

Curacao – Beaches

Swimming and Snorkeling

Curaçao is an island for people who love the sea. There is a multitude of wildly romantic bays as well as good managed beaches. All with crystal-clear water.

Curaçao is a very special part of the Caribbean - especially when it comes to the sea and the beaches.

The Caribbean Sea is so 'friendly' that people who are afraid of water or people who cannot swim well learn to love the sea, because the irresistible, bright turquoise blue water will quickly get you to lose fear of the cool water. The water is crystal clear like hardly anywhere else in the world. The water temperature is just right too - all year round. The Caribbean Sea is very salty, so floating is extremely easy.

Swimming and Snorkeling

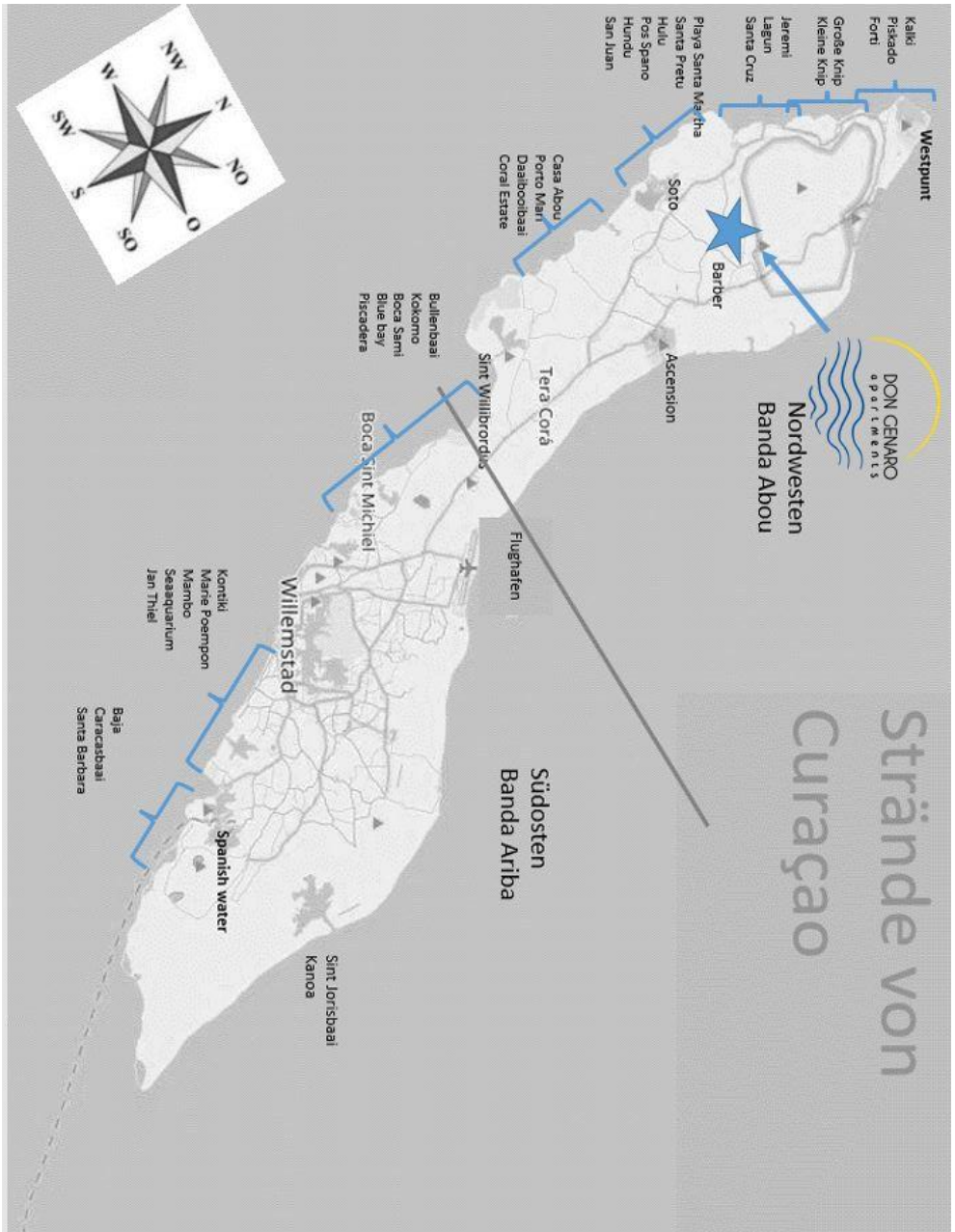
Water is simply a wonderful element and just swimming in the Caribbean turquoise blue sea with its gentle waves is an unforgettable experience. But for everyone who has only swum and has not yet snorkeled, it is highly recommended to give it a try.

Beaches

You can tell the depth of the sea by the color. Up to about 4 meters out, you can mostly still stand and the color of the water is light blue to turquoise. After this it will get deeper and where the dark blue color starts is where it gets really deep.

The most beautiful beaches can be found in the north-west of the island, in Banda Abou. But when asked which is the most beautiful beach, it is not easy to find an answer, because that is 'a matter of taste'. Some like the managed beaches with good infrastructure, where there is more 'action'. others love the dreamy bay, where

you are often all alone or in pairs. Here you can also enjoy very beautiful, romantic sunsets.



The beaches of Banda Abou (northwest)

Playa Kalki

The small bay of Playa Kalki is particularly popular with snorkelers and divers. From the small parking lot, a staircase carved into the rock leads down to the beach. On the way there, you will pass a beautiful, serviced terrace. There is also a diving school here. In the back area of the beach, stairs lead up to the resort / hotel area called "Kura Hulanda Lodge", you have to pay an entrance fee as a visitor (naf.10 pp) but there is a shower for beach visitors and also a nice bar with a wonderful view. This beach is particularly recommended in the early morning, as the shady spots will become scarce at a later time.



Playa Kalki

Playa Grandi (Piscado)

Playa Grandi is actually not a swimming beach. Here, the fishermen offer their freshly caught fish for sale from noon.

If you have an apartment with cooking or grilling facilities, treat yourself to freshly caught fish. Talk to the fishermen with some Papiamentu and you will surely be rewarded with a very friendly conversation. 1 kg of fish costs around 20-30 guilders. You can also swim with the turtles here.



Playa Grandi (Piscado)

Playa Forti (Westpunt Beach)

If you drive to Westpunt, you will inevitably pass Playa Forti and there will be a postcard view of the sea. From the parking lot above, you can see the beautiful bays of the west part of the island and the small fishing boats in the Caribbean Sea. The beach offers brown coarse-grained sand, pebbles but unfortunately little shade. A small staircase and a ramp lead down to the beach. There is a restaurant upstairs.

Note: Here you can watch the brave cliff jumpers or even take a jump yourself.



Playa Forti

Big Knip (Kenepa)

The big Knip or 'Grote Knip' or 'Playa Abou' is a beautiful beach with turquoise water and white sand.

At Playa Abou there are loungers, parasols, shade options and a snack bar. An ice cream van also comes here regularly. A staircase and a ramp lead to the beach.



Big Knip

Little Knip

Not far away is the little Knip or also called 'Playa Kenepa' by the locals. This is a small picture-perfect sand and stone beach that is less frequently busy and is well suited for snorkeling. There are also shady palapa huts and loungers with parasols. This beach is also preferred by the locals. Always take into account that beaches are more crowded on weekends because then the locals also have free time and visit the beaches. With the little Knip you can easily drive right up to the beach. This has the advantage that you have your car at a visible distance. When you arrive here in the afternoon when the sun is shining, you are presented with a picture that makes you think "Nature can be so naturally beautiful". The little Knip usually also offers you a breathtakingly beautiful sunset.



Little Knip

Playa Jeremi

Playa Jeremi is a beach for individualists. It is wildly romantic. The small beach with coarse sand and fine stones can be reached via a

wide stone staircase in which 'Welcome' is walled in with coral stones.

The water here is very clear and ideal for snorkeling. There are very good snorkeling spots, especially on the sides of the bay.

This is also a beach where locals like to grill on weekends. It is a friendly community in which you also feel comfortable as a tourist.



Playa Jeremi

Playa Lagun

Playa Lagun is a small beach. There are beautifully situated apartments on the cliff, which can be seen from the beach, which, however, somewhat diminishes the overall impression, since the cliffs are no longer natural. Nevertheless, the bay is very picturesque. The water on the bank is very shallow and calm. Particularly worth seeing are the turtles that can sometimes be seen here - in the morning between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. and at noon when they are fed after the fishermen return. There are plenty of shady roofs and a row of manzalina trees. There is a beach restaurant here and also a diving school. At weekends, this small

beach quickly becomes crowded, if one can say that of beaches on Curacao.



Playa Lagun

Playa Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz is a relatively large beach, but not ideal for snorkeling, as the mangrove swamp that surrounds the beach makes the water a little cloudy. Bird lovers will get their money's worth at Santa Cruz, because there are ideal opportunities for bird watching. A pelican can also be found here more often, making its circles over the water before rushing into the water at lightning speed on its spotted prey.

On the left there is "Captain Goodlife" with its 'Let's Go Watersports' offers and its beach hut (bar / restaurant), where you can eat delicious fresh fish.

The remote beaches: Playa Santa Pretu, Playa Hulu and Playa Pos Spaño

Captain Goodlife takes his guests by water taxi to secluded beaches such as Playa Hulu or Playa Santa Pretu, or Playa Pos Spano, which are particularly suitable for snorkelers and divers, as there is no infrastructure here.

However, these beaches can also be reached on foot:

Playa Santa Pretu is the closest. Access to this beach is only possible from Santa Cruz. If you take the path uphill to the left of Santa Cruz, you will reach Santu Pretu in 10 minutes. Snorkeling is really beautiful here. Santa Pretu is a remarkable beach because the sand is black here. Hence the name "Santa Pretu" = black beach.

Boca Hulu is a wonderful, lonely little beach that is perfect for snorkeling.

Boca Pos Spaño is the third in the group of lonely beaches that can be reached on foot. The way is long, but the small beach with wonderful white sand is an experience and you feel a little like Robinson Crusoe when you discover this beach after an arduous walk.

Attention: If you are on the way, you should have enough drinks and sun protection with you.

Santa Martha Bay

It has been a long time since the beach in Santa Martha was really beautiful. That was the time when the hotel "Sunset Waters" was in operation. In 2009 the hotel was closed and the whole area was neglected. The hotel ruins and the deserted beach have since been more for diving freaks, insiders and / or islanders who let their dogs swim here. Unfortunately, there is no shade here at the moment, so that a stay here is only possible for a short time.

In addition, construction work can be expected here from autumn 2019 for the next few years, because the government of Curaçao and private investors have an agreement signed on the development of Santa Martha and surrounding areas. It is an

extensive project to rebuild the run-down former Coral Cliff / Sunset Waters Hotel.



Santa Martha Bay

Playa Hundu / Lost Anchor

Playa Hundu is a very beautiful coral beach, which is bordered on both sides by cliffs. Not many people come here. The beach is very rocky and offers very little, apart from snorkelers and divers. The reef here is remarkable for that. The reef is very close to the beach (only 10 meters from the beach).

This beach is not easy to find. Opposite the church in Soto there is a road towards the coast. You pass the country house Santa Martha. Shortly after, the street turns right. At this point, turn left into the small gravel path. The road is difficult to drive for a normal passenger car for the first 100 meters and especially in the rainy season because it is a bad rocky, sandy path, but after 100 meters it becomes a 'normal' path again. You can park the car nicely in the shade of the thick trees and are almost directly on the shore.

The wild beaches of San Juan:

If you like it even more individual, you can follow the Playa San Juan sign. By car you drive along a sandy road to the country house San Juan. There you have to pay a toll of 10 guilders per car and then you can pass through and discover three beaches where you are usually alone.

Playa LARGU, Playa Manzanina and Playa Shon Mosa

Playa LARGU means something like 'long beach' and in fact this beach is relatively long for Curacao. There is less sand here, but more beautiful shells or stones and corals.

At this point it should be pointed out that tourists are not allowed to export mussels or corals from the country.

Playa LARGU is a unique snorkeling area. The water is crystal clear. Here you can see a lot of reef fish and hard corals.

The beach 'Playa Manzanina' got its name from the trees of the same name that grow there. Accordingly, there is enough shade here. Playa Shon Mosa is also an insider tip and the underwater world is untouched and unique.



Playa LARGU

The managed beaches of Banda Abou

In contrast to the wild beaches, on Curaçao you will also find beaches that are more tourist-oriented, such as those described below. They offer clean, regularly cleaned beaches, loungers, snack bars / restaurants and usually also a diving school. Snorkeling and diving equipment can be found here to be rented.

You pay admission and also a fee for the beachbeds.

Cas' Abou

Cas' Abou was voted the most beautiful beach in the Caribbean by the American Yahoo readers. This beach is about a five-minute drive from the main road. It is a very nice sandy beach that is also popular with children. Palm trees and palapas provide shade. Cas' Abou is ideal for swimmers of all ages. Access to the sea is easy. The beach is open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Cas' Abou

Porto Mari

Playa Porto Mari is also a beautiful sandy beach and suitable for children. But it is also one of the most famous snorkeling and diving spots on the island. Porto Mari has a double reef that is easily accessible from the beach. Two parallel reefs with a valley in between are home to a variety of interesting sea creatures. The infrastructure is coherent. There is a diving school, showers and toilets and a beach bar with a large terrace. The beach is also well attended on weekends. Playa Porto Mari is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Porto Mari

Daaibooi Baai

The last beach we want to mention here is in the Sint Willibrodus area. There is no entrance fee, but a fairly well-kept and managed beach. There are sufficient and well-kept Palapa huts and nice shady spots. The beach kiosk is open every day. The sun beds cost 11 guilders, if you bring them back yourself, you get about half the money back.



Daaibooi Baai

Coral estate / character

If you follow the signs to Coral Estate, you will reach the beach and restaurant called "Karakter". This is a very nice, slightly decadent way of spending a day at the beach and having drinks and food served on the lounge.



Coral estate

Banda Ariba Beaches (Southeast)

Blue Bay Beach

The beach of Blue Bay is located in the 'Blue Bay Golf and Beach Resort' in the middle of a palm grove. It offers a beautiful white sandy beach and shallow access to the sea. There is everything you could want for a successful beach day: beach chairs, umbrellas, a nice bar with restaurant and a diving or water sports center. The Blue Bay was completed in late 2004. This beach scores with a large restaurant and many shady palm trees. The beach belongs to the "Blue Bay Curacao Golf and Beach Resort". Admission is 15.00 Nafl per person including lounge for one day, children pay half. Divers are exempt from the fee if they purchase an oxygen cylinder from the diving school affiliated with the resort.



Blue Bay Beach

Piscadera Bay / Pirate Bay

This small beach offers several water sports, a diving club and a beach bar or restaurant. It is a small but cozy beach. Often there is live music along with the wonderful sunset it creates a genuine Caribbean feeling.

Sometimes it can be a bit crowded, as guests from the surrounding larger hotels (Dreams and Marriott) like to visit this beach.



Piscadera Bay

Kokomo Beach (Vaersenbaai)

Kokomo Beach, a beach in the west of the island, is a picturesque bay, but rocky and offers little shade. However, the beach bar is very nice and has a very large shady terrace. There is also a good breakfast here at a fair price.

In the evening and especially at the weekend, Kokomo Beach turns into a party beach. Regular events such as spring break, woodstock and full moon parties make this beach particularly popular with young people. For divers, the “Car Pile” is one of the main

attractions under water. In the 1960s, a freighter had lost a load of cars from the 1960s just off the coast of the bay. These were spread out at a depth of 20-30 meters across the sandy bottom.



Kokomo Beach

Boca Sami / St. Michiels Baai

Boca Sami is a small fishing village in the St. Michiels Baai. The beach is small and not overcrowded during the week, on the weekend it can get a bit crowded at the Boca Sami stand by local visitors. The small pretty beach offers great snorkeling opportunities.



Boca Sami

Sea Aquarium Beach / Mambo Beach

The Sea Aquarium Beach and Mambo Beach, which is in the immediate vicinity of the Sea Aquarium are the most talked about beaches. Mambo Boulevard with its many small shops and restaurants is also located here. They are lively beachbars with many offers.

The beach is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to midnight. In the evening, Mambo Beach turns into the largest open-air disco on the island. Tuesdays are film nights; live music rocks the beach on Saturdays or a DJ put on his best records.



Mambo Beach

Kontiki Beach / Cabana

On the west side of the beach, you will find the Kontiki Beach and the Cabana

Beach, there the loungers are arranged in rows. The east side - where the Lions Dive is located - is nicer. Here you can lie between the palm trees.

The Kontiki Beach or Cabana Beach is a wide, well-kept sandy beach. Kontiki Beach also stands for party and dancing, it is the nightlife beach on Curacao.

Jan Thiel Baai

Jan Thiel Beach is one of the most famous beaches. Like Marie Pampoen Beach, Caracasbaai, Mambo Beach and Sea Aquarium Beach, it is only about 10 minutes away from Willemstad in a new, first-class residential area in the east of the city. There is also sand here, but mostly you lie on concrete slabs, which does not make the beach so attractive.

The semi-enclosed bathing area on the beach is ideal for children. Jan Thiel Beach offers a full package in terms of infrastructure.



Jan Thiel Beach

Baja Beach / Bahia

The beach with the sonorous Caribbean name is on the left behind the Caracasbaai. This beach consists of a mixture of sand and pebbles.

The main attraction of Baja Beach is the tugboat, a beautiful wreck overgrown with corals at a depth of around five meters. Due to the shallow depth, it is even possible for snorkelers to visit the wreck.



Caracasbaai

The Caracas Baai is a public pebble beach near the Spanish Water. It is also very popular with locals at the weekend. Unfortunately, there are only a few palm-covered huts, so the shady spots are limited. There are two small restaurants on this beach that offer fresh fish. Santa Barbara Beach.



Caracasbaai

Kanoa Beach

Kanoa Beach is the only beach listed here that is on the north coast. The beach is protected from the surf by a rock wall. Kanoa Beach is ideal for surfers. Outside of the protected bay there are ideal surf conditions. There is no on-site infrastructure.



Kanoa Beach