



Aruba

POP 103,000 / 297

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

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Why Go?

North Americans fleeing winter make Aruba the most touristed island in the southern Caribbean. The draws are obvious: miles of glorious white-sand beaches, plenty of all-inclusive resorts, and a cute, compact capital, Oranjestad, which is well suited for the two-hour strolls favored by cruise-ship passengers. It's all about sun, fun and spending money.

Venture away from the resorts and you're in for a real treat. At the island's extreme ends are rugged, windswept vistas and uncrowded beaches – perfect for hiking and horseback riding. Crystal-clear waters are bursting with sea life and shipwrecks (and an airplane wreck or two), providing incredible opportunities for snorkeling and diving. And nonstop breezes create near-perfect conditions for windsurfing and kiteboarding.

So whether you're longing to lounge on a beach or to delve into the great outdoors, Aruba has got you covered. One happy island, indeed!

When to Go

Dec–Apr High season, where accommodations fill up and prices are significantly higher.

Jan & Feb Carnival is Aruba's biggest celebration – a month of music and costumes, parades and parties. It starts just after New Year and culminates the weekend before Ash Wednesday.

Sep–Dec Although Aruba is below the hurricane belt, the island does experience an increase in rain.



Aruba Highlights

1 Antilla Wreck (p133)
Discovering the amazing underwater world at dive and snorkel sites around the island.

2 Natural Pool (p135)
Hiking or horseback riding through the wilds of Arikok National Wildlife Park, then

cooling off in this geological wonder.

3 Pinchos (p128) Sitting under the twinkling stars, listening to the lapping waves and feasting on creatures of the sea.

4 Boca Grandi (p136)
Riding the wind on Aruba's best kitesurfing beach.

5 Eagle Beach (p130)
Lounging on the long ribbon of powdery sand at the most beautiful beach of the bunch.

6 California Dunes (p134) Catching a glorious sunset from the dunes at the island's desolate northern tip.