



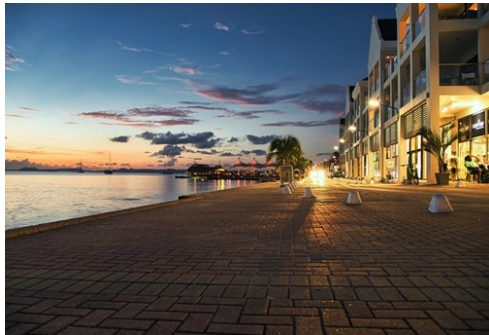
Bonaire

Photo: Jannick Nijholt/Unsplash



Lex Melony/Unsplash

With crystal clear waters and uniquely rich marine life, Bonaire is regarded as a premier diving destination. Yet, there is plenty to see and do even after your swim fins are off — salt pyramids, a cactus distillery, and historical monuments to name but a few.

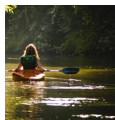


Steve Phillips/Unsplash



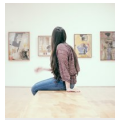
Paul Arps/CC BY 2.0/Wikimedia Commons

Featured



Kayaking in Mangrove Tunnels

The island of Bonaire is blessed on all sides with the calm waters of the Ca...



Terramar Museum

A small but informative museum where you can learn a lot about the history o...



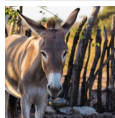
Land Sailing

Thanks to steady wind conditions, the east coast of Bonaire is ideal for lan...



Washington-Slagbaai Nation...

This natural reserve covers an area of 57 square kilometres in the north of ...



Donkey Sanctuary

With hundreds of rescued animals, the sanctuary has been home to the island'...

Top 5



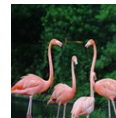
Salt Pyramids

The salt pans on the southern part of the island are among Bonaire's most cu...



Scuba Diving

The sea surrounding Bonaire is entirely part of the Bonaire National Marine ...



Pekelmeer Flamingo Sanctuary

Bonairean landscapes are brimming with vibrant flamingos, the island being o...



Rincón

Founded in the 16th century by the Spanish, Rincón is the oldest settlement ...



Sorobon Beach

Sorobon Beach, in the southern part of Lac Bay, is a great place to try wate...



BONAIRE & KRALENDIJK



iSAW Company/Unsplash

Bonaire is a Dutch Caribbean island of 288 square kilometres, which together with Aruba and Curaçao forms the ABC islands in the Leeward Antilles. The first European visitors to the island were the Spanish in the 16th century, seeking shelter among the hills that today surround the town of Rincón. They introduced several species of domesticated animals to the island, including cattle and donkeys.

Today's capital, Kralendijk, is the only other settlement on Bonaire. Its significance expanded alongside the establishment of the Dutch West India Company, exemplified by the iconic Fort Oranje, built to protect the city's harbour. Besides plantation, the Dutch relied on the island for salt production, which also meant that Bonaire was not untouched by slavery, either.

Bonaire has been a special municipality since 2010, similar to Sint Eustatius and Saba. Over the last decades, nature conservation has gained steady ground on the island: whether it's safeguarding endangered species, securing nesting sites, or becoming carbon neutral, there are numerous initiatives at work to protect nature's treasures, both on land and in the sea, for future generations.

DO & SEE



Steve Phillips/Unsplash

Thanks to its extensive marine park, sanctuaries, and distinctive ecosystem, Bonaire offers whole new perspectives on the natural world. And from sports to cuisine to architecture, be sure to also explore man's take on this extraordinary world.

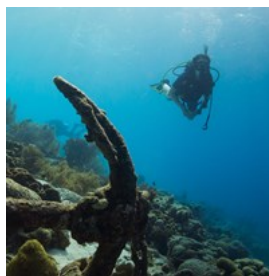
Salt Pyramids



The salt pans on the southern part of the island are among Bonaire's most curious attractions. The 15-metre-high pyramids contain 10,000 tons of salt, which is extracted through solar dehydration from the surrounding ponds. The landscape is also dotted with slave huts: the small, 150 cm tall structures are mere reminders of a dark period in the island's history.

Photo: Paul Arps/CC BY 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Scuba Diving

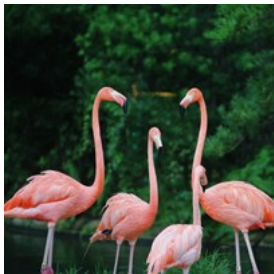


The sea surrounding Bonaire is entirely part of the Bonaire National Marine Park, whose reefs and mangroves are home to the best preserved and the most diverse marine life in the Caribbean.

There are nearly 90 dive sites in Bonaire, the most well-known ones being the 1000 Steps Beach, the popular wreck of Hilma Hooker, the deserted island of Klein Bonaire and Bari Reef, whose richness is unique even from a Bonairean perspective. Dive sites are indicated with big rocks painted yellow across the island to help underwater enthusiasts find the location they seek.

Photo: Kris-Mikael Krister/Unsplash

Pekelmeer Flamingo Sanctuary



Bonairean landscapes are brimming with vibrant flamingos, the island being one of the world's only four breeding grounds for the pink-hued birds — who get their iconic colour from the brine shrimp in the water. Bonaire's go-to place for birdwatching is Pekelmeer Lake, which is located near the salt pans. It's worth hiring a car to explore the area, but don't forget to bring your binoculars as you can only observe the flamingos from a distance. If you are headed elsewhere, both Goto Lake (Goto Meer) and Lac Bay give you spectacular views of the birds.

Photo: Sharisse Bullock/Unsplash

Rincón



Founded in the 16th century by the Spanish, Rincón is the oldest settlement not only of Bonaire but the entire Dutch Caribbean. Its location, in the valley, once provided shelter from pirates. Today, it offers great hiking options with breathtaking views. As a cultural centre, it

is home to attractions such as the rock formations of Gruta Lourdes, a pilgrimage site, and the Kas Krioyo, an authentic Bonairean building that currently houses a museum. The island's only distillery, Cadushy, is also located here, and it is worth timing your visit so you can celebrate with the locals on Rincón Day on 30 April.

Photo: Dave Bezaire/CC BY-SA 2.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Internet: www.rincon.nl

Sorobon Beach



Sorobon Beach, in the southern part of Lac Bay, is a great place to try water sports — especially windsurfing — or to improve your skills against the steady wind. And if it's relaxing you're after, there are plenty of shady spots and bars to just soak up the unspoiled views.

Photo: queulat00/CC BY 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)
Address: From Kralendijk, take the road Kaminda Sorobon

Washington-Slagbaai National Park



This natural reserve covers an area of 57 square kilometres in the north of the island and is home to species ranging from flamingos to iguanas and sea turtles, not to mention the distinctive flora including several species of cacti. The visitor centre at the entrance houses a museum and is the starting point of hiking trails throughout the park.

Photo: JERRY AND ROY KLOTZ MD/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)
Address: Rincón

Opening hours: Tue–Sun 8am–5pm, Mon closed
Phone: +599 788 9015
Internet: www.stinapabonaire.org

The Cadushy Distillery

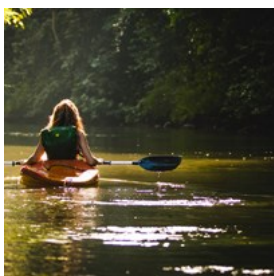


Located in Rincón, the cradle of Bonaire, the Cadushy Distillery is a great place to explore the distinctive flavours of the Dutch Caribbean,

especially the drinks of Bonaire — think rum, cactus vodka and more — for which the island's omnipresent cactus, Kadushy is heavily relied on. Artisan products are produced sustainably here on a land of 1,500 square metres, and you can be part of the experience through guided tours and tastings.

Photo: Eva Bronzini/Pexels
Address: Kaya C.D. Crestian 8 & 10, Rincón
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun closed
Phone: +599 701 7011
Internet: www.cadushy.com
Email: info@cadushy.com

Kayaking in Mangrove Tunnels



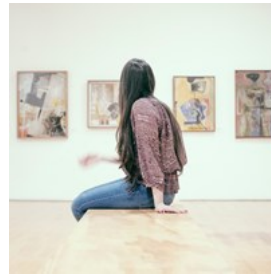
The island of Bonaire is blessed on all sides with the calm waters of the Caribbean Sea, making it ideal for a range of water sports. If you want to try

kayaking, few places offer a better backdrop than the mangrove forest of Lac Bay, which — like 60% of the island's territory — is part of the Bonaire National Marine Park. Guided tours are the perfect combination of sports and exploring the local wildlife.

Photo: Filip Mroz/Unsplash
Address: Kaminda Lac 140, Kralendijk
Opening hours: Mon–Sat: first tour starts at 8:30am and last

tour starts at 2:30pm
Phone: +599 780 5353
Internet: www.mangrovecenter.com

Terramar Museum



A small but informative museum where you can learn a lot about the history of Bonaire and the Caribbean. Exploring the artefacts and paintings on

display make for an interesting cultural tour, through which you can learn about indigenous peoples, colonisation, and other historical events that took place in the region. The museum has fixed as well as temporary exhibitions, from time to time showcasing the works of local artists.

Photo: gilber franco/Unsplash
Address: Kaya Isla Riba 3, Kralendijk
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9am–2pm, Sat 9am–1pm, Sun closed
Phone: +599 701 4700
Internet: www.terrarmuseum.com
Email: terrarmuseum@gmail.com

Donkey Sanctuary



With hundreds of rescued animals, the sanctuary has been home to the island's donkeys since 1993, often saving their lives by adopting them

straight from the street. Make friends with some long-eared residents, even from the comfort of your own car — you can even buy grass pallets to feed them — then round off the experience with a tour in the gift shop or a drink on the panoramic terrace.

Photo: Gilberto Olimpio/Unsplash
Address: 71 Kaya IR. Randolph Statius van Eps, Kralendijk
Opening hours: Daily 10am–5pm
Phone: +599 95 607 607
Internet: www.donkeysanctuary.org

Email: info@donkeysanctuary.org

Land Sailing



Thanks to steady wind conditions, the east coast of Bonaire is ideal for land sailing (or blokarting) almost all year round. The sport has origins going back to the ancient Egyptians, and it makes for a fun and eco-friendly activity that anyone can try after a short training session. Weather is usually not an issue — and with friendly winds, you will reach a speed of 30-40 km/h — but be sure to keep an eye on the forecast just in case.

Photo: [Walter Frehner/Pixabay](#)

Address: Kaminda Sabana Piedra Krus, Kralendijk

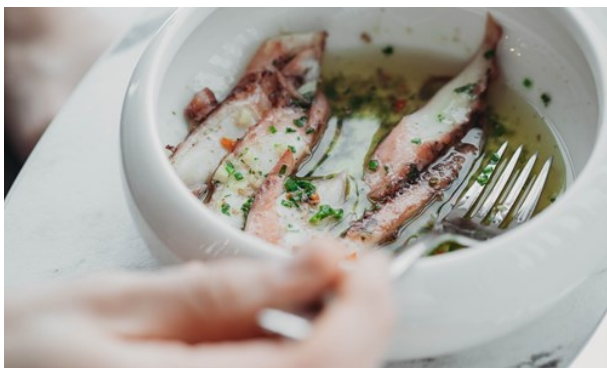
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 1pm-5pm, Sat & Sun 10am-5pm (or by reservation)

Phone: +599 786 1572

Internet: www.landsailingadventures.com

Email: bonaire@landsailingadventures.com

RESTAURANTS



Valeria Boltneva/Pexels

Bonairean cuisine has an answer for everything. For a quick bite they have pastechi, for a refreshing soup there is cactus and fish to prepare it from — not to mention cactus-based drinks — and for a heartier meal, you cannot go wrong with Kabritu Stoba, the signature goat

stew.

Chill and Grill



Few things are more idyllic than when your catamaran is rocking on the turquoise Caribbean Sea, you're getting ready for a refreshing swim or snorkel, while the staff are all at your service preparing some delectable grilled food. With Epic Tours, the menu will likely include some seafood, steak, salads, desserts, and accompanying drinks.

Photo: [Rachel Claire/Pexels](#)

Address: Nautico Marina, Kaya J.N.E Craane 24, Kralendijk

Phone: +599 777 11 33

Internet: www.epictoursbonaire.com/tours/chill-grill-catamaran-sunset-sail

Email: info@epictoursbonaire.com

Yhanni's Arepas



Yhanni's Arepas is a low-key, toes-in-sand restaurant with cheap and diverse Venezuelan food, plus sunbeds to further increase your comfort. The menu offers a wide selection of options, from classic ham and cheese arepas to more exotic varieties. In addition to that, there are also varying offers of burritos, soups and seafood.

Photo: [Wilmeris Hernández/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia](#)

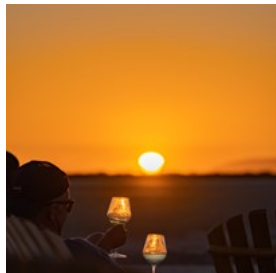
Commons(image cropped)

Address: Budget Marine, Kaya Neerlandia, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Mon, Tue & Thu noon-7pm, Wed noon-9pm, Fri noon-10pm, Sat & Sun noon-6pm

Phone: +599 788 0035

At Sea



Boasting stunning views of the sea — and of sunsets — At Sea, near the cruise port, is a prime choice for those who visit restaurants for a culinary

experience: finely composed dishes, excellent ingredients from European cheese to Caribbean fish, and wines from all around the world. The à la carte menu includes items such as caviar, ceviche, duck and bouillabaisse, and for the more daring, there are surprise menus with varying content.

Photo: Rod Long/Unsplash

Address: 25 Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 6pm-10pm, Sun & Mon closed

Phone: +599 701 0134

Internet: www.atseabonaire.com

Posada Para Mira



Leaving Rincón to the west you will find one of the city's hidden jewels, Posada Para Mira. Here, you can sample a variety of local cuisine: soups

and stews made of goat, cod and iguana, served with plantain and funchi as some of the garnish options. Posada also offers a range of refreshing drinks, not to mention — hence the name — the view unfolding in front of your table.

Photo: DanielleJWiki/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia

Commons(image cropped)

Address: Kaya Para Mira, Rincón

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

Phone: +599 717 2199

Internet: www.posadaparamira.com

Email: posadaparamira@live.nl

Ocean Oasis Beach Club



A vibrant beachfront venue offering an idyllic backdrop for everything — from snorkelling to cocktail-sipping in chic cabanas. Breakfast

options are varied and range from savoury to sweet, and for the rest of the day there's a rich offering from salads to local fish to brisket, with other specialities such as yucca fries or bitterballen, plus an extensive wine selection.

Photo: Kelly Sikkema/Unsplash

Address: 260 EEG Boulevard, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm

Phone: +599 701 4440

Internet: www.oceanoasisbonaire.com

Email: info@oceanoasisbonaire.com

SHOPPING



Intricate Explorer/Unsplash

Beyond the sea of common souvenirs, Bonaire is a great place for treasure hunts: at the top of the list are products made from salt and cactus, including aloe products of great purity. The island's beauty is a constant inspiration for fashion items and artworks, to be explored at vendor stalls and chic design stores.

Bonaire Arts and Crafts Cruise Market



A tour among the colourful stalls of this craft market is a great way to begin your journey on Bonaire. Whether it's paintings, jewellery or home decor, immerse yourself in the works of local artists and craftspeople and as a bonus, sample Bonairean gastronomy — all in the immediate vicinity of your cruise ship.

Photo: Ella Jardim/Unsplash

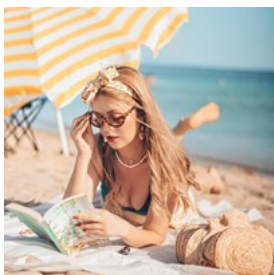
Address: Plaza Wilhelmina, Kralendijk

Phone: +599 782 5699

Internet: www.bonaireartsandcraftscruisemarket.com

Email: bonairecruisemarket@gmail.com

Beach Vibes



Cheerful and stylish accessories, gifts and kite gear await you in this vibrant shop near the waterfront, where you can even have a unique bracelet tailored to your style and find outfits for any occasion from a day at the beach to sightseeing in the city.

Photo: ŞULE MAKAROĞLU/Unsplash

Address: Beachvibes Playa, Kaya Grandi 34-C, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

Phone: +599 700 9744

Internet: www.beach-vibes.com

Email: info@beach-vibes.com

More Info: The second location is at Kaminda Sorobon 10.

Salt Shop Bonaire



Salt production on Bonaire began with the Dutch West India Company during the times of slavery to meet the soaring demand back on the old continent. Today, the salt ponds, now in American hands, are run under modernised conditions, producing over 300,000 metric tons of salt a year. The Salt Shop thus offers souvenirs which, besides being great additions to kitchens and bathrooms, are also deeply rooted in Bonaire's history.

Photo: Carlos Daniel/Pexels

Address: Kaya Grandi 9, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Phone: +599 717 6886

Internet: www.bonairesaltshop.com

Email: info@bonairesaltshop.com

Jungle Concept Store



Jungle's hip store, in the heart of Kralendijk, offers attractive and meticulously designed swimwear and clothes, so you can enjoy your holiday in glamorous outfits. The beauty products, accessories, and modest jewellery also make for great souvenirs and as a bonus are a great choice for those who prefer sustainable products.

Photo: Andrea Piacquadio/Pexels

Address: Kaya L.D. Gerharts 11, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-6pm

Phone: +599 701 0205

TOURIST INFORMATION



Lex Melony/Unsplash

Best Time to Visit



The high season on Bonaire lasts from November to April and the rainiest months are October through December, so May and

June could be ideal for those who seek pleasant weather and want to avoid the crowds.

Temperatures are relatively stable all year round, but the easterly winds ease considerably around August, making that period feel much warmer.

Photo: Alexis Antonio/Unsplash (cropped)

Passport & Visa



Citizens of most countries do not require a visa to enter Bonaire for stays of up to 90 days. Visitors of certain nationalities might need to apply for a

visa in advance. For complete information on entry requirements, please contact the Immigration Office on Bonaire or any representation of the Kingdom of Netherlands in your country.

All visitors to Bonaire are required to pay the visitor tax, which is \$75 in 2023 and can be paid online or upon arrival. Visitors will also need to provide a passport that is valid for the duration of the stay and has some unused pages, a valid return ticket, and the necessary documents for returning to their country of origin.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

Phone: +599 715 8330

Internet: tourismtax.bonairegov.com

Airport



Bonaire International Airport (IATA: BON), or Flamingo Airport, is located directly to the south of Kralendijk, around 3.4 km from the

city centre. The airport is small and easily accessible from the city and offers taxi and car rental services.

Photo: Bjørn Christian Tørrissen/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Plasa Medardo SV Thielman 1, Bonaire

Phone: +599 717 5600

Internet: www.bonaireinternationalairport.com

Email: info@bonaire-airport.com

Cruise Port



The cruise port of Bonaire is located on the west side of the island, close to the centre of Kralendijk. Ships dock at one of two terminals,

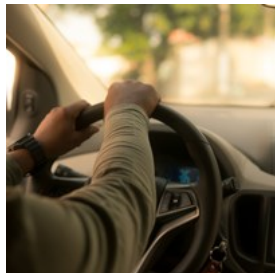
known as the Northern Pier and Southern Pier.

Between the two, the Northern Pier is a few minutes closer to Wilhelmina Park hosting souvenir vendors, the shopping street of Kralendijk (Kaya Grandi), and the Sea

Promenade brimming with restaurants (Kaya J. N. E. Craane). Passengers can also avail of tourist information, tour, and scuba diving operators and taxis at the cruise port.

Photo: Balou46/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Taxi



With average road conditions, road transport in Bonaire has its limitations, but taxi services are, nonetheless, available on the island.

Taxis have 'TX' on the license plates and since the rates are set by the government, a price list should always be available for you to consult before your ride. It is best to book taxis in advance, for which information can be obtained at information booths or your accommodation.

Water taxis are also available on the island, mostly to Klein (small) Bonaire opposite the cruise port, and it is also used by snorkellers and divers to get to other places with favourable conditions.

Photo: Jackson David/Unsplash

Golf Carts



While the city of Kralendijk is easy to explore on foot, if you want to tour the rest of the island, it is worth hiring a golf cart (or tuk-tuk). More eco-friendly than taxis, golf carts also allow for a more hands-on experience — not to mention your appointed guide, who will add an educative layer to your trip. At Bon Tuk, you can choose from a range of vehicle sizes and

there are also several themed rides on offer.

Photo: Jopwell/Pexels

Address: 15 Kaya Industria, Kralendijk

Phone: +599 700 8745

Internet: www.bontukbonaire.com

Pharmacy



Pharmacies on Bonaire are called 'botika' and are generally open from 8am to 6pm on weekdays. The pharmacy at Fundashon Mariadal (San Francisco Hospital) is less than a 15-minute walk from the cruise port.

Photo: Mika Baumeister/Unsplash

Address: Fundashon Mariadal, Kaya Soeur Bartola, Kralendijk

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-noon / 1pm-5:30pm; Sat 2pm-6pm

Phone: +599 715 8900

Population

22,573 (Bonaire, 2022)

Currency

US Dollar, \$1 = 100 cents

Opening hours

Shops are generally open from 9am to 6pm seven days a week, but exceptions do occur with shortened opening hours on weekends.

Internet

www.bonaireisland.com

Newspapers

BES Reporter (English) — www.bes-reporter.com

Amigoe (Dutch) — www.amigoe.com

Bonaire TV (Papiamentu) — www.bonaire.tv

Emergency numbers

Police, Ambulance, Fire: 911

Tourist information

Tourism Corporation Bonaire

2 Kaya Grandi, Kralendijk, Bonaire

+599 717 8322

www.bonaireisland.com