



THE CARIBBEAN
Bible.

THE CARIBBEAN / ISLAND GUIDE

Curaçao

Your island guide.



Willemstad · Bent Van Aeken / Unsplash

Find your island.
Write your own story.

BEACHES · EXPERIENCES · STAYS · LOCAL KNOW-HOW

October 2026 edition | @thecaribbeanbible

START HERE

An island, at your pace.

A practical companion to Curaçao, from a first swim in a western cove to dinner among Willemstad’s colourful streets.

Use the beach pages to choose your kind of day, the hotel shortlist to find a useful base, and the itineraries to keep your route realistic. The strongest trip usually leaves room for a slow afternoon.

Price overview	03	Everyday island essentials	15
Before you go	04	Getting around	16
Where to base yourself	05	Driving with confidence	17
The western beaches	06	Weather and flexible plans	18
Beaches with more on hand	07	Families and accessibility	19
On and under the water	08	A first taste: three days	20
Nature and outdoor days	09	A well-paced week	21
Willemstad and its stories	10	Pack well, travel thoughtfully	22
Food, drinks and evenings	11	Emergency contacts	23
Stays: city, style and comfort	12	Warnings worth knowing	24
Stays: families and island days	13	DI Card, offline maps and children	25
Shopping worth a stop	14	Neighbourhoods, Politur and care	26

KEEP THIS GUIDE ON YOUR PHONE

Contents and source links are clickable. Save an offline copy before heading west or boarding a boat. For urgent help, turn to page 23. Read the warnings on page 24 before exploring.

Price-level key: page 3. Sources and editorial notes: pages 27-30. The shortlist reflects published information and editorial judgement, rather than personal inspections or a paid ranking.

01 / PLAN YOUR BUDGET

Price overview

Dollar symbols compare expected spending within the same category. Use them to shortlist places, then check the actual total.

\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BUDGET	MODEST	MIDRANGE	PREMIUM	LUXURY

These are broad editorial estimates, based on the type of visit, published menus or fees and the property’s positioning. They are not fixed US-dollar bands. Ranges reflect options such as a simple visit versus a guided outing, different rooms or different purchases. A \$ stop may have free entry but charge for extras.

Compare like with like

- Hotels:** a standard room or entry accommodation category, per night; season, party size and villas can shift the level.
- Beaches:** ordinary access and a basic chair where relevant, excluding meals and premium cabanas. Mondí’s tier is labelled for dining.
- Food:** a normal meal with a soft drink, excluding alcohol or tasting menus.
- Experiences:** adult entry or the standard excursion; transport and private guiding may cost more.
- Shopping:** likely purchases; browsing is generally free and individual shops vary.

Published examples, checked for this edition

EXAMPLE	PUBLISHED PRICE	WHAT TO CHECK
Mondi City Beach	Smash burger: Cg 35	Menu item only; drinks and applicable extras are additional. [75]
BlueFinn: Klein Curaçao	Adult trip: US\$140	Check the selected departure, inclusions and transfer costs. [32]

Before paying: confirm currency, taxes, service charges, deposits, minimum spends and cancellation terms. Hotel price levels are planning estimates; use a quote for your exact dates before deciding.

02 / THE ESSENTIALS

Before you go

A few small checks make arrival easier and leave more time for the island.

CHECK BEFORE BOOKING

Travel documents

Check passport-validity and visa requirements for your nationality and airline. Keep accommodation details and onward or return travel information ready. The DI Card does not replace any required visa.

[02]

CARIBBEAN GUILDER

Money

The local currency is the Caribbean guilder, shown as XCG or Cg. The legal peg is US\$1 = Cg 1.79; retail conversion and bank fees can differ.

[03]

PACK ONE ADAPTOR

Water and power

Tap water is generally drinkable. Common sockets use 110-130V, 50Hz and Type A plugs; some properties also have 220V outlets. Check your device label.

[15] [14]

ONE PER VISITOR

Digital Immigration Card

Complete the official DI Card within seven days before departure, including one for each visiting child. It is free on the official portal. Save the confirmation offline; see the checklist on page 25.

[01] [86]

INSURANCE

Cover your trip

Check medical treatment, evacuation and any planned diving or boat activities. Do not rely on an EHIC or GHIC for care on Curaçao.

[07]

ARRIVAL PLAN

Keep the first day light

Arrange a transfer or rental collection, download directions and buy a few basics. A nearby meal and an early night are often enough after a flight.

Official entry portal: dicardcuracao.com/portal. Immigration requirements depend on your passport and itinerary; confirm them again before departure.

03 / CHOOSE YOUR BASE

Location shapes your trip.

Choose the area that fits your evenings as well as your beach plans. These are editorial comparisons, not measured journey times.

AREA	A GOOD FIT FOR	CHECK BEFORE BOOKING
Pietermaai / Punda	Restaurants, historic streets and a walkable city-focused stay.	Check evening noise, parking and whether the property has usable sea access.
Otrobanda	Street art, museums and exploring both sides of the harbour.	Ask about the exact walking route home and room location.
Mambo / Sea Aquarium area	A beach holiday with shops, dining and activity close together.	Music and events vary by beach club; ask for a quieter room if needed.
Jan Thiel	Beach clubs, villa stays and a sociable holiday rhythm.	Allow for road traffic when planning repeated journeys into town.
Piscadera / Blue Bay	A resort base between town and western day trips.	A car helps with dinners and exploring beyond the resort.
Lagun / Westpunt / Banda Abou	Western coves, snorkelling and slower evenings.	Plan groceries, transport and restaurant choices ahead of time.

OUR PLANNING PICK

For a first visit, start with a base near the activities you care about most. A split stay can work for a longer trip, but moving hotels consumes part of a day.

Hotel and beach locations are linked on pages 6-7 and 12-13. Ask the property for the exact address before comparing routes.

04 / BEACH DAYS

Six western favourites.

Choose one main beach and one optional stop. You will enjoy the water more than a checklist of car parks.

FOR THE CLASSIC VIEW

Grote Knip

Also called Kenepa Grandi. Come for the broad sweep of turquoise water and the viewpoint above the sand. Go early for space, and budget separately for any rented shade or chairs.

\$ · [20]

FOR A SMALLER COVE

Kleine Knip

Also called Kenepa Chiki. Make it an alternative to nearby Grote Knip when you prefer a smaller beach. Bring water and snacks rather than counting on a full beach-club setup.

\$ · [20] [19]

FOR AN EASY FULL DAY

Cas Abao

A strong all-round choice when you want a pretty beach with a restaurant, showers and shade options. Ask what admission covers before adding chairs or other extras.

\$\$ · [21]

FOR SNORKELLING AND FACILITIES

Playa Porto Mari

A sandy bay with a shore-accessible double reef, a dive operator and a beachside restaurant. Treat reef conditions and your ability as the deciding factors for any swim.

\$\$ · [22]

FOR A COMPACT SNORKEL STOP

Playa Lagun

A narrow cove framed by rocky sides, used by snorkellers, divers and local fishers. Keep boat access clear and leave wildlife space. A simple beach afternoon pairs well with nearby western stops.

\$ · [23]

FOR A RELAXED BEACH DAY

Daaibooi

A small bay near Sint Willibrordus, with shade structures and a snack bar. The rocky edges interest snorkellers. Bring a small amount of cash and check facilities on arrival.

\$ · [24]

Beach habit: keep valuables out of the car, take litter home and check closing times before settling in. Conditions, access arrangements and facilities can change.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

05 / BEACH DAYS

Beach clubs and easy days.

Choose the atmosphere, then check access, loungers and the full cost of your visit.

SOCIAL AND CONVENIENT

Mambo Beach

A lively beach strip with restaurants, shops and entertainment. Choose the club for its atmosphere, then check entry, chair hire and events for your date.

\$\$-\$\$\$ · [25] [58]

BEACH CLUBS AND LONG LUNCHES

Jan Thiel Beach

For a beach day that turns into drinks or dinner. Different venues create different moods. Check the venue's charges and arrange your return transport before staying late.

\$\$-\$\$\$ · [26]

FACILITIES AND A SANDY BAY

Blue Bay Beach

A bay northwest of Willemstad with shade and facilities. Day admission is charged. Ask whether your stay includes access and what the visitor rate covers.

\$\$ · [27]

A SMALLER FULL-SERVICE STOP

Kokomo Beach

At Vaersenbaai, with a restaurant, loungers and a dive centre. The tourism listing states no entrance fee; chairs, meals and activities cost extra.

\$\$ · [28]

OTROBANDA · FOOD AND POOL TIME

Mondi City Beach

Mondi Beach Club at Pater Euensweg 31 combines ocean views, a pool and Caribbean-inspired food. Reserve for lunch or sunset dining; ask about day-pass and lounge options. The price tier below refers to dining.

Food \$\$\$; daypass: ask · [73] [74] [76]

BEFORE YOU SETTLE IN

Know what is included

Check entry, parking, chairs, shade, towels, food credit and any minimum spend. Ask about outside food and cancellation terms. A cabana, event or premium day package can change the total considerably.

With children: facilities do not guarantee lifeguard cover. Check waves, depth, pool access and boat activity before choosing where to swim.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

06 / EXPERIENCES

On and under the water.

Pick the trip for the experience you want, then check how the day actually works.

Klein Curaçao: give it a whole day \$\$\$\$

An offshore island trip is one of Curaçao's signature outings. Compare departure points, vessel type, transfer arrangements, shade, toilets, meals, drinking water and actual time ashore. BlueFinn is one operator to compare; its published itinerary is linked here. A crossing can be uncomfortable in swell, and operator facilities differ. Ask about cancellation terms and advice for anyone prone to seasickness before paying. [32]

A WRECK WITH A GUIDE

Tugboat snorkelling

A well-known site for seeing a small wreck and marine life. A local guide can help you judge conditions and avoid boat traffic. Enter only if the water and your ability match.

\$-\$\$\$ · [29]

WILDLIFE, RESPECTFULLY

Playa Grandi / Piskadó

This working fishing beach is known for turtle sightings. It is not a guaranteed encounter. Keep clear of boats and fishing lines; never chase, touch or block a turtle surfacing.

\$ · [30] [31]

First dive or a relaxed boat outing? \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

For a first dive, book an introductory session with a qualified operator and complete its health screening. For a gentler outing, compare a coastal cruise with the longer offshore crossing. Ask about boarding steps, shade and correctly sized lifejackets. Follow the dive operator's guidance on flying after diving.

In the water: go with a buddy, stay within your ability, avoid standing on coral and leave space around marine life. Skip the swim when conditions are unsuitable. [31]

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

07 / EXPERIENCES

The island beyond the beach.

Start outdoor days early, carry more drinking water than you expect to need, and let local conditions set the pace.

A PROPER OUTDOOR MORNING

Christoffelpark

Choose a park trail or an early mountain climb. The park's published latest start for the mountain is 10:00 a.m.; go much earlier if possible. The climb is strenuous, with rocky sections. Wear sturdy shoes and follow ranger advice.

\$\$ · [33] [34]

FOR THE WILD NORTH COAST

Shete Boka

Visit coastal inlets such as Boka Tabla and Boka Pistol for a dramatic view of surf and limestone. Stay on permitted routes and well back from exposed edges. This is a sightseeing outing, not a swimming stop.

\$\$ · [35]

A GUIDED CHANGE OF SCENE

Hato Caves

A guided visit reveals the island's limestone interior. Reaching the entrance requires 49 steps, and the cave can feel warm. Check the tour language and mobility requirements; being indoors does not make it step-free.

\$\$ · [36]

A GENTLER INLAND STOP

Art around Jan Kok

Visit the Nena Sanchez gallery at Landhuis Jan Kok for colourful island art. It can pair with a western beach day. Confirm which gallery location is open before you drive out.

\$ to browse · [61]

CHOOSE ONE MAJOR EFFORT

A demanding mountain climb, all of Shete Boka and several beaches make an overloaded day. Pick the hike or a longer coastal visit, then leave room for lunch and a short swim.

Park rules, access and hours can change with conditions. The linked operator pages should be your final check the day before you go.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

08 / CULTURE

Willemstad has layers.

Its colour is the first attraction. Its communities, harbour and complex history are reasons to linger.

A city walk to make your own \$

Begin in Punda, pause along the Handelskade waterfront, and cross the Queen Emma floating bridge when it is open to pedestrians. Continue into Otrobanda for streets, public art and Kurá Hulanda Village. Later, make time for Pietermaai's restaurants. Start in the cooler part of the day; this is an editorial route, not a fixed-duration tour. [37] [56]

HISTORY WITH CONTEXT

Kurá Hulanda Museum

An important stop for learning about African heritage and the transatlantic slave trade. Give the subject time and space; a guided visit can add context beyond the historic setting.

\$\$ · [38]

LIVING HERITAGE

Jewish Museum & Snoa

Visit the museum and Mikvé Israel-Emanuel synagogue complex for another layer of island history. It remains a religious site, so confirm visiting arrangements, dress expectations and holiday closures.

\$\$ · [39]

UNDERSTAND THE HARBOUR

Maritime Museum

In Scharloo, the museum explores the relationship between Curaçao and the sea. A useful choice for travellers who want more than a waterfront photograph, or for a change of pace.

\$\$ · [40]

LOOK BEYOND THE FAÇADES

A local walking guide

A guided walk can connect architecture, street art and community stories. Ask where the tour goes, how much walking it involves and whether there are shade or seating breaks.

\$\$-\$\$\$

Good city manners: homes and places of worship are not props. Ask before photographing people, keep doorways clear and take beachwear off the streets.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

09 / EAT AND DRINK

A table for every mood.

A starting shortlist for local food, a planned dinner and a drink with a story. Check opening days and current menus.

FOR A LOCAL LUNCH

Plasa Bieu

The old-market food court is a useful introduction to krio cooking. Look at what each stall is serving, ask about unfamiliar dishes and bring cash as a backup.

\$ · [41]

FOR TRADITIONAL FLAVOURS

Komedor Krioyo

A country-house restaurant highlighted by the tourism board for Creole food. A good option when you want a meal to be part of a wider island outing. Check its current service times.

\$\$ · [41]

FOR A DINNER RESERVATION

Kome

A modern Caribbean restaurant in Pietermaai. Consider it for a planned evening meal, then check the menu and reserve ahead for the date and seating you prefer.

\$\$\$ · [42]

FOR A HARBOUR SETTING

Gouverneur de Rouville

In Otrobanda, this is a useful restaurant to pair with a city walk. Ask about the view from your table and confirm the available menu when making a reservation.

\$\$\$ · [43]

FOR CASUAL SEAFOOD

De Visserij

A casual seafood stop at Piscadera Bay. Ask what is available that day and how the price is calculated before ordering. Go for the setting and simplicity of the meal.

\$\$ · [44]

FOR A DISTILLERY VISIT

Landhuis Chobolobo

Learn about the Curaçao liqueur made by Senior & Co. Compare the tour or tasting options before going. Arrange a non-drinking driver or taxi if you will taste alcohol.

\$\$-\$\$\$ · [45]

Also consider: Mond City Beach (\$\$\$ for dining), featured on page 7.

Order with confidence: ask about ingredients and allergens, check the currency on the menu, and clarify any service charge. Dietary needs are best discussed directly with the restaurant.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

10 / WHERE TO STAY

Stays with a clear point of view.

Five choices for different holiday styles. These are editorial recommendations, not an overall quality ranking or live price comparison.

Avila Beach Hotel

CITY AND SEA

\$\$\$\$

A beachfront hotel in Pietermaai with two private beaches. Consider it if you want beach time while keeping city restaurants and culture within your wider plans.

Before booking: Compare wings, room views and beach access with your preferred room type. [46]

Baoase

A LUXURY RETREAT

\$\$\$\$\$

A smaller-scale luxury option with suites and villas, including private-pool categories. It suits a trip where the stay itself is a major part of the experience.

Before booking: Check the specific pool, beach access and dining inclusions of your category. [47]

Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort

A LARGER RESORT BASE

\$\$\$\$

An oceanfront resort at Piscadera Bay. A useful shortlist option for travellers who prefer substantial resort facilities while planning independent days around the island.

Before booking: Compare meal plans, beach setup, parking and total stay costs. [48]

Scuba Lodge & Ocean Suites

PIETERMAAI CHARACTER

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

An oceanfront boutique stay in historic buildings, with pools and a setting close to Pietermaai's restaurants. Consider it for a city-oriented trip with independent beach outings.

Before booking: Ask about steps, room location, evening sound and the exact sea-entry arrangements. [49]

The Kontiki Beach Resort

A LIVELY BEACH HOLIDAY

\$\$\$\$

Set in the Mambo Beach area, this suits travellers who want beach clubs and a social holiday setting nearby. Choose the room category as carefully as the resort.

Before booking: Ask about nearby events and quieter room locations if sound matters to you. [50]

Compare the final total for identical dates, occupancy and cancellation terms. Photos of premium suites do not necessarily represent the room you are booking.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

11 / WHERE TO STAY

More room for island life.

For beach-centred families, self-catering stays and travellers who want the west on their doorstep.

LionsDive Beach Resort

BEACH-FIRST FAMILIES

\$\$\$\$

A beachfront base directly at Mambo, with easy access to the area's wider dining and shopping choices. Consider it when a convenient beach day matters most.

Before booking: Confirm the family room layout, sleeping arrangements and which facilities suit your children. [51]

Morena Resort

SPACE AND SELF-CATERING

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Apartments and villas in Jan Thiel with covered outdoor living areas. A useful option for families or longer stays who prefer more space than a conventional hotel room.

Before booking: Check kitchen equipment, bedroom air-conditioning and the walk to the beach. [52]

Papagayo Beach Resort

VILLAS WITH FLEXIBILITY

\$\$\$\$

The resort's villas offer private living space near the Jan Thiel beach area. It can suit friends or families who want shared accommodation and separate bedrooms.

Before booking: Distinguish the villa resort from Papagayo Beach Hotel; check your exact booking category. [53]

Blue Bay Curaçao

APARTMENTS AND RESORT LIVING

\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

A collection of apartments and villas within a larger beach and golf resort. Useful when you want accommodation choice and a base west of central Willemstad.

Before booking: Verify the unit's location, beach access, housekeeping, ongoing works and included services. [54]

Lagun Blou Resort

A QUIETER WESTERN BASE

\$\$\$

Cliffside accommodation near Playa Lagun, with sea access involving stairs. Consider it for western beaches, snorkelling days and slower evenings away from the city.

Before booking: Plan a car and groceries; check steps, barriers and accessibility before booking. [55]

Family check: ask about cots, pool barriers, balconies and car seats. For an accessible stay, request measurements and photos rather than relying on a general accessibility label.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

12 / SHOPPING

Bring home a little colour.

Browse by neighbourhood, then look for the maker or story behind the object you choose.

BROWSE ON A CITY DAY

Punda & Kurá Hulanda Village

Combine Punda's pedestrian shopping streets with the restored village across the harbour. Good for a relaxed mix of boutiques, gifts and café stops. Check individual shop hours.

\$-\$\$\$\$ · [56]

BRANDS AND A HISTORIC SETTING

Renaissance Mall & Rif Fort

An open-air shopping area partly within an old fort. Useful for international labels, gifts and a meal in Otrobanda. Compare prices and warranty terms rather than assuming every purchase is cheaper.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$\$ · [57]

BEACHWEAR AND HOLIDAY BROWSING

Mambo Beach Boulevard

A convenient mix of swimwear, beach shops, boutiques and food by the beach. Browse before settling into a lounge, or make it the easy shopping part of a beach day.

\$-\$\$\$ · [58]

A PRACTICAL MALL STOP

Sambil Curaçao

An indoor shopping option when you want a break from the sun or need several errands in one place. Check the current store directory rather than expecting every international brand.

\$-\$\$\$\$ · [59]

SERENA'S ART FACTORY

Chichi Garden

See the hand-painted Chichi sculptures and browse the gallery. It is an opportunity to connect a souvenir with its makers. Ask about workshop dates and availability before travelling there.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [60]

ISLAND COLOUR IN ART

Nena Sanchez Gallery

For Nena Sanchez artwork and reproductions, check the gallery locations in Punda and at Landhuis Jan Kok. Ask about edition details, packing and transport for larger purchases.

\$\$-\$\$\$\$ · [61]

Shopping tip: keep receipts, inspect fragile items before packing, and check your home country's customs allowances for alcohol and other goods.

PRICE LEVELS: \$ budget to \$\$\$\$\$ luxury, within each category. See page 3.

13 / PRACTICAL KNOW-HOW

Everyday island essentials.

The small details that keep your holiday running smoothly.

Pay in a currency you understand

Carry a little Caribbean-guilder or US-dollar cash for smaller purchases and places farther from town. Cards are widely useful, but acceptance is not universal. Confirm whether a quoted amount is in USD or Cg, and check change and receipts. For card or ATM conversion offers, compare the displayed exchange cost with your own bank's terms. [16] [17] [03]

Groceries for a villa stay

Centrum Piscadera and Van den Tweel Zeelandia are useful supermarket options to compare with your route. Buy breakfast basics and beach snacks on the way to your accommodation. Keep chilled food cool and bring a reusable shopping bag.

[62]

MAPS.ME and phone data

We recommend MAPS.ME for offline navigation on Curaçao. Download the island map over Wi-Fi and save your stops before heading out; setup steps are on page 25. Check your mobile plan: European roaming terms do not automatically apply.

[77] [78]

Refill and recharge

Use a refillable bottle where the accommodation confirms drinking-water access. Check appliance voltage before plugging in: a travel adaptor changes the plug shape, not the supply voltage.

[15] [14]

Restaurants and evenings

Confirm reservation times and how to get home. Read the bill for taxes and service charges and ask what they include before adding a tip. Keep an eye on your belongings in busy places.

A SIMPLE BUDGET METHOD

Separate accommodation, transport, meals, beach extras and paid activities. Then leave a flexible amount for a taxi, a changed plan or a favourite place you want to visit again.

14 / TRANSPORT

Getting around, your way.

Choose a car for flexible exploring, or book your rides and return journeys ahead of time.

OPTION	WORKS WELL FOR	INCLUDE IN YOUR PLAN
Rental car	Western beaches and flexible day trips.	Budget for insurance excess, fuel, parking and child seats.
Taxi / transfer	Airport arrival, evenings out and planned journeys.	Agree fare, currency, pickup and return transport.
Organised outing	Boat trips or guided days with less driving.	Check pickup, group size and cancellation terms.
Public bus	Trips that fit the available routes.	Check the route and last return with Autobusbedrijf.

Public bus routes: [11]

Our local taxi-app pick: 24-7 Taxi Curaçao

Book through the app, website or dispatch line. The tourism board lists 24/7 booking, fares agreed in advance, vehicle tracking and cash or card payment. Check your pickup pin, quoted total and payment method. Reserve early for flights, late nights and western pickups; keep the dispatch number if the app cannot find a car. [66]

Call: 9247 locally, or +599 9 844 9247 from an international phone.

Download: Android / Google Play · iPhone / App Store. [67] [68]

BEFORE YOU ACCEPT A RENTAL CAR

Photograph existing damage. Check the deposit, excess, fuel policy, excluded roads and tyre/glass cover. Save the rental company's breakdown number and **ForenSys 9233** for accidents. Bring the required licence and documents; book child seats ahead. [65]

Taxi check: registered taxis have TX plates. Agree the fare before boarding and confirm the driver and pickup details. [08]

15 / ON THE ROAD

Drive calmly. Read the signs.

Curaçao drives on the right. Speed signs use kilometres per hour, and junction layouts deserve your full attention.

Priority is not the same at every junction

The tourism board describes traffic from the right as having priority at unmarked crossings and roundabouts, unless signs state otherwise. At a T-junction, traffic on the through road has priority. Slow down on approach and follow the actual signs and road markings; do not assume vehicles already on every roundabout automatically have priority. [09]

Leave room to react

Road surfaces, lighting and shoulders vary. Watch for potholes, scooters, pedestrians and animals, particularly away from built-up areas. After rain, reduce speed and avoid driving into water when you cannot judge its depth.

[10]

Keep the drive simple

Use seat belts and appropriate child restraints. Set navigation before leaving, keep your phone out of your hands and avoid alcohol when driving. For a night out, arrange transport before the first drink.

Parking and belongings

Park where signs permit and avoid obstructing gates or beach access. Take valuables with you; a bag hidden in a rental car can still be a target. Save the exact parking location.

[08]

Give the route time

Busy roads around Willemstad can change a short outing into a longer journey. Check live navigation before setting out, allow a generous airport buffer and avoid packing distant stops into one afternoon.

AFTER AN ACCIDENT: LEAVE THE CAR IN PLACE

Do not move the car to the roadside or to clear traffic, even if it blocks the road.

Leave it where it came to rest until ForenSys or the police instruct you otherwise. Call **ForenSys: 9233** (+599 9 461 3282) and notify your rental company. For injuries, call **912**; for fire or immediate danger, call **911**. Put people's immediate safety first and follow emergency instructions. Take photos only if safe and keep the incident-report details. [65] [72] [04]

16 / WHEN TO GO

Plan for sunshine and flexibility.

Choose dates around your priorities, then leave enough room to move an outdoor day when the forecast changes.

PERIOD	WHAT TO EXPECT	HOW TO PLAN
February to June	Generally the driest period in the tourism board’s seasonal guidance.	A useful starting point for a beach-heavy trip, without a guarantee of daily conditions.
July to September	Rain remains possible; local conditions still matter.	Book the trip you want, then keep a flexible day for a boat outing or hike.
October to December	Usually the wettest months. Showers can be intense and localised.	Keep an indoor alternative and allow time for wet roads or a changed sea excursion.
January	Some rain can still fall.	Check the daily forecast rather than treating the calendar as a promise.

Seasonal guidance: [12] Local forecasts, marine conditions and warnings: [13]

A forecast is a planning tool

A rain symbol does not tell you where a shower will fall or whether it will last all day. Use the local forecast and radar, ask your operator about sea conditions and be ready to swap days. A sheltered beach can feel very different from an exposed coast. Leave any decision to sail or cancel to the operator. [13]

A USEFUL PLAN B

Try the Maritime Museum or Jewish Museum, make time for a longer lunch, or browse Sambil. Hato Caves is an alternative outing only if the steps, heat and conditions suit your group. [40] [39] [59] [36]

17 / TRAVEL TOGETHER

Families and different needs.

A comfortable trip is built around your group's energy, mobility and daily rhythm.

WITH YOUNGER CHILDREN

A beach with useful facilities

Start with a bay where shade, toilets and lunch are easy to arrange. Cas Abao and Blue Bay are useful options to compare. Inspect the water entry and supervise closely; facilities do not imply lifeguard coverage.

[21] [27]

LEAVE ROOM TO RESET

One main outing a day

A beach morning, lunch and an afternoon rest may work better than several stops. Carry water, snacks, sun protection and spare clothing. Arrange age-appropriate car seats before arrival.

BEFORE BOOKING A ROOM

Ask specific access questions

Request door widths, bathroom photos, step-free routes, lift details and the route to dining and the beach. Morena lists an adapted villa category, but suitability still depends on individual requirements.

[52]

BEYOND THE HOTEL

Check the activity, too

Hato Caves has 49 steps to its entrance; cliffside properties and rocky trails can also be demanding. Ask boat operators about boarding, toilets, shade and support, rather than assuming a transfer solves access.

[36] [55]

Make health arrangements before the flight

Keep prescribed medicine in original packaging and carry a copy of the prescription when appropriate. Check import requirements for your medicine and discuss travel health needs with a clinician. Pack insect repellent and use it according to its label. Know how to contact your insurer and keep emergency contacts offline. [07]

Before travelling with children: check the entry documents and parental-consent requirements on page 25. Tell providers about mobility, seating and dietary needs when booking.

18 / A SHORTER STAY

Three days, three island moods.

A suggested plan for three full days on the island, with arrival and departure kept separate. Swap days to suit weather and opening times.

Day 1 / Willemstad, culture and a good meal

Spend the cooler morning in Punda and around the Handelskade, then cross into Otrobanda. Choose one museum instead of rushing through several. Plasa Bieu is an option for a local lunch; later, head to Pietermaai or stay in Otrobanda for dinner. Leave an afternoon gap for a rest or a short swim near your base. [37] [38] [41] [43]

Day 2 / Your western beach day

Choose Cas Abao or Porto Mari as the main stop. If you want a longer western drive, build the day around Grote Knip and one nearby cove instead. Pack water and leave enough time for the journey back. The aim is a proper swim and an unhurried lunch, not a photograph at every beach. [21] [22] [20]

Day 3 / Choose your finale

For nature, start early at Christoffelpark or choose a visit to Shete Boka, then finish with a relaxed meal. For the sea, book a guided snorkel outing or a full Klein Curaçao day. For an easy finish, stay near your base and combine Mambo or Jan Thiel with shopping and dinner. [33] [35] [32] [25] [26]

ONLY ONE DAY AVAILABLE?

Choose a Willemstad-focused day or one beach area with a reliable return journey. Cruise visitors should work backwards from the ship's all-aboard time and leave a substantial transport buffer.

These are editorial itinerary suggestions. Check actual travel times, admission and operating days before combining stops.

19 / STAY A LITTLE LONGER

A well-paced week.

Seven full days, with one flexible day to protect the plan. Keep arrival and departure light.

01

Settle into the city

Walk Punda and Otrobanda early, choose one museum and enjoy a local lunch. Keep the afternoon relaxed.

02

A full-service beach day

Choose Cas Abao or Porto Mari. Stay long enough for a swim, lunch and a quiet hour in the shade.

03

Explore the western coves

Make Grote Knip your main stop and add Lagun only if the pace feels comfortable. Return before you are tired.

04

An early nature outing

Choose Christoffelpark or Shete Boka as the main activity. Plan shade, water and a gentler afternoon.

05

A day on the water

Book Klein Curaçao if the crossing suits your group, or choose a shorter guided snorkel outing. Keep the evening simple.

06

Art, shopping and a long lunch

Visit a gallery or Chichi Garden, then browse one shopping area. Reserve the dinner you have been looking forward to.

07

Your flexible favourite

Use this day for a moved excursion, a favourite beach or a slower day near the hotel. Avoid a tight final schedule.

Use the relevant beach, experience and shopping pages for booking links. The order is flexible; confirm conditions and operator schedules before each day.

20 / FINAL PREPARATIONS

Pack well. Leave a light footprint.

A little preparation helps you enjoy the island while respecting the people and places that make it special.

Your everyday bag

- Refillable water bottle and a light snack.
- Hat, sunglasses, sun protection and a rash vest for longer water time.
- Swimwear, a light cover-up and dry clothing.
- Small cash amount, payment card and a secure place for valuables.
- Downloaded MAPS.ME map, saved accommodation address and a charged phone.

For the days you book

- Sturdy closed shoes for rocky trails; suitable footwear for the water entry you choose.
- Insect repellent used as directed.
- Travel adaptor and checked voltage compatibility.
- Prescription medicines, travel insurance details and document copies.
- Any equipment, child restraints or accessibility support confirmed with the provider.

Respect belongs in the itinerary

Keep away from turtle nests, leave shells and coral where they belong, and do not chase or touch marine life. Keep rubbish out of beaches and water. Ask before photographing people, respect private property and follow park rules. Buy from local makers when their work speaks to you, and learn a greeting before asking for help. [31]

A LITTLE PAPIAMENTU	MEANING
Bon dia	Good morning
Danki	Thank you
Mi ta bon, danki	I am fine, thank you

Language reference: [18] Curaçao uses Atlantic Standard Time (UTC-4) year-round. Keep your device’s local time setting in mind when checking bookings.

21 / SAVE THIS PAGE

Help when you need it.

Save these numbers offline, plus your accommodation, rental and insurance details.

SERVICE	NUMBER	USE
Ambulance	912	Urgent medical help.
Police / fire	911	Police or fire emergency.
Coastguard	913	Emergency at sea.
ForenSys	9233 +599 9 461 3282	Accidents / vehicle damage. Leave the car in place.
Police, non-emergency	917	Non-urgent police assistance.
Politur	+599 9 462 8223	Tourist police / visitor assistance. Emergency: 911.
Doctor on call	+599 9 462 9252	Urgent GP needs outside regular hours. Call first.
Curaçao Medical Center	+599 9 745 0000	Hospital switchboard. Ambulance: 912.

Contacts: [04] [05] [06] [65] [80] [83]

When you call

Give your exact location, a landmark, what happened and a callback number. Follow the dispatcher. If a short code does not connect, ask someone nearby to call. After a collision, leave the car where it stopped and call ForenSys; call 912 / 911 first for injuries or immediate danger.

24-7 Taxi Curaçao: 9247 locally / **+599 9 844 9247** internationally. App links: page 16. [66]

Duty pharmacy, Politur and lost documents: page 26. Keep insurance details available.

Accommodation / address: _____

Rental company / insurer: _____

22 / KNOW BEFORE YOU EXPLORE

Warnings worth knowing.

Practical precautions for beaches, city days and evenings out. Check local advice and conditions each day.

THEFT AND QUIET PLACES

Belongings and after dark

Keep bags, phones and travel documents out of parked cars and off unattended beach towels. Avoid isolated beaches and quiet areas after dark. Arrange your return ride before going out; keep drinks and belongings within sight.

[08]

CHECK BEFORE PAYING

Prices and unofficial offers

Confirm currency, the full fare and extras before accepting a taxi, excursion or watersport rental. Use recognised providers and verified booking channels. Be wary of unsolicited guides, rental offers and money-transfer requests.

[10]

CURRENTS AND EXPOSED COASTS

The sea can change quickly

Check waves, currents and warnings before swimming. Use a buddy, stay within your ability and do not assume lifeguard cover. Shete Boka's exposed coast is for viewing, not swimming. Get out if conditions worsen.

[10] [35] [69]

PACE OUTDOOR DAYS

Heat and strong sun

Hike early, take shade breaks and carry water. Use sunscreen, a hat and protective clothing, even when breezy. Stop if the heat becomes too much; follow park start-time rules.

[69] [33]

DENGUE AND OTHER INFECTIONS

Mosquito bites matter

Dengue and Zika risks are listed for Curaçao. Use repellent as directed and screened or air-conditioned rooms. Seek medical advice for fever and mention your trip. Discuss pregnancy-related travel advice with a clinician before departure.

[69] [07]

POISONOUS COASTAL TREES

Manzanilla / manchineel

Never touch or eat its small apple-like fruit. Avoid touching the tree or sheltering beneath it, especially in rain: sap and drips can injure skin. Keep children away. Seek medical help after ingestion or eye exposure.

[70] [71]

Before heading out: check [Meteo Curaçao](#) for weather and marine warnings, keep your phone charged and tell someone your plans for remote outings. Neighbourhood advice and Politur: page 26. Urgent help: page 23. [13]

23 / BEFORE TAKE-OFF

Your arrival and offline toolkit.

Prepare the essentials at home, then keep copies you can open without mobile data.

Digital Immigration Card: do this before flying

Use dicardcuracao.com/portal within the **seven days before departure**. Complete a separate card for every non-resident visitor, including children; Curaçao residents are exempt. Have passports, flight details, your stay address and an accessible email ready. Check spellings and dates, submit, then download the confirmation for airline check-in and immigration. Keep it offline or printed. The card does not replace a visa or the passport itself. [01] [02]

Avoid unnecessary fees: the official DI Card is free. Start from the official link above and be cautious of adverts or lookalike sites charging a processing fee. Support: dicardsupport@curacao.com. [86] [80]

MAPS.ME: our offline-navigation recommendation

The Curaçao Tourist Board also recommends MAPS.ME for navigating the island. Use the official [MAPS.ME download page](#) for iOS or Android, then prepare it before your first drive. [77] [78]

- On Wi-Fi, download the map covering all of Curaçao. Check current download limits and any paid options in the app.
- Bookmark your accommodation, airport, rental return and planned beach stops. Confirm the correct entrance with your host.
- Test a route with mobile data switched off and location services enabled. Keep a charger or power bank handy.
- Follow road signs and local advice. A suggested shortcut does not confirm road access, surface quality or safety after dark.

Optional Express Pass

Eligible travellers can use the separate Airside / Curaçao Express Pass process for the airport's designated lane. Check the current age and passport rules. You still need your passport and, for visitors, the DI Card.

[88] [01]

Travelling with children

Check Curaçao Immigration's foreign-minor checklist: birth certificate, IDs, proof of parental authority and consent from any parent who is not travelling may be needed. Requirements depend on your family circumstances and origin documents.

[87]

24 / LOCAL HELP AND SAFETY

Know your route. Know your help.

Ask about the exact street, route and time of day when planning unfamiliar areas.

Neighbourhoods: where to take extra care

Some local visitor guides, including Tix's Curaçao guide, flag **Koraal Specht, Souax and Seru Fortuna** for extra caution, particularly when exploring on foot after sunset. This is attributed visitor guidance, not an official crime ranking. Check your exact destination and route with Politur or your host; use a known driver for an unfamiliar evening journey. [82]

The tourism board's general advice focuses on avoiding remote beaches without facilities and dark alleys after sunset. Keep to active, well-lit routes, and do not follow an offline-map shortcut into an unfamiliar quiet area simply because it is shorter. [81]

SAVE +599 9 462 8223

Politur: tourist assistance

Politur helps visitors with safety questions, incidents and stolen property, and connects travellers with local police. The tourism board lists offices at Handelskade and Sambil. Confirm office availability before going. For an active emergency, call 911.

[79] [80]

SAVE +599 9 462 9252

A doctor after hours

Local medical practices list this doctor-on-call number for urgent GP needs outside regular hours. Call before travelling to a clinic. For a medical emergency use 912. Keep your insurer's assistance number, medication list and payment details available.

[83] [07]

ASK FOR BOTIKA NA WARD

Find the duty pharmacy

Use the Public Health Institute's current duty-pharmacy page or ask your hotel to confirm the pharmacy and opening arrangements. The rota changes; telephone before setting off. Carry the prescription and the medicine's generic name.

[84] [85]

ACT PROMPTLY

Lost passport, phone or cards

Contact police or Politur about theft and keep the report reference. Block payment cards through your bank's official channel. Contact your country's consular service about a replacement travel document and tell your insurer and airline when travel may be affected.

[79]

Keep a small offline folder: passport copy stored securely, DI confirmation, insurance details, accommodation address, rental agreement and emergency contacts. Keep originals and backup copies separate.

REFERENCE DESK

Sources: travel & beaches

Tap a source title to open it. Numbers beside recommendations point to these references.

- 01 Official Curaçao Entry Portal - Digital Immigration Card
- 02 Curaçao Tourist Board - entry requirements
- 03 Central Bank campaign - Caribbean guilder FAQ
- 04 Curaçao Tourist Board - emergency numbers
- 05 UK FCDO - Curaçao emergency contacts
- 06 Curaçao Medical Center - emergency care
- 07 UK FCDO - Curaçao health and insurance
- 08 UK FCDO - safety and security
- 09 Curaçao Tourist Board - traffic priority rules
- 10 US Department of State - Curaçao travel advice
- 11 Autobusbedrijf Curaçao - routes and transport information
- 12 Curaçao Tourist Board - rainfall seasons
- 13 Meteorological Department Curaçao - forecasts and warnings
- 14 Curaçao Tourist Board - electricity and adaptors
- 15 Curaçao Tourist Board - drinking water
- 16 Curaçao Tourist Board - cards and cash
- 17 Curaçao Tourist Board - using USD and EUR
- 18 Curaçao Tourist Board - useful Papiamentu phrases
- 19 Curaçao Tourist Board - choosing a beach
- 20 Curaçao Tourist Board - beach guide and Grote Knip
- 21 Curaçao Tourist Board - Cas Abao Beach
- 22 Curaçao Tourist Board - Playa Porto Mari
- 23 Curaçao Tourist Board - Playa Lagun
- 24 Curaçao Tourist Board - Daaibooi
- 25 Curaçao Tourist Board - Mambo Beach
- 26 Curaçao Tourist Board - Jan Thiel Beach

REFERENCE DESK

Sources: places & stays

Tap a source title to open it. Numbers beside recommendations point to these references.

- 27 Curaçao Tourist Board - Blue Bay Beach
- 28 Curaçao Tourist Board - Kokomo Beach
- 29 Curaçao Tourist Board - Tugboat snorkel site
- 30 Curaçao Tourist Board - Playa Grandi / Piskadó
- 31 Carmabi - Sea Turtles Meet & Protect visitor sheet
- 32 BlueFinn Charters - Klein Curaçao trip details
- 33 Christoffelpark - hours and mountain-climb cut-off
- 34 Christoffelpark - hiking trails and preparation
- 35 Shete Boka National Park - activities and trails
- 36 Hato Caves - guided tour and steps
- 37 UNESCO - Historic Area of Willemstad
- 38 Kurá Hulanda Museum - plan your visit
- 39 Jewish Museum Curaçao - plan your visit
- 40 Curaçao Maritime Museum - visitor information
- 41 Curaçao Tourist Board - local food and Plasa Bieu
- 42 Kome - official restaurant information
- 43 Gouverneur de Rouville - official restaurant website
- 44 CuraçaoToDo - De Visserij listing
- 45 Curaçao Tourist Board - Curaçao Liqueur Distillery
- 46 Curaçao Tourist Board - Avila Beach Hotel
- 47 Baoase - accommodations
- 48 Curaçao Tourist Board - Curaçao Marriott Beach Resort
- 49 Scuba Lodge & Ocean Suites - official website
- 50 The Kontiki Beach Resort - official website
- 51 LionsDive Beach Resort - official website

REFERENCE DESK

Sources: stays, safety & Mondri

Tap a source title to open it. Numbers beside recommendations point to these references.

- 52 Morena Resort - apartments and villas
- 53 Papagayo Beach Resort - villas
- 54 Blue Bay Curaçao - accommodations
- 55 Lagun Blou Resort - official website
- 56 Curaçao Tourist Board - shopping areas
- 57 Curaçao Tourist Board - Renaissance Mall & Rif Fort
- 58 Curaçao Tourist Board - Mambo Beach Boulevard
- 59 Curaçao Tourist Board - Sambil Curaçao
- 60 Curaçao Tourist Board - Chichi Garden / Serena's Art Factory
- 61 Curaçao Tourist Board - Nena Sanchez Gallery
- 62 Curaçao Gardens - supermarkets and local branches
- 63 Bent Van Aeken / Unsplash - original cover photograph
- 64 Unsplash - photograph licence
- 65 Avis Curaçao - ForenSys contacts and accident reporting
- 66 Curaçao Tourist Board - 24-7 Taxi Curaçao
- 67 24-7 Taxi Curaçao - Google Play app
- 68 24-7 Taxi Curaçao - Apple App Store app
- 69 CDC - Curaçao travel health, mosquitoes, heat and swimming
- 70 US Fish & Wildlife Service - manchineel warning sheet
- 71 Nature Curaçao / NatuurABC - trees and manzanilla
- 72 CASHA / Travel2Curacao - what to do after a car accident
- 73 Curaçao Tourist Board - Mondri Beach Club Curaçao
- 74 Mondri - City Beach Curaçao, Otrobanda
- 75 Mondri City Beach - published menu and prices
- 76 Mondri City Beach - day-pass enquiries

REFERENCE DESK

Sources: practical essentials

Tap a source title to open it. Numbers beside recommendations point to these references.

- 77** MAPS.ME - official app and download links
- 78** Curaçao Tourist Board - offline maps recommendation
- 79** Politur Curaçao - tourist support and incident reporting
- 80** Curaçao Tourist Board - Politur and visitor contacts
- 81** Curaçao Tourist Board - areas and safety after dark
- 82** Tix / local visitor guide - neighbourhood precautions
- 83** General Practice Sorsaka - doctor-on-call contact
- 84** Public Health Institute Curaçao - duty pharmacy directory
- 85** Curaçao Tourist Board - pharmacies and duty service
- 86** Dive Curaçao - free DI Card and unofficial fee-charging sites
- 87** Curaçao Immigration - documents for visiting foreign minors
- 88** Curaçao Tourist Board - optional Express Pass

About this edition

Research checked on 5 October 2026, Curaçao local time. Recommendations are editorial choices based on location, published facilities and trip fit; they are not claims of first-hand inspections. Opening hours, access rules, menus, facilities and prices can change.

Cover photograph: Bent Van Aeken / Unsplash, reused from The Caribbean Bible website under the Unsplash licence. Original website logo supplied by The Caribbean Bible. Text and layout prepared for The Caribbean Bible. Links in this PDF have no added affiliate tracking.