning and refined cultural explorer who aspires to unwrap new discoveries around the globe.
Welcome – Bon Bini – to the island where it is summer year round and you will always feel at home. A Caribbean island of azure-blue bays, rich cultural heritage and characteristic pastel-colored historic buildings.

Willemstad’s top tourist attractions are the Handelskade, the ever-bustling floating market and the old pontoon bridge (known to locals as "The Old Swinging Lady"). Curaçao is the island of pristine, white beaches and sparkling blue waters, enjoying a tropical climate with unique flora and fauna. Come and discover for yourself why Willemstad is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

This brochure will serve to provide you with a variety of useful information and wonderful tips for your trip to Curaçao.

Begin your trip on www.curacao.com or call toll free 1.800.328.7222

We are excited to soon welcome you to Curaçao. “Bon Bini!”

Why Curaçao?

The island of Curaçao is a unique destination in many ways! We invite you to discover magnificent bays, spectacular dive sites, varied marine life, crystal-clear waters, distinctive colonial architecture and a comprehensive calendar of events. Swing to the rhythm of the compelling Caribbean music, experience the island’s diversity and sample our local and international cuisine. Get ready to experience the very best of Curaçao.

Unique Bays
• More than 35 white sandy beaches
• Diversity, from intimate bays to lively stretches of beaches
• Family-friendly beaches

Diving Paradise
• More than 65 internationally recognized dive sites
• Variety of shore and boat dive options
• Pristine underwater nature reserves
• Curaçao Underwater Marine Park
• Authentic ship wrecks
• Impressive colorful coral reef formations
• Healthy marine life
• Professional and qualified dive-operators
• Curaçao Sea Aquarium with a Dolphin Academy
15 facts

1. Population: 150,000.
2. Location: Southern part of the Caribbean Sea. Curaçao is located between the islands of Aruba and Bonaire, just 35 miles north of Venezuela.
3. Total surface area: 444 sq. km/171.4 Sq Miles 64 km/ 40 miles long and 16 km/ 10 miles wide.
5. Four Languages: Papiamentu, English, Dutch and Spanish.
6. Discovered: 1499 by the Spaniards.
7. Dutch territory as of 1634.
9. Oldest Synagogue in the Western Hemisphere in continued use the Mikvé Israel-Emanuel (1651).
10. Major industries include tourism, oil, and offshore banking.
11. Self-governing as of December 15, 1954
12. Average Temperature of 27ºC / 80ºF
13. Religion: predominantly Catholic (80%) Others: Jewish, Protestant and Muslim.
14. Currency: The Netherlands-Antillean Guilder, abbreviated as ’NAfl.’ Or ’ANG.’ Fixed exchange rate of US $1 = NAfl. 1.77
Clothing
Since temperatures are warm throughout the year, light, casual tropical wear is recommended. When outdoors, protect yourself from the sun. Locals dress fashionably, particularly for indoor evening events, while Curaçao fashion for outdoor festivals is decidedly casual. Some restaurants prohibit shorts or sandals and some casinos also require jackets for men. If you plan on hiking in the countryside, wear sturdy shoes and long pants to protect your legs from the cacti and mosquitoes.

Drinking Water
Not only is Curaçao water safe to drink, it is of the finest quality. Since 1928, a seawater distillery has produced top quality drinking water for the island. It contains no chloride and little calcium, is tasteless, odorless and has a good bacteriological composition.

Wheelchair Accessibility
Facilities and supplies for the physically disabled are present and available on-island. Hotels such as Suncsape Curaçao, Resort, Spa & Casino, Lions Dive & Beach Resort, Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort Hilton Curaçao, Veneto Casino Holiday Beach Resort, Curaçao Plaza Hotel, Dophin Suites and the Avila Hotel are just a few that offer adapted rooms. Wheelchairs can be rented at the White-Yellow Cross foundation (official name in Dutch “Wit-Gele Kruis Foundation”). For personalized beds and walkers, contact an organization called ‘Nos Orkon.’

Climate
Located in the tropics, just 12° north of the Equator, Curaçao has a warm, sunny climate year round. The average temperature is about 27° C (in the mid 80s F). Cooling trade winds blow constantly from the east, picking up in the spring months. The rainy season, between October and February, is usually marked by short, occasional showers at night and sunny weather during the day. Total annual rainfall averages only 570 mm (22 inches).

Language
Many languages are spoken in Curaçao. Dutch is the official language, but English and Spanish are also widely spoken. Papiamentu is Curaçao’s local and native language and is a mixture of seven different languages. (A Creole mixture of Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, English, African and Arawak Indian). Historians believe that Papiamentu, derived from the Spanish word “papear” (meaning to speak or converse) originated in the 17th century as means of communication between slaves, hailing from various African regions, and their Portuguese masters. Unlike other Creole languages, Papiamentu is spoken through all levels of society.
Public Transport
Curaçao offers two kinds of public transportation: the public buses, called ‘Konvooi,’ are inexpensive and dedicated routes cover most of the island. For the more urban routes visitors can make use of the many collective cars or vans called ‘bus’ (they have BUS on their license plates). The main bus terminals are located in Punda (near the post office) and in Otrobanda (behind the Brion Square / Police Station). The large ‘Konvooi’ buses cover 12 routes departing from the terminal located in Punda, and nine routes departing from the terminal in Otrobanda. These routes cover most parts of the island, and connect visitors to attractions such as beaches, shopping areas, and parks. The cost is around $1 depending on the route chosen.

Taxis
Taxis on the island are easily identifiable by the taxi sign on top of the cab and the letters TX on the license plate. Taxi-drivers carry identification badges and their vehicles operate with established meters. Taxi stands can be found at the airport, in Punda (main street), in Otrobanda (near the pontoon bridge) and at most of the hotels.

Joseph Cares - Wheelchair Rental
Joseph Cares specializes in Services and equipment rental for tourists with special needs, including high-low beds (electric), hoists (electric), shower- and toilet seats, mobility scooters, foldable wheelchairs, beach-wheelchairs, crutches and walkers.

Car Rental
Curaçao has many car rental agencies. Car rental desks can be found at the airport and major hotels on the island. Renting requires a credit card and valid driver’s license. Curaçaoans drive on the right-hand side of the road. The speed limits in the city and residential areas are 45 km per hour (28 mph), with a maximum speed of 60 – 80 km per hour (37 – 50 mph) outside the city and on the four-lane ring road.

Safety & Security
Curaçao is a safe Caribbean destination. However, visitors are encouraged to use common sense and take standard safety precautions. Car doors and hotel doors should remained locked at all times and valuables should not be left unattended in hotel rooms. Most hotels have safety vaults for this reason. It is recommended that visitors do not take valuables to the beach or wander off alone late at night.
Telecommunication
- United Telecom Services (UTS)
  (+5999) 869 0747
  www.uts.an
- Digicel
  (+5999) 736 1056
  www.digicelcuracao.com

Hospital
- Sint Elizabeth Ziekenhuis
  Breeestraat 193
  (+5999) 462 5100
  www.stelisabethhospital.com

Wheelchair rental and transportation
- Nos Orkon
  (Home and special care)
  Schottegatweg Noord 24
  Gosico Unit C
  (+5999) 738 2200
  mail@nosorkon.com
- Wit Gele Kruis
  (wheelchair rental)
  Sta. Maria 17
  (+5999) 868 2344
  www.witgelekruis.com
- Fuphafi
  (special transportation)
  Sta. Rosaweg 163
  (+5999) 434 3786
  After 17.00 hrs:
  (+5999) 736 5967
- Transhende
  (special transportation)
  (+5999) 738 7100
  (+5999) 562 2416
- Joseph Cares
  Rooseveltweg 505-D
  (+5999) 868 4499
  www.josephcares.com

In case of emergency
- Ambulance
  911
- Police
  912
- Fire department
  911
- Coastguard
  913

Taxi
- Curacao Taxi & VIP Services
  (+5999) 465 9292
  www.curacaotaxi.com
- Thirty Steps Taxi
  Association Yellow Cab Services
  (+5999) 540 0094
  www.taxicuracao.com

Car rental
- Avis
  (+5999) 839 1500
  www.aviscuracao.com
- Budget Car Rental
  (+5999) 868 3466
  www.curacao-budgetcar.com
- Hertz
  (+5999) 888 0088
  www.curacaocarrental.com
- National Car Rental
  (+5999) 869 4433
  www.nationalcuracao.com
- Thrifty Car Rental
  (+5999) 461 3089
  www.thrifty-curacao.com
History
The island was discovered in 1499 by Alonso de Ojeda, a lieutenant of Christopher Columbus. The local inhabitants were Indians of enormous physique which is why the Spaniards referred to the island as ‘Isla de los Gigantes’ (island of the Giants). The name “Curaçao” made its appearance on a Portuguese map not more than twenty years later. The island remained Spanish until the Dutch conquered it in 1634. At the end of the 17th century until the beginning of the 19th century, the island changed hands from the English settlers, to the Dutch. The French attempted to conquer the island as well, and came close, but after a sizeable payoff the French left Curaçao. In 1815, the Netherlands regained control of Curaçao, which at that moment was in the hands of the English (since 1807).

The “colonial” status of Curaçao and the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles changed in 1954 when the Netherlands Antilles became fully self-governing within the Dutch Kingdom.

On October 10, 2010, Curaçao gained autonomy, becoming its own country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Since then, the Dutch continue to oversee elements of Curaçao’s foreign policies, while the constellation previously known as the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist.

Origins of the name “Curaçao”
There are different theories for the origins of the word “Curaçao” (pronounced kyur uh sow). The most likely story stems from the Spanish calling the island “Corazon” (heart). Portuguese mapmakers adopted this word into their own language as “Curaçau” or “Curaçao.” Today, locally, the island is known as “Dushi Korsou” (delightful, sweet Curaçao).

Willemstad
The capital city of Willemstad is divided in two sections, the Punda and Otrobanda sides, connected by the Queen Emma pontoon bridge. Both sections provide visitors with duty-free shopping. Willemstad has a population of 150,000, comprised of 55 nationalities. In 1997, the historic city center of Willemstad was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status, one of just six Caribbean sites chosen because of its “outstanding value and integrity, which illustrates the organic growth of a multicultural community over three centuries, and preserves to a high degree significant elements.”

Mikvé Israël-Emanuel Synagogue
In the early part of the 18th century, the Jewish population in Curaçao totaled 2,000 inhabitants. In 1732, the community founded the Mikvé Israël-Emanuel Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the western hemisphere. Services are on Friday evenings (18:00) and Saturday mornings (10:00). Those who call in advance are welcome to attend a service. The synagogue can also be visited when no services are held. Appropriate clothing is required.
Why Curacao?

Museums
The island’s cultural heritage is carefully preserved in a range of museums and galleries. You will find a collection of traditional and contemporary art, history, religion, and much more from local and international artists.

Curacao Museum
Located in the Western part of Otrobanda, the Curacao Museum is housed in a colonial building and conveys an air of authenticity. In the museum, Curacao’s geological history is displayed, as well as pre-Colombian Indian artifacts, maps and charts of America and the Caribbean region. Professions practiced after the abolition of slavery, their beliefs and mode of living, a traditional plantation kitchen, antique mahogany furniture (18th and 19th century) and paintings by local and international artists.

Fort Church Museum
Fort Church is the oldest church on the island (1769) and is a monument within the Fort Amsterdam walls. The museum houses a small elegant collection of artifacts from the church’s Dutch Protestant congregation, such as antique silver chalices, a mahogany and silver baptismal font and an antique mahogany “bible table,” formerly used in “land houses”. The museum also showcases documentation of the island’s most notable families, as well as an impressive collection of historic maps.

Kas di Pal’i Maishi
Kas di Pal’i Maishi is a traditional adobe house with a latched roof built 130 years ago. It illustrates the way the Afro-Curaçaoan rural population of Curacao lived up to 1950. The method of construction dates back to before the year 1700 and coincides with the arrival of the enslaved Africans. Inside is a small museum with typical household artifacts from the past. Local food is served at lunchtime in the backyard.

Kura Hulanda Museum
The forced relocation of Africans to the Americas and the Caribbean by Europeans from the 17th to the 19th centuries changed the face of the world. Museum Kura Hulanda is situated at the city-center harbor of Willemstad, where Dutch entrepreneurs once traded and shipped enslaved Africans along with other “commercial goods.” This museum impressively exhibits the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in its totality, from slave capture in Africa through the Middle Passage and the relocation in the New World. The museum Kura Hulanda reveals how African and other diverse cultural heritages have influenced modern society.

Tele Museum
This small museum is located in one of the most remarkable buildings in the heart of Punda. The permanent exhibition gives an overview of the developments of telecommunication in Curacao, from the introduction of the telephone in the 1880’s to the late 20th century inventions of fiber optic cables, computerization and tele-conferencing. The museum is owned and operated by the island’s telecommunications company, UTS.
Maritime Museum
Curaçao owes its existence to the sea. Its location and natural harbor have made it a major seafaring and commercial center from early in its history. The museum’s interior harmoniously unites the age-old maritime history and modern design in a historic 17th century building spectacularly restored to its former glory. The museum is located in a mansion built in 1729 on the Waagat inlet just behind the famous floating market in downtown Willemstad. Exhibits include antique miniatures, 17th century ship models and maps, some even dating back to 1500.

Numismatic Museum
The Museum Exhibition illustrates the evolution of the Antillean currency, advancing from barter deals, to the use of coins from different countries, and finally, to the issuance of national currency from the Netherlands Antilles. It is owned and operated by the Bank of the Netherlands Antilles.

Postal Museum
This picturesque museum features a complete collection of stamps from the Netherlands Antilles and other countries, as well as related artifacts such as old post boxes and scales. It is located in Punda’s oldest building, dating from 1693. The historic building was meticulously restored in the early 1990’s. A special exhibit of themed stamps from around the world changes four times a year.

Historic Land houses
Dotted across the landscape of Curaçao are a number of characteristic land houses. Curaçao’s “Landhuizen” built in the 18th and 19th centuries, were formerly used as plantation houses. Each land house has its own story and is cherished as an important link to a distant past. A number of these 55 skillfully restored land houses are open to the public.

Landhuis Brakkeput Mei Mei
The name ‘Brakke Put’ means a well with brackish water. The plantation was used as a cattle ranch and as a source to grow corn and beans for a food supply for the cattle and slaves who worked there. Today Landhuis Brakkeput Mei Mei is home to a local restaurant. Each weekend they feature live music and the terraces are available for parties, receptions, musical concerts and performances.

Landhuis Brievengat
This land house dates back to 1750 and is one of the largest and most prominent monuments. An impressive 2 sq miles mark where aloë was cultivated and cattle were bred. The plantation was abandoned after being destroyed by a hurricane in 1877. Later, the estate was acquired by Shell to be used for water provision. In 1954 Shell donated the land house to the island government of Curaçao.
Landhuis Dokterstuin
This land house, restored in 1996, is in the neighborhood of Landhuis Ascension on the road to Westpunt (Western side of the island). Plantation Dokterstuin was in use in the 17th century, with the land house built at the end of the 18th century. In the second half of the 19th century it was owned by the government, which leased small plots of the land to former slaves. In this way they hoped to stimulate the island’s agriculture. There is a local restaurant on the property, serving authentic Caribbean fare. Restaurant Komedor Krioyo in Landhuis Dokterstuin serves creole meals.

Landhuis Zeelandia
The beautifully located colonial home Zeelandia was never an actual plantation home, but was more of a country retreat for the elite townspeople. The house was completed in two parts during the second half of the 18th century. The oldest part of the house consists of a cross-shaped pavilion directing towards the wind. The original entrance is at the west, in the middle of the building.

Landhuis Daniel
Plantation Daniel was established around 1650. Tradition states that it was built by a castaway who washed ashore on St. Daniel’s Day. According to others, the plantation was named after Daniel Ellis, an Englishman employed by the Dutch West Indian Company, who built the plantation house in the first half of the 1700s, making it one of the oldest, existing plantation houses of Curaçao. Today, Landhuis Daniel offers apartments for rent when vacationing in Curaçao and a special dining experience at Restaurant Daniel in a rural, relaxed environment.

Landhuis Ascension
The Ascension plantation was founded in 1672. The plantation is located on the grounds of a former Indian village. The high location of the unique colonial home serves as an optimal utilization of the northeast trade-winds, but also has strategic interests. The neighboring colonial homes were also within eyesight, which was important in times of revolt so that people could warn each other of coming dangers. For this purpose also, an iron eye was placed in the top gable in which a torch could be burned. It now belongs to the Royal Dutch Navy and serves as a center for navy activities and events. Every first Sunday of the month Ascension is open to public.

Landhuis Kenepa / Knip
Land house Kenepa was named after the fruits of the Kenepa tree. The country house dates back to the beginning of the 18th century. It was once one of the most prosperous plantations on the island producing divi-divi seed-pots and sheep’s wool. This colonial home is an important monument in the history of Curaçao, as this was the site of the largest slave rebellion in Curaçao’s history on August 17, 1795. Today the plantation house serves as a unique museum: the “Tula Museum.” Museo Tula has samples of the daily lives of our African ancestors and showcases a large collection of Curaçao’s African heritage both during and after the slavery period.
Landhuis Chobolobo
The Chobolobo Mansion or Country Estate was built in the early 1800’s. Since 1946, Chobolobo has housed the distillery Senior Co, which produces the famous Blue Curaçao liqueur. During the guided tour of the distillery you can witness how the world famous ‘Blue Curaçao’ has been distilled using traditional methods for more than 100 years. Naturally, you can also sample the liqueur here. Highly recommended!

Landhuis Habaai (today Gallery Alma Blou)
Built at the beginning of the 18th century, this monument is one of the oldest on the island. This mansion started out as a plantation home and was converted to a country residence and later into a boarding school. Luckily, its architecture remains intact until today. The central part is flanked by front and back galleries. Above both the central part and the galleries is a complete second floor, crowned by an attic. The northeastern wing was added in the 19th century. Today Landhuis Habaai serves as the Art Gallery (Gallery Alma Blou) and Cultural Center. The terrace is used to host cultural events such as concerts, book and poetry readings, presentations and receptions.

Landhuis Bloemhof
Landhuis Bloemhof is located on one of the smaller plantations of the island. The main building (1735) is now a vibrant meeting place for art lovers. Exhibitions, lectures and creative workshops are ongoing in this inspiring ambiance surrounded by select antique furniture. The adjacent wing which formerly housed stables and barns has been remodeled and now contains an archive, library and reading room dedicated to the arts, as well as the former studio of May Henriquez.

Forts
From the occupation of Curaçao in 1634 until the end of World War II, the Dutch never felt completely safe on the island. First they were threatened by Spain, then by France and then by England. For centuries the island also had to contend with privateers and pirates. No wonder the Dutch were anxious to build a fort at each vulnerable spot on the island. None of these Curaçao forts could withstand a large-scale attack, but they were very effective against pirates.

Eight of the forts have survived time, wholly or partially. The town wall that used to surround the old center of Punda was almost completely demolished a century ago. Six of the best preserved forts are described in this brochure. Some have been put to use in ways suiting today’s way of life. Some have become hotels, shops, and restaurants. Others were transformed into museums or professional offices. All of them contribute to the preservation of Curaçao’s long, rich history.
Fort Amsterdam
Strategically built on the point (Punda) of the eastern finger of land at the harbor entrance, Fort Amsterdam was named after the Chamber of Amsterdam, a department of the Netherlands West Indies Co, which was in charge of the administration of Curaçao. This fort was built in 1635. Fort Amsterdam is the most important of Curaçao’s eight forts, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Embedded in its southwest wall is a cannonball fired by Captain Bligh’s troops. This fort currently houses the Governor’s residence, the Ministry, the department of Foreign Affairs, several government offices, and the United Protestant Church (Fort Church) which includes a museum.

Fort Beekenburg
Built in 1703 at the Caracas Bay, covering the “Spanish Waters” inner bay, the fort was named after Director van Beek, who planned the city’s defense from 1701 to 1704. The fort warded off pirates as well as the French and English fleets more than once during the 18th century. Fort Beekenburg is one of the best-preserved forts in the entire Caribbean. The fort is built at Caracas Bay, where you can visit the beach and rent water sports equipment.

Fort Waakzaamheid
This smaller fort, with a panoramic view across Otrobanda (Willemstad), was built in 1803 to defend the island against the French invasion. In 1804, it fell victim to a 26-day siege by Captain Bligh of “Mutiny on the Bounty” fame. During World War II, the Americans mounted guns on the walls, and established barracks and an observation post.

Fort Nassau
Named after the Royal House of Orange, this fort was built in 1797 to protect both the St. Anna Bay as well as part of the city of Willemstad. Fort Nassau has been preserved to its original state and for years has served as a harbor signal and control tower, regulating the opening and closing of the Queen Emma pontoon bridge. Fort Nassau has a beautiful view across the harbor and is an excellent place to host a party featuring the unique cuisine of one of Curacao’s leading restaurants.

Waterfort (-arches)
Waterfort was built in 1634 to protect the outskirts of Punda (Willemstad) from hostile attacks by sea. The original structure was replaced in 1827 by an imposing building with 136 turrets and vaults containing stores, stables, and medical services. At that time it accommodated many troops during World War II, featuring coastal and anti-aircraft artillery mounted on the walls. Now the Waterfort hosts a number of fine restaurants, bars, cafés and is quite popular on the weekends.

Riffort
The Riffort was built in 1828 and is located between the harbor entrance, coast and former Rifwater. It was intended to protect the outermost area of the Otrobanda district. Riffort has housed the Authority, Public Works, the police, and the Boy Scouts in the past. Today the Riffort is home to “the Riffort Village,” a shopping center, several restaurants, several bars, an ice-cream and coffee shop, and a terrace overlooking the harbor.
Curaçao’s Cuisine

Curaçao’s culinary offerings are as diverse as its inhabitants. Because much of Curaçao’s food is imported, island visitors enjoy access to international cuisine with a local flavor. Taste the variety of Dutch, Spanish, Creole, Indonesian, and many other flavors. Some local menu features are ‘sòpi’ (soup), ‘stobá’ (stew), ‘keshi yená’ (stuffed cheese) or ‘piská’ (fish) with ‘funchi’ (polenta) made of corn flour with water, salt and butter.

Restaurants on the island offer both international and national cuisine. In addition to 5% sales tax, most restaurants may also charge a 10% service charge.

Good, authentic and reasonably priced food. It’s all possible in Curaçao!

Those who desire to dine on a budget can do so at many places on Curaçao. Here are some suggestions:

1. The old market “Marshe bieuw”
You can sample authentic, local food at Curaçao’s famous old market, Marshe Bieuw, in downtown Willemstad. Hygiene and food quality are excellent, portions are generous, and prices can’t be beat. Seating is strictly first come-first served, at a few small tables or at long counters. Each stand is independently operated. Be sure to see the small paintings depicting rural life of old times adorning the vents above the cooking areas.

2. Truk’i pan (Sandwich Truck) and Sněks
These small trucks can be found throughout the island virtually around the clock. They serve a variety of local dishes consisting of meat, chicken and fish with rice, beans, fries or bread.

3. Chinese Restaurants
There are a number of Asian restaurants on the island where visitors can enjoy Chinese and Cantonese food at a low cost.

4. Fast Food chains
The most popular fast food chains on the island are Pizza Hut, McDonald’s, Burger King, Domino’s Pizza, Denny’s, KFC and Subway.

5. Local Restaurants
Some of the best places to enjoy local cuisine include:

- The Old Market (Punda)
- Komedor Krioyo at Landhuis Dokterstuin
- Jaanchie’s Restaurant (Westpoint)
- Awa di Playa restaurant (Piscadera)
6. Bars en Cafés
Curaçao has plenty of bars and cafés where guests can enjoy a refreshing drink and warm hospitality. Many hotels and bars host happy hours every evening!

Relax the curaçaoan way!

Our Language

A few words in Papiamentu
Curaçao is a melting pot of more than 55 nationalities including Jewish, Portuguese, Dutch, African and South American. Although Curaçao inhabitants speak fluent English, Spanish and Dutch, visitors are encouraged to learn a few simple sentences in the native and local language, Papiamentu.

Try to memorize these...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Papiamentu</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bon dia</td>
<td>Bon deea</td>
<td>Good morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bon tardi</td>
<td>Bon tardi</td>
<td>Good afternoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bon nochi</td>
<td>Bon nochi</td>
<td>Good evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awe</td>
<td>Ahway</td>
<td>Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayera</td>
<td>Ahyeeraa</td>
<td>Yesterday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danki</td>
<td>Dahnkee</td>
<td>Thanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bon</td>
<td>Bon</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dushi</td>
<td>Doothee</td>
<td>Kind, sweet, tasty, also ‘darling’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bon Biní</td>
<td>Bon Beenie</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kon ta bai?</td>
<td>Contabye</td>
<td>How are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mi ta bon,</td>
<td>Meetabon,</td>
<td>Very well,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danki</td>
<td>Dahnkee</td>
<td>Thank you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kon bo yama?</td>
<td>Konboyama?</td>
<td>What is your name?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kon ta bo</td>
<td>Kontubo</td>
<td>What is your name?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number</td>
<td>number?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our holidays & events

From the beginning of Carnival (January) until the New Year’s fireworks on December 31, Curaçao’s calendar is packed with festivities and events for both locals and visitors to the island. During Carnival and Christmas the festive mood reaches an all-time high! The island is decorated everywhere with colorful ribbons, balloons and other decorations. During national and school holidays beaches are pleasantly busy.

Carnival (January until February/March)
This is the island’s largest and most important cultural event. The Curaçao Carnival brings together more than 40 ethnic groups in one flamboyantly colorful celebration. Curaçao’s Carnival season begins early in January with the Tumba Festival and ends the day before Ash Wednesday. Each year during the Grand Parade, tourists are invited to join the marching groups or to watch from a special tourist section.
Visit www.curacaocarnival.info.

Kite season (February through April)
Between Carnival and Easter the trade winds begin to get stronger. On Easter Sunday there is a colorful kiting competition in the parking area near Waaigat in Punda. Visitors will enjoy seeing homemade, colorful kites flying in the Curaçao skies.

Good Friday (March/April, public holiday)
Good Friday is a public holiday in Curaçao and marks the beginning of the weeklong Easter holiday for schools.

Easter period (March/April)
Local children are decked out in their spring finery for the traditional first communion celebrations, which are held between this day and Ascension Day (May).

Seú Folkloristic Harvest Celebration (March/April, public holiday)
On Easter Monday the streets of Otrobanda are home to a Folkloristic colorful Harvest parade, where local folklore groups wearing traditional costumes dance the streets of Otrobanda. This is in remembrance of harvest celebrations of the past. Participants of all ages play traditional musical instruments and dance through the streets.

Curaçao Salsa Tour
This annual music event, which normally takes place in August, brings famous artists together from Latin America and the Caribbean islands for dazzling salsa concerts, shows, competitions, workshops and electrifying performances from the best groups on the worldwide salsa scene.
Slave Uprising Remembrance (17 August)
The 1795 slave uprising, the most important in Curaçao’s history, is remembered with musical and cultural events at the Rif Waterfront, and at Landhuis Kenepa near the western part of the island.

Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival (August/September)
Jazz up your Labor Day weekend with the annual Curaçao’s North Sea Jazz Festival. The festival showcases some of the biggest names in jazz, funk, soul, Latin, and R&B who bring their sizzling, soulful beats on-island in late August and early September. www.curacaonorthseajazz.com

Many of the island’s hotels offer special package deals for the Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival, which can be booked at www.curacaojazzpackages.com or by contacting your local travel agent.

Saint Nicholas Celebration (5 December)
Saint Nicholas from Spain sails into the Sint Anna Bay every year on his sailing ship, accompanied by his goblins called “Zwarte Piet” (Black Peter) and his white horse. Families with small children gather at the Harbor in Punda and Otrobanda to welcome the Saint’s arrival by boat. On St. Nicholas Eve all children place a bucket of water and a shoe filled with hay for St. Nicholas’ big white horse. If they have been good all year, they will wake to find their shoes filled with gifts. Those who haven’t are afraid that the goblins will carry them back to Spain in a sack. So be good!

Christmas (24-26 December, public holidays)
Celebrate two-and-a-half days of family festivities, which formally begin on Christmas Eve, December 24. In Catholic churches a midnight mass is performed.

Fireworks
Between December 27 and 31, hundreds of stalls line the road where fireworks are for sale. This is the only period in which firework sales are permitted in Curaçao. Experience impressive fireworks shows around the island during this time; the loud fireworks known as ‘klapchi,’ with a bigger thunder box or the deafening air bomb and more decorative fireworks like the fountain, exploding star, Roman candle or rockets.

The year ends formally in the afternoon when shops and offices close their doors. Local companies and organizations light enormous rolls of Chinese firecrackers in a sort of friendly competition called “pagara.” At midnight the fireworks display reaches a deafening climax that lasts for at least fifteen minutes and crackles throughout the entire night.

New Year’s Day After the year closes with hours of loud fireworks, locals traditionally visit family and friends on the first day of the New Year.
Museums
• The Jewish Historical Cultural Museum
  (Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagoge)
  Hanchi Snoa 29
  (+5999) 461 1633
  www.snoa.com

• Curacao National Museum
  Van Leeuwenhoekstraat
  (+5999) 462 3873
  www.curacaomuseum.an

• Fort Church Museum
  Fort Amsterdam (Punda)
  (+5999) 461 1139
  www.fortchurchcuracao.com

• Museum Kurá Hulanda
  Klipstraat 9 (Otrabanda)
  (+5999) 434 7765
  www.kurahulanda.com

• Maritime Museum
  Van Den Brandhofstraat 7
  (+5999) 465 2327
  www.curacaomaritime.com

• Numismatic Museum
  Scharlooweg 11
  (+5999) 434 5500
  www.centralbank.an

• Postal Museum
  Kaya Toni Prince (Punda)
  (+5999) 465 8010

• Telecommunication Museum
  Wilhelminaplein 4 (Punda)
  (+5999) 465 2844

• Kas di Pal’I Maishi
  Dokterstuijn 27
  (+5999) 465 2844

• Octagon Museum
  Penstraat 100
  (+5999) 461 4377
  www.avilahotel.com

Land houses
• Landhuis Ascension
  Weg naar westpunt
  (+5999) 864 1950

• Landhuis Bloemhof
  Santa Rosaweg 6
  (+5999) 737 5775
  www.bloemhof.an

• Landhuis Habai
  Frater Radulpusweg 4
  (+5999) 462 8896
  www.galleryalmablou.com

• Landhuis Kenepa / Knip
  Knip z/n
  (+5999) 864 0244

• Landhuis Savonet
  Christoffelpark
  (+5999) 864 0363
  www.carmabi.org

• Landhuis Zeelandia
  Polarisweg 28
  (+5999) 461 6191

• Landhuis Brakkeput Mei-Mei
  Jan Sofat, Spaanse Water
  (+5999) 767 1500
  www.brakkeputmeimei.com

• Landhuis Brievenaat
  Brievenaat
  (+5999) 518 0549

• Landhuis Chobolobo
  Salinja Ariba
  (+5999) 461 3526
  www.curacaoliqueur.com

Forts
• Fort Amsterdam
  Punda

• Fort Beekenburg
  Caracasbaai

• Fort Nassau
  Fort Nassau z/n
  (+5999) 461 3450
  www.fortnassau.com

• Fort Waakzaamheid
  Otrabanda

• The Rif Fort
  Otrabanda
  (+5999) 435 5000
Curaçao has more than 38 unique and diverse beaches. Almost all of Curaçao’s beaches are scattered along the sheltered southwestern coast, where the waters are calm and crystal clear. At some beaches an admission fee is charged, which often includes a beach chair.

**Caracas Bay**
This beach is made of coarse sand and pebbles and is popular for snorkeling and diving as it is part of the underwater park. The beach is popular with locals, as there are several small restaurants, the water is calm, and the admission is free!

**Cas Abao**
Cas Abao offers stretches of white sand, crystal clear waters, waving palm trees and gazebos to hide from the blazing sun. The beach combines a natural country setting with all the conveniences of a full service beach. Cas Abao is ideal for swimmers of all ages and its reefs are a paradise for snorkelers and scuba divers. A raft for sunbathing and playing is moored off the beach. There is a bar, restaurant, showers, massage facility and dive shop.

**Daaibooi Bay**
A small bay close to town, this beach allows for snorkeling along its rocky ledge and has a small fishermen’s cove. Pergolas provide adequate shade and there is also a snack bar that is open both during the week and on the weekend. To the west of the beach, a small trail leads into the countryside.
Playa Abou / Playa Kenepa
These two beautiful coves are among the island’s most popular and beautiful beaches. Intimate Playa Kenepa is partly shaded by manchineel trees. The snack bar is open on weekends. Locals like to camp here during holidays. Larger Playa abou (Big Beach) has several shade pergolas set back from the water and a large snack bar. Admission is free.

Playa Kalki
This small cove is popular for snorkeling and diving, and has a roped-off area with a floating platform. It is located down steep stone steps from the parking area. Halfway between the parking area and the beach is a shaded terrace with a snack bar and dive shop. From Curaçao Playa Kalki, another set of steps leads to the Kura Hulanda Lodge on the bluffs above, which has a restaurant.

Playa Porto Marie
Playa Porto Mari is a beautiful sandy bay on the private estate of Plantages “Porto Mari” on the west coast. Its white coral sand beach, with clear and calm water, is a true paradise for water lovers. The unique “double” reef is easily accessible from the shore, providing a fascinating snorkel and dive site. There is also a dive operator stationed at the beach.

Sea Aquarium Beach / Mambo Beach
This beach is located next door to the Curaçao Sea Aquarium and Dolphin Academy. During the day it is the perfect place for children to play in the shallow water. There are shops and several bars such as Mambo, Cabana, Wet & Wild, Aloha and Blue Oceans, as well as facilities for all water sports. The beach is popular with families and young people at night, especially on the weekend when it is a very crowded hotspot. Concerts and movies are also held on the beach.

Kokomo Beach
Vaersenbaai, now called Kokomo Beach is completely renewed. It has a restaurant, bar and a beach bar. The beach has lounge chairs, a diving platform and plenty of palm trees to provide shade and is free to enter. There are showers and toilets with access for disabled persons. A massage shop, dive school and a small museum can also be found there.

Jan Thiel Beach
Lounge on a beach bed under a palm tree and enjoy the beautiful open bay, which has excellent diving and snorkeling. Jan Thiel Beach is located in a new upscale residential area east of town. With a full service dive operation and children-friendly semi-enclosed wading area and a small waterpark, Jan Thiel is the ideal beach for families. There’s also a restaurant that serves sandwiches, snacks, and drinks on the beach.
Westpunt Bay / Playa Forti
The view from above Playa Forti is a perfect postcard picture, with fishing boats and a panorama of the island’s western tip. Here visitors will find a unique brown sand with tiny smooth pebbles, but very little shade. There are some smaller snack bars and a restaurant at the parking area above Curaçao Playa Forti. This beach has a steep ramp and steps down to the water. Admission is free.

Klein (small) Curaçao
Curaçao’s longest and whitest beach is on Klein Curaçao, an uninhabited island eight miles off the southeast coast. Dive operators and charter boats take passengers out to its oversized volcanic rock for beach parties, cookouts, and fantastic diving. The shore is covered in soft white sand and the water is crystal clear, but there is little shade. The northeastern side has calm water with gentle waves. Many dive operators and sailboat charters host trips to Klein Curaçao and include snorkeling, refreshments, and sometimes a picnic or barbecue lunch.

Curaçao Sea Aquarium
In 1984, Curacao’s underwater world became accessible to everyone. The Curaçao Sea Aquarium was developed directly on the oceanfront with a healthy coral reef only a stone’s throw from the entrance. This beautiful aquarium is one of the most unique in the world because of its ‘open water system’, meaning that sea water is continuously pumped into the aquarium. During feeding time you will be able to touch and learn about the stingrays, sea turtles, sharks and many other types of Caribbean fish. Those not in the mood to get wet, can instead watch divers in action while seated in the Underwater Observatory Boat.

The Dolphin Academy by the Sea Aquarium offers you a rare opportunity to learn more about the Bottlenose Dolphin while standing in the water on a submerged platform. Check out the dolphin shows scheduled on a daily basis. In addition, eight types of dolphin interaction programs are offered.
Boating & Sailing
Enjoy the opportunity to set sail in the warm Caribbean waters surrounding Curaçao. Many companies offer complete packages. How about a sunset trip? Or a full day at sea to Klein Curaçao? Visitors are sure to feel pampered with on board barbecue lunches, the wind blowing through their hair, and beautiful views of Curaçao.

Water Sports
Windsurfing on Curaçao is windsurfing as it was meant to be... on a clear blue sea! Kiteboarding or kitesurfing is the fastest-growing and most exciting water sport in the world. It’s a mix of windsurfing, wakeboarding, surfing and parasailing. It’s also an extreme sport, so it is important to get an introductory course before going solo. Funsport Curaçao provides lessons, from beginner to advanced, in a fun and safe way. Instructors are certified by the International Kiteboarding Organization with standards recognized worldwide. Curaçao has several professional organizations offering great kayaking tours. Each one provides a wide choice in variety – the Spanish Water with its many inlets, sea grass snorkel spots, even full day or sunrise/sunset trips along Curaçao’s coastline.

Top Destination for Divers
Diving in Curaçao is easy. From shore diving to scheduled boat dives around the island, divers can’t stop talking about Curaçao’s underwater beauty. Near the diving spot “Lost Anchor,” at a depth of approximately 20 meters, you’ll find and old anchor, surrounded by elkhorns, pavonas and fan corals in shallow water. The Mushroom Forrest and The Superior Producer are among Curaçao’s top dive sites.

A Selection of Three Premier Diving Areas
Curaçao is surrounded by fantastic dive regions, though the most popular sites are located on the south-west side of the island. These stretch from the West Point to the lighthouse on Cape St. Marie, known as Banda Abao. The central region of Curaçao’s diving area covers the strip between Bull’s Bay and Bapork Kibra. The Curaçao Underwater Park is located between the Sunscape Curaçao Resort and the East Point.
Divers and snorkelers can never stop talking about the beauty of Curacao’s underwater world and with good reason. We know there is no place in the world with such unbelievable shore dives and opportunities to enjoy the wonders of the sea. Curacao snorkeling and diving stretches across 40 different dive zones, covering more than 65 individual sites.

Substation Curacao
Explore The Ocean Depths With Substation Curacao. On the Caribbean island of Curacao anyone can now discover the sea at a depth of 1.000 feet (320meters). Substation Curacao launches the Curasub, the world’s most spectacular certified mini-submarine for tourists. Unlike SCUBA-diving, submarine-diving has no effects of pressure change on the body. This means that people who are unfit to dive because of medical reasons are almost always allowed to dive with the submarine. A tour with the Curasub takes approximately an hour and a half and the price includes a customized engraved USB-stick with all underwater photos taken of the adventure and a t-shirt. Adventure seekers can come along on a night journey to be amazed by the nocturnal life of the underwater world.

Beaches
- Cas Abao Beach
  (+5999) 463 6367
  www.casabaobeach.com
- Mambo Beach
  (+5999) 461 8999
  www.mambocuracao.com
- Playa Kalki
  (+5999) 443 7700
- Playa Porto Marie
  (+5999) 864 7558
  www.playaportomari.com
- Curacao Sea Aquarium
  (+5999) 461 6666
  www.curacao-sea-aquarium.com
- Dolphin Academy
  (+5999) 465 8900
  www.dolphin-academy.com
- Jan Thiel Beach
  (+5999) 747 0633
  www.janthielbeach.com
- Kokomo Beach
  (+5999) 868 0908
  www.kokomo-beach.com

Watersports
- Adrenaline Tours
  (+5999) 767 6241
  www.adrenalinetourscuracao.com
- Bounty Sailing Adventures
  (+5999) 767 9998
  www.bountyadventures.com
- Caribbean Sea Sports
  (+5999) 462 2620
  (+5999) 462 2656
- Cas Abao Beach and Watersports Shop
  (+5999) 462 2656
  www.casabaodiving.com

Fishing
- Bounty Fishing Adventures
  (+5999) 767 9998
  www.bountyadventures.com
**Diving**

- Let’s Fish (+5999) 561 1812  
  www.letsfish.net

- Miss Ann Boat Trips  
  (+5999) 767 1579  
  www.missannboattrips.com

- Dive Center Aquarius (+5999) 461 2248  
  www.divecenteraquarius.com

- Dive Center Scuba Do (+5999) 767 9300  
  www.divecenterscubado.com

- Dive Charter Curacao (+5999) 529 3899  
  www.divechartercuracao.com

- DiveVersity Curacao (+5999) 888 5450  
  www.diveversity.com

- Duikcentrum can de Ven (+5999) 737 2340  
  www.duikcentrumvandeven.com

- Go West Diving (+5999) 864 0102  
  www.gowestdiving.com

- Goby Divers & Watersports N.V (+5999) 662 2853  
  www.goby-divers.com

- Ocean Encounters Diving (+5999) 465 8991  
  www.oceanencounters.com

- Relaxed Guided Dives (+5999) 868 7710  
  www.relaxed-guided-dives.com

- Scuba Lodge & Suites (+5999) 465 2575  
  www.scubalodge.com

- Sublime Diving (+5999) 529 6103  
  www.sublimediving.com

- The Dive Bus (+5999) 693 8305  
  www.the-dive-bus.com

- Trunk Divers (+5999) 868 0663  
  www.trunkdivers.com

- Twin Divers (+5999) 694 9574  
  www.twin-divers.com

- WANT2DIVE (+5999) 661 8558  
  www.want2dive.com

- Substation Curacao (+5999) 465 2051  
  www.substation-curacao.com
Outdoors
Curaçao has fascinating flora and fauna! On the north coast visitors will find rough volcanic rocks, forming a distinct contrast with the calm south coast’s peaceful inner sea, beautiful bays, lagoons and sandy beaches. Curaçao is home to over 500 different species of plants and trees, various cacti types, agaves, aloe and orchids. Spot rare lizards, iguanas, deer and unique bird species.

Hato Caves
The Hato Caves were formed below sea level millions of years ago. After the Ice Age, the water level dropped and Curaçao was formed. The limestone caves at Hato are the largest in Curaçao and cover an area of more than 4,900 m² / 52,000 sq ft. Stalactite and stalagmite formations, can be found, authentic Indian petroglyphs and underground springs with waterfalls. Also inside the Cave is a colony of seldom seen long-nosed fruit bats.

Botanical Gardens and the Curaçao Zoo
The Curaçao Zoo, located on former plantation Cas Cora, is perfect for children. It features tropical plants, trees and flowers. Parke Tropical is home to a variety of monkeys, lions, bears, crocodiles, mammals and birds. There is a nature and environment center where children can learn all about the differences and similarities between the senses of humans and animals. There are two kids playgrounds and a petting zoo to feed animals such as rabbits, donkeys, pigs, goats and sheep.

“Den Paradera” (The Herb Garden of Dinah Veeris)
Den Paradera refers to Paraguiri Indians who long ago had the biggest herb garden on the east side of the island. Upon the arrival of the Spaniards, they brought along slaves to the Paraguiri Indians to be cured and called this site “En Paradera.” The local people eventually changed this name to “Den Paradera” which means “the place where you feel at home.”

Learn about Curacao’s herbs, medicinal cures and traditions as well as the history and customs of the earliest inhabitants. Much of the local vegetation is cultivated and carefully categorized for medicinal use. At the estate is an exhibition about authentic medicine and natural remedies are for sale at the garden. Visit dinahveeris.com or call (011.5999) 767-5608

Look, Ostriches!
The Curaçao Ostrich Farm is not only one of the biggest farms in the Caribbean, but also the biggest outside of Africa. It offers unique perspective of how ostriches live and breed. Take a look around the farm at over 600 of these unique birds or take a guided tour to spot some one-day-old chicks. Hold an Ostrich egg and much more! After the tour buy plain or decorated ostrich eggs or choose from a few other souvenirs. The farm’s Zambezi restaurant serves African style food, including ostrich meat, and South African wines and liquors.
Curaçao boasts an array of nice trails, some unreachable by car and hardly ever visited by the public. Curaçao has an amazing ecology with many “hidden treasures” yet to be discovered. Walk along the rugged northern coast, or enjoy the shade of the trees in the south. Or how about a relaxing stroll around one of our “saliñas” (salt pans), where colonies of pink flamingos can be spotted.

Hó/f_i Pastór
This nature reserve is located near the Barber church on Banda Abou and is renowned for its unique diversity of vegetation, including Curaçao’s oldest tree. The reserve is open daily from 8:00 – 5:00.

Den Dunki National Park
Originally an African slave camp in the late 17th century, the camp was established by Dutch slave traders. During that period the site was used as a holding camp for slaves and a place to allow Africans to regain their health after their long journey from Africa, before being sold into slavery. The slave bridge is one of the few remaining from those times.

Boca Tabla
Located on the rough North coast, Boca Tabla is one of the most spectacular places on Curaçao. The surf, which has pounded the coast for millions of years, has carved an amazingly deep cave under the limestone terrace. A path on the cliff above leads visitors to the brink where experience miles after miles of waves crashing against the shore.

Walking Trails
This is the best place in the island for nature lovers to spot turtles or flamingos and to enjoy nature’s bounty. The bay is not suited to swim in as the water is not clear and is quite shallow. Where the water is deeper there are strong sea currents and waves. This bay is part of land house Ascension and is managed by the foundation Stichting Uniek Curaçao.

Boca Ascension
Christoffel Park
Christoffelpark is the largest national park of Curaçao and a must see for everyone. The park has a rich variety of local flora and fauna. Nature lovers will find the park teeming with local birds and plants, including species which are not easily seen elsewhere on the island. For example wild orchids, the Palabrua, the rare native barn owl, the Curaçao White Tailed deer (of which there are only about 250 left) and much more. There are eight hiking trails, allowing the visitor the choice between an easy stroll, or a more challenging hike to the top of Mt. Christoffel (375 m/ 1,230 ft). The park also organizes special activities including safaris, deer watching, animal presentations, cave excursions, a guided park tour and special trips such as the occasional full moon walks and sunrise safaris. Mountain bikes can also be rented at the park. Besides natural riches, the park also offers much in the way of culture and history. Plantation Savonet is one of the earliest plantations on the island and is one of the most complete plantation complexes, with structures including the plantation house, store houses, dams, wells and much more. It is currently under restoration to provide a glam home for the new Museum Savonet.
Nature
- Hato Caves
  F.D.Rooseveltweg z/n
  (+5999) 868 0379
  www.hatocaves.com

- Parke Tropical
  Curaçao Zoo and Nature Reserve
  Chuchubibweg z/n
  (+5999) 736 0188
  www.parketropikal.com

- Den Paradera
  Dinah Veeris Botanic & Historic Garden
  Seru Grandi Kavel 105-A
  (+5999) 767 5608
  www.dinahveeris.com

- Ostrich Farm
  Santa Catharina
  (+5999) 747 2777
  (+5999) 737 3965
  www.ostrichfarm.com

- CurAloe
  Aloe Vera Plantation Curaçao
  Weg naar Groot St. Joris West z/n
  Aloe Plantation
  (+5999) 767 5577
  www.aloecuracao.com

Walking Trails
- Hòfi Pastór
  Bardber
  (+5999) 863 2207
  www.hofipator.org

- Den Dunki National Park
  Zuurzak
  (+5999) 864 8461
  (+5999) 737 3965
  (+5999) 462 4516

- Shete Boka National Park
  Boka Tabla z/n
  (+5999) 864 0444
  www.carmabi.org

- Christoffelpark
  Savonet z/n
  (+5999) 864 0363
  www.carmabi.org

Activities
Activities

Activities such as diving, mountain biking and windsurfing are available for the daredevils. For those that desire to take it easy, there are exciting safaris, sea canoeing and horseback riding. Curaçao has something for every age and skill level.

Biking in Curaçao

Avid bikers will enjoy the island’s varied landscape and countryside. Most organized trips do not follow the surfaced roads, but take bikers along narrow off-road tracks. Curaçao hosts the annual Amstel Curaçao Race, an international cycling event that draws professionals and enthusiasts from around the world. For more information about being a participant, sponsor, or spectator, visit [www.amstelcuracaorace.com](http://www.amstelcuracaorace.com)

Eric’s ATV Adventures

Eric’s ATV Adventures offers visitors the chance to explore the island on ATV’s (Quads). These trips are suitable for experienced and inexperienced drivers. The only requirement for driving a quad is a driver’s license. Children (from 10 years of age) sit on the back.

Golf

The climate of Curaçao is the ideal atmosphere in which to play golf. Enjoy a round of golf at one of Curaçao’s fantastic championship golf courses.

Helicopter Sightseeing Tours

Blue Skies Helicopters allows visitors a bird’s eye view of Curaçao! Book a spectacular flight above Curaçao and take it all in.

Jeep Safari

Looking for adventure? Take one of the island’s amazing jeep safari tours. Enjoy, explore, have fun, be amazed! There are different packages offered, such as adventurous safaris with lunch or with a visit to the national park. An experienced driver is on hand to guide visitors through Curaçao’s beautiful and rugged scenery by jeep.

Willemstad by Trolley Train

Experience the beauty of Curaçao on a tour that takes you through historic Willemstad. Visit Fort Amsterdam and see the Mikve Israel Emmanuel Synagogue, the oldest in continuous use in the western hemisphere. Along the way see the famous “Wedding Cake House,” the Floating Market and many other interesting sights brought to life. For further information inquire at the reception desk at your hotel or call Atlantis Adventures Curaçao.
Getting Married

Curaçao offers all of the ingredients for an unforgettable wedding: a lovely climate, historical country yards, and beaches shaded by coconut trees surrounded by crystal clear blue waters. Discover the perfect ambiance for any wedding – for couples who desire a beach celebration, or one in an 18th-century church, or at one of the island’s renowned hotels and resorts. To ensure the ceremony is flawless, Curaçao features a variety of accomplished wedding professionals – all of whom can connect couples with the heart and soul of our Caribbean getaway destination. For further information please contact the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Duty-free shopping

Shopping in Willemstad

The city’s commercial center, Punda, has numerous shops with everything from clothing to jewelry, electronics to souvenirs. The Heerenstraat and the Madurostraat are only accessible to pedestrians. The most important shopping area in Otrobanda, the Breedestraat, is very crowded on Saturday mornings so get an early start. On the outskirts of Willemstad, there are some elegant shopping centers such as the Bloempot Shopping Center, Saliña Galleries, Promenade Shopping Center and Zuikertuin Mall.

Most shops accept USD and international credit cards. In some shops you can also pay with your regular bank card. Prices are fixed and most of the time it is not possible to return or exchange purchased goods.

No matter where you go, the salespeople are courteous and attentive and will effortlessly switch between English, Spanish, Dutch, and Papiamentu, sometimes in the same conversation!

Renaissance Mall & Rif Fort:

Find exclusive shopping, the finest restaurants and an exciting nightlife in this area. All this is nestled within and around the historic setting of the Rif fort, a 19th century landmark designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Renaissance Mall & Rif Fort offers 50 stores with world and locally famous brands. Get the latest fashion, accessories, fragrances, jewelry, one of a kind souvenirs and much more at this brand new mall. And with a variety of 15 restaurants and bars, visitors will not go hungry! Whether it’s a cappuccino break, a quick bite, a candlelight dinner for two or a fun night out, it’s all available at Renaissance Mall & Rif Fort.
Buikertuin Mall:
A wide variety of stores, restaurants and entertainment under one roof! The only fully air covered, air-conditioned mall located in a colonial plantation house. Shop at over 25 brand name stores and enjoy excellent restaurants, including an authentic Italian gelateria. Luxurious surroundings are tastefully matched with colonial architecture. At night, Buikertuin Mall features many Dutch bars with live performances.

Curaçao by Night
Pick a passion! Dancing, jazz, island music, tropical libations, or maybe Karaoke? Visitors will find this and more in Curaçao’s entertainment directory. For a complete list of entertainment options, be sure to pick up a K-Pasa Entertainment Guide. Highlights include:

Mambo Beach Bar & Restaurant:
Mambo Beach Bar & Restaurant: One of the ‘places to be’ in Curaçao. The Restaurant serves international cuisine, but for a more casual option, guests may dine at the bar. They organize many concerts with famous artists throughout the year and have plenty of other activities right on the beach.

Adventure/Sports
- Eric’s ATV Adventure
  Bapor Kibra
  (+5999) 524 7418
  www.curacao-atv.com
- Helicopter sightseeing tours
  (+5999) 461 0466
  www.blueskieshelicopters.com
- Wanna Bike
  (+5999) 527 3720
  www.wannabike.com
- Curaçao Actief
  Perseusweg 5
  (+5999) 433 8858
  www.curacao-actief.com

Getting Married
- Special Events Wedding & Party Planner
  (+5999) 463 6139
  www.specialevent-curacao.com
  info@specialevent-uracao.com
- Ban Kasa Wedding & Honeymoon Planner
  www.bankasa.com
  info@bankasa.com
- Curaçao Wedding Services
  (+5999) 463 6207
  www.weddingcuracao.com
  ido@weddingcuracao.com

Golf
- Blue Bay Golf & Beach Resort
  (+5999) 868 1755
  www.bluebaygolf.com
- Curaçao Golf & Squash Club
  Wilhelminalaan z/n
  (+5999) 737 3590
  www.curacaogolf.com
- Old Quarry Golf Course Curaçao
  Santa Barbara Plantation
  (+5999) 840 6886
  www.oldquarrygolfcuracao.com

Jeep Safari
- Curaçao Actief
  Perseusweg 5
  (+5999) 433 8858
  www.curacao-actief.com
- Curaçao Buggy Adventures
  Dr. M.L. King Boulevard
  (+5999) 523 8618
  www.curacaobuggyadventures.com
- Yellow Jeep Safari
  Kaya Beethoven 44
  (+5999) 562 4895
  www.jeep-safari.com

Curaçao at Night
- Bermuda Curaçao Caribbean Discothèque
  Scharlooweg 72-76
  (+5999) 4614685
  www.bermudacuracao.com
- Hooks Hut
  Piscaderabaai
  (+5999) 462 6575
  www.hookshut.com
- Jazziest Sunset: Blues Avila Hotel
  Penstraat 130
  (+5999) 461 4377
  www.avilahotel.com
- Café de Tropen
  Mahaiweg 32
  (+5999) 736 0780
  www.detropen.com
- Mambo Beach Curaçao Sea Aquarium Beach z/n
  (+5999) 461 8999
  www.mambobeach.com
- Grand Café de Heeren
  Zuikertuin Mall
  (+5999) 736 0791
  www.grandcafedehereen.com
- Omundo
  Zuikertuin Mall
  (+5999) 737 3590
  www.omundocuracao.com
- Tutu Tango
  Kaya Jombi Mensing 18 (Zeelandia)
  (+5999) 465 4633
  www.tutu-tango.com
Our accommodations

Curaçao is famous for its warm hospitality and plethora of accommodation choices! Whether staying for a long weekend or a long holiday, the island offers a wide range of accommodations including big international hotel chains, charming small hotels, guest houses, luxurious villas and apartments.
**Hotels**

- Academy Hotel Curacao  
  Prinsenstraat 80  
  (+5999) 461 9319  
  www.academyhotelcuracao.com

- Avila Hotel  
  130 Penstraat  
  (+5999) 461 4377  
  www.avilahotel.com

- Baoase Luxury Resort Curacao  
  Winterswijkstraat 2  
  (+5999) 461 9319  
  www.baoase.com

- Blue Bay Hotel  
  Landhuis Blauw z/n  
  (+5999) 888 8800  
  www.bluebay-curacao.com

- Clarion Hotel & Suites Curacao  
  Piscadera Bay  
  (+5999) 433 6666  
  www.clarionhotelscuracao.com

- Curaçao Plaza Hotel & Casino  
  Plaza Piar z/n  
  (+5999) 462 2500  
  www.curacaoplazahotelcasino.com

- Dolphin Suites  
  Bapor Kibra z/n  
  (+5999) 465 2700  
  www.dolphinsuites-curacao.com

- Floris Suite Hotel  
  Piscaderaweg  
  (+5999) 462 6111  
  www.florissuitehotel.com

- Hilton Curacao  
  John F Kennedy Boulevard  
  (+5999) 462 5000  
  www.hiltoncuracaoresort.com

- Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel & Casino  
  Conscientiesteg  
  (+5999) 462 7800  
  www.hojo-curacao.com

- Lions Dive & Beach Resort  
  Bapor Kibra z/n  
  (+5999) 434 8888  
  www.lionsdive.com

- Otrobanda Hotel & Casino  
  Breedestraat (Otrobanda)  
  (+5999) 462 7400  
  www.otrobandahotel.com

- Rennaissance Curacao  
  Baden Powellweg 1  
  (+5999) 435 5000  
  www.renaissancecuracao.com

- Royal Sea Aquarium resort  
  Bapor Kibra z/n  
  (+5999) 465 6999  
  www.royalseaaurcaraeumresort.com

- Sandton Kura Hulanda Hotel & Spa  
  Langestraat 8 (Otrobanda)  
  (+5999) 434 7700  
  www.kurahulanda.com

- Sandton Kura Hulanda Lodge & Beach Club  
  Playa Kalki 1 (Westpunt)  
  (+5999) 839 3600  
  www.kurahulanda.com

- Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort  
  Santa Barbara Plantation  
  (+5999) 840 1234  
  www.santabarbararesortcuracao.com

- Sunscape Beach Resort & Casino  
  Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard 78  
  (+5999) 736 7888  
  www.sunscapersorts.com/curacao

- Trupial Inn & Casino  
  Groot Davelaarweg 5  
  (+5999) 737 8200  
  www.trupialinn.com

- Van der Valk Kontiki Beach Resort  
  Bapor Kibra z/n  
  (+5999) 463 1600  
  www.kontikidiveresort.com

- Veneto Casino Holiday Beach Resort  
  Pater Euwensweg 31  
  (+5999) 462 5400  
  www.venetocuracao.com

- WAVE Hotel & Café  
  Breedestraat 100-102  
  (+5999) 462 3233  
  www.wavecuracao.com

- Bungalows Villas & Small Hotels

- Boca Gentil Resort & Villas  
  Jan Thiel z/n  
  (+5999) 735 1100  
  www.bocagentil.com

- Bon Bini Sea Side Resort  
  Bapor Kibra z/n  
  (+5999) 461 8000  
  www.bonbiniseasideresort.nl

- Chogogo Resort  
  Jan Thiel Beach  
  (+5999) 747 2844  
  www.chogogo.com

- Curaçao Island Rentals  
  A. de Veerstraat 8  
  (+5999) 465 6037  
  www.curacaoislandrentals.com

- Flamingopark  
  San Sebastian 11a  
  (+5999) 864 9051  
  www.flamingoparkcuracao.com

- Hotel ’t Klooster  
  A. de Veerstraat 12  
  (+5999) 461 2650  
  www.hoteltklooster.com/en

- Kunuku Aqua Resort  
  Weg naar St. Willibrordus 36  
  (+5999) 864 4455  
  www.kunukuresort.com/en

- La Maya Beach  
  Brakkeput Abou 80  
  (+5999) 767 7611  
  www.lamayabeach.com/en

- La Palmaare Bed & Breakfast  
  Kaya Orkidia 58 & 59  
  (+5999) 738 9959  
  www.lapalmaare-curacao.com

- Landhuis Daniel  
  Weg naar Westpunt z/n  
  (+5999) 864 8400  
  www.landhuisdaniel.com

- Limestone Holiday  
  Brakkeput Arriba K-5  
  (+5999) 767 3007  
  www.limestoneholiday.com

- Livingstone Jan Thiel Resort  
  Jan Thiel Beach  
  (+5999) 747 0332  
  www.janthielresort.com

- Morena Resort  
  Jan Thiel Beach  
  (+5999) 747 3737  
  www.morenaresort.com

- Papagayo Beach & Lounge Resort Curacao  
  Jan Thiel Beach  
  (+5999) 747 4333  
  www.papagayo-beach.com/en

- San Marco Hotel & Casino  
  Columbusstraat 7  
  (+5999) 461 2988  
  www.sanmarcocuracao.com/ing

- Scuba Lodge  
  Pietermana 104  
  (+5999) 465 2575  
  www.scubalodge.com

- The Beach House Curacao  
  Bapor Kibra z/n  
  (+5999) 461 0004  
  www.beachhousecuracao.com

- The Natural Curacao  
  Kaminda San Sebastian 11b  
  (+5999) 868 2181  
  www.thenaturalcuracao.com
• The Pearl of the Caribbean
  Weg naar Sta Catharina z/n
  (+5999) 767 4866
  www.thepearlofthecaribbean.com

• The Strand Curaçao
  PO Box 738
  (+5999) 561 5082
  www.thestrandcuracao.com

• ABC appartementen
  Zorgendal 2
  (+5999) 868 3535
  www.curacaoislandrentals.com

• Alablanca
  Kaya Toni Kunchi 15a
  (+5999) 515 2639
  www.alablanca-apartments.com

• Alegria Apartments
  Salinja Aboustraat A 38
  (+5999) 864 9032
  www.alegria-apartments.com

• All West Apartments
  Playa Piskado (Playa Grandi)
  (+5999) 461 2310
  www.allwestcuracao.com

• Aloe Apartments
  Cas Coraweg 86
  (+5999) 512 6880
  www.aloeapartments.com

• Amalia Apartments
  Kaya Damasco 60
  (+5999) 560 9492
  www.amaliacuracao.com

• Aquila Apartments
  Libie 77
  (+5999) 767 8539
  www.aquila-apartments.com

• Atlantis Diving & Apartments
  Drielstraat 6 & 8
  (+5999) 465 8288
  www.en.atlantisapartments.net

• Bahia Apartments & Diving
  Lagun 208
  (+5999) 864 1000
  www.bahia-apartments.com

• Ban Topa
  Kaya Kashmiri 59
  (+5999) 869 5670
  www.bantopa.nl/en

• Beauty & Wellness Mini Resort Panaché
  Kaya Terr 48 & 46
  (+5999) 747 2745
  www.panache-resort.com

• Blue Bay Lodges
  BL 29 Blue Bay Resort
  (+5999) 526 7312
  www.suncuracao.com

• Cer’i Neger
  Fontein 51
  (+5999) 864 9032
  www.cerineger.com

• Curaçao Sun Apartments
  Royal Palm Resort - Piscadera Bay
  (+5999) 462 3120
  www[curacaosunapartments.com

• De Plantage
  Jan Thiel kavel 2
  (+5999) 747 6484
  www.de-plantage.com

• Happy Turtle Apartments
  Seru Loraweg 75
  (+5999) 516 4919
  www.happyturtleapartments.com/eng

• Home Sweet Home Curaçao
  Kaya Jan Thiel 82
  (+5999) 528 2155
  www.homesweethomecuracao.com

• Iguana-inn
  Korporaalweg 28
  (+5999) 465 1147
  www.iguana-inn.net

• International Accommodations
  A. de Veerstraat 8
  (+5999) 465 6037
  www.curacaosunapartments.com

• Irene Apartments
  Ireneelaan 19
  (+5999) 462 2074
  www.ireneapartment.info

• Kasa Kubu Bed & Breakfast
  Seru Pretu bij Jan Luis 7
  (+5999) 747 1234
  www.kasakububedandbreakfast.com

• Lagoon Ocean Resort
  Lagun 208 nst
  (+5999) 864 1000
  www.lagoonoceanresort.com

• Lagun Blou
  Lagun 176
  (+5999) 864 0557
  www.lagunblou.nl

• My Dream Apartments
  Lagun 18
  (+5999) 737 3192
  www.mydreamapartments.com

• Nos Krusero Apartments
  Westpunt z/n tegenover kv 20
  (+5999) 524 9454
  www.noskrusero-apartments.com

• Pietermaai Smal Apartments
  Pietermaai Smal 51
  (+5999) 465 0478
  www.pietermaiaapartments.com

• Piscadera Sea View Apartments
  Piscaderawag 51 nst
  (+5999) 560 1765
  www.piscaderaseaviewapartments.com

• Quint’s Travelodge Curaçao
  Corriweg 8
  (+5999) 737 4688
  www.quintstravelodge.com

• Rancho El Sobrino Resort &
  Blue View Apartments
  Weg naar Knip z/n
  (+5999) 888 8822
  www.ranchoolsobrino.com

• Sea Horizon Apartments
  Bapor Kibra z/n
  (+5999) 465 9862
  www.seahorizonapartments.com

• Sirena Bay Estate
  Penstraat 34
  (+5999) 562-0242
  www.sirenabay.com

• Sun Reef Village
  Redaweg 30
  (+5999) 888 3594
  www.sun-reef.com

• The Art & Nature Inn
  Valkenweg 17
  (+5999) 868 2259
  www.curacaoaccommodations.com

• Waterside Apartments
  Redaweg 57a
  (+5999) 888 6201
  www.waterside.an