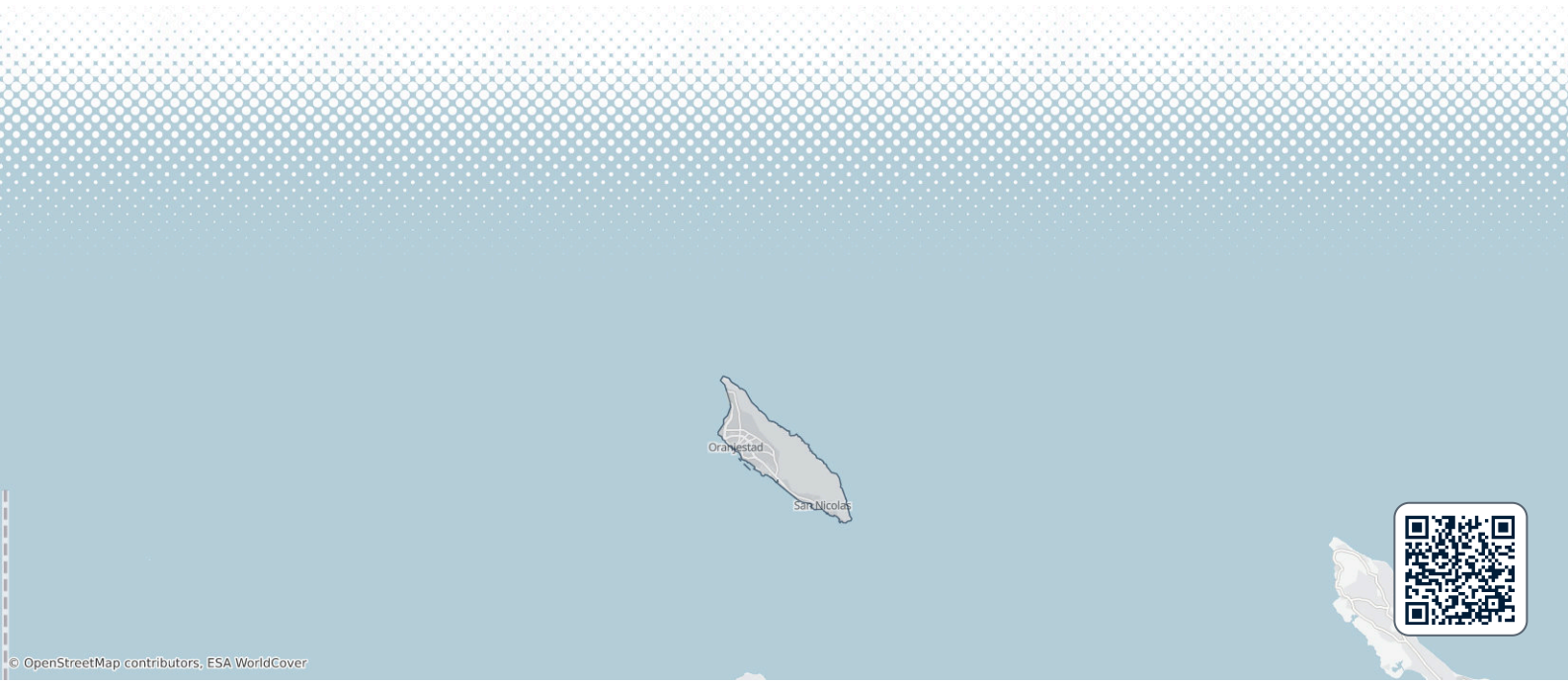


Aruba

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Aruba is a small island in the southern Caribbean, just north of Venezuela. It sits outside the hurricane belt, so the weather stays dry and sunny almost all year. Aruba is a **constituent country** of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with its own government and currency, and two official languages: Dutch and Papiamento.

The island suits travelers who want an easy, short beach trip. Direct flights connect Aruba to North America and Europe. English is spoken everywhere in the tourist areas. The whole island can be crossed by car in under an hour. The west coast has calm, white-sand beaches and most of the hotels. The rugged east coast and the interior look different: cactus-covered desert, limestone caves, and Arikok National Park. The park protects about a fifth of the island.

When to visit

Aruba is warm and breezy all year, and the sea is warm enough for swimming in every month. The island lies outside the main hurricane belt, so storms rarely affect a trip. February to July is the driest and sunniest stretch. Short showers are most common from October to December. Carnival, in the weeks before Lent, is the island's biggest event.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good	27° / 28°	25° / 24°	Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 9 (Very high)
February	Great	27° / 28°	25° / 24°	21 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 10 (Very high)
March	Great	27° / 28°	25° / 24°	22 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Great	28° / 29°	26° / 24°	Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 11 (Extreme)
May	Great	28° / 29°	26° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 11 (Extreme)
June	Great	28° / 29°	26° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Great	28° / 29°	26° / 25°	20 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	Good	29° / 30°	27° / 26°	24 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Good	29° / 30°	27° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 11 (Extreme)
October	Fair	29° / 30°	27° / 25°	21 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
November	Fair	28° / 29°	26° / 24°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 8 (Very high)
December	Good	27° / 28°	25° / 24°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 8 (Very high)

Best months: February, March, April, May, June, July

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Money & payments

The official currency is the Aruban florin. US dollars are accepted almost everywhere, including shops, restaurants, and taxis. You can often pay in either currency, so converting money is rarely necessary. ATMs are common in Oranjestad and along the hotel strips, and usually dispense florins.

Most goods are imported, so food, drinks, and rental cars typically cost more than on the US mainland. Resort-area restaurants and shops often price in whichever currency is more convenient for visitors.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room per night	350 – 700 Afl. €175 – €350
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) mid-range restaurant, per person	45 – 90 Afl. €22 – €45
Inexpensive meal casual local eatery	20 – 35 Afl. €10 – €17
Local beer local Balashi beer at a bar	7 – 10 Afl. €4 – €5
Coffee	6 – 9 Afl. €3 – €5
Water small bottled water	3 – 5 Afl. €2 – €3
Transit ticket Arubus one-way fare	2.6 – 3.5 Afl. €1 – €2
Taxi (per km) taxis use fixed zone rates, not meters; typical airport-to-hotel-strip fare shown	45 – 55 Afl. €22 – €27

Currency

CURRENCY
Afl.
AWG

1 AWG
0.4995 EUR
1 EUR = 2.002 AWG

1 AWG
0.5587 USD
1 USD = 1.79 AWG

Cards widely accepted

Tipping

Tipping in Aruba is a way to reward good service, not an obligation.

- **Restaurants**: some add a service charge to the bill, especially for groups. That charge is pooled for staff, not a personal tip for your server. Leave a little extra cash if the service stood out.
- **Bars**: rounding up or leaving a small amount per round is common, not expected.
- **Taxis**: a small tip for help with luggage or a friendly driver is appreciated, though not required.
- **Hotels**: a little cash per bag for porters, and a similar amount per night for housekeeping, is a nice gesture.
- **Tour guides**: a tip per person for a half- or full-day tour is typical when the guide does a good job.

Restaurant service charge sometimes added (~15%); extra cash tip for good service is welcome	Optional
Bar round up or Afl. 2-4 per round	Optional
Taxi round up	Optional
Hotel Afl. 2-4 per bag or per night for housekeeping	Optional
Tour guide Afl. 10-20 per person for a half or full day	Optional

Electricity

Aruba runs on 120 V / 60 Hz with American-style plugs, so visitors from Europe, the UK, or most of Asia need only a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

ELECTRICITY



Type A

ELECTRICITY



Type B

120 V · 60 Hz

Language

Dutch and Papiamento are Aruba's official languages. Papiamento is a Creole blend of Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, and African languages. It is what most Arubans speak at home and on the street. English and Spanish are also spoken very widely in hotels, restaurants, and shops, so getting around without Dutch or Papiamento is easy.

Useful phrases

Hello	Bon dia
Thank you	Danki
Please	Por fabor
Yes	Si
No	Nò
Goodbye	Ayó
Excuse me	Pordon
Cheers	Salú

Staying connected

Prepaid SIM cards from Digicel and Setar, Aruba's two mobile carriers, are sold at booths in the airport arrival hall and at shops around Oranjestad. Coverage is reliable island-wide, since Aruba is small and flat.

Safety & emergencies

Aruba is one of the safer Caribbean destinations for tourists. Violent crime against visitors is rare. Petty theft does happen, especially around busy beaches and resort parking lots — items left unattended, or valuables in an unlocked rental car, are common targets. Keep valuables out of sight and use your hotel safe.

Emergency operators are multilingual, so you can reach them in English, Papiamento, Dutch, or Spanish.

Emergency numbers

GENERAL EMERGENCY	POLICE	AMBULANCE	FIRE BRIGADE
911	100	911	911

Health

Tap water is safe to drink island-wide. Aruba has no natural fresh water. Tap water is desalinated from seawater to a high standard, and many hotels encourage refilling a reusable bottle instead of buying plastic ones.

Pharmacies (called botica in Papiamento) are easy to find in Oranjestad and near the main resort strips, and several stay open late. Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital, near Oranjestad, runs a 24-hour emergency department. No special vaccinations are required for most travelers. A yellow fever certificate is required only for travelers arriving from a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission.

Visas & entry

Citizens of the Netherlands, the United States, Canada, the UK, and most of the EU and Schengen area can enter Aruba without a visa, typically for up to 30 days. US citizens can stay up to 90 days. Every visitor, regardless of nationality, must complete Aruba's online Embarkation/Disembarkation (ED) Card before arrival. The ED Card also collects the island's sustainability fee for air travelers.

At the border you will also need a valid passport, a return or onward ticket, proof of accommodation, and enough funds for your stay. The final decision on entry rests with the immigration officer at the airport.

> Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Beachwear belongs on the beach. Cover up with a shirt or shorts when you head into town, restaurants, or shops. Public nudity is illegal in Aruba, and topless sunbathing is not practiced on the public beaches — a couple of private resort islands offer their own adult beach areas for that.

Greetings are warm and unhurried. A simple "Bon dia" (good morning) is appreciated, even from visitors who don't know any other Papiamento. It's polite to ask before photographing people, especially outside the tourist areas.

Holidays & opening hours

Public holidays affect banks and government offices more than tourist businesses. Most restaurants, shops, and hotels in the resort areas stay open as usual, including Sundays. Smaller local shops and offices tend to close on Sundays and holidays, so plan ahead for errands outside the tourist strip.

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 25	Betico Croes Day
Mar 18	National Anthem and Flag Day
Apr 27	King's Day
May 1	Labour Day
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	St. Stephen's Day
movable — May	Ascension Day
movable — Feb/Mar	Carnival Monday
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Monday
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Sunday
movable — Mar/Apr	Good Friday

Getting around

- **By bus**: Arubus, the government-owned bus operator, connects Oranjestad, the hotel strips, the airport, and San Nicolas. Pay cash on board, or buy a reloadable smartcard or day pass in advance. Arubus routes and schedules
- **By taxi**: taxis use fixed zone rates rather than a meter — agree on the fare, or check the official rate list, before you get in.
- **By rental car or scooter**: this is the easiest way to reach the beaches, rock formations, and Arikok National Park on your own schedule. Most of the island's attractions sit well outside walking distance of the hotel strips.
- **On foot**: the main hotel strips at Palm Beach and Eagle Beach are walkable between resorts, but the rest of the island is spread out and impractical to explore on foot.

Driving

- **Parking**: most hotels offer free parking. In Oranjestad, metered street parking covers the shopping district.
- **Fuel**: attendants pump your gas at almost every station. Self-service is rare. Prices are set by the government, so they are the same everywhere on the island.
- **Electric vehicles**: charging points are limited to a handful of hotels, so a gas or diesel rental is still the practical choice.

URBAN	RURAL	MOTORWAY
30 km/h	60 km/h	80 km/h

PETROL	DIESEL
Premium, Regular	Diesel

Drive on the right

No motorway vignette needed

Food & drink

Aruban food blends Dutch, Spanish, Caribbean, and Venezuelan influences, shaped by a trading history and a small island with little farmland. Breakfast tends to be light, often bread or pastechi, a fried turnover filled with cheese or meat. Lunch is usually the main meal of the day.

Hearty stews called stoba, made with goat, beef, or conch, are a home-cooked staple, usually served with funchi, a cornmeal side similar to polenta, or with rice and beans. **Keshi yena** is the island's best-known dish, a legacy of its Dutch cheese trade: a whole Gouda or Edam cheese, hollowed out, stuffed with spiced meat or chicken, and baked.

For something sweet, look for cocada, a coconut candy traditionally served on a piece of coconut shell. Locals wash meals down with Balashi, the island's own beer, or ponche crema, a spiced, eggnog-like drink served at celebrations. Restaurants range from casual roadside stands to fine dining around Oranjestad and the hotel strips.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Pan Bati · Pan bati
A lightly sweet cornmeal flatbread, cooked on a griddle and served with breakfast or stews.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Pastechi
A fried turnover filled with cheese, meat, or fish, popular for breakfast or as a snack.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Cocada
A coconut candy, traditionally served on a piece of broken coconut shell.

DRINKS

Balashi
Aruba's own locally brewed lager.

Ponche Crema · Ponche crema
A rich, spiced, eggnog-like liqueur served at celebrations and around the holidays.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Keshi Yena · Keshi yena
A whole Gouda or Edam cheese hollowed out, stuffed with spiced meat or chicken, and baked.

Stoba
A hearty stew, usually goat, beef, or conch, simmered with tomatoes and local seasoning.

Funchi
A cornmeal side dish similar to polenta, usually served alongside stews or fried fish.

Aruba – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
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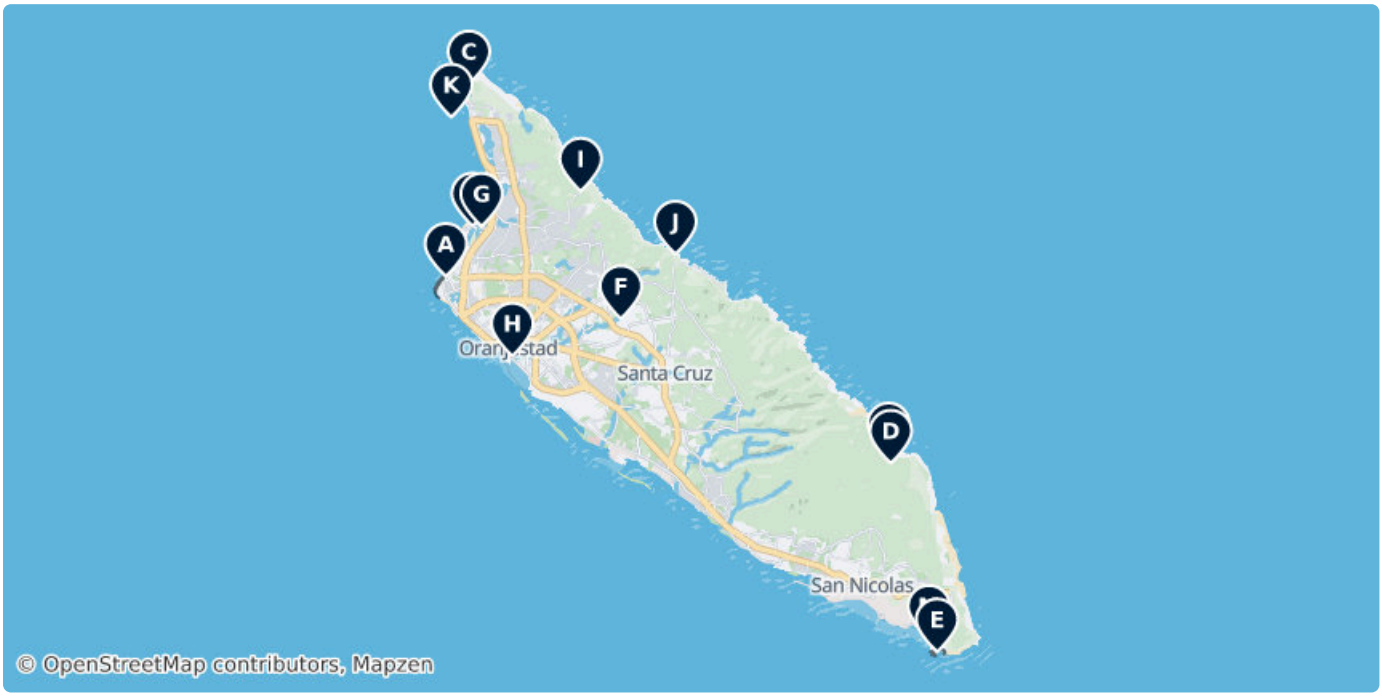
Where to explore

Oranjestad, the capital, sits on the sheltered southwest coast. Its harbor front, colorful Dutch-colonial buildings and shopping streets are a short drive from the Palm Beach and Eagle Beach hotel strips.

Arikok National Park covers much of the rugged east and interior. It has cactus desert, limestone caves, cave drawings and wild coves, and you can explore it on hiking trails, by 4x4 or on a guided tour.

Aruba's Absolute Essentials

Explore Aruba's diverse landscape, from the white sands of Eagle Beach and the shallow, family-friendly waters of Baby Beach to the rugged terrain of Arikok National Park. This list features historical landmarks like the 19th-century Dutch windmill De Olde Molen and Fort Zoutman, alongside the ruins of the Bushiribana gold smelter. Discover natural formations at the Guadirikiri Caves and Casibari Rock, or dive to the SS Antilla shipwreck. The California Lighthouse and Alto Vista Chapel provide panoramic island views, while the Butterfly Farm showcases diverse tropical species.





A Eagle Beach

Eagle Beach is a beach and neighbourhood of Oranjestad, Aruba. The neighbourhood is famous for its many low-rise resorts and wide public...

Aruba (12.54588, -70.05973)

aruba.com/things-to-do/eagle-beach

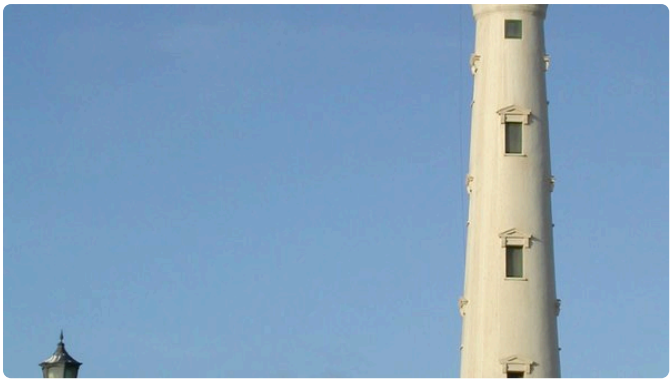


B Butterfly Farm

Visit to this butterfly farm is something you are not likely to forget. Butterflies of various shapes and colours are so fascinating!

J.E. Irausquin Boulevard, Noord (12.56367, -70.05005)

thebutterflyfarm.com, +297 586 3656



C California Lighthouse

Landmark of Aruba. Climb it to enjoy the spectacular views of the island.

Aruba (12.61377, -70.05135)



D Arikok National Park

Arikok National Park, covering 7,907 acres in the northeastern region of Aruba, was officially established in 2000.

Aruba (12.47994, -69.89872)

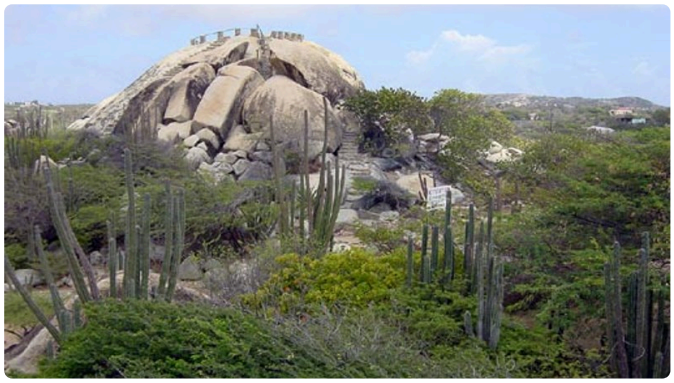
arubanationalpark.org



E Baby Beach

Beach perfect for families with even the small kids - it is naturally protected from waves and the water is very shallow.

Aruba (12.41335, -69.88193)



F Casibari Rock

These huge boulders are a perfect vantage point for overlooking the island. If you're lucky, you will see Venezuela from here.

(Unnamed Road), Aruba (12.53095, -69.99637)



G Olde Molen

This mill is one of the few last remnants of Dutch colonial heritage. Constructed in 19th century in the Netherlands and then moved to Aruba.

Aruba (12.56357, -70.04679)



H Fort Zoutman

The oldest historical relict on the island now serves as historical museum documenting the colonial past of Aruba.

Oranje Straat, Oranjestad, Aruba (12.51775, -70.03564)



I Alto Vista Chapel

Alto Vista Chapel is a small Catholic chapel that stands on the hills above the north shore of the sea and to the northeast of the town of...

Alto Vista, Noord, Aruba (12.57598, -70.01093)

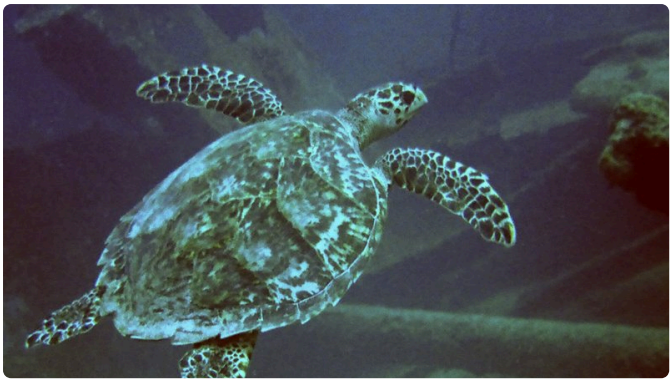
+297 582 3777



J Bushiribana Gold Ruins

Bushiribana and Balashi are the sites of two former gold smelters on the Caribbean island of Aruba.

Aruba (12.55376, -69.97661)



K The Antilla

SS Antilla was a Hamburg America Line cargo ship that was launched in 1939 and scuttled in 1940.

Aruba (12.60208, -70.05773)



L Guadirkiri Caves

A typical cave with several rock formations and narrow corridors. Beautiful place off the beaten path.

Aruba (12.48253, -69.89952)

+297 582 3777



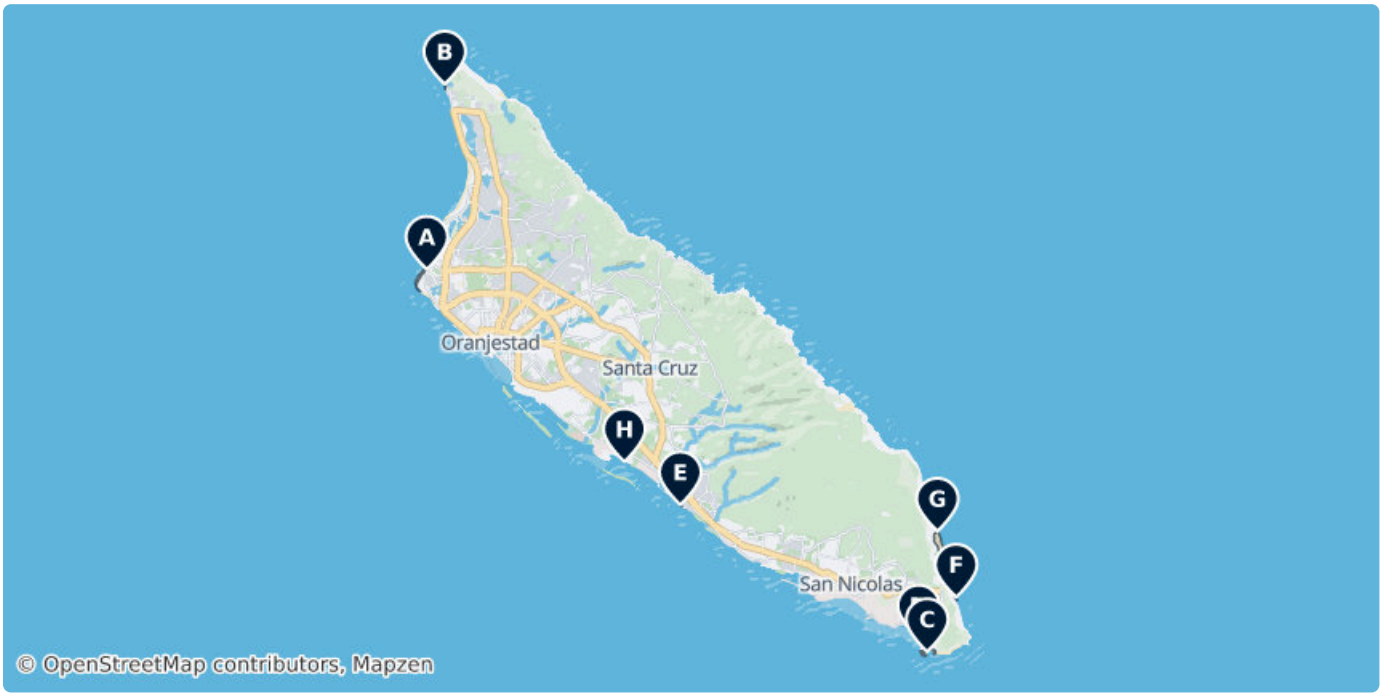
M Rodgers Beach

Come to this beach to watch the spectacular sunset or just to swim - the waters are very calm and shallow, too.

Sint Nicolaas, Aruba (12.41806, -69.88492)

Aruba's Best Beaches

Aruba’s coastline features diverse geological formations, from the wide coral sands of Eagle Beach to the limestone cliffs and mangrove forests of Mangel Halto. The island's western and southern shores offer calm, turquoise waters protected by offshore reefs, such as the shallow lagoon at Baby Beach. In contrast, eastern-facing spots like Grapefield Beach are shaped by steady trade winds, making them hubs for kitesurfing. These locations provide varied environments for snorkeling among sea fans, swimming in natural basins, and viewing the island's iconic Fofoti trees.





A Eagle Beach

Eagle Beach is a beach and neighbourhood of Oranjestad, Aruba. The neighbourhood is famous for its many low-rise resorts and wide public...

Aruba (12.54588, -70.05973)

aruba.com/things-to-do/eagle-beach

B Arashi Beach

Located near the California Lighthouse, this beach features white sand and calm waters. It is a frequent spot for snorkeling due to the abundance of marine life and clear visibility.

Aruba (12.61009, -70.05339)



C Baby Beach

Beach perfect for families with even the small kids - it is naturally protected from waves and the water is very shallow.

Aruba (12.41335, -69.88193)



D Rodgers Beach

Come to this beach to watch the spectacular sunset or just to swim - the waters are very calm and shallow, too.

Sint Nicolaas, Aruba (12.41806, -69.88492)

E Mangel Halto Beach

Secluded area characterized by dense mangrove forests and a shallow reef. It features a wooden sun deck and provides access to deep-water snorkeling and shore diving.

(12.46432, -69.96965)

F Bachelor's Beach

Situated in San Nicolas, this beach is known for constant trade winds. It is a destination for windsurfers and kitesurfers, though strong currents make it less suitable for swimming.

Aruba (12.43224, -69.87164)

G Grapefield Beach

Located on the southeast coast and named for its native sea grape trees. The area is characterized by strong trade winds favored by kitesurfers and rough waters not recommended for swimming.

(12.45511, -69.87826)

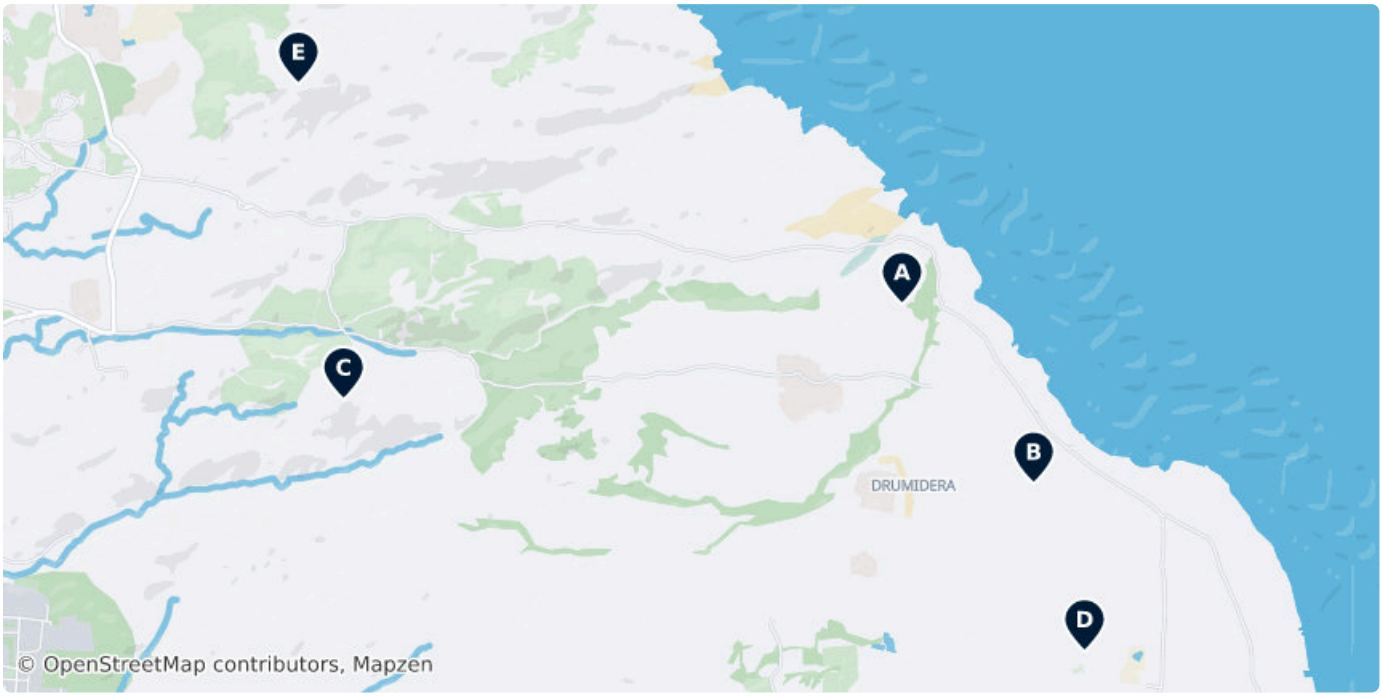
H Santo Largo

A quiet, shallow beach near Savaneta, surrounded by mangroves. The calm, waist-deep water extends significantly from the shore, providing a sheltered environment for wading.

Aruba (12.47925, -69.98951)

Aruba's Natural Wonders

Explore the diverse geological and cultural landmarks within Aruba's Arikok National Park. This collection includes Sero Jamanota, the island's highest point at 188 meters, and Sero Arikok, which offers panoramic views of the rugged coastline. The list also features limestone caves such as Fontein Cave, known for its ancient Arawak petroglyphs, and the Guadirikiri and Huliba caves, the latter famous for its heart-shaped entrance known as the Tunnel of Love.





A Fontein Cave

This tiny cave has beautiful drawings made by the indigenous Arawak people - a fascinating display of the local culture.

Aruba (12.49293, -69.90733)



B Guadirkiri Caves

A typical cave with several rock formations and narrow corridors. Beautiful place off the beaten path.

Aruba (12.48253, -69.89952)

+297 582 3777

C Mount Jamanota

Jamanota is a hill situated within Aruba's Arikok National Park, reaching a height of 188 metres and holding the distinction of being the...

Aruba (12.48741, -69.94048)

D Huliba Cave

Also being called "tunnel of love" for its beautiful heart-shaped entrance. Don't forget to take flashlight with you.

Aruba (12.47282, -69.89650)

E Sero Arikok

Standing at 185 meters, this volcanic hill is the second-highest point in Aruba. Located within Arikok National Park, the peak provides 360-degree views of the island's northern and southern shores and the surrounding Caribbean Sea.

Aruba (12.50568, -69.94315)

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