



# Willemstad

Photo: Den Harrson/Unsplash



Martin Falbisoner/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia Commons

Curaçao is an unquenchable source of natural wonders: the island is enriched by dozens of beaches, secret coves and inlets, and is made vibrant by unique tropical vegetation. Just as colourful is the capital, Willemstad, a true jewel box with Dutch flair and plenty of history — in case that famous blue liquor alone does not set you off.

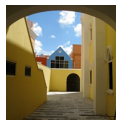


Diego Vieira/Unsplash



Bruno van der Kraan/Unsplash

## Featured



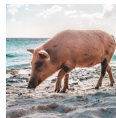
### Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue

The first Jews arrived in Curaçao in the 1650s and established



### Shete Boka National Park

With cliffs sculpted by the sea and dotted by inlets (known as boka), Shete ...



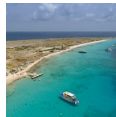
### Playa Porto Mari

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### Street Art

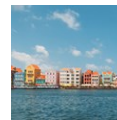
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## Top 5



### Handelskade

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### Kura Hulanda Museum

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### Mambo Beach

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### Landhuis Chobolobo Distillery

A landmark of historical value, where you can learn about the many flavours ...



### Blue Room Cave

Painted blue by the sunlight reflecting off the water, the unique Blue Room ...



## CURAÇAO & WILLEMSTAD



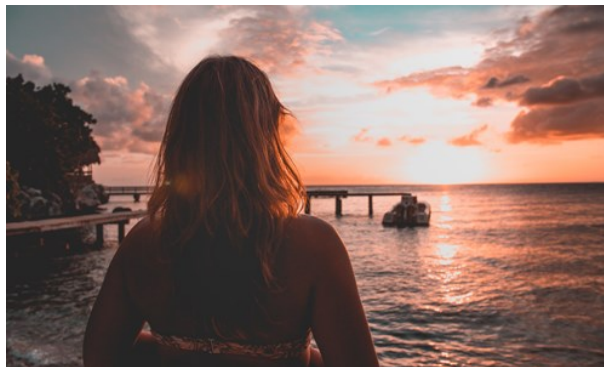
*Quinten de Graaf/Unsplash*

Curaçao is a Dutch Caribbean island of 444 square kilometres, which together with Aruba and Bonaire form the ABC islands in the Leeward Antilles. Beyond the Netherlands, its history and relations are tightly linked to many countries in the Caribbean, making Curaçaoan culture immensely diverse.

Before the 17th century, Curaçao was home to indigenous peoples and later, Spanish colonisers. They brought a plethora of plants and animals from their homeland, but the arid tropical climate proved challenging for some species. Among their less successful ventures was the Valencia Orange. However, it wasn't entirely fruitless — the bitter offshoot known locally as *laraha* became the bedrock of the globally acclaimed Curaçao drink.

Lots happened during the Dutch rule, from the founding of Willemstad, which soon became a centre for the Atlantic slave trade, to the emergence of oil refineries as a result of ties with Venezuela. After a tumultuous 20th century, Curaçao is now an autonomous state within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with a diverse economy and an architectural and artistic heritage waiting to share Curaçao's intriguing stories with you.

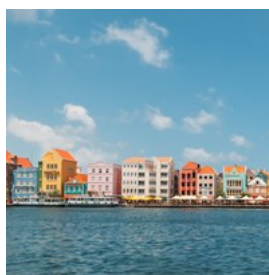
## DO & SEE



*Bruno van der Kraan/Unsplash*

Curaçao is a seamless fusion of Dutch and Caribbean influences. It's a place where dipping into centuries-old local history is as effortless as unwinding on untouched tropical beaches.

### Handelskade



A walk to the vibrant Punda quarter is a great way to begin your journey in Curaçao. Crossing the Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge already

guarantees stunning views, and there is more to take in once you reach the waterfront, which is a UNESCO heritage site. Allegedly, the parade of colours is due to a former governor, who was convinced that the glaring white buildings were triggering his headaches, so he had them repainted. An iconic example is the yellow Baroque building of Penha, which today houses duty-free stores.

Photo: Matthew T Rader/CC BY-SA 4.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Address: Punda, Willemstad

### Kura Hulanda Museum



Featuring an ample selection of artefacts and African artwork, the Kura Hulanda Museum presents the centuries-long history of

transatlantic slave trade, and shows how it shaped society and culture in the Caribbean. Situated in the eponymous district adorned with colonial buildings — now hosting an array of hotels and eateries — it provides a profound cultural immersion.

Photo: -JvL-/CC BY 2.0/Flickr

Address: 9 Klipstraat, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon–Sat 8am–4pm, Sun 9am–2pm

Phone: +599 9 462 9737

Internet: [www.kurahulanda.com](http://www.kurahulanda.com)

### Mambo Beach



If it's a holiday by the sea you have planned for Curaçao, nearby and well-equipped Mambo Beach must be on your list. Its famous Mambo

Beach Boulevard has an excellent selection of shops and restaurants for a little break in the shade. Nearby, you'll find the Sea Aquarium, which makes for a great family programme, and the adjacent public beach, Marie Pampoens Beach, is a great place to end the day with a quiet stroll.

Photo: Emiel Molenaar/Unsplash

Address: Bapor Kibrá, Willemstad

Internet: [www.mambobeach.com](http://www.mambobeach.com)

### Landhuis Chobolobo Distillery



A landmark of historical value, where you can learn about the many flavours and production of the world-famous Genuine Curaçao

Liqueur. In operation since the 19th century, the distillery today has a cocktail bar and gift shop, and offers tasting events and various guided tours. The orange-flavoured blue variety is a must when you're visiting Curaçao, but this place is proof that there is a lot more to explore.

Photo: Robenson Gassant/Unsplash

Address: Elias R A Moreno Boulevard, Saliña Ariba, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm; guided tours start on the hour

Phone: +599 9 461 3526

Internet: [www.chobolobo.com/guided-tours](http://www.chobolobo.com/guided-tours)

### Blue Room Cave



Painted blue by the sunlight reflecting off the water, the unique Blue Room Cave in northwestern Curaçao is a one-of-a-kind spot for

swimming and underwater exploration. The best options to reach there are to take a boat trip or water cab, but it's also popular to hop in a canoe or hike from beaches like Playa Santu Pretu. As swimming is necessary to reach the cave, it is recommended to go with a guide.

Photo: Balthazar LELIEVRE/Unsplash

Internet: [discovercuracao.today/blueroomcave/blueroom](http://discovercuracao.today/blueroomcave/blueroom)

### Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue



The first Jews arrived in Curaçao in the 1650s and established what is the oldest synagogue in the Americas today. The synagogue, or Snoa as it

is often called, has existed in its current state since the 1730s and is a defining element of the townscape of modern-day Willemstad. The interior of the synagogue is no less spectacular thanks to its traditional sand floor, azure glass windows and mahogany furniture, among other elaborate details.

Photo: Dolly442/CC BY-SA 3.0/Flickr(image cropped)

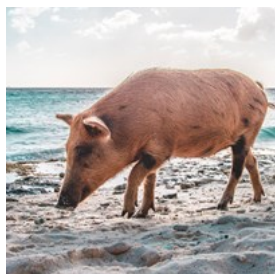
Address: 29 Hanchi Snoa, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4:30pm

Phone: +599 9 461 1067

Internet: [www.snoa.com](http://www.snoa.com)

### Playa Porto Mari



Curaçao may have nearly 40 beaches, but few are as beloved as Porto Mari. Aside from the clear turquoise waters and sugar-white sands, the

place has its own dive centre, a bar with local food and beautiful sunsets. If you're lucky, you can even encounter some beach-loving pigs. The area is also a local bastion of environmental protection, with hiking trails leading from the beach.

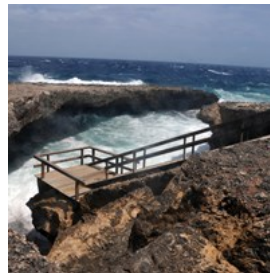
Photo: Bruno van der Kraan/unsplash

Phone: +599 9 864 7558

Internet: [www.playaportomari.com](http://www.playaportomari.com)

Email: [info@playaportomari.com](mailto:info@playaportomari.com)

### Shete Boka National Park



With cliffs sculpted by the sea and dotted by inlets (known as boka), Shete Boka National Park covers 10 kilometres of coastline at the northern

tip of the island and is a perfect destination for lover of the great outdoors. There are several trails for hikers, but the park is also accessible by car. Highlights include the sea turtle nesting sites and an underground cavern.

Photo: Jerrye and Roy Klotz MD/CC BY-SA 3.0/Wikimedia Commons(image cropped)

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5pm

Phone: +599 9 864 0444

Internet: [www.shetebokapark.org](http://www.shetebokapark.org)

### Street Art



A paradise for street art enthusiasts, Curaçao dazzles with its colourful stairs and three-dimensional murals. The island's lush nature

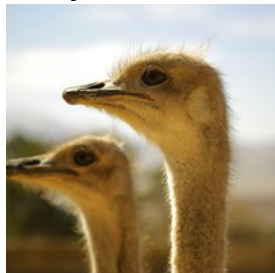
and diverse history provide an endless source of inspiration for brightening Willemstad's already vibrant cityscape. The alleyways of Otrabanda are a hotspot for these murals, but the streets of the Pietermaai, Punda, and Scharloo quarters also offer plenty of artistic treasures.

Photo: U.S. Embassy The Hague/Public Domain/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Otrabanda, Willemstad

Internet: [scharlooabou.com](http://scharlooabou.com)

### Curaçao Ostrich Farm



A short drive east of Willemstad, Curaçao Ostrich Farm offers informative guided tours to explore the wildlife of Africa. There's a

restaurant with signature African dishes, a playground, a souvenir shop and exciting evening activities on Fridays. It's also worth stopping at nearby Serena's Art Factory, where you can buy some of the famous Chichi dolls or even craft your own.

Photo: daniyal ghanavati/Pexels

Address: On the road to Groot St Joris

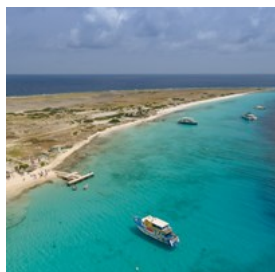
Opening hours: Daily 9am-4:30pm; dinner reservations can be made for Friday evenings

Phone: +599 9 747 2777

Internet: [curacaoostrichfarm.com](http://curacaoostrichfarm.com)

Email: [info@curacaoostrichfarm.com](mailto:info@curacaoostrichfarm.com)

### Klein Curaçao



The name translates as little Curaçao and refers to a small, uninhabited island around 25 km from Curaçao. Discovered in the late 19th century and

exploited by Europeans for its rich phosphate resources, the island today is sought after for its secluded beaches washed by the clear azure sea. Several tour operators are available to organise your boat trip and complement it with a variety of services.

Photo: dronepicr/CC BY 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Internet: [www.visit-klein-curaçao.com](http://www.visit-klein-curaçao.com)

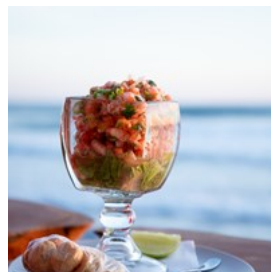
## RESTAURANTS



Helena Lopes/Pexels

Curaçao is widely known as a melting pot of different cultures, and the local dining scene is a good reflection of it. Beyond the nation's own creations, such as Keshi Yena and the famous blue liquor, you can also indulge in Dutch delicacies and the staples of other Caribbean cuisines.

### Ceviche 91



Ceviche 91 is an atmospheric ceviche restaurant offering a wide selection of the signature Central American dish, including Peruvian,

Ecuadorian and Venezuelan varieties. The menu also includes fresh oysters, tartare and much more. The experience is enhanced by the photogenic location and a colourful selection of refreshing cocktails.

Photo: Yasmine Duchesne/Unsplash

Address: Riffort 701, 4th floor, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11am-11pm, Wed 9am-11pm

Phone: +599 9 841 4404

Internet: [www.instagram.com/ceviche91curacao](http://www.instagram.com/ceviche91curacao)

### La Bohème Curaçao



La Bohème, which describes itself as a smoothie bar, offers healthy and well-balanced dishes at all times of the day, including omelettes, arepas, pasta and ceviche, proudly embracing the diversity that characterises not only the place but the entire island.

Photo: Bakd&Raw by Karolin Baitinger/Unsplash

Address: Columbusstraat 4, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-10pm, Sun closed

Phone: +599 9 843 1966

Internet: [www.labohemecuracao.net](http://www.labohemecuracao.net)

### Mundo Bizarro



With an elaborate food menu and unique vibe created by old furniture and colourful tiles, Mundo Bizarro aims to give you a real Caribbean feel. Dinner highlights include tuna steak, sirloin and the local stew known as stoba. The lunch options are just as varied featuring omelette and other light snacks. There is also outdoor seating and evenings with live music.

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

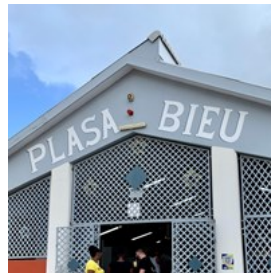
Address: Nieuwstraat 12, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-1am, Sun 3pm-1am

Phone: +599 9 461 6767

Internet: [www.instagram.com/mundobizarrocuracao](http://www.instagram.com/mundobizarrocuracao)

### Plasa Bieu (Old Market)



On an island where so many cultures have blended, a gastronomic tour is one of the most exciting activities one can do. In Willemstad, Plasa Bieu is a mandatory stop when on the hunt for authentic flavours. The name translates as old market and it is a no-frills establishment with various stalls offering a wide range of dishes inspired by Dutch, Afro-Caribbean, Venezuelan and other cuisines.

Photo: Paul Arps/cc by 2.0/Flickr (cropped)

Address: De Ruyterkade, Willemstad

### Gouverneur de Rouville



Only a few minutes' walk from Mathey Wharf cruise port, this restaurant is an excellent choice for a quick immersion in the world of Curaçao — but it's also worth a detour for the good selection of Caribbean food and the legendary views of St Anna Bay and Handelskade. The menu also has a touch of Italian cuisine, and there is even a verdant garden in case you're looking for something more intimate.

Photo: CP Hoffman/CC BY-SA 2.0/Flickr

Address: De Rouvilleweg, Willemstad

Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm

Phone: +599 9 462 5999

Internet: [de-gouverneur.com](http://de-gouverneur.com)

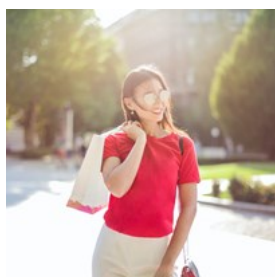
## SHOPPING



Kiwihug/Unsplash

From global brand offerings to signature liquor, not to mention the cherished iguana and Chichi doll souvenirs — in Willemstad, it's definitely worth carving out the time to explore the comprehensive malls and the vibrant street-side souvenir shops.

### Renaissance Mall & Rif Fort



Renaissance Mall offers a full day's worth of entertainment only a few minutes' walk from the Mega Pier cruise port. It houses a wide selection of

stores from clothing to souvenirs, and you can also catch a movie at the cinema or try your luck at the casino. And when you are famished by all that, there are dozens of restaurants to choose from, with everything from steak to Italian to fresh seafood. Rif Fort, recognisable for its stone walls, offers stunning views of the city.

Photo: Andrea Piacquadio/Pexels

Address: Baden Powellweg 1, Otrobanda, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon 9:45am–9pm, Tue–Sat 9am–6pm, Sun closed

Phone: +599 9 435 5000

Internet: [www.instagram.com/renaissancemallcuracao](https://www.instagram.com/renaissancemallcuracao)

### Nena Sanchez Gallery



Nena Sanchez, a native of Curaçao, drew inspiration from the Dutch Caribbean world for decades. Her artworks, brimming with the symbols and vivacious colours of her homeland, have journeyed globally over the years. By visiting Nena's gallery, you can delve into the artist's oeuvre and even purchase some of her Caribbean-inspired prints.

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

Address: Windstraat, Punda, Willemstad

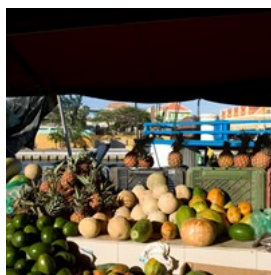
Opening hours: Tue–Fri 10am–5pm

Phone: +599 9 461 2882

Internet: [www.nenasanchez.com](http://www.nenasanchez.com)

More Info: Nena Sanchez Gallery has a second location in Jankok

### Floating Market



The Floating Market made its name when Venezuelan merchants began docking their boats to vend fresh produce.

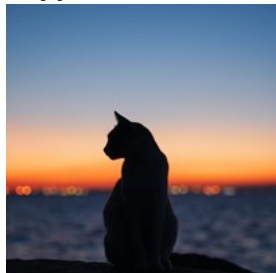
While it might not bustle as it once did, it still houses a smattering of vendors, and offers a delightful waterfront vista. A stroll eastward, past Queen Wilhelmina Bridge, leads to the New Market, where your quest for tropical treasures can continue.

Photo: CP Hoffman/CC BY-SA 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Sha Caprileskade, Punda, Willemstad

Internet: [www.uncommoncaribbean.com/curacao/curacao-floating-market](http://www.uncommoncaribbean.com/curacao/curacao-floating-market)

### Copperstone



Find your favourite model of Curaçao's most iconic souvenir, Skadey cat, at this family-owned business selling the cheerful keepsakes

created by Dhan Art. All the feline statuettes are hand-painted, each in its own way representing the colours and symbols of the city — and it's well worth browsing the rest of the merchandise, too.

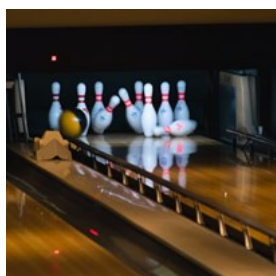
Photo: Yunus Tuğ/Pexels

Address: Hanchi Snoa 9, Punda, Willemstad

Phone: +599 9 694 1969

Internet: [www.dhanarts.com](http://www.dhanarts.com)

### Sambil Mall



Sambil is the largest shopping centre in Curaçao, just a 10 minutes' drive from the centre to the west of Willemstad. It houses

shops with over a hundred brands, a food court featuring cuisines from around the world, and plenty of entertainment options including a bowling alley, an interactive park for kids, and the most modern cinema in the Caribbean.

Photo: Karla Rivera/Unsplash

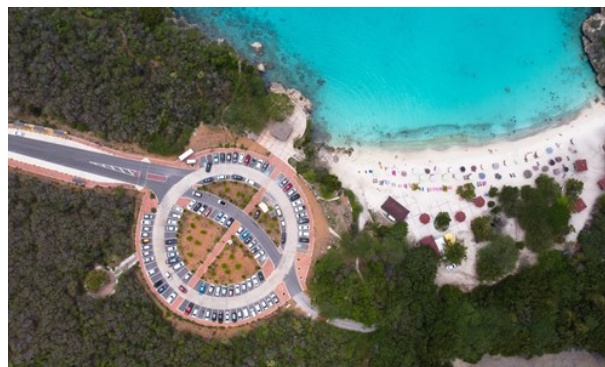
Address: Veeris 27, Willemstad

Opening hours: Daily 11am-8pm

Phone: +599 9 735 3131

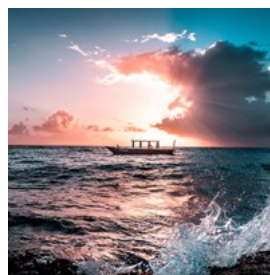
Internet: [www.sambil.cw](http://www.sambil.cw)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Vishal/unsplash

### Best Time to Visit



Curaçao enjoys a tropical climate, and since it is located outside the hurricane belt, the weather is pleasant (albeit often windy) and relatively stable all year round. The dry season lasts from around February to June and is considered the high season, when prices too tend to be higher. While more rainfall occurs from October to December, the amount is unlikely to ruin your holiday.

Photo: Bruno van der Kraan/Unsplash

### 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 in Curaçao. Visitors of other nationalities might need to apply for a visa in advance. For complete information on entry requirements, please contact the Curaçao

Tourism Board or the embassy or consulate in your country.

All international travellers must obtain the Digital Immigration Card (DI card) online up to 7 days prior to departure. 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 the country of origin. Finally, they can be requested to demonstrate that they have arranged for accommodation in Curaçao, and that they have the financial means to support themselves while staying there.

Photo: Kira auf der Heide/Unsplash

Internet: [www.dicardcuracao.com/dicard](http://www.dicardcuracao.com/dicard)

### Mega Pier



Curaçao boasts two key docking points: the Curaçao Mega Piers I and II cater to mega ships and is positioned in West Willemstad, just a short

stroll from downtown. Smaller vessels dock at the Curaçao Cruise Terminal, known as the Mathey Wharf and conveniently located within a stone's throw of the floating Queen Emma Bridge, offering easy access to the city's principal shopping and business hubs.

The largest cruise port of Curaçao nestles to the west of St Anna Bay, in the Otrabanda quarter. This spot not only provides tourist information, taxi and car rental services, and souvenir shops, but it also boasts superb signage. Just a brief walk away, you can lose yourself in Otrabanda's colourful streets teeming with additional shops, bars, and restaurants, many of which occupy the grand Renaissance Mall.

Photo: Katalin Hoczane Melich/Unsplash

Phone: +599 9 434 5999

Internet: [www.whatsinport.com/Curacao.htm](http://www.whatsinport.com/Curacao.htm)

Email: [info@curports.com](mailto:info@curports.com)

### Mathey Wharf



Smaller ships dock at Mathey Wharf in St Anna Bay, between Queen Juliana Bridge and Queen Emma Bridge, of which only the latter has pedestrian traffic. The cruise port has tourist information, taxi and tour operators and souvenir shops, and is only a few minutes' walk from various landmarks in Otrabanda. By crossing the bridge, you can reach Punda for walks on the famous Handelskade waterfront and for further dining and shopping options.

Photo: Roger W/CC BY-SA 2.0/Flickr (straightened)(image cropped)

Phone: +599 9 434 5999

Email: [info@curports.com](mailto:info@curports.com)

### Curaçao International Airport (CUR)



Curaçao International Airport (CUR) is located 12 kilometres from the city centre of Willemstad. Most flights are destined for Aruba, Bonaire and Amsterdam. It has a range of shops and restaurants inside the terminal, and offers VIP services, free WiFi, car rental and parking facilities.

Photo: -JvL-/CC BY 2.0/Flickr(image cropped)

Address: Plasa Margaret Abraham, Willemstad

Phone: +599 9 839 1980

Internet: [www.curacao-airport.com](http://www.curacao-airport.com)

## Taxi



Upon arrival and throughout the island, you'll find a wealth of options for hailing a taxi or hiring a car. Taxis, identifiable by 'TX' on their number plates, operate on standard, non-metered rates. While services are typically reliable, it's good practice to confirm the fare before setting off.

Photo: Maik Winnecke/Unsplash

## Public Transport



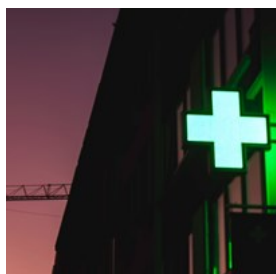
Public transport in Curaçao is run by Autobusbedrijf, with one main terminal located in Otrabanda (Sebastopolstraat) and the other in Punda (Waaigatplein). Although the buses serve a good range of locations on the island, taxis and car rental are generally more preferred and recommended.

Photo: Ant Rozetsky/Unsplash

Phone: +599 9 724 4222

Internet: [www.autobusbedrijf.com](http://www.autobusbedrijf.com)

## Pharmacy



Pharmacies are called 'botika' and are found in numerous locations across Willemstad. BENU Otrabanda Pharmacy is the closest to the cruise terminal, but the chain has other stores on the island.

Photo: Serkan Yildiz/Unsplash

Address: 46 Pater Euwensweg, Willemstad

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 8am-7pm

Phone: +5999 462 5633

Internet: [benucaribbean.com](http://benucaribbean.com)

## Population

151,066 (2022)

## Currency

Netherlands Antillean guilder (NAf or ANG), also known as Florin. The exchange rate is fixed to the US Dollar at a price of 1 USD = 1.80 ANG.

The US Dollar is accepted everywhere at the price of 1 USD = 1.75 ANG.

## Opening hours

Shops are generally open from 9 am to 6 pm between Monday and Saturday. Depending on the season and area, you can find shops that stay open until around 9 pm.

## Internet

[www.curaçao.com](http://www.curaçao.com)

## Newspapers

Curaçao Chronicle — [www.curaçaochronicle.com](http://www.curaçaochronicle.com)

Amigoe (Dutch) — [www.amigoe.com](http://www.amigoe.com)

Diario (Papiamentu) — [www.diario.aw](http://www.diario.aw)

## Emergency numbers

Emergency, fire department, police: 911

## Tourist information

Curaçao Tourism Board (CTB)

19 Pietermaai, Willemstad

+599 9 461 8200

[info@curacao.com](mailto:info@curacao.com)

[www.curaçao-touristboard.com](http://www.curaçao-touristboard.com)