



Curaçao

POP 158,600 / 📶 5999

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Rozendaels (p350)
- ➔ Mundo Bizarro (p351)
- ➔ Old Market (p350)
- ➔ Seaside Terrace (p353)
- ➔ Kome (p351)
- ➔ Jaanchie's (p355)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Scuba Lodge (p349)
- ➔ Sonesta Kura Hulanda Village (p350)
- ➔ Kura Hulanda Lodge (p355)
- ➔ Floris Suite Hotel (p349)

Why Go?

With its delightful Dutch colonial architecture, bustling commercial capital and excellent history museums, go-go Curaçao feels like a little piece of Europe on the edge of the Caribbean. That is, a little piece of Europe with glorious hidden beaches, amazing onshore snorkeling and diving, and a wild undeveloped windward coast.

Curaçao has a surging economy beyond tourism, which means that Willemstad has factories, humdrum neighborhoods and sometimes bad traffic. Catering to visitors is not the primary aim here. But if you're looking for a Caribbean island that is busy setting its own pace, Curaçao is for you.

When to Go

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

Jan & Feb Carnival is Curaçao'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 Curaçao is below the hurricane belt, the island does experience an increase in rain.



Curaçao Highlights

- 1 Willemstad** (p347)
Discovering the Dutch colonial architecture and rich local culture in this busy port town.
- 2 Snorkeling & Diving** (p357)
Going straight from the beach to the reef (no boat required!).
- 3 Playa Portomari** (p354)
Following two underwater

snorkel trails to discover the beach's unique double reef.

- 4 Museum Kura Hulanda** (p347)
Bearing witness to the horrible legacy of slavery in Curaçao.
- 5 Grote Knip** (p354)
Finding your place in the sand on the island's most scenic beach.

- 6 Savonet Museum** (p354)
Learning the history of an island nation through the story of one plantation and its residents.
- 7 Shete Boka National Park** (p354)
Feeling the power of nature on the windblown and wave-tossed east coast.