

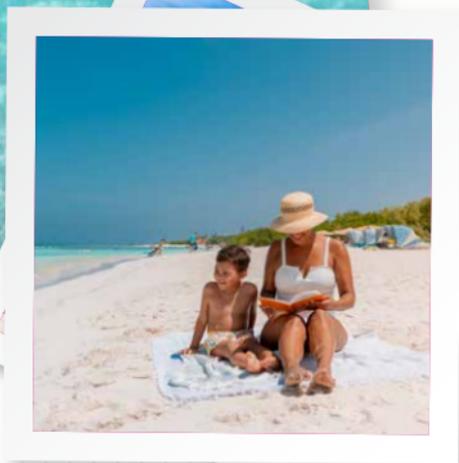
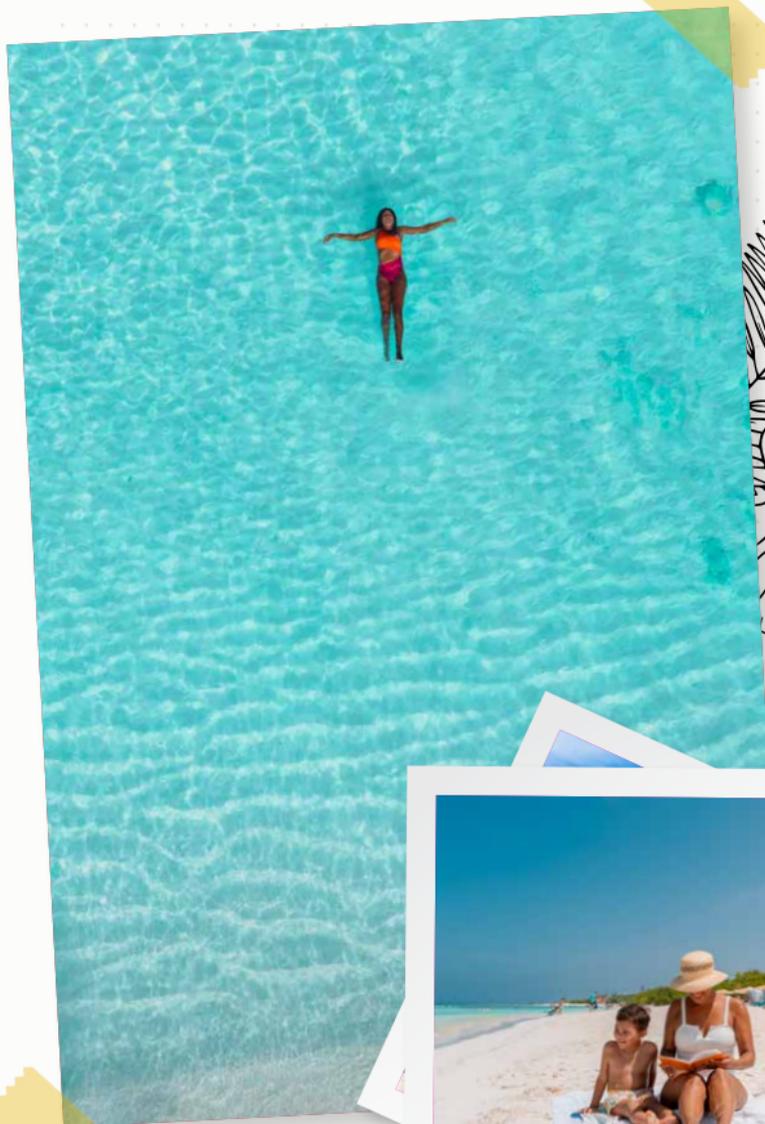


Bucket List

*Just a few of the millions
of things to do in Aruba!*



ONE HAPPY
ISLAND





This Bucket List Belongs to

From our diverse geography to our intriguingly rich culture and heritage, Aruba offers so many opportunities to make memories that last a lifetime. We've compiled a bucket list of some of our most treasured experiences, iconic locales, and local traditions to explore.

Pick and choose your favorites to curate a vacation experience in Aruba that's uniquely yours!

The locals are well-versed on their beloved island, so feel free to ask your friendly bartenders, servers, resort staff, or those you meet along the way for guidance and recommendations.



Explore with Care!

While out and about discovering Aruba, please be mindful of your footprint to help us positively impact the island for generations to come, both environmentally and culturally.

Here are a few sensible rules and regulations to be aware of:

- Park in designated areas; do not drive or park on beaches or dunes
- Dispose of trash properly
- No grilling or fires on beaches or dunes
- Avoid use of disposable plastic products and Styrofoam in nature or on beaches
- Our oft-photographed Fofoti trees are protected; no climbing or hanging items from branches
- It is strictly prohibited to collect coral or shells from beaches or sea and is punishable with a hefty fine.
- Do not disturb starfish to take a selfie; they can only breathe underwater
- Refrain from feeding any wildlife or marine life
- Use reef-safe sunscreens to protect our fragile coral





The Aruba Tourism Authority highlights the importance of sustaining the island's environment and heritage through the inspirational My Promise to Aruba initiative that encourages the island's visitor-related partners as well as visitors to the island to act sustainably to dynamically contribute to Aruba's efforts to preserve its environment, wildlife, and cultural heritage.

Visitors can go to aruba.com/promise to learn more and make their pledge to explore Aruba thoughtfully and sustainably.



Duspiya



Aruba

Locations

Iconic Spots



☐ Conchi (Natural Pool)

Nestled at the base of the northern shore cliffs within Arikok National Park, explorers trek through the rocky ravines on horseback, a four-wheel drive, or hike through the rocky terrain to discover one of Aruba's hidden gems, the Natural Pool. Known in Papiamentu as Conchi, this shell-shaped pool is surrounded by a large barrier of lava rocks that greet crashing waves from the Caribbean Sea.

Please be aware that waves here can at times come crashing into the pool, proceed with caution. Additionally, it is dangerous to attempt to climb the surrounding walls, as rocks can come loose. *Conchi can not be reached by a regular car, you need a 4x4*

☐ California Lighthouse

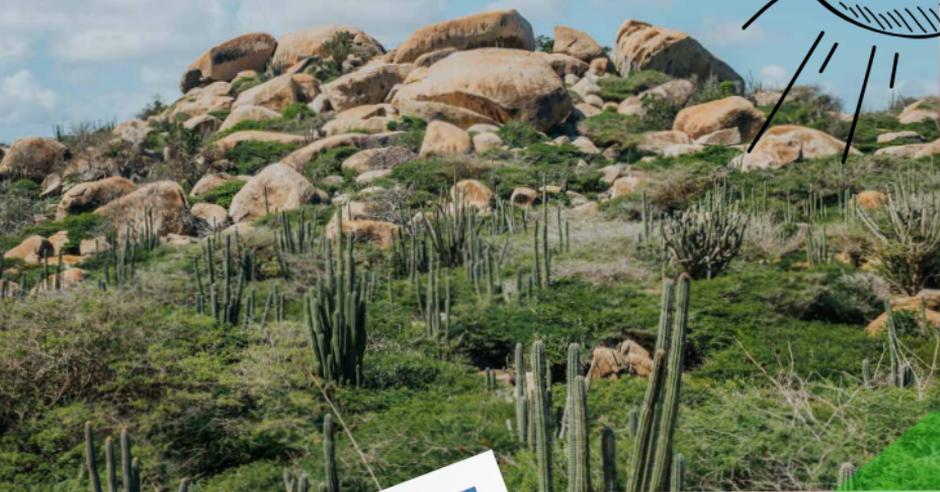
The California Lighthouse overlooks the area known as Hudishibana from its post at the top of a limestone plateau on the north coast. The 100-foot-tall stone lighthouse was named after the steamship California that sunk in 1891 in the waters nearby. The recently refurbished lighthouse is now open to the public and is a member of the United States Lighthouse Society Passport Program.



☐ De Olde Molen

Originally built in the Netherlands in 1804, this windmill was shipped to Aruba in pieces and rebuilt in 1961 between the island's main boulevard and the high-rise hotels of Palm Beach. The windmill pays homage to Aruba's Dutch heritage and is the perfect photographic backdrop.

Ago Rock Formation



☐ Rock Formations

While the entire island is peppered with huge diorite boulders, Casibari Boulders, and Ayo Rock Formations boast the most remarkable collections. Arawak Indian rock drawings decorate the monolithic stones of Ayo, providing evidence of the great importance these rocks held for the island's early inhabitants.

☐ Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins

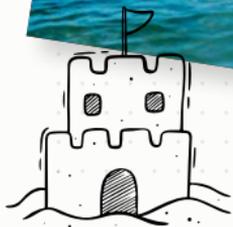
Aruba experienced a gold rush during the 19th century. In 1874, an English mining company built the Bushiribana Gold Mill on Aruba's north coast in order to process the gold ore extracted from the hills nearby. A team of local masons was hired to assemble the old-fashioned mill using primitive cranes of wooden beams to lift the massive rocks into place. The ruin is fascinating to photograph; however, proceed cautiously, as the historic site is fragile. Climbing the walls can cause rocks to loosen and fall.

Reminder: please don't stack rocks in this area or along the coastline—it is not a local tradition and disturbs the natural marine environment.



☐ Natural Bridge

Thousands of years of pounding waves and strong winds have slowly carved away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create a number of natural bridges. The one simply known as the Natural Bridge was the most impressive structure of its kind in all of the Caribbean before collapsing in 2005 and is still worth a visit. P.S. there's a baby bridge right next to it!



Margel Hatto

Balashi Gold Mill Ruins at Frenchman's Pass

Sitting along the face of a hill nestled in between the Spanish Lagoon and the narrow canyon of rocks known as Frenchman's Pass, the Balashi Gold Mill, built in 1899, housed steam engines, grind mills, water tanks, and furnaces. Today, the mill ruins prove worthy of exploration, while an easy climb to the top of the hill affords visitors an expansive view of the broad valley and salt pan below.



Baby Beach

At Aruba's southern end, the famous Baby Beach wraps around a shallow and remarkably calm lagoon, making it a prime destination for families with small children. Decades ago, Lago refinery workers created the lagoon by constructing a protective concrete barrier in the water, giving their families a safe beach to enjoy within the Lago colony. Snorkelers can enjoy exploring the small reef within the lagoon.

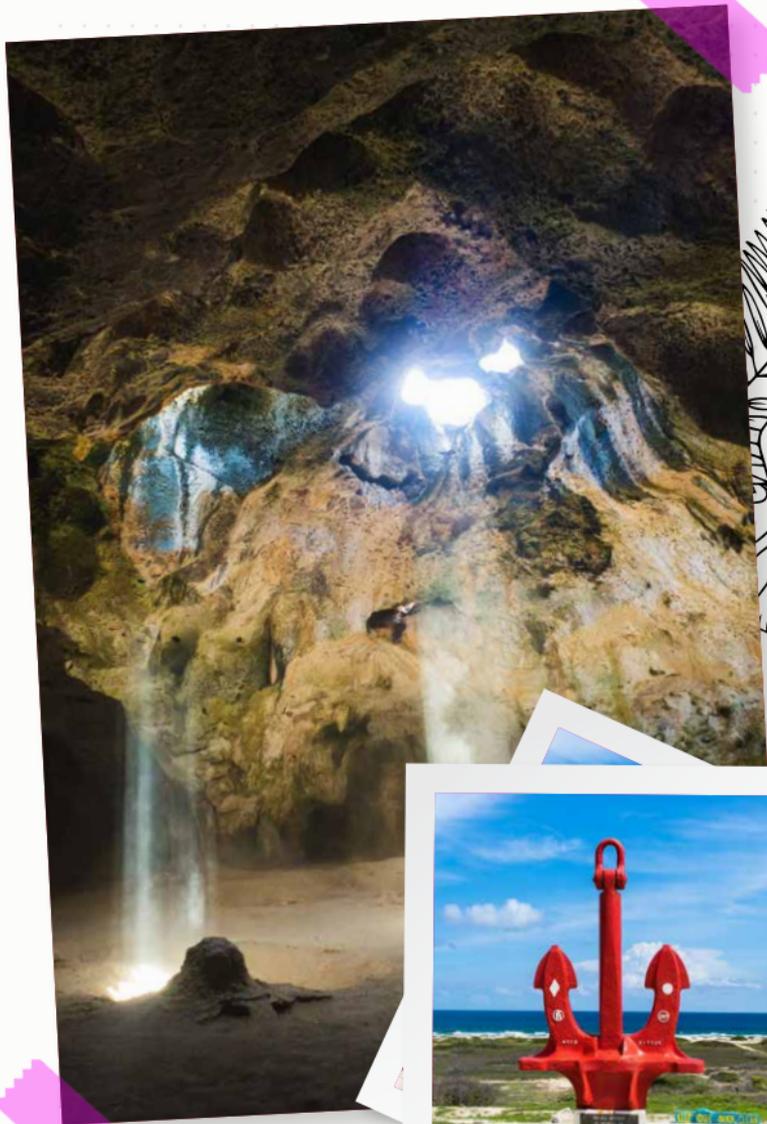
Mangel Halto

This gem of a beach is tucked along the southern coast of the island in the area of Pos Chikito. The beach is named for the dense network of mangrove trees that make their home here, providing plenty of shade for afternoon picnics. A narrow clearing in the mangroves leads into an irresistibly inviting expanse of shallow, aquamarine water, made remarkably placid by the protective barrier reef further out. Please do not climb or hang any items on the mangroves—they are an integral part of the marine life ecosystem.

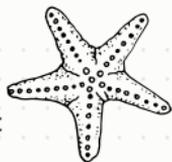
Zeerovers

Located in the sleepy fishing town of Savaneta, Zeerovers is a fisherman's wharf promising a heavy dose of local





flavor. A counter near the entrance sells fresh-caught fish to-go, or guests can have it prepared on the premises and then enjoy it on the waterside deck among the seasoned locals playing dominoes and discussing the latest town news over a few ice-cold Balashis.



Caves at Arikok National Park

Located along the northern shore within Arikok National Park, there are two caves open for exploration.

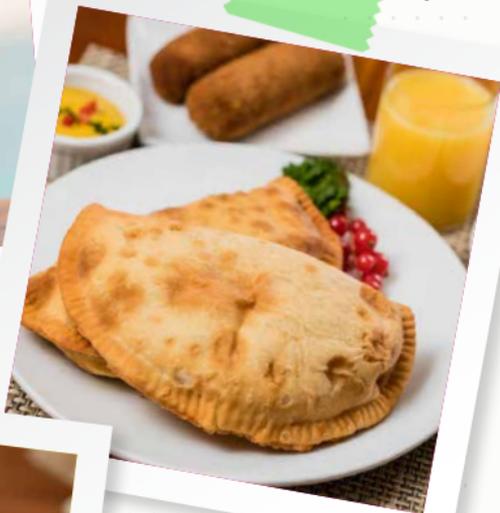
The Guadirikiri Cave is famous for the bursts of natural sunlight that seep through limestone holes throughout the cavern. Explorers can venture through various layers of the cave and may come across harmless bats fluttering about. Famous for the decorative Arawak pictographs etched by the Amerindians on the cave's walls and ceiling many

years ago, Fontein Cave is marked with rich ancestral history. Shallow in depth and low in height, the cave invites visitors to crawl through the space, discovering history at every turn. Please note that flash photography is prohibited in the caves, as it disturbs our protected bat species.



Red Anchor

Standing stoically at the entrance to Seroe Colorado is the bright-red anchor dedicated to all seamen, which serves as an oft-photographed iconic landmark on the island.



Yumi Yumi!



Food & Drinks

Try them!



☐ Fresh Coconut Water

The ubiquity of coconut palms on Aruba provides locals and island guests the opportunity to enjoy fresh coconut water, one of Mother Nature's most delicious and healthy beverages. Street-side vendors cut the tops off young coconuts right in front of their customers to ensure freshness, handing over the beverage to be sipped directly from the shell.

☐ Pastechi

This irresistible half-moon pastry is the national snack of Aruba. The classic pastechi is made by stuffing a pocket of slightly sweet dough with cheese and then deep-frying it to tender perfection. Other savory fillings include ham, beef, chicken, and bacalao (salted fish). Pastechis are sold island-wide at grocery stores, convenience stores, and snack bars.

☐ Funchi Fries

Funchi—Aruba's own version of polenta—is a thick, cornmeal porridge traditionally served as an accompaniment to rich stews and fish platters. A popular modern variation is fried to a light golden brown and is known as funchi fries or fried funchi on local menus.

☐ Cabrito Stoba

Despite the warm weather, stews (stobas) are popular in Aruba. The classic Aruban recipes use local goat (cabrito)



*Dushi Cuminda,
and local Beers!*



meat with potato, onion, garlic, and chili pepper in a tomato-based gravy.



☐ *Fresh Fish Creole*

Local fishermen bring in a bounty of fresh fish—like snapper, grouper, and mahi mahi—daily. Fish creole, locally known as *pisca hasa criollo*, is a traditional Aruban dish still prepared in many homes and restaurants on the island. The dish is deliciously simple: pan-fried slices of fresh fish fillet served in a basic gravy of onion, tomato, bell pepper, and garlic.

☐ *Aruba Ariba*

The island's famous tropical cocktail was invented at the Aruba Caribbean Hotel's (now Hilton Aruba) Bali Bar in the early 1960s. To create this fruity concoction, *coecoei*, vodka, rum, *crème de banana*, a splash of grenadine, and fruit juice are poured over ice, gently stirred together, and topped off with a bit of Grand Marnier.

☐ *Balashi Beer*

Balashi, a refreshing pilsner-style beer, is the signature beer of Aruba's national brewery, Balashi Brewery. Whiffs of soft herbal hops meet the nose, with essences of freshly baked bread. Landing on the palate smoothly is a harmonious blend of the clean snap of yeast giving way to the delicately spiced hops, a touch of malty caramel, and toasted grain.

Street Food :)



Dushiya



☐ *Late-night Food Truck Scene*

Street food is a unique part of the island's culture. Long before the concept became hip and trendy, Aruba's food truck scene—usually an after-hours affair—was hugely popular with late-night revelers craving French fries with peanut sauce, burgers, and garlic chicken wraps. Today, Aruba's scene is livelier than ever, with some trucks opening for lunch or in the early evening and others opening only for the popular late-night hours. From local creole and ethnic street food to classic burgers, you'll find a little of everything out there.



☐ *Dutch Pancakes*

A cross between a French crepe and an American pancake, Dutch pancakes (pannenkoeken) are thin yet dense. They can be dressed with either savory or sweet toppings—or both! A thick syrup called stroop is usually drizzled over the top.

☐ *Local Snacks*

Arubans love a party! Many parties offer an array of traditional snacks, including cheese balls, webo yena (deviled egg), a variety of kroket (the Dutch version of croquettes), and frikandel (minced meat sausage). These are often sold at local bakeries.





Local Cigars

Local tobacconist Benjamin Petrocchi hand-rolls his own cigars made with locally grown tobacco, giving Aruba its very own cigar brand, Aruhiba. Instead of using synthetic pesticides to protect his tobacco plants, Benjamin uses a natural, organic pesticide made from the leaves of the neem tree. The organic Aruhiba cigars are available at the Aruhiba retail store located next to the island's famous Dutch windmill in the Palm Beach area.

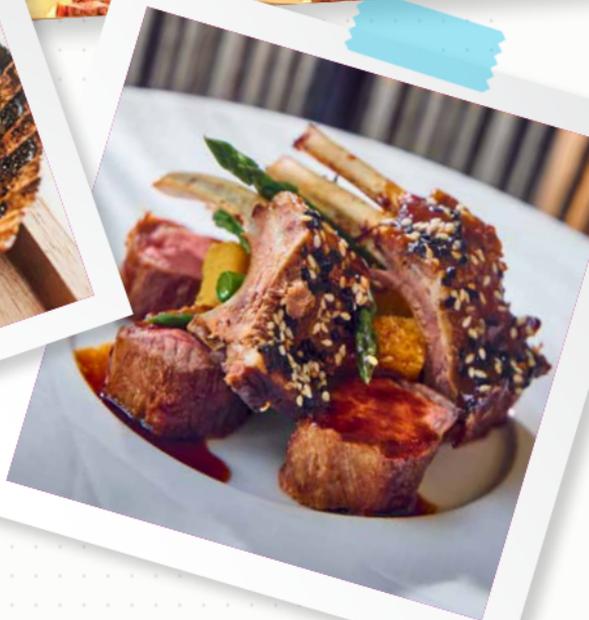
Keshi Yena

This Aruban dish, which translates to "stuffed cheese," is traditionally made by filling the left-over rind of an Edam or Gouda cheese wheel with spiced meat, onion, tomato, green pepper, olives, capers, raisins, and piccalilli, covering the wheel with its original cap; and then baking the stuffed wheel in the oven until hot and bubbly. Some cooks choose to conveniently line a casserole dish with slices of cheese instead of using the scooped cheese shell. This dish is available at many restaurants throughout the island that serve typical Aruban cuisine.



Pica di Papaya

An assortment of all-natural, made-in-Aruba hot sauces can be found in just about every restaurant and home, plus several grocery stores on the island. These hot sauces, known as pica among the locals, feature the exceptionally hot Madame Jeanette pepper, a variety of chili closely related to the habanero and Scotch-bonnet varieties. Madame Jeanette's fire is slightly tempered by



♥
Duspiya

green papaya in a particularly unique version of Aruban pica called pica di papaya.

Chef's Table Dining Experience

Several fine-dining restaurants bring the craft of cuisine to an experiential level with chef's tables produced by Aruba's top culinary masters. These exclusive dining events are typically for just a few guests (less than 20), with an up-close and engaging setting allowing patrons to witness the chef's process and unique flair throughout an evening of multiple tasting courses with an option to match each course with a tailored wine pairing.



Cos Dushi

Arubans satisfy their persistent sweet tooth with various homemade confections, collectively known as cos dushi. Cocada, a fudge-like candy made with sugar and coconut, is a popular treat alongside tentalaria, made with sugar and nuts. A favorite cookie is the koeki lerchi, a very simple sugar cookie baked to a crunch. Arubans also love their cake, known as boyo, with pan boyo (bread pudding) and boyo di cashipete (cashew cake) being two of our most popular.





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|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| DIVING | BEACHES | PHOTO SPOT | POLICE STATION | MAIN ROAD |
| RESTAURANTS & BARS | CHURCH | SHOPPING | GAS STATION | PAVED ROAD |
| MEDICAL SERVICES | NATURE SITE | HISTORICAL SITE | CRUISE TERMINAL | GRAVEL ROAD |



Activities

Discover Aruba



☐ Snorkel Around a Reef or Shipwreck

The crystal-clear, calm waters along Aruba's leeward coast, and the multitude of colorful, creature-filled reefs make snorkeling worthy of a spot on your bucket list. Don your mask, snorkel, and fins, and head to one of Aruba's popular snorkeling spots, including Arashi, Boca Catalina, Mangel Halto, and Spanish Lagoon. Many catamaran cruises enable snorkelers to explore further out from shore, such as at the famous Antilla shipwreck. Reminder: do not feed, touch, chase, or follow marine life.

☐ Night Diving

Scuba divers looking for the next great adventure will find ample opportunities to experience a night dive off the coast of Aruba. Many PADI-certified operators here offer night diving excursions, where a whole new world comes to life when the sun sets. Twice a year (during the full moon in the months of September and October), night divers can experience the magic of coral spawning, when corals and sponges release colorful clouds of eggs and sperm, creating an impressive underwater show.

☐ Skydiving

Tandem skydiving in Aruba guarantees an exhilarating experience at one of the most scenic drop zones in the world. At 10,000 feet up, brave souls leap from a plane to free-fall at 120 mph while harnessed to an experienced



Donkey Sanctuary



instructor. Skydivers are rewarded with an arresting view of the gorgeous southern Caribbean, including nearby islands Bonaire and Curacao, plus Venezuela's Paraguaná Peninsula, just 17 miles to the south of Aruba. Once the parachute opens, skydivers will experience a five-minute parachute flight over the island, followed by a soft, on-target landing.

Pet a Donkey

Donkeys have been a part of Aruba's culture for the past 500 years. Before Aruba was introduced to cars, donkeys were the islanders' leading form of transportation. Today, several herds of donkeys roam freely; however, more than 200 donkeys reside at the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba, where guests can mingle among them for pets and cuddles.

Salsa & Merengue Dancing

Soak up the sultry vibe of Latin music and dancing at one of the many nightclubs on the island. If you've never tried salsa or merengue dancing, some resorts and bars offer basic lessons with some of the professional dancers on the island.

Learn to Windsurf

Thanks to its highly favorable wind and water conditions and year-round pleasant weather, Aruba is a windsurfing mecca. Every year, thousands of active vacationers come to Aruba to windsurf, primarily at the Fisherman's Huts, where plenty of watersports operators rent out equipment and offer lessons. Those wanting to try the sport for the first time will be pleasantly surprised to discover that they will likely be up and sailing on their own within the first lesson.



☐ *Sunset Sail*

There's something special about a Caribbean sunset. Experience it on the water along Aruba's coastline for a front-row seat. There are a variety of catamarans and sailboats that have nightly sunset excursions with drinks and snacks included.

☐ *Seabob*

Seabob is perfect for those seeking a thrilling experience in the water. This powerful, hydrodynamic underwater scooter allows riders to enjoy Aruba's underwater world at speeds of up to 15 kilometers an hour. Riders can dip below the surface of the water and glide around vibrant coral reefs along the Malmok, Boca Catalina, and Arashi coastline areas, dodging schools of colorful tropical fish along the way.

☐ *Beach Tennis*

Beach tennis has inarguably become one of the most popular sports on the island. The easy camaraderie of beach tennis—plus the pumping music, cold beers, and sunny beach setting—guarantees great fun under the sun. The island's largest beach tennis facility is located at the Eagle Aruba Resort, and another complex is located on Palm Beach at Moomba Beach Bar.

☐ *Kayaking & Standup Paddle Boarding (SUP)*

The calm waters and mangrove lagoons along Aruba's southern fringe are ripe for exploration by kayak or SUP. The inherently quiet nature of kayaking enables paddlers to observe the birds and marine species living among the



*
* Yes!! *
*



mangroves without disturbing them. Organized tours set out from Savaneta, making their way up the coast to popular spots like Mangel Halto and the Spanish Lagoon.

Parasailing

Up, up, and away! Taking flight along the scenic coast of Palm Beach with one of the many parasailing excursions offered on the island is a must for adventure seekers. Parasailers board a speedboat that whisks them away from the shores of Palm Beach, out a few hundred yards, where they are launched into the sky over the azure Caribbean Sea. Some parasailing companies offer a tandem experience so two riders can share the breathtaking experience together.

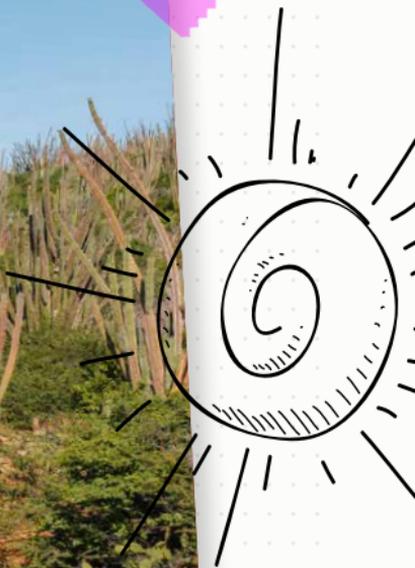
Deep Sea Fishing

Beneath Aruba's beautiful turquoise water teems a bevy of fish to thrill and challenge the sport fisherman. Blue marlin, mahi-mahi, amberjack, kingfish, blackfin, and yellowfin tuna are ready-to-battle reels and rods. A variety of charter companies accommodate both pros and beginners.

Horseback Riding Along the Coastline

The finely gaited Paso Fino horses were imported to the Caribbean by the Spaniards hundreds of years ago. The agile and light-footed gait of the Paso Fino allows for a smooth and comfortable ride for leisure riding along trails that hug the coastline or weave between the towering cacti and huge boulders of Aruba's wild desert terrain.

Arikok National Park



☐ Mountain Biking in the Countryside

Aruba's rugged countryside and desert terrain is one of the most ideal playgrounds in the Caribbean for mountain biking.

Along with the heart-pumping adrenaline rush that comes with this sport, mountain biking the trails of Aruba's countryside allows for an authentic, up-close encounter with the island's varied and unique landscapes. The Aruba Tourism Authority and the local mountain biking community have designated trails marked and maintained for this sport.



☐ Hiking in Arikok National Park

Covering close to one-fifth of the island, Arikok National Park is a conservation area on the island that provides a beautiful backdrop for hiking. There are three marked trails offering hours of exploration by foot, with informative signage along the way detailing various local flora and fauna found along the trails.



☐ Yoga by the Sea

There is a yoga revolution happening in Aruba, positioning the island as one of the top go-to destinations for yoga in the Caribbean. Many resorts offer sunrise or sunset yoga classes by the sea. Take it a step further with SUP yoga, practiced on oversized paddle boards in the calm, shallow waters near Fisherman's Huts.



☐ *San Nicolas' Street Art*

Aruba's art scene has grown by broad brushstrokes recently and is perhaps most visually highlighted in San Nicolas.

This quaint town on Aruba's southern side is now an artistic hub in the Caribbean with museums, art galleries, artisan workshops, and festivals. The scene-stealer here, though, is the creative and intriguing street art, graffiti art, and murals that have transformed the town into a free street gallery accessible to all, any time of the day, every day of the week.

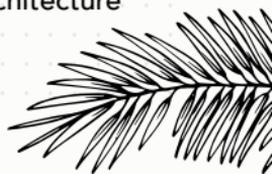
☐ *Sea Turtle Hatching*

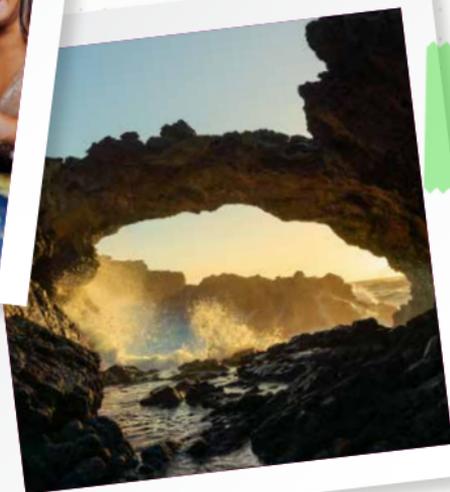
Aruba's shores have become a favorite nesting place for the Leatherback, Hawksbill, Green, and Loggerhead species.

These turtles invariably return to their natal beach to lay their eggs, primarily at Eagle Beach, Boca Grandi, and Arikok National Park. Hatchings occur from May through November. If the timing is right, visitors can witness eggs hatching along our coast, particularly in the low-rise hotel area along Eagle Beach. There will be barriers to protect the turtles during their nesting season. Please remember: For the safety of the turtles, it is important to observe from a distance and avoid touching or interacting with them.

☐ *Ride an Electric Streetcar*

You don't have to be in San Francisco to ride a real streetcar. Aruba boasts the Caribbean's first streetcar line resembling heritage open trolleys. The streetcars, designed in San Francisco and utilizing clean energy sources, take shoppers and sightseers through the heart of downtown (it's free of charge), where both historic Dutch colonial architecture and shopping opportunities await.





Take a Downtown Walking Tour

Aruba's heritage is not relegated to just guidebooks—it is alive and breathing in our landscapes and streetscapes, cuisine, art, and people. Aruba Downtown Walking Tours offers a dynamic interactive tour with local experts sharing an authentic perspective of historic downtown Oranjestad, including stops at various eateries for noshes of Aruba's traditional cuisine and stops at arts-and-crafts boutiques and museums.

Compete in a Local Sporting Competition

Many vacationers today combine their passion for travel with their passion for fitness and sports competitions. Aruba has many organized races, tournaments, and competitions throughout the year for a variety of sports. The island's dynamic landscapes provide exciting and inspiring venues for outdoor sporting events. Some of our most popular competitions include the annual KLM Aruba Marathon; the largest beach tennis event in the world, the Aruba Beach Tennis Open; and the Aruba Hi-Winds, the longest running annual sporting event in the Caribbean. Golfers can join the weekly golf tournaments mixing locals and visitors at the island's nine-hole golf course, The Links at Divi.

Play Caribbean Stud Poker

Aruba was one of the first Caribbean destinations to have casinos, offering a lively atmosphere and a ritzy hot spot for movie stars and celebrities in the 1960s. Caribbean Stud Poker was invented here in the 1980s,

Tropical



Pikchipi



spreading to other islands and the United States. Today, more than a dozen casinos dot the island, offering the chance to play the game invented right here.

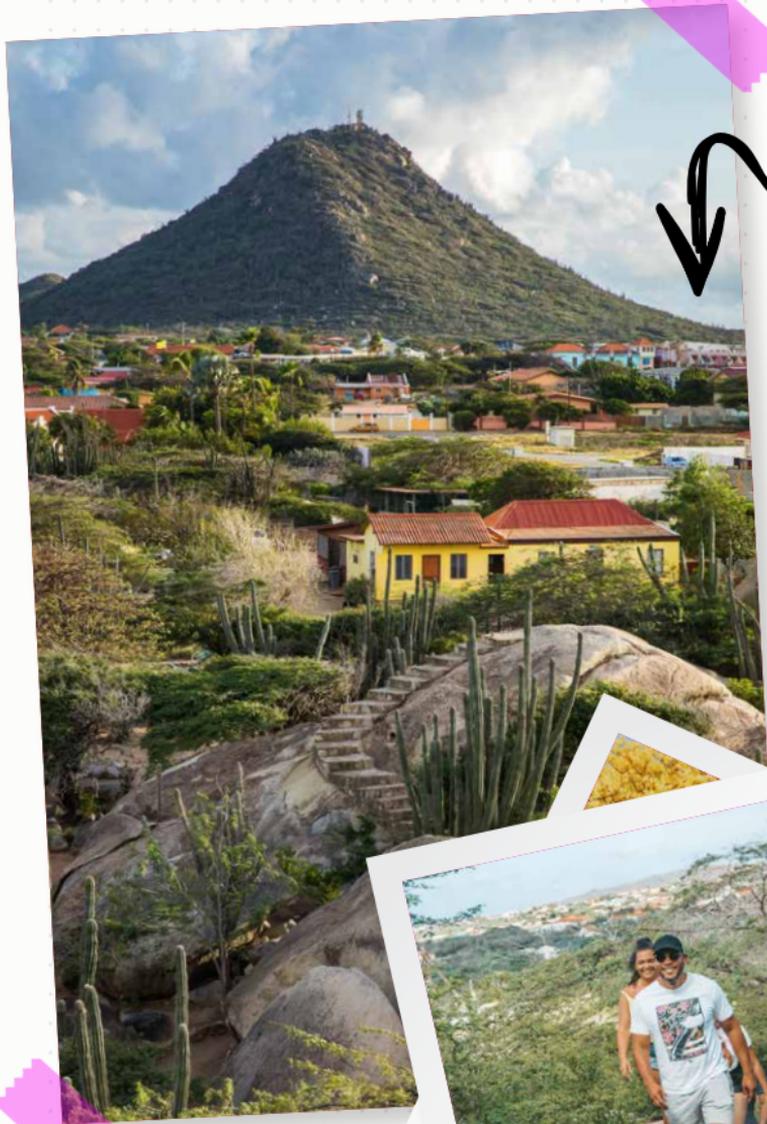
☐ *Spot a Local Bird*

Aruba has quite the local and migratory bird-watching scene. But there are two local birds near and dear to our hearts that make great photo ops. The burrowing shoco owl is unique to Aruba and is also our national symbol; it can be spotted at Arikok National Park. Our national bird is the prikichi—the Aruban parakeet—and is easily visible with bright green feathers, found island-wide and typically flying in pairs.

☐ *Watch the Sun rise Over Aruba*

The hotel areas are great spots to see a beautiful sunset, but to catch an Aruba sunrise, which is also spectacular, you'll need to rise early and venture away from the hotel area. The southern side of the island in the Seroe Colorado area offers great viewing. Other spots to consider are the top of the Hooiberg.





Hooiberg



☐ Climb the Steps of Hooiberg

The Hooiberg, meaning “haystack” in Dutch, is the cone-shaped mountain that rises 540 feet up from the center of the island. Hikers can take the 550-plus steps to the top, where a panoramic view and encounters with wild goats, parakeets, and colorful lizards make the climb pleasantly worthwhile.

☐ Volunteer for a Beach/Reef Cleanup

Positively impact nature while working side-by-side with locals in our community during one of the organized beach, nature, and reef cleanups held throughout the year. Many hotels have their own cleanup initiatives where guests can join the hotel staff, and internationally recognized days like Earth Day often see several environmental cleanup initiatives from various resorts and organizations.



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ARUBA
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