



Bonaire

POP 17,400 / ⓘ 599

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Wil's Tropical Grill (p222)
- ➔ Bobbejan's Take-Away (p222)
- ➔ Capriccio Ristorante (p222)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Bellafonte (p227)
- ➔ Carib Inn (p221)
- ➔ Captain Don's Habitat (p221)
- ➔ Coco Palm Garden & Casa Oleander (p226)

Why Go?

A small island with a desert landscape, Bonaire is not for everyone – but it *is* for divers and snorkelers who want to immerse themselves in that vibrant world under the sea. The beauty of Bonaire is that the coral reef, designated a national park, is just a few feet from the shoreline. Dozens of exceptional dive sites are easily accessible from the shore and teeming with life, making this island an independent diver's (and snorkeler's) paradise.

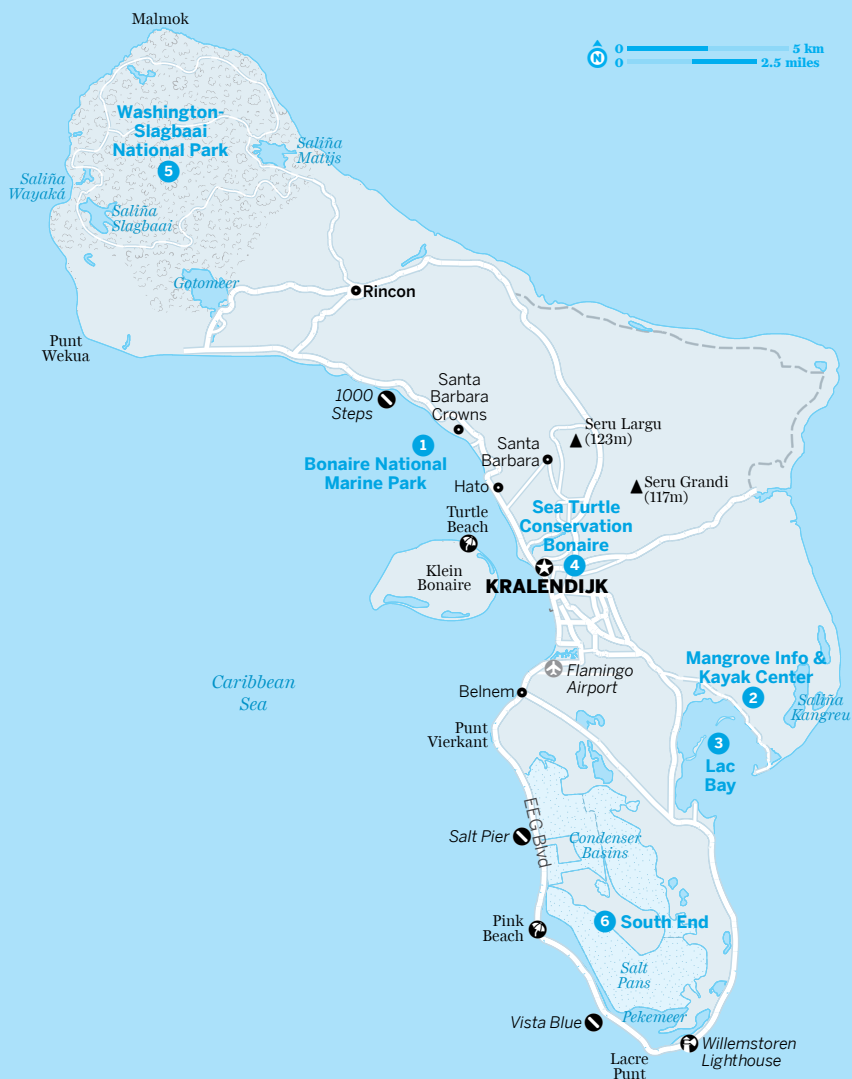
Above the surface, there is world-class windsurfing on Lac Bay and excellent kayaking among the mangroves. Biking trails wind through the arid hills, while driving routes show off the island's historical and natural sights. Classy but low-key resorts and restaurants complete the picture – perfect for travelers who prefer their adventure with some amenities.

When to Go

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

Jan & Feb Carnival (*Karnaval*) is Bonaire's biggest celebration – a week or more of music and costumes, parades and parties. It culminates the weekend before Ash Wednesday, with the final parade and effigy-burning taking place on the Tuesday.

Sep–Dec Although Bonaire is below the hurricane belt, the island does experience an increase in rain and cooler temperatures.



Bonaire Highlights

- 1 Bonaire National Marine Park** (p222) Donning a mask and discovering the incredible underwater world that lies right offshore.
- 2 Mangrove Info & Kayak Center** (p226) Kayaking and snorkeling in the ecologically rich 'reef nursery.'
- 3 Lac Bay** (p226) Windsurfing at one of the world's premier destinations for beginners and pros alike.
- 4 Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire** (p221) Keeping the beaches safe for sea turtles – and maybe even ushering some newborn *tortuguitas* to the safety of the sea.
- 5 Washington-Slagbaai National Park** (p224) Exploring the island's remote northern tip.
- 6 South End** (p225) Seeing pink (flamingos!) while driving or cycling through the salt pans.