



Aruba

Photo: Natalia Barsukova/Shutterstock.com



meunierd/Shutterstock.com

Sun-drenched beaches sit next to the desert wilderness in Aruba, one of the most popular destinations in the Caribbean. With warm and sunny weather all year round, the island seems frozen in a timeless holiday atmosphere, with turquoise ocean waters washing over the soft warm sand. Nightlife bursts with Latin music and exotic sounds, and exciting shopping and dining await at every corner. Stronger waves break against the eastern coast, deserted and swept over by wind — exploring it will lead the most adventurous visitors to spectacular vistas.



Steve Photography/Shutterstock.com



DiegoMariottini/shutterstock

Featured

Andicuri Beach

Andicuri's wild beauty makes it a unique spot on the island. It sits on the ...



Fontein Cave

Channel your inner Tom Sawyer and visit these impressive rock formations ins...



National Archaeological Mu...

If you're passionate about history and want to use every occasion to learn m...



Butterfly Farm

This colourful, well-maintained reserve is fascinating for children and adul...



Donkey Sanctuary

Funny for children and relaxing for adults, this unassuming but heartwarming...



Top 5

Palm Beach

One of the main hubs for cheerful tourist life, surrounded by resorts and fu...



Eagle Beach

Another much-loved tourist spot, Eagle Beach is located walking distance fro...



Baby Beach

To find refuge from tourist masses, head to this beautiful, secluded beach i...



Arikok National Park

Apart from the well-decorated western touristic area, Aruba offers miles of ...



Conchi Natural Pool

Aruba's uncharted-tropical-island vibes are at their best in this natural

THE ISLAND



byvalet/Shutterstock.com

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

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

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

Aruba has a fascinating history of pre-Columbian tribes, colonisation and peoples' encounters.

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

DO & SEE



Steve Photography/Shutterstock.com

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

Palm Beach



One of the main hubs for cheerful tourist life, surrounded by resorts and full of things to do, this beach is likely the one you saw in the ads for vacations in Aruba. Swim in the calm, sparkling blue water, take long walks along the fine sand

of the shoreline, and seize the occasion to do some people-watching. Be aware that the beach can get crowded.

Photo: Steve Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Palm Beach, Noord

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/palm-beach

Eagle Beach



Another much-loved tourist spot, Eagle Beach is located walking distance from the low-rise hotel area, and it's quieter and usually less

crowded than Palm Beach. It looks stunning with its fine sugary sand, and is the perfect spot to relax under the shade of umbrellas or the characteristic divi trees. Bars and cafes await right on the sand, and snorkelling here is great.

Photo: DiegoMariottini/Shutterstock.com

Address: Eagle Beach, Oranjestad

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/eagle-beach

More Info: Some areas of the beach may be close from May to July for animal conservation purposes.

Baby Beach



To find refuge from tourist masses, head to this beautiful, secluded beach in the island's very south. Reaching the place will take around 30

minutes by car, and some patience if you're driving your own vehicle — signage isn't too clear. However, it's worth the exploration: locals love Baby Beach because it's calm and less crowded. Its waters are clean and good for swimming, and the local fauna is beautiful, featuring gorgeous tropical fish and sea turtles.

Photo: Steve Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Baby Beach, San Nicolas

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/baby-beach

Arikok National Park



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

Photo: DiegoMariottini/Shutterstock.com

Address: San Fuego 70, Santa Cruz

Opening hours: Daily 8am-4pm. Ticket shop closes at 3:30pm

Phone: +297 585 1234

Internet: acf.aw/experiences

Email: info@arubanationalpark.org

Conchi Natural Pool



Aruba's uncharted-tropical-island vibes are at their best in this natural pool right at the oceanfront. Conchi is located in the Arikok

National Park, completely uncultivated, and far away from the touristic areas. Plunge into the turquoise water and discover the beautiful tropical fish, while waves crash against high rocks that surround the pool.

Photo: Matt Grimaldi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Natural Pool, Arikok Natural Park, Santa Cruz

Phone: +297 585 1234

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/natural-pool

Fontein Cave



Channel your inner Tom Sawyer and visit these impressive rock formations inside the Arikok National Park. Between stalagmites hanging over your head and natural limestone columns, you will also catch a glimpse of cave art by the Arawak indigenous people, dating back to the first millennium BC. Visitors are only allowed to explore the entrance area, but the cave spreads for miles inside the rocks. A short guided tour is available.

Photo: DiegoMariottini/Shutterstock.com

Address: Fontein Cave, Arikok National Park

Phone: +297 585 1234

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/fontein-cave

Andicuri Beach



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

Photo: Aruba Paradise Photos/Shutterstock.com

Address: Andicuri Beach, Andicuri Bay

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/andicuri-beach

National Archaeological Museum Aruba



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

Photo: Lex Melony/unsplash

Address: Schelpstraat 42, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat & Sun closed

Phone: +297 582 8979

Internet: manaruba.org

Butterfly Farm



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

Photo: Kevin Lanceplaine/unsplash

Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Daily 8:30am-4:30pm

Phone: +297 586 3656

Internet: www.thebutterflyfarm.com

Email: butterflyfarmaruba@gmail.com

Donkey Sanctuary



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

Photo: AnnaER/Pixabay

Address: Bringamosa 2z, Santa Cruz

Opening hours: Daily 9am-4pm. Closed on January 1st

Phone: +297 593 2933

Internet: www.instagram.com/donkeysanctuaryaruba

Email: director@arubandonkey.org

DINING



Photo: Cor Meenderinck/Shutterstock.com

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

Barefoot Restaurant



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

Photo: Izz Hazel/Shutterstock.com

Address: L.G. Smith Boulevard 1, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-10:30pm. Kitchen closes at 10pm

Phone: +297 588 9824

Internet: barefootaruba.com

Email: eat@barefootaruba.com

Gasparito



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

Photo: Elena Shashkina/Shutterstock.com

Address: Gasparito 3, Noord

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6pm-9pm

Phone: +297 594 2550

Internet: www.gasparito.com

Email: bonbini@gasparito.com

Yemanja Woodfired Grill



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

Photo: Karl Aligaeuer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Wilhelminastraat 2, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 5:30pm-10pm

Phone: +297 564 8467

Internet: www.yemanja-aruba.com

Email: reservations@yemanja-aruba.com

Papiamento



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

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

Photo: William Berry/Shutterstock.com

Address: Washington Road 61, Noord

Opening hours: Seating hours are Mon-Sat 6pm-10:30pm, but the restaurant closes at midnight

Phone: +297 586 4544

Internet: papiamentoaruba.com

Email: bookings@papiamentoaruba.com

Así Es Mi Peru



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

Photo: gustavo ramirez/Shutterstock.com

Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 64, Eagle Beach, Oranjestad

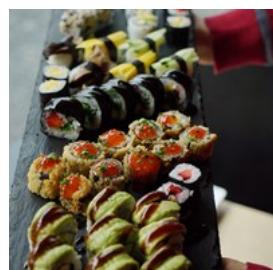
Opening hours: Tue-Sat noon-9:30pm

Phone: +297 588 3958

Internet: asiesmiperuenaruba.com

Email: reservations@asiesmiperuenaruba.com

Omakase Japanese Sushi Bar



Omakase is an elegant and affordable sushi bar near the beach, and it has earned many enthusiastic reviews. The concept of 'omakase' means diners leave it up to the chef to select the dishes they'll be served, which adds an extra element of excitement to the experience.

Photo: FreeToUseSounds/pixabay

Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 55, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 5:30pm-10:30pm

Phone: +297 522 3444

Internet: www.omakasearuba.com

Email: omakase@manchebo.com

More Info: Part of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

Zeerovers



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

Photo: EvZav/Shutterstock.com

Address: Savaneta 270a, Savaneta

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 11am-9pm

Phone: +297 584 8401

Internet: www.instagram.com/zeerovers

CAFES



inobjective/Shutterstock.com

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

Santos Coffee With Soul



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

Photo: Engin_Akyurt/pixabay

Address: Zoutmanstraat 7, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Daily 7am-9pm

Phone: +297 280 8070

Internet: santos-aruba.com

Email: info@santos-aruba.com

More Info: Santos has more locations at Casa del Mar resort and The Cove (Noord).

Aruba Coffee Roasting Company



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

Photo: SilviaEmilie/pixabay

Address: Caya Betico Croes 101a, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-6pm, Sun closed

Phone: +297 588 5569

Internet: www.instagram.com/arubacoffeeroasting

Diana's Pancakes Place



To start the day with a delicious sweet treat, try Diana's traditional Dutch pancakes. Choose from the rich offer of toppings, and complete the breakfast with coffee or freshly squeezed orange juice. The menu also includes savoury pancakes,

perfect for a brunch. Service is great and portions are generous.

Photo: RitaE/pixabay

Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 330, Palm Beach

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 8am-1pm

Phone: +297 280 7820

Internet: www.instagram.com/dianasp Pancakesplace

Email: pancakesaruba@hotmail.com

Eduardo's Beach Shack



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

Photo: silvarita/pixabay

Address: Playa Linda Beach Resort, J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 87, Noord

Opening hours: Daily 7:30am-4:30pm

Phone: +297 594 2534

Internet: eduardosbeachshack.com

Kamini's Kitchen



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

Photo: 41330/pixabay

Address: St. Christoffelbergweg, San Nicolas

Opening hours: Wed-Mon 11am-7:30pm, Tue closed

Phone: +297 587 1398

Internet: www.instagram.com/kaminiskitchenaruba

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com

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

Craft Coffee & Bar



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

Photo: Ennie/Shutterstock.com

Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 348a, Palm Beach

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 8am-1am, Fri & Sat 8am-3am

Phone: +297 586 6999

Internet: www.craftaruba.com

Email: hello@craftaruba.com

Kukoo Kunuku



For an evening of whimsical fun, join one of Kukoo Kunuku's nightlife tours. This bright party bus is just what you'd expect from cheerful

Caribbean entertainment: animated by an energetic couple, it will show you around local pubs and/or restaurants, with some drinks and shots included. A great way to discover Aruba's nightlife and have a blast!

Photo: oneinchpunch/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pick-up from your hotel 1 hour before the start of the tour

Phone: +297 586 2010

Internet: www.kukookunuku.com

Email: contact@kukookunuku.com

The Wine Room



For a sophisticated wine tasting evening, The Wine Room is a well-reviewed option. Although not cheap, it boasts knowledgeable staff and

an eye for detail. The tasting menus also include appetisers and desserts, as well as entire meals. It sometimes hosts live music sessions. A must-try are the chocolate truffles.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: L.G. Smith Boulevard 126, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 6pm-11pm, Sun & Mon closed

Phone: +297 737 0019

Internet: thewineroomaruba.com

Email: info@theartofdiningaruba.com

Saloon Bar



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

Photo: Olivier Le Queinec/Shutterstock.com

Address: Palm Beach 55, Palm Beach

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6pm-1am, Sun noon-1am

Phone: +297 280 9911

Internet: www.instagram.com/saloonbararuba

Email: saloonbararuba@gmail.com

SHOPPING



littlenySTOCK/Shutterstock.com

Aruba is not the place to go for great discounts, but it offers many rare finds. Dutch porcelain and chocolate, as well as Cuban cigars, are especially good purchases here. To get something unique, rather than run-of-the-mill mass-produced souvenirs, head to quality jewellery shops and art galleries. The island welcomes visitors with a rich array of colourful, well-kept shopping malls, which also work as entertainment hubs. Locals love shopping on Oranjestad's main street, Caya G.F. Betico Croes, and in the rest of the downtown area.

Renaissance Mall & Marketplace



This well-decorated, expansive shopping centre in the main town offers every kind of shop: luxury clothing and accessories at Louis Vuitton and more affordable choices at the Mall, along with souvenirs and local arts and craft work at the Marketplace. It is set in a central location, near the beautiful Renaissance Marina. You will also find plenty of places to relax, such as cafes, eateries and spas.

Photo: shattha pilabut/pexels

Address: L.G. Smith Boulevard, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun closed

Phone: +297 583 6000

Internet: www.themallaruba.com

Palm Beach Plaza Mall



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

Photo: adriaticfoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: L.G. Smith Boulevard 95, Palm Beach

Phone: +297 586 0045

Internet: www.aruba.com/us/explore/palm-beach-plaza-mall

Paseo Herencia



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

Photo: little star/Shutterstock.com

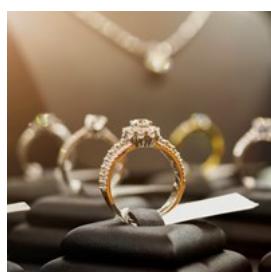
Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 382, Palm Beach

Phone: +297 586 6533

Internet: www.paseoherencia.com

Email: info@paseoherencia.com

Royal Jewels & Diamonds



Trusted by many locals and visitors, this jewellery shop offers a big selection of items and custom-made pieces. For a luxury souvenir of Aruba or a unique gift for a loved one, check their offer. The staff is friendly, patient and ready to help. Prices are reasonable — some of the best on the island.

Photo: Kwangmoozaa/shutterstock

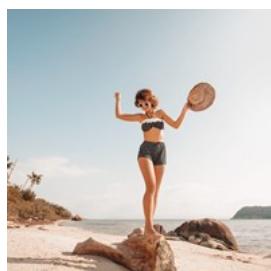
Address: J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 370, Noord

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-10pm, Sun closed

Phone: +297 280 4990

Email: royaldiamonds@usa.net

The Juggling Fish



When in need of a new swimsuit for the beautiful Aruban beaches, check out this popular boutique right on the beach. Their selection is wide, fun and varied, and you'll love the staff's cheerful

personalities.

Photo: Zolotarevs/Shutterstock.com

Address: Playa Linda Beach Resort, J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 87, Palm Beach

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5:30pm, Sun 10am-5:30pm

Phone: +297 592 7802

Internet: www.thejugglingfish.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Keith Muratori/Shutterstock.com

Passport / Visa



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

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

Visitors will need to provide a passport that is valid for the duration of the stay and has some unused pages. They also need to have a valid Embarkation and Disembarkation card

(ED-Card), a valid return ticket, and the necessary documents for returning to the country of origin. Finally, they can be requested to demonstrate that they have arranged for accommodation in Aruba, and that they have the financial means to support themselves while staying there.

Photo: ConvertKit/unsplash

Internet: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_the_Kingdom_of_the_Netherlands_in_the_Caribbean

Best Time to Visit



The weather in Aruba is always nice, with an average temperature of around 28°C (82°F) at all times of the year.

Budget-wise, the best time to visit Aruba is from April to December, during the low season. During the rest of the year, prices increase significantly as more tourists come down from the north to escape winter.

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

Photo: Lex Melony/unsplash

Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA)



The modern Aruba Queen Beatrix International Airport is located in the western part of the island, 5 km from the downtown area and 7-10

kilometres from the resorts area. It is served by a number of daily or weekly flights from North and South America, the EU, United Kingdom, and many others.

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

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

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

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

Photo: Eduardo Velazco Guart/unsplash

Address: Aeropuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix, Sabana Berde 75, Oranjestad

Phone: +297 524 2424

Internet: www.airportaruba.com

Cruise Terminal



Oranjestad.

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

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

The public bus service in Aruba, run by Arubus, is good and affordable, and the Oranjestad bus terminal is located a few steps away from the port, on Lloyd G. Smith Boulevard. You can also decide to hail a cab at the taxi rank on the left of the terminal exit. Alternatively, find car rentals in front of the terminal exit.

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

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

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

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

However you decide to experience the island, take some time to explore the picturesque Oranjestad city centre. It only takes 15 minutes

on foot from the terminal to Oranjestad's cute main street, Caya G.F. Beltico Croes. Here you can admire colourful Dutch revival architecture and typical palm trees; this is also where you'll find some of the best shops on the island. Another good shopping and entertainment hub is the whimsical Royal Plaza mall, just a 5-minute walk from the cruise ship terminal.

Photo: Kiril Georgiev/unsplash

Internet: www.arubaports.com/main/cruiseship-schedules

Public Transport



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

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

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

Photo: Katalin Hoczane Melich/unplash

Phone: +297 520 2300

Internet: www.arubus.com

Email: info@arubus.com

Taxi



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

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

Photo: why kei/unplash

Address: Aruba Taxi Company

Phone: +297 587 1300

Internet: arubataxicompany.com

Post



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

Photo: Simona Sergi/unplash

Address: Post Aruba Head Office, Juan E. Irausquin Plein 9, Oranjestad

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:30pm, Sat & Sun closed

Phone: +297 528 7678

Internet: www.postaruba.com

Email: customerservice@postaruba.com

Pharmacy



they place out an announcement where you can check which of them is on duty.

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

Photo: Mika Baumeister/unsplash

Address: Botica Di Servicio Eagle, Caya Punta Brabo 17, Oranjestad

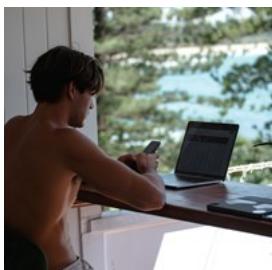
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-8pm, Sun closed

Phone: +297 640 8443

Internet: boticadiservicio.com

Email: info@boticadiservicio.com

Telephone



Country Code: +297

Photo: Mark Broadhead/unsplash

Electricity



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

Photo: Steve Johnson/unsplash

Population

106,739 Arubans

Currency

1 Aruban florin (Afl or AWG) = 100 cents

Opening hours

Many shops are open from 9am to 6pm. Some of them close for a break between noon and 2pm.

Internet

www.aruba.com
www.visitaruba.com

Newspapers

Aruba Today (English): www.arubatoday.com

Amigoe (Dutch): www.amigoe.com

Diario (Papiamento): www.diario.aw

Emergency numbers

Ambulance and fire brigade: 911

Police: 100

Hospital in Oranjestad: +297 527 4000