



# BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Ruins of Malmok Lighthouse on a calm day  
Photo Julie Morgan



## A look at WSNP lighthouses

Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) is a 5,643 ha (14,000 ac) terrestrial paradise of geology, history and culture of Bonaire. The park has been preserved as to the conditions of the original owner's son, Boy Herrera, "that the estate must be kept in its present state, and that no hotels, motels or similar buildings would be constructed on it." After Boy's death in 1967, the park was sold and on December 7, 1968, and WSNP, then known as Washington National Park, became the first sanctuary in the Netherlands Antilles.

In previous issues we explored the sites near the park's entrance: Lagodishi Trail, Playa Chikitu, Salina Matijs and Kasikunda. Our next stops along the road are the northern sites of Malmok and Seru Bentana lighthouses.

The rich geological evidence from tsunamis is evident along the roads to the northern most point of Malmok. The tsunamis dated 4300 years ago and even more recently in 1500, brought huge waves with massive power that broke off parts of the limestone cliffs and threw gigantic rocks onto the terraces.

Malmok is on the lower terrace and was initially called Piedra Friu (cold stone). This northernmost lighthouse was built in 1906 by Basilio Alberto, his father and others from Rincon. The lighthouse was six meters high (19.6 ft). This was the second lighthouse on Bonaire. The first was Willemstoren built in 1837 at Bonaire's southernmost point by the Salt Pans. Unlike most lighthouses, Malmok was not accessible from the inside. A medal platform was used to

light the live flame. Bits and pieces of the ladder are still evident on the structure and even on the ground. The small house next to the lighthouse was for the watchman. The building next to it, with no windows or doors, is a cistern to collect and store rainwater. All three structures were built in the Bonairean style with limestone block held together with a limestone mortar made from ground limestone, coral rubble, shells, sand and water. The house had a slanting roof, and the rain would run off into the cistern. A ladder was used to climb up to the top of the cistern and collect the water with a bucket.

There are archaeological remains at Malmok dating as far back as Amerindian times (1000 years ago). Evidence shows this area was never more than a temporary living site or camp. It is thought fishermen who would stay for a short while and fish off the cliffs. Remains of a research station for students studying birds, vegetation, the caves and other animals was built in the 1960's. The red footed, white and brown booby reportedly nest on the cliffs at Malmok. An archaeological survey was done in 2015. Finds included ceramics, coral tools made of staghorn coral and other flint tools. If you hap-

pen to find any artifacts in the area, remember they are protected by law, so you must leave them there.

Unfortunately for the Malmok lighthouse, it was built too close to the sea and low to the rocky edge making it impossible to keep the live flame lit when waves crashed over the edge. The lighthouse was never used. Construction began on a new lighthouse just a short distance away at Seru Bentana on March 27, 1927, and on June 14 it was completed and lit for the first time. The lighthouse was placed on much higher ground making it more visible from the sea and less accessible to high waves. On October 21, 1954, a huge storm occurred, lightning struck the lighthouse and a fire broke out. One of the lighthouse keepers Nicasio Martinus "Ricardo" Winklar, died in the fire. While the second keeper Casper Lodewijk "Papa" Coffie jumped from the 11-meter (36 ft) tower to escape the fire. This is called the Tragedy of Seru Bentana.

*(This article is a series with information on various sites on Bonaire)*

WSNP is open Tuesday – Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.stinapa.org](http://www.stinapa.org) or Bonaire.STINAPA on Facebook and Instagram.

**References:** Fuhikubo, Extra archives, Field Guide National Park Washington-Slagbaai Bonaire,



Seru Bentana lighthouse built in 1927. Photo Julie Morgan

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

### As the public waits, nine politicians are negotiating who will govern Bonaire



Salma Serberie

At press time Bonaireans do not have a government. Salma Serberie has withdrawn from the governing coalition, leaving it and the former opposition with four seats each. She elected to remain on the Island Council as an independent and retain her membership in her party, the PDB. According to tradition, the person who breaks a coalition becomes responsible for forming a new one. Word on the street, however, is that the previous coalition, led by Clark Abraham, will likely try to co-opt a move by Serberie. If his coalition can recruit a fifth member from the opposition, they can vote themselves back in as the governing coalition.

The issue may be decided after *Reporter* press time on January 27, when all parties are scheduled to meet. By the time you read this, Bonaire may or may not be governed by a new coalition. You can track developments on The Bonaire Reporter's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter>

Island leaders are speaking out on the need to get a new coalition up and running promptly. "It is important to quickly form a new BC to deal with all the problems that exist," says Hennyson Thielman, leader of the MPB. "We are open to any form of Bonaire management." Governor John Soliano said, "At the moment, various urgent matters are being handled, which are important to the Bonairian community. Agreements have been made with the Central Government on a number of matters. There are also processes with fixed deadlines that must be met to avoid delays. The consequences of recent political developments for the board are not yet clear."

The press release from the OLB offers its own slant on the story. The OLB press release acknowledges a reformed Island

Council will decide the membership of the next coalition. A new coalition could create a new Executive Council too that would replace the one led by Clark Abraham that includes Peter Silberie, Antony Weber. The press release says, "The authority [presumably referring to the endangered Executive Council] has therefore requested the Island Council ensure stability and continuity of the administration as soon as possible, in the interest of the residents of Bonaire. This is necessary to ensure that important decisions can continue to be made and current affairs go ahead."

No one seems to be acknowledging, not publicly at least, that the previous coalition is well known for its failures to act and its inability to govern. The OLB has been accumulating vast sums in the bank, some of which will likely have to be returned to the central government, while multiple projects remain in stagnation, some waiting for actions as basic issuing someone a permit to proceed.

The four-member former governing coalition now consists of: Daniel Crestian, Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai (Red/Demokrat); Daisy Coffee (Pink/M21); Cyrill Vrolijk (Party Vrolijk). The former four-member opposition consists of: James Kroon, Simiona "Jona" Chirino-Felida and Benito Dirksz (Green/UPB); and Hennyson Thielman (Blue/MPB)

Salma Serberie, plus any four of these eight people, could form a new coalition in the Island Council that could select its own Executive Council.

According to Nathaly Evertz, of Caribish Network, "There are many scenarios to get a new coalition of five seats. The simplest is from UPB (3 seats) with PDB (2). Other options include: UPB (3), Serberie (1) and M21 (1), or UPB (3), MPB (1) and Serberie (1), or UPB (3), Serberie (1) and Fratie Vrolijk (1), or: PDB (2), Fratie Vrolijk (1), Serberie (1) and MPB (1). Various combinations are therefore still possible to form a new BC." *DMR*

### Bonaire's library receives prestigious award



Biblioteka Pùbliko Boneiru has been named the Most Positive Government Organization of the Year in the Netherlands during the BID Awards 2026. The jury praised Biblioteka Pùbliko Boneiru for its positive image, strong connection to the community and the accessible way in which it supports residents of all ages and the entire community.

Jennifer Pocornie-Martis, head of department at Biblioteka Pùbliko Boneiru, responded gratefully: "This award is a won-

derful confirmation of the hard work and dedication of our entire team. We are committed to being an open, warm and inclusive place for everyone on Bonaire."

Biblioteka Pùbliko Boneiru organizes, among other things, reading promotion projects, educational programs and cultural activities that contribute to the social and cultural development of the island. *DMR*

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The online version of our story  
"A small dry island can't grow its own food without water"  
in Issue 1, Jan. 2026 of  
Bonaire's favorite English language newspaper has received

**7, 839 views**

**Island news...to page 5**

# A Life Carried by Nature and Care

Retirement has not slowed Artie de Vries down. It has done the opposite. It has given him more space to be outside, to move, to help and to stay connected to the island that keeps him grounded. His motto guides everything he does. If you do not use it, you lose it.

Artie is a long-time volunteer with the Mangrove Maniacs, a group restoring the mangrove forests that protect Bonaire's coast. His hands are often busy with propagules, the young seeds that will grow into trees strong enough to shield the shoreline. He collects them, sorts them and prepares them for planting. Slow work. Careful work. Work that shapes the future.

On Sundays, you will find him on Klein Bonaire, clearing paths and giving young trees the room they need to grow. He speaks about the island the way some people speak about family. With respect. With gratitude. With a quiet sense of duty.

Cleaning beaches has become a meditation for him. The waves. The wind. The simple act of turning around and seeing a stretch of sand restored. It is the kind of reward that cannot be bought. Only earned.



[naturalesabonaire.com](http://naturalesabonaire.com)
 NTBDN
 @NaturalesaBonaire

Artie also leads MiVaBo, where he helps make homes more accessible for people with mobility challenges. Ramps. Paths. Small repairs. Small changes that make a big difference.

His message is gentle and firm at the

same time. We do not need to wait for Bon Doet to help each other. Pick up a few bags. Clear a small patch of road. Care a little. It all adds up.

Artie's life shows what happens when movement and purpose meet.

The island grows stronger. And so does he.

*Nos ta biba di naturalesa.*



- **Location: Playa Pabou**
- **3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / laundry room**
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- **Walking distance to town and ocean**

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Feb. 1, 2026

Ride for the Roses, Fight against cancer. Isidel Beach Park. Ride/Swim/ Walk. <https://www.ridefortheroses.org>

# POLICE REPORT

You can contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

## Meet KPCN's new community officer



Jorge Wanga, better known as Toy, is the new community officer for Playa, replacing Ronald Schleper. Jorge has been a police officer for 18 years and has spent nine years working in the Traffic team, where he was responsible for traffic advisories and traffic investigations.

### Property crimes

**Jan. 19.** Around 5 p.m. police received a report that cash and several pieces of jewelry were stolen from a car at the Altamira Unjo viewpoint in Rincón. After the theft, the suspect fled and disappeared into the bushes. Police searched the surrounding area for the suspect, but were unsuccessful.

**Jan. 19.** At a hair salon on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot unknown persons gained access to the premises and stole cash.

**Jan. 18.** Two minors, aged 16 and 17, were arrested for receiving stolen goods. They were identified on video footage after the theft of two fat bikes from a restaurant on Sorobon.

**Jan. 16.** Around 3:10 p.m. police arrested two boys, aged 15, who were found in possession of a fat bike, suspected of being stolen.

Later, police searched a residence on Kaya Papa Cornes and Kaya Ana, in connection with a suspected violation of the BES Firearms Act. During the search on Kaya Ana, various items relevant to the investigation were seized.

**Jan. 14.** The theft of a scooter was reported. On Saturday, January 3, a gray Piaggio Liberty scooter was taken from a lot on Kaya Korona, license plate MF-277.

**Jan. 14.** Two loose cigarettes and a bottle of cash were stolen from a car parked in the yard of a residence located on Kaya E.B. Sint Jago.

**Jan. 14.** Two license plates number B-10247 were stolen from a car parked on Kaya Tintorero.

**Jan. 13.** At Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) on E.E.G. Boulevard a backpack that had been left unattended on the beach was stolen while the complainant was snorkeling. The bag contained two mobile phones, cash, and personal belongings.

**Jan. 12.** A burglary was reported at a dive shop on Kaya International. Unknown persons gained access to the premises and stole a safe containing a sum of money.

### Arrests

**Jan. 25.** During a traffic control police found substances that were probably narcotic and arrested a woman, 28, and a man, 41 for violation of the BES Opium Act. Shortly after, a man, 51, was also arrested and a judicial raid was held at a house located in Kaya Maria. During the raid some articles relevant to the case were confiscated.

**Jan. 22.** A man, 28, was arrested for assault and a man, 48, was arrested for assault and threats after a confrontation during mediation at the police station.

**Jan. 20.** A man, 60, was arrested in connection with an ongoing investigation about threats with a firearm that occurred

on January 1, 2026. In addition, two houses were searched: a residence on Kaya Djindjá and one at Bario Den Tera. No items relevant to the investigation were seized.

**Jan. 19.** A driver and a passenger, both aged 21, were arrested on Kaya Korona. Police stopped a car they observed performing a suspicious act as soon as the driver saw the police vehicle. During the check, the driver refused to show his driver's license and insurance and insulted a police officer. During his arrest, the suspect violently resisted. During the driver's arrest, the passenger began verbally abusing the officers and exhibited aggressive behavior. He also violently resisted arrest. The suspect's vehicle was taken to the police station.

**Jan. 18.** A man, 46, was arrested on Kaminda Lagun for assaulting a woman following an altercation.

**Jan. 17.** Police received a report of a fight between a group of people at a restaurant on Kaya Bonaire. Upon police arrival, they found several bystanders holding a man. Police attempted to calm the man down, but despite their attempts, he continued to escalate the situation. Shortly thereafter, an altercation broke out between him and another man, which escalated into another fight. Two men, aged 21 and 47, were arrested for assault.

**Jan. 16.** Police received a report of a man throwing stones at passing cars on Hanchi Amboina. At the scene, officers found a man throwing stones in their direction. The suspect refused to comply with repeated police orders. After a short foot chase and repeated commands to drop the stones, the man, 33, was arrested for vandalism, attempted assault with a weapon, and failure to comply with police orders.

**Jan. 16.** Police received a report of an assault in the area of Kaminda Tras di Montaña. At the scene, the victim stated that he had been punched by his neighbor during an altercation. After further investigation at the scene and the recording of a report, a man, 46, was arrested for assault.

**Jan. 16.** A boy, 17, was arrested on Hanchi Amboina for violating the BES Firearms Act. The arrest followed a report that illegal items had been found in a student's bag during an entrance check at a school on Kaya Gavilan. Upon police arrival, the suspect ran away and was apprehended after a short foot chase. A search was conducted later that same day at a residence on Kaya Taki. No relevant items were found.

### Traffic accidents

*Under the policy 'botsen is blazen' ('to collide is to blow') a breath test is given drivers who have accidents.*

**Jan. 21.** 6 p.m. Two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Piedra Presioso and Kaya Rubi because a driver failed to yield the right of way. One of the drivers complained of pain and was examined by paramedics at the scene.

**Jan. 20.** A police vehicle and a passenger car collided. The police car was traveling to a scene with flashing lights and sirens on Kaya Korona. Near Kaya Haldu, a passenger car entered the road, intending to turn onto Kaya Maria. The driver of this car suddenly stopped in the middle of the road and then accelerated again. The police car collided with it and came to a stop in the yard of a house. In accordance with the "crash is a breath test" policy, both drivers were breathalyzed. Neither driver was under the influence of alcohol.

**Jan. 19.** 1 p.m. A car rolled backward on Kaya Imelda, striking a boy. The minor was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Police investigated the scene to determine the exact cause of the accident.

**Jan. 18.** 3:35 p.m. On Kaya Amsterdam a driver of a passenger car lost control and collided with several vehicles parked along the road. In addition to the driver, there were three passengers in the vehicle, including one minor. All occupants were taken to the hospital by ambulance. Police temporarily closed the road until their officers were finished with their work.

**Jan. 15.** 1:05 p.m. A car traveling northbound on Kaya Korona collided with three vehicles parked along the road before coming to a stop head-on against a lamppost. The driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance. After further evaluation, the driver was fined for driving without a valid driver's license.

**Jan. 12.** 3:15 p.m. A tractor and a scooter collided on Kaya International when the scooter driver attempted to overtake the tractor just as it was turning left to make a U-turn. Due to the priority of medical care, the scooter driver could not be breathalyzed.

### Driving under the influence

**From Jan. 7 to Jan. 21.** Police reported that four drivers, including two scooter drivers, were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Drivers who register a positive result

on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. Drivers are legally required to submit to a breath test when requested to do so by a police officer.

One scooter driver was stopped for driving in a prohibited direction. Police gave both scooter drivers a 5-hour driving ban. The two car drivers were stopped for driving erratically. A car was impounded because this was the third time the driver, a woman, 39, had been fined for not possessing a valid driver's license or insurance. The other DUI driver, a man, 50, was driving with an invalid driver's license. Police confiscated it.

### Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

*The speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside.*

**Jan. 22.** On Kaya Karibe police checked 12 vehicles and gave out four tickets for failing to produce: a valid driver's license (1x) and valid insurance (3x).

**Jan. 17.** On Kaya Korona police checked eight vehicles and gave out four citations for driving without: a front license plate (2x); a valid driver's license and valid insurance (1x).

**Jan. 15.** On Kaminda Tras Di Montaña police checked 30 vehicles and gave out eight tickets for driving without: a front license plate (1x); a valid driver's license (3x); valid insurance (1x); and a license plate that is not sufficiently visible (1x). Police also issued tickets for exceeding the maximum speed limit of 60 km/h (2x). The highest recorded speed was 87 km/h.

*The fine for the violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.*

### Fire

**Jan. 21.** 5:30 p.m. A fire was reported next to a building in Amboina. Because the fire was concentrated near the staircase, residents of the first floor could not get downstairs. Police and firemen found several cardboard boxes and wood on fire. The flames damaged the building and the staircase leading to the first floor. Firefighters extinguished the fire.

**Jan. 17.** 2 a.m. A car was reported on fire at a resort on Kaminda Djabou. The residents of the residence were evacuated for safety reasons. The fire department quickly brought the fire under control. The car parked was largely destroyed by fire. The fire department and the KPCN forensic team determined that the vehicle was deliberately set on fire.

**Jan. 15.** 5 a.m. A car parked in the yard of an apartment complex on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid was reported on fire. The fire department extinguished the fire. Investigation revealed that the vehicle was deliberately set on fire.

*Police urge anyone who saw or knows anything about these fires to contact the police at 715 8000, 911, or the anonymous tip line 9310.*

**You are invited to Arena's  
Grand Opening Party**

**Arena, Dive Friends' new sports and lifestyle store is now open and they are throwing a Grand Opening Party on January 31 that you don't want to miss.**

**If you are familiar with the old Dushi Style store, then you will love this. All the brands you loved at Dushi Style will be available along with some great new ones. Arena will continue with their collections of Nike, New Balance, Guess, SaltLife and Sketchers. Arena is adding Everlast Sports and Lifestyle accessories and apparel along with new flip flop brands from Ipanema and Birkenstock.**

**Any sales tickets from now until January 31 will automatically be put into a raffle at the grand opening party. You could win some great prizes and enjoy free snacks and drinks. So visit the new Arena on January 31 at 2 p.m.**

**Arena is located at the Hato Shopping Mall at the Hato circle, next to Luciano's. Arena is open Monday – Saturday 9 – 6 p.m. Visit them on Facebook for more information or call +599-701-5852.**

## Lagun Landfill update

Fires are still breaking out periodically. Residents of the area, who had to leave their homes to escape the smoke, are demanding the landfill be closed day after tomorrow. The people at Selibon are doing what they can with what they have but don't seem to be getting much love from anybody. Members of the House of Representatives are making speeches, demanding answers, and scheduling debates. Political parties are declaring their opposition to the pollution. The Netherlands Institute for Human Rights has announced human rights are being violated, and the National Ombudsman agrees the operation should be shut down. State Secretary Van Marum (Kingdom Relations) says an administrative agreement has been signed with the Executive Council. Both parties will work together to replace the landfill by January 1, 2029. *DMR*

## Island Council expansion still five years away

For the second time the last two months a timely and behind the scenes intervention by the current island government forestalled a vote in parliament on legislation that would have expanded the island council by two members. The expansion would have been a start towards better government with more capacity to get things done. But it would also have diluted the power of the present office holders.

Had the legislation been passed now, Bonaireans would have an opportunity to elect two additional members in 2027. The delay means they will not have that opportunity until the election of 2031. *DMR*

## The Hague to fund local food production

The Netherlands expects to have funding in place to strengthen food security in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom by the middle of this year. The aim of CarifoodFund is to reduce dependence on agricultural imports by stimulating local food production and providing entrepreneurs with access to favorable loans and knowledge.

The initial €18 million in seed capital will be supplemented by local banks and pension funds. €6 million is available for subsidies and contributions to the local governments of the six islands. These are intended to support policy initiatives related to food security, such as investments in infrastructure, water management, and cooling systems for food storage.

The foundation will also establish an academy offering training, coaching, and knowledge sharing to starting entrepreneurs in agriculture, horticulture, livestock farming, and fisheries. *DMR*

## Environmental Fund expended

Under the Caribbean Netherlands Nature and Environment Policy Plan (NMBP) approved in 2020, €42 million was made available for ten years of first-phase funding. State Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature Jean Rummenie has informed the House of Representatives that money has been spent. The Schoof cabinet has left the next government to decide its own climate policy and whether to extend the funding. *DMR*

## Dutch puzzle over what to think about developments in Venezuelan Oil

The U.S. military action against Venezuela, plus Trump's subsequent confiscation of Venezuelan oil, have raised a broad range of concerns in the House of Representatives.

Curaçao's Minister Pisas declared the development is a "window of opportunity" for his island. He believes Curaçao should once again become a world transit point for Venezuelan oil. A few Dutch parliamentarians say that is a fine idea. Many more are openly offended.

Would profiting from the U.S. action make the Dutch complicit in what they consider violations of international law? What about the Dutch commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement and EU climate objectives? How would profiting from the event fit with the country's intention to reduce fossil fuel use and reduce environmental damage?

Should Dutch companies be prevented from profiting from the effects on the world oil market? How? Why?

Some members are also concerned about the Netherlands role as a military ally of the U.S., especially as the two nations share intelligence on the region. They have been assured that the Netherlands did not provide intelligence that might have been used for the U.S. military inclusion. The Dutch and Americans share only information on drug smuggling.

One member asked Foreign Minister David van Weel "to send the House a current risk analysis on the impact of this conflict on the Kingdom, including potential consequences for security, migration, the economy, and diplomatic relations."

Van Weel answered: "The current risk analysis addresses the (potential) impact resulting from the tensions in and around Venezuela. These analyses contain confidential information about threat assessments. For this reason, the underlying documents are not suitable for public submission to the House." That did not go over well in Parliament either. *DMR*

## New statistical method may measure lower island poverty rates

The government is using a new measurement method that provides a more realistic picture of poverty. The method has led to significantly lower poverty rates in the European Netherlands and is expected to provide a more realistic picture of poverty in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The new method, developed by Statistics Netherlands (CBS), the Social and Economic Council (SCP), and the Nibud (National Institute for Family Finance Information) measures poverty by looking at individual, actual housing and energy expenditures instead of averages. The new method also takes into account assets and possession as well as income.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) has asked Statistics Netherlands (CBS) to investigate whether this method can also be applied to the BES islands. *DMR*

# Ask Bob

*Bonaire real estate advice*



Hi Bob –

**I am thinking about investing in property on Bonaire. I would like to know if there are any tax implications that I need to take into consideration.**

Regards, Jaap

Hi Jaap,

This is a good question. Many people only look at Bonaire because of the Caribbean lifestyle, but it also offers tax advantages that can be interesting for investors.

**1) No local tax on rental income**

If you rent out your house or apartment on Bonaire, you do not pay local income tax on the rent you receive.

**2) No profit tax when selling a property**

There is no local profit or capital gains tax when you sell a property on Bonaire.

If the value of the property increases over time, the profit is not taxed locally when you sell.

It is always advised to check the tax rules in your country of residence, but locally Bonaire does not tax the profit.

**3) Property tax – second home property**

Property owners of second homes do pay property tax. The current percentage is 0.91% of the tax assessed value of the property.

Investing on Bonaire is interesting for investors who are looking for a long-term investment and prefer simple rules and low tax pressure.

All the best, Bob

**Bob Bartikoski,**  
*Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner*

**If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire,**  
or

**if you have a real estate question for Bob,**  
email him at [info@bonairehomes.com](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com).

**Bonaire: +599-717-7362.**

**Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362**

## Dutch municipalities step to plate for BES

The Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) has told the House of Representatives committee that the government has established too many temporary policies and temporary funding arrangements is the BES islands. As a result, it said, government is not contributing to the livelihood of residents of the Caribbean Netherlands. "A legal framework is necessary," they said, "but ensure simple solutions that fit the local context. We see a patchwork of temporary funds and regulations. Complex and detailed Dutch regulations are often impractical for small organizations."

The VNG had prepared its position paper for a round table discussion the committee held this week on livelihoods on the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*

# Saying "goodbye" to Officer Ronald Schleper



Photo Fitipaldi Pietersz

say this farewell alone either; I need all of you. I look back fondly on the many wonderful years on Bonaire. In 1997, there were only 13,000 inhabitants, but already three discos: Fantasy (art hotel), Wowo (HFC), Whiskey Bar (formerly Sunset Beach Hotel, now Chogogo Resort), and of course, City Cafe. There used to be only one roundabout, and now there are five.

I've witnessed many changes and growth on Bonaire, which currently has almost 27,000 inhabitants. After 33 years, I'm returning to the Netherlands. I will definitely miss Bonaire."

Schleper is leaving Bonaire due to island retirement age and returning to the Netherlands to work as a police officer in Scheveningen where the retirement age is 67.

*Julie Morgan*



Halloween in Playa, 2024,  
Photo Julie Morgan

Anyone who works, lives, shops or attends events in Playa knows KPCN (Caribbean Netherlands Police Force) officer Ronald Schleper. He has had a presence in this area as the neighborhood police officer since 2014 and now he is retiring at age 64.

Schleper has been the kind of community police officer you would hope for, he rides a bike, smiles, talks to you and waves hello. He has been there with watchful eyes at events, controlling a crowd and tossing candy to the kids during the playa Halloween Trick or Treat. Schleper began his police training in 1997, alongside the current KPCN Corp Chief Alwyn Braaf.

At the small ceremony at Niki Tromp Plaza on January 22, police and neighborhood friends attended to thank him, wish him well and many brought gifts.

Chief Braaf said to the crowd: "It is a pleasure to share this moment together, because saying goodbye to a neighborhood police officer is not something you do only as an organization; it's something you do together with the community. Ronald, for years you have been a well-known and reliable face in Playa. Not just in uniform, but mainly as a human being. A visible person, who people can approach easily, and who knows the neighborhood and its people. The collaboration with residents, entrepreneurs and partners is strong, open and based on mutual respect. For that I want to thank you sincerely today."

Braaf presented Schleper with a cap and bright yellow vest imprinted with "Retired Police Officer." Schleper said, "When I used to give a presentation, I always said, "The police can't do it alone." I say the same now. I can't

## 122 volunteers help Dive Friends clean up the Town Pier.



Photo Julie Morgan

glass/ceramic, 166 pcs. of metal, 40 pcs. of rubber, 1 pc. of wood, 176 pcs. of cloth and 232 pcs. of mixed items. The freedivers even brought up a tire of which there are many surrounding the pier.

The most unusual find was a Nikon Coolpix camera that was lost on a Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire fishing line cleanup dive in March 22, 2025. The owner was on this cleanup and thrilled to report the camera still works and the memory card is still intact.

Thank you to everyone doing their part to keep our ocean free of debris. The next Dive Friends quarterly cleanup will be April 18. Visit Dive Friends Facebook page for more information.

*Julie Morgan*



Kira Roberts and friend with her newly found camera.

*The Bonaire Reporter Jan. 28 - Feb. 11, 2026*

Dive Friends first quarterly cleanup dive for 2026 at the Town Pier (north) on January 24 had an amazing 122 participants. The 99 divers and 11 freedivers collected 220 kilos (485 lbs) of trash from the ocean floor. The 12 shore support people rummaged through the debris and categorized and counted 2,268 items. They did find

180 entangled animals in some of collected items which were quickly returned to the ocean. (When collecting trash underwater it is always important to check the debris to see if anyone has made a home there.)

Here is the breakdown: 577 pcs. plastic, 1076 pcs.



**ST. EUSTATIUS**  
HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

The Sint Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) has a vacancy for:

## Quality Manager

We are seeking a dedicated and experienced Quality Manager to join our team at SEHCF. In this position, you will lead our Quality team and play a crucial role in ensuring our organization's quality and safety of care and services.

This position requires an action-driven, motivational expert in quality management with strong leadership skills and the ability to manage multiple priorities in a fast-paced environment. The ideal candidate will have a proven track record of improving quality and safety in the health care sector.

As a Quality Manager, you will be responsible for developing, implementing, promoting, and optimizing our quality management policy. Together with the Quality team, you develop and implement a quality management system that complies with all applicable guidelines, quality standards and legislation. Your role involves close interaction with all staff members, ensuring they are fully engaged and equipped with what is needed to deliver the highest standards of care. You will also advise and support the management team on quality and safety-related matters, ensuring compliance with quality and safety standards and regulations.

### You will be responsible for:

- **Manage the Quality team:** Support and empower the Quality team to deliver outstanding results in the most effective and efficient manner.
- **Develop and Manage a Quality System:** Implement and oversee an integral (digital) quality management system.
- **Lead Improvement Projects:** You perform the appropriate analyses and draw up improvement plans to elevate the organization to a higher level in terms of quality and patient safety.
- **Ensure Compliance:** Coordinate with the Dutch Health and Youth Care Inspectorate (IGJ) to align quality improvement processes and make sure the SEHCF complies with all quality and safety standards and regulations.
- **Advise Management:** Support the management team within sights on quality policy and compliance.
- **Conduct Quality Audits:** Plan, conduct, and coordinate quality audits, and draft audit plans.
- **Analyze and Report:** Monitor, analyze, and report on business processes and quality data (KPI's).
- **Initiate Enhancements:** Propose and lead initiatives for continuous quality improvements and safety improvements.
- **Setting quality objectives and targets:** Make a plan according to the SEHCF goals

- **Developing and delivering quality training programs:** develop and deliver quality training programs for staff.
- **Yearly quality and safety report:** Ensuring structured and comprehensive yearly quality and safety report for the IGJ.

### Who are we looking for?

- **Educational Background:** HBO bachelor's degree in health care management or quality management.
- **Experience:** Experience within the healthcare industry.
- **Knowledge:** Staying current/up to date with guidelines, procedures, legislation, and developments in quality management.
- **Skills:** Strong communication, advisory, and interpersonal skills with cultural sensitivity.
- **Languages:** Fluency in English and Dutch.
- **Residency:** Willingness to reside on St. Eustatius is highly preferred.

### About St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation

The St. Eustatius Health Care Foundation (SEHCF) manages the island's premier and only medical facility. Our dedicated team of 65 professionals includes nurses, doctors, supporting administrative staff, a midwife, a physiotherapist, a gynecologist, and specialized Practice Nurses for chronic care, ensuring comprehensive primary care services for our community.

At SEHCF, our commitment to excellence is reflected in our diverse range of healthcare services. From outpatient services featuring general practitioner care and visiting specialists to community (home) care, emergency response, inpatient care, physiotherapy, and advanced diagnostic services in our laboratory and X-Ray departments. In short, we deliver primary care +. We work hard every day to be a good primary care + medical center, continually enhancing the quality of care for the local population.

We work closely with various stakeholders in our daily operations. For elective specialist care and emergency referrals we maintain strong partnerships with medical centers in St. Maarten and hospitals in Bonaire and Curaçao. Additionally, we work closely with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, Welfare, and Sport and local public health organizations like GGD and GGZ.

### What we offer

- **Full-time position:** 40 hours per week
- **Compensation:** Bases on full-time employment, this position is classified according to the FWG system 3.0 and is scaled at level 60. The monthly gross salary starts from USD 4,334.00 to USD 5,989.00 (depending on experience)
- **Comprehensive Benefits:** In accordance with the BES Health Care Collective Labor Agreement
- **Pension and Health coverage:** Participation in the Dutch Caribbean Pension Plan and Zorgverzekering BES health insurance plan
- **Career Development:** Opportunity to make a significant impact on the quality of healthcare services in a close-knit community.

### Interested?

We invite you to submit your resume with a cover letter, copies of your diplomas and certificates, and two references to SEHCF to Mr. Philip van Woerkom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, via email: [hr@sehcf.org](mailto:hr@sehcf.org) and cc: [philip.vanwoerkom@sehcf.org](mailto:philip.vanwoerkom@sehcf.org). Mr. Philip van Woerkom can also be contacted for questions via tel: +599 319- 7279.

**Closing date: February 19, 2026**

### TAKE THE SURVEY

## How do you use media in the Caribbean Netherlands?

As of today, residents of the Caribbean Netherlands can once again participate in the Media Research Caribbean Netherlands. Through this research, the Central Government aims to gain better insight into how it reaches residents and how its communication can be further improved.

The Central Government communicates through various channels and is interested in learning which media are used most frequently. These include radio stations, newspapers, news websites, and social media. The results of the research help the different ministries and government services better align their communication with the information needs of residents.

The survey can be completed completely anonymously. Personal data will not be shared with third parties. Among all participants, three grocery vouchers worth USD 200 each will be raffled.

Share your opinion via: [opinioncarib.com/enkuesta](https://opinioncarib.com/enkuesta)

The Media Research Caribbean Netherlands is conducted by Opinion Carib on behalf of the Caribbean Netherlands Government (RCN). Opinion Carib is the leading specialist in feedback and feedforward research in the Caribbean region. Organizations that want to know what residents, customers, or employees truly think choose Opinion Carib.



Through in-depth surveys, focus groups, and continuous measurements, we provide directly actionable insights for policy, communication, and service delivery. Our research is carried out using local knowledge, multilingual tools, and a proven methodology.

Would you like to know where your organization can improve? Contact [Opinion Carib](https://www.opinioncarib.com).

# Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

## Roping off Lac Bay

Dear STINAPA Organization Team,

I am writing as a long-time visitor to Bonaire. My family and I have been visiting the island for over 20 years, and we greatly respect both this place and STINAPA's role in protecting its natural environment.

I fully support the protection of seagrass in Lac Bay. However, the current access restrictions are impractical, create conflict, and in some cases appear to cause environmental harm rather than prevent it.

For decades, natural access channels near the shore, particularly in front of the lookout tower have existed where no seagrass grows due to strong currents and rock-bottom sediment. Long-term observation and photographic evidence show that seagrass has never grown in these areas. These channels historically allowed swimmers and windsurfers to reach the blue water without damaging surrounding seagrass. These areas are now roped off, and visitors are being told that passing through them is "against the law," which has led to frustration and unnecessary conflict.

The access point in front of the lookout is especially important for beginner and intermediate windsurfers. They cannot safely access the water in front of Frans Paradise, where the water is immediately deep and far downwind. From that location, the blue water is simply not accessible for their skill level. Closing the lookout access effectively removes safe entry for a large group of users.

At present, only two private access points exist, located in front of Jibe City and Windsurfing Place, which are not desirable to use for public not using the services of these businesses. This is clearly not acceptable and insufficient for such a long stretch of beach. It is not realistic to have no water access along the rest of Lac Bay. The beautiful blue water on a public beach is now inaccessible to public.

This beach also receives hundreds of visitors daily from cruise ships, who are an important part of the tourism industry and

support the island's economy. Many of these visitors are frustrated to discover that they cannot access the water at all, despite arriving at what appears to be a public beach.

By roping off the remaining sections, there is no public access for people visiting the beach or using their own equipment. I personally have no access to the water with my own windsurfing gear. This situation is not realistic and creates unsafe conditions.

Additionally, the roping system itself is causing pollution. Ropes frequently tear, and buoys and tubing break loose and drift into the bay and mangroves, directly impacting sensitive ecosystems.

Nature also follows its own cycles. Areas where seagrass once existed, such as in front of the fisherman's hut, are now bare despite little or no human traffic. This highlights that blanket restrictions do not always reflect ecological reality.

I respectfully ask STINAPA to review the current strategy and consider more balanced solutions, such as reopening proven natural channels and possibly adding additional controlled access points (for example, boardwalks similar to the one at Sorobon Resort). These approaches would protect seagrass while allowing safe, realistic, and equitable public access.

Protection efforts should be environmentally sound, but also practical and fair. Finding a balanced solution that allows people and nature to coexist responsibly in Lac Bay is not only necessary, but aligns directly with the core mission of STINAPA itself.

Please find attached pictures of the location. First picture is a screenshot taken last year with people walking through the channel, the other [one is] from few days ago, clearly showing no change in the seagrass growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Sincerely, Concerned traveler.



Photo Julie Morgan



Photo Julie Morgan

## An invisible mural

I went to the shelter yesterday to see the beautiful mural. The mural is not visible from the road due to over growth of shrubs etc.

I went inside and asked the staff why the mural was basically covered up and not visible. They stated that the government ( not sure which department ) does not allow them to trim or maintain the overgrown shrubs and trees.

How very sad and short sighted is this? Can you contact whomever and ask them to maintain the area to allow this amazing mural to be visible?

Thank You, Anita Motard

The story behind the mural – see our online archives: <https://bonairereporter.com>, September 6 - 27, 2023. Issue 18



2025



2026



Did you pay your

Available online at [STINAPAbonaire.org](https://STINAPAbonaire.org)



Nature Fee?

# Letters & Opinions

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## BONAIRE RESPETÁ

### First point of action for a new political party

The suggested name is: ‘Bonaire Respetá’. This name says two things. We write ‘Bonaire’, not ‘Boneiru’, because in 2004 we chose to become an integral part of Holland. Choosing the word ‘Bonaire’ (the official name) expresses this. The second word, ‘respetá’, is Papiamentu and emphasizes that the Bonairean people want to be respected. Bonaire belongs to all of us, but there is too little respect for the original Bonaireans. That must be improved.

Okay, if you want to be respected, you yourself must first respect others. But at the same time, Bonaireans also need to become more assertive. Not aggressive. Not that. Bonaireans are humble, as our national anthem confirms. That is beautiful. That must stay. But assertiveness is not the same as aggressiveness. Being assertive means first of all knowing

exactly what you want. And then acting with determination and consistency until the goal is reached. Without becoming aggressive.

In this context, the first point of action for the “Bonaire Respetá” party should be to achieve greater local autonomy. We recommend the federal model. We remain an integral part of Holland, within the Dutch Constitution, but based on the federal system. This would allow Bonaire, in principle, to have the same amount of autonomy as Curaçao and Aruba. It might be implemented slightly differently, but essentially the same potential. Our recommendation is to leave the police and justice system in the

hands of Holland. The rest, the same as Curaçao. The currency remains the US\$. If this becomes a problem, we adopt the Euro.

Therefore, our recommendation for the “Bonaire Respetá” party is to organize a referendum as soon as possible to express its opinion on the federal principle. The referendum process itself takes approx. 2 to 3 years. If the majority of the population so desires, the transfer of tasks and powers—one by one—could be completed in about 20 years. All this should be done in close cooperation with Holland. At the end of these 20 years, Bonaire will have approx. 50,000 inhabitants.

But remember: we must act assertively. So first, certainty that this is what we really want. Then, work hard and insist until the goal is reached. Don’t back out. Assertiveness.

Note. The undersigned will NOT actively participate in this. We are merely making suggestions. Young Bonaireans need to get to work. The first reason why a new political party is needed, is because the traditional parties have never changed since Arthur Sealy labeled them “traditional” parties some 40 years ago. I am willing to help and advise, but I do not wish to take an active role. But I will vote, naturally.

Bonaire, January 25, 2026.  
Michiel Bijkerk

Rafael Santana – Bonaire. Attention and respect for the workers of Bonaire is fundamental to achieving goals that benefit our community as a whole. Since 1995, I have been working to strengthen the unions and to ensure that every worker receives the respect, attention and protection they deserve.

At the moment, we are focusing on three essential points for the welfare of the Bonaire community:

1. Land for each family.
  2. A supermarket where it is possible to buy products at preferential prices.
  3. A general pension for all workers.
- Bonaire, 2027

The union part will have a very important role in everything that concerns a general pension. Therefore, from now

on I advise all workers to start affiliating themselves with their union, because union affiliation is a key instrument to defend labor rights and to guarantee a fair general pension in the future.

Dear workers of Bonaire,

When I started in 1995 to draw the attention of the trade union parties in Bonaire, this was not with bad intentions, but with the aim of improving the system. I have done this so that you, as workers, can feel confident in your union, and so that the union can provide you with the attention and respect you deserve as union members.

Respect for workers is of great impor-

tance for us to achieve our goals. There are workers on the island who have the possibility of a general pension, but unfortunately, the vast majority are still not enjoying it.

With respect to immigrant workers, they can also benefit from a general pension, as long as they are affiliated with a union. This is of great importance, because many workers in Bonaire today do not have a fully arranged pension. We must work to increase their income, to guarantee them a safer future, and at the same time recognize the efforts they have made to contribute to the development of Bonaire.

A general pension is a right and a contribution that every worker deserves. We will continue to work together to make this a reality.

United for a better future

Only if we are affiliated to a union can we achieve this. However, we cannot do this alone; we need to work together with the government, because without government collaboration, these goals cannot be realized.

Therefore, in 2027, Santana is ready to work together and unite, for the welfare and future of all workers of Bonaire and their families.

Rafael Santana, Abelrtico N, Janga  
[bonairenewsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:bonairenewsnetwork@gmail.com)

## Strengthening the unions

## The younger generation requests a voice

**A delegation of young people from all six Caribbean islands and the diaspora in the Netherlands has formally requested the parliaments of Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten to place climate adaptation on the agenda of the Interparliamentary Kingdom Consultation (IPKO) on February 17, 2026.**

To: Mr. M. Sneek (President of the Parliament of Aruba) Mr. F. Brownbill (President of the Parliament of Curaçao) Ms. S. Wescot-Williams (President of the Parliament of Sint Maarten)

For the attention of: Mr. E. Vrolijk (Chair of the Standing Committee on Kingdom Relations, Aruba) The Standing Committees for Kingdom Relations and the Clerks of the three countries

Regarding: Request for agenda setting and right to participate during the Interparliamentary Consultation on the Kingdom of the Netherlands (IPKO) in February 2026

Date: January 23, 2026

Dear Chairs,

On behalf of a delegation of young people from all six islands and the Caribbean community in the Netherlands, we are contacting you with an urgent request regarding the upcoming Interparliamentary Consultation on the Kingdom of the Netherlands (IPKO)

on February 17, 2026, in Aruba. Climate as a shared responsibility The climate crisis threatens the fundamental rights of the inhabitants of the Caribbean part of our Kingdom. While the European Netherlands can rely on the Delta Act and structural financial frameworks, such safeguards are lacking for the islands. At the international level, the Kingdom is considered a single member state, meaning that Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten do not have independent access to important international climate funds. <sup>1</sup>

In this context, we would like to draw your attention to the climate lawsuit filed by eight residents of Bonaire, together with Greenpeace, against the State. The ruling on January 28th is crucial for the entire Kingdom. One of the key demands in this case is not only the establishment of a climate adaptation plan, but also that this plan be developed in close consultation with local residents. We see this as a powerful precedent: safeguarding human rights through the Kingdom’s safeguarding function (Article 43 of the Charter),

while maintaining local authority and self-determination. Local expertise and science Our islands possess many talented individuals who are already conducting in-depth work on climate. They are uniquely positioned to pool scientific knowledge and translate it to the local context to make a real difference. Projects like the Feelin’ Hot Tool demonstrate that the expertise is available, but these initiatives are often limited to temporary projects. Structural cooperation within the Kingdom is essential for a safe future, with the Netherlands facilitating and the countries taking the lead based on mutual assistance (Article 36 of the Charter). <sup>2</sup>

We formally request that you:

1. Include climate adaptation and the impact of recent case law (the Bonaire Climate Case) as a fixed agenda item for the IPKO meeting on February 17, 2026.

2. Give one of our youth representatives, Oriana Wouters, the opportunity to make a 5- to 10-minute intervention at the opening of this agenda item to explain this local vision.

The IPKO is the right platform to discuss this kingdom-wide challenge. We look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully,

On behalf of Aruba, Oriana Wouters; On behalf of Curaçao, Terence Ching; On behalf of Sint Maarten, Riddhi Samtani; Representation of Caribbean Youth within the Kingdom

Footnotes:

1. At COP30, international agreements were made to significantly increase financial resources for climate adaptation. However, the constitutional position of the CAS countries within the Kingdom limits their direct access to these specific funds for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), leaving them dependent on the course taken by the Dutch government.

2. See also: Misiedjan, D.J.E. (2021). “Separate but equal in the protection against climate change? The legal framework of climate justice for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands”.

# Are you ready for the Roses on February 1?

In less than a week, hundreds of Bonaire residents and visitors will be joining the fight against cancer by simply lacing up their running shoes, airing up their bike tires or jumping into the beautiful blue waters of Bonaire for a swim. Why? Because February 1, is the 10th anniversary and ninth edition of Ride for the Roses.

For the second year the start and finish is at the people's park, Isidel Beach Park. The first Ride for the Roses began in the same location years ago when it was nothing more than a vacant lot. The main sponsor, Orco Bank, was there 10 years ago supporting the Roses and have continued their commitment for the next three years.

The walk begins at 7 a.m. and you can choose the 5.5 km (3.41 mi) or 8.75 km (5.43) route. Cyclists begin at 7:05 and can ride the 13 km (8.07 mi) or 26 km (16.1 mi) route. The swim that begins at Kas di Regatta at 9:30 is 1.5 km (.93 mi) and ends at Karel's Beach Bar. If you are super adventurous, try a combination walk and swim or bike and swim.

Water and fruit are available from volunteers along the routes for the walk and bike ride to keep you hydrated.

If you aren't the athletic type, but would like to join the fight, then volun-



teer. Over the years, some 300 individuals have volunteered, and many do it every year (contact@ridefortheroses.org.)

A ticket for Ride for the Roses is only \$20 for the individual walk, ride or swim and if you opt for two activities, a combi-

it's \$25. Tickets may be purchased online at [ridefortheroses.org](http://ridefortheroses.org) or in person at Orco Bank, Freewieler Bonaire, Gas Station Rincon, Yogarriba, Bon Bida or from a Ride for the Roses board member.

And if you haven't registered ahead of

time, you can do so at the t-shirt pickup. January 29-30 from 5 – 7 p.m. and January 31, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Roses main sponsor Orco Bank.

For more information visit [RidefortheRoses.org](http://RidefortheRoses.org)

Story / Photo 2024 Julie Morgan

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# Bonaire reaches pre-COVID occupancy levels again in 2025

– vigilance required for 2026 due to changing external conditions –

The Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association (BONHATA) reports that Bonaire reached an important recovery milestone in stay-over tourism in 2025. The average hotel occupancy rate reached 66%, equal to the pre-COVID level of 2019, though still below the Caribbean average. This is shown by recent analyses based on performance data submitted by accommodations affiliated with BONHATA.

## Strong revenue growth driven by higher room rates

Compared to 2024, the average occupancy rate increased from 62% to 66%. At the same time, the Average Daily Rate (ADR) rose from USD 226 to USD 268 (+19%). As a result, Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) increased from USD 140 to USD 177 (+26%). This development underscores that the sector is managing pricing and revenue more deliberately and strategically.

## Seasonal differences remain a structural challenge

The positive results in 2025 were mainly driven by strong performance in the first and fourth quarters. The second and third quarters, by contrast, fell short of expectations. As a result, seasonal distribution remains an important point of attention for the sector.

## Outlook 2026: expected decline additional pressure on summer months

For 2026, current forecasts almost certainly point to a decline in the average occupancy rate to approximately 64%. A key cause is the expected 17% reduction in available airlift during the high season. This tightening of the market is also expected to put downward pressure on room rates, which will likely result in a lower RevPAR compared to 2025. In particular, the period from April through September currently shows fewer bookings, which may place additional pressure on the mid and summer seasons.

## Venezuela situation and Q1 2026: additional external uncertainty

Recent geopolitical tensions surrounding Venezuela and broader regional security developments constitute an additional external factor that may influence travel

behavior and air traffic in the first quarter of 2026. Although no directly measurable negative impact is currently visible for Bonaire, such tensions may lead to adjustments in flight routes, operational disruptions, and increased hesitation among travelers.

## Healthy growth in stay-over tourism requires better distribution

The number of stay-over tourists on Bonaire is expected to have increased in 2025 to 199,120 visitors, a growth of approximately 9.7% compared to 2024. This growth was mainly visible during the high season and is largely attributable to additional airlift from the U.S. market. Additional capacity from the Dutch market, by contrast, did not result in further growth; there has even been a slight decline in visitor numbers. Due to the near-complete loss of the South American market and the departure of JetBlue, achieving a balanced distribution of visitors throughout the year remains a challenge. This results in persistent seasonal peaks during the high season and under-occupancy outside of it.

## Strategic direction: distribution and collaboration remain essential

Recent performance confirms the principles of the Strategic Tourism Master Plan: further development of tourism does not require more accommodations, but rather targeted marketing, a clear vision for improved distribution, strengthening of the product offering, and closer collaboration within the sector.

BONHATA emphasizes that, given the international context and changing external conditions, intensive cooperation between the government, TCB, airline partners, and accommodations is crucial to safeguarding Bonaire's attractiveness and economic stability in the long term.

## About BONHATA

BONHATA is the industry association of accommodations and tourism enterprises on Bonaire and is committed to a sustainable, balanced, and future-proof development of the tourism sector.

*Veroesjka de Windt*



## Looking Back on a Heartwarming December



## Supporting Bonaire's Senior Dinner

As we look back on December, Orco Bank proudly reflects on the meaningful moments shared during the annual Senior Dinner in Bonaire. The event brought together elderly residents from across the island.

"December is a time for reflection and togetherness, and being part of this beautiful initiative truly captured that spirit," said Judy Diaz, Country Manager of Orco Bank Bonaire. "It was wonderful to see so many smiles and to contribute, alongside other partners, to an event that honors the seniors who have given so much to our community."

For more information about Orco Bank, please visit <https://www.orcobank.com>. Follow us for daily updates on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/OrcoBank> and LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/orco-bank>.

. Orco

## Make Bonaire Accessible

The best is yet to be? by Ria Dokter

It is 2026. A fresh new year for all of us to make the very best of it.

The second week of this new year I was very sick. This was extremely frightening, because I am all by myself. Even though the neighbors are not very far away, I was in my bedroom and was barely able to leave my bed. I was lucky I had enough water, fruit and comestibles to get by. But because I did not feel like eating or drinking at all, the only thing I could do was stay in bed and sip small bits of lukewarm water. I will spare you the details because they were not funny at all.

Thank Goodness after three days I felt much better and I was able to take a shower, get out on the porch and into the curing power of the sun.

The illness made me aware how fragile we are as elderly. Especially the elderly who live by themselves and are alone. I am in the lucky position to have a great buddy and many others in my life who care for me and see to it that I am okay. But I would like to make sure every

elderly person knows what to do and has people who are there for them as well.

A very good friend of mine has been asking around for a while and has found out that there is such a thing as a "red button." This is some kind of safety device you can hang around your neck and in case of a real emergency, all one has to do is press the red button. In a very short time, someone will contact you and help you and you can feel safe again. Asking for help is a very hard thing to do, but it is very important because it can save your life.

Another important thing in case of an emergency is to have a list with all your medications and things medics need to know. Also if you have a phone, you will need to have all the numbers of all "your people" in there, so you can call them in case of an emergency.

Remember, you do not have to feel alone. This morning my new neighbors came to see me and asked how I was. They had been pretty worried about me, since

they had not seen me for a few days. They were really relieved to hear that I am well again. These are the kind of people you need. Every day they come and ask how I am, and their sweet kids do the same. They even helped me with a huge problem I had with a palm tree that caused some trouble.

For this year I wish you all the best. I wish for you to have people around that sincerely care for you. And I wish you good health and some extra happiness would be wonderful. Everybody needs a little extra good health.



*Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she used to work as a director at FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.*

# Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

## Don't Overlook Surgeonfish or

(as the menu at Bonaire's Great Wall Chinese Restaurant used to say)

## You Will Regret for It!



**Above: Members of this large school of mixed surgeonfish will occasionally drop down to a damselfish's garden and nip algae, while the damselfish frenziedly attacks them. Mel McCombie watches, delighted that the fish are biting each other and not her.**

**Below: This juvenile blue tang has a tiny bit of bright blue on the edges of its dorsal and anal fins. Photos Julie Morgan**

sometimes in spawning aggregations. Their eggs are pelagic and hatch quickly; in a lab, ocean surgeonfish eggs hatched in 28 hours. A week or more later, also around dusk or at night, quarter-sized post-larval surgeonfish settle from the plankton. They're very thin-bodied, mostly clear but with some silver, and to me have always looked exactly like surgeonfish, making them among the easiest of larval fishes to figure out. On their earliest scientific sightings, they were thought to be a new species and were called *Acronurus*, a name that stuck with newly-settled post-larval surgeonfish. They lose their transparency and achieve scales in only a few days. Juvenile

ocean surgeonfish and doctorfish look and act just like small adults, schooling and algae-plucking with their elders.



Once again, though, the blue tangs are

different. Although the babies are shaped just like their elders, they're not blue, they're bright yellow. (When I was a new diver/photographer, I always loved the response when I showed a picture of that little yellow fish and announced, "This is a blue tang!")

In addition to their color, baby blue tangs also behave very differently from their parents: they don't school, and they're fiercely territorial against other yellow, blue tangs. Eventually, though, they turn blue and youthful rebellion over, join their elders in groups and schools.

From which we can conclude that the schools are useful. In fact, all we have to do is think about all those damselfish guarding all those algae gardens, and the value of the schools becomes clear. Since each garden is guarded by a single damselfish, it can't chase away more than one intruder at a time. Consequently, if six surgeonfish descend upon the garden, four or five of them are likely to get a bite or two to eat. Easy peasy!

In fact, the buddy-bite-and-bolt system is so effective that other fishes join the surgeonfish schools for their own profit. Midnight parrotfish are known to join surgeonfish in their algae-plucking. The surgeonfish don't mind this; they're neither helped nor negatively affected by the parrotfish.

Of course, trumpetfish also join surgeonfish schools, even though they are not algae-eaters. And when they're successful, the surgeonfish are definitely affected in a positive way!

Scarr's accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don's Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award ("the Emmy of the diving world") in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.



When was the last time you paid attention to a surgeonfish? They're one of Bonaire's most common fish according to REEF fish surveys, they're pretty much everywhere, and yet ... they're not particularly interesting to watch. They munch on algae, big deal.

However, there's more than you might expect hidden behind those bland surgeonfish exteriors.

For example, look at that little line at the base of their tails. Is it an eye spot that never quite grew up?

Nope, it's a special modification of skin cells that's called a scalpel, an appropriate tool for surgeonfish to have, right? In fact, their family name, *Acanthuridae*, means "spine-tail." What's surprising in such humble fish is that the surgeonfish scalpel is super-sharp. It's attached at its posterior end, so when the fish curves its tail, the scalpel stays straight and sticks out facing forward -- not a comfortable situation for any predator (including a human) grabbing the surgeonfish!

Surgeonfish also use their spines when they disagree with other surgeonfish, usually in competitive courtship situations. Swimming around each other in tight circles they display their weapons, which usually results in one fish accepting defeat.

Bonaire's reefs host three types of surgeonfish: the ocean surgeonfish, the doctorfish, and the blue tang. We see more ocean surgeonfish than doctorfish, and they're often seen in mixed groups, nibbling algae not only from rocks but also from the sand. The digestive systems of ocean surgeonfish and doctorfish have thick-walled, gizzard-like stomachs, an adaptation to enable them to deal with the sand they ingest.

Blue tangs, in contrast, have thin-walled stomachs and are the surgeonfish who are most likely to be up in the water column nibbling on planktonic algae, or even comb jellies.

Surgeonfish spawn in the water column, usually around dusk, sometimes in pairs and

*A dish I make for breakfast at Sorobon. Cupcake with boiled egg, ham, egg, coconut milk, Flaming Flamingo hot sauce, cream cheese with filled egg cream*

**For the egg cupcakes:** Silicone cupcake mold, for 6 cupcakes • 6 eggs • 1 egg • 1/2 dl (3.38 oz) coconut milk • 50 g (1/4 C) cream cheese • Dash of Flaming Flamingo hot sauce

Break 1 egg into each cupcake mold. Mix the last egg with the coconut milk and a small dash of hot sauce to taste, stir well and divide this over the 6 cupcake liners. Divide the cream cheese into 6 pieces and place them in the molds. (Also place in molds cubes of the cooked white of 2 eggs, see below). Now bake in an oven at 170° Celsius (338 F) for about 8 minutes until the egg yolk is almost completely set.

**Stuffed egg filling:** 2 hard-boiled eggs • 1 tablespoon mayonnaise • Pinch of curry powder • Salt and pepper

Remove egg yolks from the 2 eggs and rub them through a sieve. Stir in remaining

## Egg Cupcake - by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



ingredients until smooth. Cut the remaining egg white into small cubes and divide cubes among the 6 cupcake liners.

**Formatting:** 6 lettuce leaves • 6 slices of ham, raw or cooked • 2 sprigs of chives • 3 cherry tomatoes • 2 tablespoons mayonnaise

• Dash of flaming flamingo hot sauce

Remove the egg cupcakes from the molds and place them on a plate. Place a piece of ham on the warm egg cupcake and pipe a rosette of filled egg filling on top. Make a nice plate together with the lettuce, ham, chives and cherry tomatoes. Mix the mayonnaise with the hot sauce and serve.

*An egg for breakfast is a given because it is nutritious, quick to prepare, cheap and has a long shelf life, and historically was readily available; a chicken lays eggs every day, anywhere in the world. An egg breakfast gives you stable energy, better focus, less cravings and a good start to your day.*

Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares a recipe for a personal dish created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients. Corjan works as a Sous Chef at "The Reef Bar" at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.



# Events, Meetings, Sports

# What's Happening

**12 steps meeting:** Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort'i Saliña, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

**Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting** Every Thursday, 7 - 8 p.m. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments). All welcome, regardless of primary addiction or no addiction at all.

**Animal Shelter's Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group.** Every other Wednesday 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m. the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring).

**Apertivo evening from 5 – 8 p.m. Fridays Rosa Cafe.** Stop in for a drink & free Italian appetizers.

**Beach Tennis Bonaire** Free. Everyone welcome. Sportpark Rudy Boezem. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>

**Bridgeclub Bonaire** organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (whatsapp text), [bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com). <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

**Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees** every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).

**Divers Drink & Dance Date** Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Last Wednesday of the month. 5 - 9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

**Diver Safety.** Jason Buttenshaw third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.

**Fish ID course. Free.** 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Held last Thursday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

**Museum Night, Terramar museum.** Free access to galleries last Wednesday of the month. From 6 to 8 p.m., visitors are welcomed into a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy the galleries after hours and join a themed workshop (pay what you can).

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. GET RID OF YOUR DRUG ADDICTION** Monday 19:00-20:00. Kaya Tanki Matrimonio 30. Dutch & Papiamentu. Call Wensley 700 7289 or Remco 784 1782.

**Pickleball. • Chinese Assoc. Kaminda Lac, Blue Building:** Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 3 to 5 p.m. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

**Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire** Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, [abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com](mailto:abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com)

**Sunfish Race Days:** Barring inclement weather: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook.

**Tennis Eddie's courts.** Everyone (18+) is welcome. **Free Kid's Clinics at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Tue & Fri 4-6 p.m. Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, Mon & Thu 4-6 p.m.** Register: email [info@bonairetennisassociation.com](mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com) or app 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts.

 **Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** Presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. **TWO CHANGES: Feb. 2 Find us at the World Wetlands Day Event - 6-9 p.m. & Thurs. Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.** - Divi Dive Pure Ocean Garden. BACK TO MONDAYS, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9- Divi Dive Pure Ocean Garden; Feb. 16 - Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort; Feb. 23 - To be confirmed; March 2 - Divi Pure Ocean Garden. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org) ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanislandsmantaconservation)

 **Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: [info@reefrenewalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenewalbonaire.org)

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. . <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/>

**Animal Shelter:** Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

**Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza. NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm** as well as for the cruise ships (schedule can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>)

**Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon:** Tues.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat. 8-noon

**Library:** Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. [www.onlinebibliotheek.nl](http://www.onlinebibliotheek.nl)

**Marshe di Playa** Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market)** Kaya Gilberto F Croes, just past Caribbean Laundry. Saturdays 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

**Terramar Museum** Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700 <https://www.facebook.com/terrarmuseumbonaire/>

**SACA Art Center** Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public.

**STINAPA headquarters:** Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

**Washington Slagbaai Park:** Open Tues. - Sun. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

January 17 to February 17	KARNAVAL 2026 See schedule on page 15 and in our online edition on page 21
Wednesday, Jan 28	<b>At 9 a.m. (GMT-4), the Hague court will rule on the Bonaire Climate Case.</b> See page xx. (also page. 7 for another climate story)  <b>5th Open Bonaire Bridge Championship.</b> The bridge club's <a href="#">Facebook page</a>
Thursday, Jan 29	<b>REEF Fish ID.</b> 7 p.m. TransWorld Radio. Free. Featuring ROFFA REEFS, and the fascinating topic of spawning. Highlighting the Yellowtail Parrotfish and Ocean Surgeonfish. Explore what it means to be a citizen scientist. Gather with fellow ocean lovers! All are welcome!
Saturday, Jan. 31	<b>Annual Lora Roost Count 6 to 8 a.m.</b> The first roost count of 2026. Volunteers are essential to help count Bonaire's parrots.  <b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. All about MASKARADA. See poster page 16 and online page 22  <b>Grand Opening Party for Arena.</b> 2 p.m. at Hato Shopping Center. Great prizes and free snacks and drinks. See page 16.
Last day art exhibit	<b>Art exhibit: The Joy of Creation. Henk Roozendaal &amp; Jose Smit:</b> SACA Art Center, Kaya Korona 74 Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2-5 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 1	<b>Ride for the Roses, Fight against cancer.</b> Isidel Beach Park. Ride/Swim/Walk. See page 10. <a href="https://www.ridefortheroses.org">https://www.ridefortheroses.org</a>  <b>Richard Knopper Football Academy</b> Open Day 8 a.m. at Vêlt Elion Flores in Kralendijk. Free for young players of different ages and levels who want to get acquainted with professional football training under the guidance of an experienced former professional footballer. Sign up by WhatsApp: +599 7017806 and +31 6 52666727 or email <a href="mailto:rka.bonaire@gmail.com">rka.bonaire@gmail.com</a>
Monday, Feb. 2	<b>MBO Bonaire Study Market</b> from 5-7 p.m. Future students can explore different fields of study, participate in activities and ask questions, so that they get a good idea of the content of the programs. MBO Kaya Korona 4  <b>World Wetlands Day</b> Wilhelminaplein from 6-9 p.m. An evening full of nature, culture, history, and surprises. See page 16
Friday, Feb. 6	<b>Taste of Bonaire,</b> Carnival theme. Starts at 6 p.m. Wilhelmina Park. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Restaurant signature dishes at special prices.
Saturday, Feb. 7	<b>Open Bonaire Swimming Championships</b> All welcome.  <b>Windsurf &amp; Wingfoil Association Bonaire.</b> <a href="#">See Facebook page for event.</a>
Saturday, Feb. 7 Sunday, Feb. 8	<b>SACA Flamenco: Irene Olvera dancer; Rycardo Moreno, guitar, Teresa Hernandez voice; Dani Bonilla, percussion.</b> 7:30 p.m. at SACA. \$30. Ages 17 and under \$15. Tickets for sale at SACA, Kaya Korona 74 and C'est la Vie, South Pier Mall.
Friday, Feb. 13	<b>National Reading Day</b> 9 - 9:30 a.m. Asking for volunteers to read in Papiamentu grades 1-4 and Dutch grades 5 - 8 for half an hour to all grades in primary schools. Email: <a href="mailto:lezenenschrijvenbonaire@gmail.com">lezenenschrijvenbonaire@gmail.com</a>
Saturday, Feb. 13	<b>Animal Shelter Valentine's Dog Walk. Take a dog on a date!</b> W 5 - 6 p.m. Walk with one of our shelter dogs along Kralendijk Boulevard. Registration only \$10. Call/What's App 701-4989 <a href="mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com">animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com</a>
Last day Feb. 17	<b>Surinamese Wedding Portraits. Terramar Museum Exhibit:</b> Do you have a Surinamese wedding photo to add? Send a scan (.jpg/.jpeg) to <a href="mailto:surinaamse.trouwportretten@gmail.com">surinaamse.trouwportretten@gmail.com</a> , with names, date, location, and a brief description.

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/</a>
Sun. February 11	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. . <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>
	<b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.</b> Held January, April, July and October. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a>

**Sobremesa Kas di Arte** View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**

- Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
- Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: [sobremesabonaire@gmail.com](mailto:sobremesabonaire@gmail.com)



## Church Services

### Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m./10 a.m.

### International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO):

Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services in English.

### United Protestant Congregation

- **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. Services in Dutch
- **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

## Karnaval 2026 Schedule

**Jan. 24.** Adult Tumba Music Festival/Competition **Jan. 25.** Youth Tumba Music Festival/Competition **Jan. 29.** JumpUp street party IKC Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador **Jan. 30.** Kórsou Tumba Music Festival/Competition at SKAL **Jan. 31.** Competition Adult Queen, Prince and Pancho  
**Feb. 1.** Juve Morning 00:00-05.00 a.m. (Pre-dawn street party) / Competition Youth Queen, Prince and Pancho • **Feb. 4. Awards Tumba Music Festival/ Queen, Prince and Pancho** • **Feb. 6. Taste of Bonaire** • **Feb. 7.** Youth Parade Rincon • **Feb. 8** Youth Parade Playa • **Feb. 13.** Jump Up street party SAPC 8 a.m. -12 noon / Elderly Parade • **Feb. 13.** Teener Parade

**Main Karnaval Parades** **Feb. 14.** Adult Grand Karnaval Parade in Rincon • **Feb. 15.** Adult Grand Karnaval Parade in Kralendijk (Playa) • **Feb. 16.** Children's Farewell Karnaval Parade • **Feb. 17.** Adult Farewell Grand Karnaval Nighttime Parade in Kralendijk with the Burning of King Momo at Midnight

## Funds Available

**Reading Promotion Scheme.** The Dutch Foundation for Literature supports projects in the field of reading promotion that supplement projects currently existing. Organizations can apply for a subsidy for a diversity of activities for young and old, from reading clubs to digital projects, and from creative writing workshops or performances. Or for projects that do not yet exist, but will stimulate reading.

Cultural institutions, organizations or legal entities that are active in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and that produce and/or implement literary-educational activities are eligible to apply. Schools, universities and local government bodies cannot apply for a subsidy under this scheme. The applicant can apply for a minimum of €25,000 and a maximum of €50,000. There are two funding rounds per year:

- February 20, 2026 for projects due to start from July 2026 onwards

- May 15, 2026 for projects due to start from December 2026 onwards

<https://assets.letterenfonds.prod.verveagency.com/assets/reading-promotion-english-2026.pdf>

### The Appeltjes van Oranje (Orange Funds)

are awarded annually to three social organizations in the Netherlands and the Caribbean that contribute to a connected society. The winners will receive a bronze statuette and € 25,000. The prize money can be freely used within the purpose of the winning initiative.

The 2026 prize is dedicated to 'Breaking Poverty Together.' Social initiatives that focus on the sustainable prevention and reduction of poverty and debt can register until February 22. Find the criteria and application procedures at <https://www.oranjefonds.nl/criteria-submissions-appeltjes-van-oranje-2026>

## Preparing for Children's Music Week in April

From April 10th to 17th, Bonaire Children's Music Week will take place with the theme "Celebration." During the week, music will be the focus for children aged 0 to 12. Cultural providers and music teachers are invited to contribute teaching materials. A theme song and accompanying video will be developed for Children's Music Week. For more information, please email [acesbonaires@gmail.com](mailto:acesbonaires@gmail.com) or call +599 701 3310.

This edition is dedicated to Franklin Scherptong, as a tribute to his important contribution to music education on Bonaire. His passion and dedication have inspired many children and laid a strong foundation for music education on the island.

## Public Service Events

**BSN** The BSN is your unique, personal number. Get it now to take care of government business online in the future. Your BSN can be requested from the Census Office. Proof of identity required (ID. card, passport or driving licence.)

**Turn in unused licence plates.** To avoid being charged 2026 taxes turn in unused plates to the Finance department at Kaya Industria Pariba 28. Proof of identity required. Someone else can hand in the plates with a Power of Attorney and a copy of the owner's ID. If the plate has been lost or stolen, bring the police report. For questions about motor vehicle tax, residents can contact: [belasting-olb@bonairegov.com](mailto:belasting-olb@bonairegov.com) | 717 5330 – extension 53

**Sexual Health Clinic** Anonymous and by appointment. Phone or WhatsApp nurses at +599 790-7373. Also locations of condom vending machines can be found on the Public Entity Bonaire website via (<https://bonairegov.com/inwoners/condoom-automaat>).

## Dutch Caribbean Research Week

Value for science, value for the community



The banner features the text 'Dutch Caribbean Research Week' in large white letters on a red background. Below it, a yellow circle contains the dates '17, 18 & 19' and '22, 23 & 24' for 'June 2026'. A blue circle says 'Online and on-site events'. The word 'RESEARCH' is written in large, colorful letters with various icons around it. At the bottom, it says 'More information and registration: www.dcrw.nl' and has the DCRW logo.

### Registration and call for abstracts now open.

On June 17, 18, 19, and 22, 23, 24, the Dutch Research Council (NWO) will organise the fifth Dutch Caribbean Research Week (DCRW2026). This week will be packed with lectures, panel discussions, cultural intermezzi, poster presentations and networking opportunities.

This year, DCRW features physical events on all six islands: Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Maarten, and Sint Eustatius. These events will also be streamed live, and you may follow the programme online, in the morning for the Caribbean region and in the afternoon for the European Netherlands.

**DCRW 2026 has six themes** spread over the days when a different island welcomes you each day:

- Education, Research & Technology in the Caribbean | Aruba
- Health & Healthcare in the Caribbean | Curaçao
- Social

## Register by ...

### STCB: Photo contest 1 of 4

**A day in the life of a sea turtle.** Show us the moments that capture sea turtles daily routines.

- Take or select a photo that fits the theme
- Submit your entry through our Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHi67geCghZ6inW9jnzyEb78Mmi71dklrYlrcjJfQQQfDdfQ/viewform?usp=header>

- **Deadline: February 15, 2026**

The winning photo will be displayed in the STCB Visitor Center and featured on our social channels. At the end of the year, all winning photos will be auctioned to support sea turtle conservation on Bonaire. *Floor van Schalkwijk, STCB*

### Open Bonaire Swim Championships

Event Saturday, February 7. Register by end of January.

This open and accessible swimming event takes place in the Floating Pool at Parke Tului. Both recreational swimmers and experienced club swimmers can participate, as can residents of Bonaire and visitors to the island. Swimmers with disabilities are also welcome.

Swimmers will compete in different age categories, with boys and men starting separately from girls and women. The program includes multiple distances, including breaststroke, freestyle and butterfly. For participants of Special Olympics and FKPD, customized components are included. The event will conclude with a joint relay, where fun and cooperation are central.

You can register via [this form](#), also found on [Aquatics Federation Bonaire Facebook page](#).

### Dutch Caribbean Research Week 2026

The call for abstracts and registration is now open. Please submit your abstract before Sunday Feb. 15, Registration is free and open now. See below.

Behavioural Science in the Caribbean | Bonaire • Ecology & Environment in the Caribbean | Saba • Culture, Literature & Arts in the Caribbean | Sint Maarten • Governance & Law in the Caribbean | Statia

**Call for abstracts.** Do you want to present your research plans or research results during the Dutch Caribbean Research Week? You can give different types of presentations, and depending on your location, you might present to a live audience. Please submit your abstracts here: <https://www.dcrw.nl/abstracts>.

Please submit your abstract before Sunday Feb. 15, 23:59:59 hours AST (Atlantic)/ 05:00:00 hours CEST.

**Registration.** DCRW2026 is a free event. Please register here: <https://www.dcrw.nl/registration>.

# FAB holds Mashi Danki party



Fundashon Alzheimer Bonaire's yearly Masha Danki Party to honor their volunteers was held January 16 at Resort Bonaire.

During the evening, three outstanding volunteers, selected by the board, received a certificate, a FAB pin "Friends of FAB"

and a special gift. Representatives of FAB, Henna Winklaar, Gerladine Dammers and Evert L. Piar presented and announced the honorees. Named were: Jefferson Rosalia of Eagle Eye Media, who together with Intensity has been organizing the Alzheimer Awareness Walk during World Alzheimer's

Month (September) since 2022; Marije Veenstra, a geriatric psychologist who has been closely involved in FAB's activities since February 2024 and Moises Avellaneda, who also stood out in 2025 for his volunteer work for FAB. Unfortunately, Mr. Avellaneda was abroad and unable to

attend the event on Friday evening.

The board sincerely thanks all FAB volunteers and hopes to continue to count on their involvement and contributions in 2026. Photo via FAB

## Join us at the 7th Annual World Wetlands Day Event



Ever wondered what wetlands, traditions, and island stories have in common? Find out on Monday, February 2, when World Wetlands Day returns to Wilhelminaplein from 6:00 to 9:00 PM for an evening full of nature, culture, history, and surprises.

### Culture and Nature

The 2026 theme, Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage, highlights the deep connection between Bonaire's nature and the knowledge, traditions, and stories that have shaped island life for generations. Visitors can explore how wetlands support biodiversity while also playing a role in local history, livelihoods, and cultural practices.

### Join the fun!

Throughout the evening, a mix of

nature organizations and cultural and historical groups will host interactive booths, activities, and displays. Expect hands-on learning, engaging conversations, and plenty of surprises for both kids and adults. Whether you are curious about mangroves and birds, traditional land use, or the cultural roots tied to Bonaire's landscapes, there will be something to discover.

### Family friendly and Free!

The event is free, open to all ages, and designed to be welcoming and lively. There will be a trivia game for fun prizes, as well as free snacks and a bar where all proceeds will go to the Bonaire Animal Shelter! Families, friends, residents, and visitors are all invited to come learn, connect, and celebrate the shared heritage of Bonaire's wetlands.

*Mangrove Maniacs*

### 2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. January 28	0700-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	South
Thur. January 29	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN EPIC 5186 guests	South
	0900-2300	EXPLORA II 996 guests	North
Fri. January 30	0700-2100	SILVER SHADOW 388 guests	North
	1030-2200	WIND SURF 312 guests	South
Sat. January 31	0630-1900	NAUTICA 777 guests	South
	0700-1900	EVIRIMA 298 guests	North
Sun. February 1	0600-1600	RENAISSANCE 1623 guests	South
	0800-1800	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS 3622 guests	North
Mon. February 2	0600-1700	NAUTICA 777 guests	North
Tues. February 3	0700-1900	EVIRIMA 298 guests	North
	0800-1700	ROTTERDAM 2668 guests	South
Wed. February 4	0700-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	North
	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Fri. February 6	0700-1800	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS 2496 guests	North
Sat. February 7	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	South
	0700-2300	SILVER SHADOW 388 guests	North
Mon. February 9	0500-1800	BRITANNIA 3674 guests	South
Tues. February 10	0600-1900	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Wed. February 11	0700-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	North
	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 2646 guests	South

# Creating Optimal Health

Pattern Recognition: Insight, Illusion and the Path to Well-Being

by Irene da Cunda Costa

Pattern recognition is one of the most fundamental abilities of the human mind. It is the capacity to notice regularities, connections, and repetitions in information, experiences, and behavior. From recognizing faces and language to predicting outcomes and solving problems, pattern recognition shapes how we understand the world. While often discussed in fields like science, technology, and art, its importance in everyday life, especially in cultivating health and happiness, is just as profound.

At its core, pattern recognition helps us make sense of complexity. Life constantly presents us with vast amounts of information: emotions, habits, relationships, body signals and environmental cues. Without the ability to identify patterns, this information would feel overwhelming and random. Recognizing patterns allows us to simplify reality, learn from experience and make better decisions. It turns raw data into insight.

In practical life, pattern recognition plays a critical role in health and well-being. By noticing patterns in sleep, diet, exercise, mood and energy, individuals can identify what supports or undermines their physical and mental health. Recognizing that regular movement improves mood, or that lack of sleep increases irritability, allows people to make intentional adjustments. Similarly, awareness of recurring thought patterns, such as self-criticism or avoidance, can help interrupt unhealthy mental loops and replace them with more constructive responses.

In relationships, pattern recognition fosters understanding and empathy. Observing recurring dynamics in communication, conflict, or emotional needs allows individuals to respond more thoughtfully rather than reactively. This awareness strengthens connection, improves conflict resolution and supports emotional safety. Used wisely, pattern recognition deepens self-awareness and enhances interpersonal well-being.

However, pattern recognition has a shadow side. The brain often prioritizes speed over accuracy, which can lead to overgeneralization, drawing broad conclusions from limited experiences. This is closely linked to confirmation bias, where people selectively notice evidence that supports existing beliefs while ignoring contradictions. Over time, this can solidify distorted narratives about oneself, others, or the world.

Pattern recognition can also fuel stereotyping and prejudice when perceived patterns are applied to groups rather than individuals, stripping away nuance and reinforcing bias. On a personal level, it can contribute to anxiety and hypervigilance, particularly after negative experiences. The mind may become overly focused on detecting threats, interpreting neutral situations as danger. This heightened vigilance can strain mental health and relationships.

These effects are especially pronounced after major crises. During periods of trauma, loss, or widespread uncertainty, people often begin to see patterns where none objectively exist. This phenomenon arises because crises shatter predictability and control. In response, the brain intensifies pattern detection as a survival strategy, searching for meaning, warning signs, and cause-and-effect relationships to reduce uncertainty and prevent future harm. While this can restore a temporary sense of control, it may also lead to superstition, conspiracy thinking, or rigid beliefs that persist long after the crisis has passed.

Another risk is self-fulfilling prophecy. When people believe a pattern is inevitable, their behavior may unconsciously reinforce it, creating outcomes that appear to confirm the belief. In this way, assumed patterns can become self-maintaining rather than truthful.

Balancing pattern recognition requires awareness and flexibility. Patterns are best treated as hypotheses, not absolute truths. Actively questioning assumptions, seeking alternative explanations and remaining open to new experiences help prevent cognitive rigidity. Mindfulness and reflection allow individuals to recognize when patterns arise from fear rather than evidence. When paired with curiosity, compassion, and critical thinking, pattern recognition becomes a powerful ally, guiding healthier choices, stronger relationships, and a more grounded, resilient sense of well-being.



*Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. From Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.*

# Park Tului

## Phase Three completed



Phase three renovation of Parke Tului, playground, swim dock and meeting place, was acknowledged in a small ceremony with Indebon and partners on January 15.

The project began in August 2023 with the wildly popular swim dock designed for swimmers, snorkelers and meant to be accessible to the wheelchair bound. In August a redo on the playground began and was completed this month. The newly renovated playground for kids features swings, a teeter totter, a small repelling climber, outdoor showers, picnic tables, two shaded areas and a sidewalk between the playground equipment that is wheelchair accessible.

For over two years there has been a major delay in completion of the disabled ramp to the swim dock. The necessary permit is now in place and completion of the ramp is expected at the end of February according to Indebon director Terrence de Jong.

De Jong said the park is open to everyone and he hopes everyone will take care of it. If anything is damaged he said Indebon should be informed by calling 715-5318 so the problem may be addressed in a timely manner to ensure the safety at the park.

Next month Indebon will sponsor the Interinsular sports games for all six Dutch Caribbean Islands and Surinam at the end of February. These projects are a collaboration between OLB and Ministry of Welfare and Sports.

*Julie Morgan*

*Top photo - Fitipaldi Pietersz*



The unfinished end of the handicapped ramp Photo Julie Morgan

## How to follow the GREENPEACE VERDICT on Jan. 28, 2026

**On Wednesday, January 28, at 9 a.m. (GMT-4), the Hague court will rule on the Bonaire Climate Case.** If won, the case will be the first in Europe where a judge orders a country to adopt adaptation policies: the Netherlands must then do more to protect people from the impacts of climate change.

held an online press briefing in preparation for the verdict. The judgment can be followed on January 28 here: <https://www.rechtspraak.nl/livestreams>

After the verdict on January 28, we will respond in a press conference at 10.30 a.m. (GMT-4) at Fundashon Antrio Avanti.

Eight residents of Bonaire and Greenpeace Netherlands are claiming that the Dutch State violates human rights by providing inadequate protection against the effects of climate change. Through the courts, they demand that the Dutch State contribute its fair share and reduce CO2 emissions to zero as soon as possible, and come

up with concrete plans to protect Bonaire.  
*Greenpeace release*

The Bonaire Reporter will report the findings on its facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter>

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**Wanda**

**This beautiful girl is Wanda.** She is ginger with white and has deep brown eyes. Wanda is 11 months old, and came to the shelter with six other siblings when they were only two months old. She is named after the Scarlet Witch Wand, but this Wanda is very affectionate, loves to play and is a real cuddler. She has a big personality, and it is not hard to miss her as she will always let you know that she is around for pets. Only Wanda and her brother are now at the shelter, all their other siblings have already found a home. She really is the sweetest girl, will you adopt Wanda? And have some beautiful adventures with our Scarlet Witch!

*Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*

**Meet Dropje.** Dropje is a lovely female dog of about three years old. She came to us because her previous owner felt she wasn't suitable as a guard dog, simply because she is too friendly towards people who come in. That is exactly what makes her so special.

She is incredibly sweet, great with children and truly loves cuddles and attention. Dropje enjoys being close to people and thrives on affection. She would do best in a home without other dogs, where she can have all the love to herself.

Her name, Dropje, is Dutch for liquorice, but it is also used to describe someone who is a real sweetheart, which fits her perfectly.

Dropje is ready to find a loving home where she can get the love she deserves.

*Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers*



**Dropje**

## Looking for Love this Valentine's?

### Take a Dog on a Date!



Sign up on Facebook messenger to Animal Shelter Bonaire. Spots are limited, so be sure to secure your date quickly.

We look forward to seeing you on this special evening.

*Marissa Lamers*

## A Garden? Just Do It! by Angliet, Nature Lover

Recently, I was at an old kunuku where there hadn't been any activity for a long time.

To my great delight, I saw many different kinds of mushrooms growing among the dead leaves. I immediately thought mushrooms would be my subject for this Reporter, because mushrooms are very special.

Mushrooms are the fruits of fungi beneath the surface. They break down wood and they are essential for a healthy ecosystem and healthy soil.

How do you get mushrooms?

By creating a good diversity in your garden. Use no fertilizers or chemicals, plant many native plants and trees and don't disturb the ground cover of the areas where they grow. Mushrooms need loose, oxygen-rich soil and when the conditions are suitable then you see what happens.

Mushrooms appear suddenly but the fungus that consists of long, whitish filaments that form the mushroom is present underground year round, in wood and under bark. The filaments can live like this for years without producing a mushroom. Wood chips and dead leaves easily produce all kinds of small mushrooms; the thicker the layer, the greater the chance. Thick logs in shady spots are perfect for mushrooms. You can also grow mushrooms, for example, with a ready-made kit. All in all, mushrooms are very important for a healthy garden and soil.

Mushrooms improve the soil and make it suitable for all kinds of life. They are a food source for insects and birds. They break down wood making it softer and therefore attractive to beetles and other crawling insects.

By processing waste, fungi create a cycle. Their food remains become humus: black, granular soil that accumulates in the ground improving its struc-



ture and water management. It's a kind of recycling system. But there are also mushrooms that can damage a garden. These have thick, fused filaments that can wrap themselves much more quickly around the trunk and roots of diseased trees.

On Bonaire, I often see mushrooms when things have settled down for a while and the soil, with its dry leaves and rotting wood is moist. Recently, when my leg bumped into an old, almost black mushroom, a black dust billowed out like fine sand blowing into the wind. The mushroom blew out the dust a few times and it was remarkable to see. I didn't know if that stuff was poisonous, so just to be sure, I took a good shower right after getting home.

So, mushrooms in your garden are a sign of healthy soil. Keep it up.

*Angliet Baidjoe grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.*



## Nominating Bonaire Friends the Islanders who make a visit special.

their exceptional service.

TCB encourages local partners, including hotels, restaurants, retail stores, tour operators, and other service providers, to actively promote the Bonaire Friends initiative among their staff and visitors. Promotional posters and materials are available on the TCB website and can be displayed in guest-facing areas to help raise awareness and inspire participation.

For more information about the Bonaire Friends initiative and access to promotional materials, please visit: <https://bonaireisland.com/bonaire-friends/>

See TCB's poster in our online issue: <https://bonairereporter.com>

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) has reintroduced the Bonaire Friends initiative, a program designed to recognize residents who make a positive and lasting impression on visitors to the island.

Bonaire Friends invites visitors to nominate a local individual, a "Bonaire Friend" who provided exceptional service, offered meaningful assistance, or helped resolve a challenge during their stay. Whether through outstanding hospitality, helpful guidance, or a simple act of kindness, visitors are encouraged to share their positive experiences.

Each month, one nominated "friend" will receive a TCB goodie bag and a \$250 prize as a token of appreciation for



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We're celebrating the wonderful people of Bonaire and want to hear your stories! Have you met a local who made your visit unforgettable, maybe by showing you a hidden gem, helping you try something new, or simply lending a kind hand?

Share your experience and tell us about your Bonaire Friend, they could be recognized with a special prize!



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Music by  
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*Title of the month:*  
"Maskarada por tapa kara  
pero nunca por tapa konsenshi"  
[A mask can hide your face but not your conscience]

With different mini-workshops  
and interesting demonstrations



Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m.  
to 3:00 p.m. at our cultural park on the  
east side road of the valley of Rincón



# Karnaval BONAIRE 2026

## Programma Karnaval Bonaire 2026

- 29 Jan 2026 Jump Up IKC Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador
- 30 Jan 2026 Festival di Tumba Kórsou na SKAL
- 31 Jan 2026 Sertamen Reina, Prens ku Pancho Grandi
- 01 Feb 2026 Juve Morning (00.00 – 05.00)
- 01 Feb 2026 Sertamen Reina, Prens ku Pancho Hubenil
- 04 Feb 2026 Entrega di Premio Festival di Tumba / Reina, Prens i Pancho
- 06 Feb 2026 Taste of Bonaire – Carnaval Edition
- 07 Feb 2026 Marcha Hubenil Rincon
- 08 Feb 2026 Marcha Hubenil Playa
- 13 Feb 2026 Jump Up SAPC (08.00 – 12.00)
- 13 Feb 2026 Marcha di Grandinan
- 13 Feb 2026 Teener Parade
- 14 Feb 2026 Marcha Grandi Rincon
- 15 Feb 2026 Marcha Grandi Playa
- 16 Feb 2026 Marcha di Despedida Hubenil
- 17 Feb 2026 Marcha di Despedida Adulto





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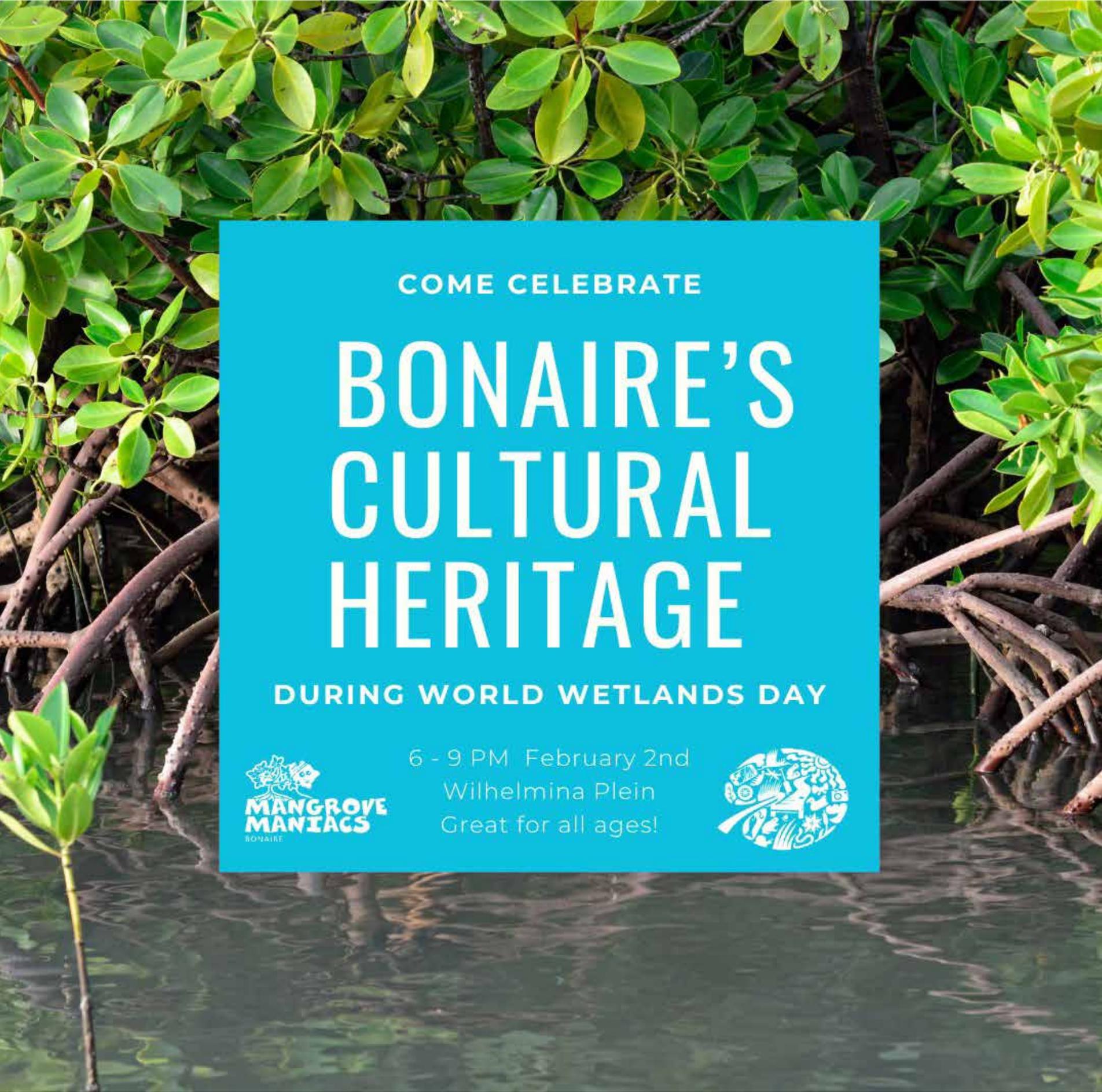
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DURING WORLD WETLANDS DAY



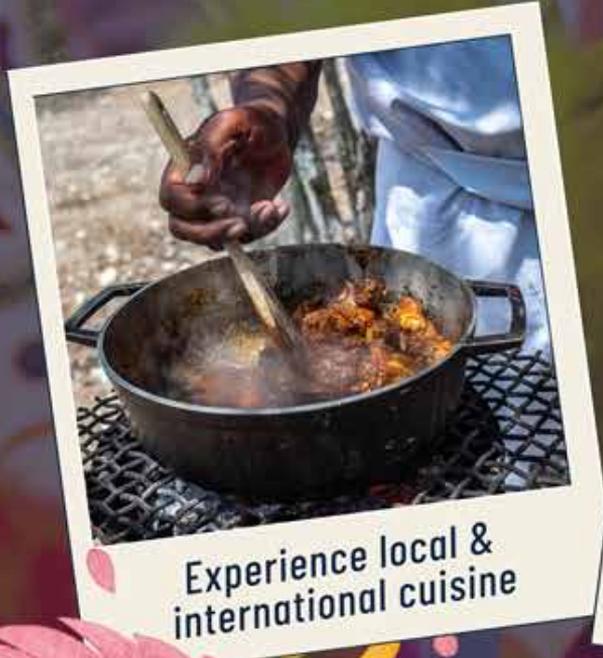
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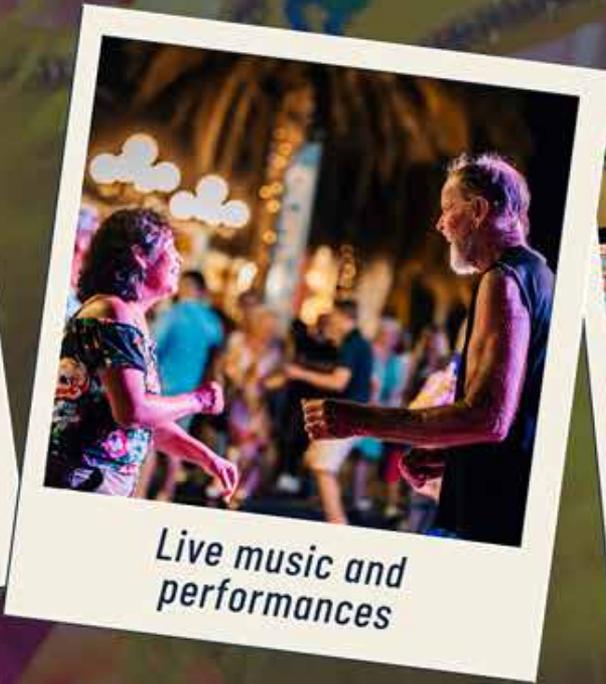
# TASTE OF BONAIRE CARNIVAL EDITION

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Rei di Tumba Bonaire 2026





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**IRENE  
OLVERA**  
「dance」

**RYCARDO  
MORENO**  
「guitar」

**DANI  
BONILLA**  
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**SUNDAY FEBRUARY  
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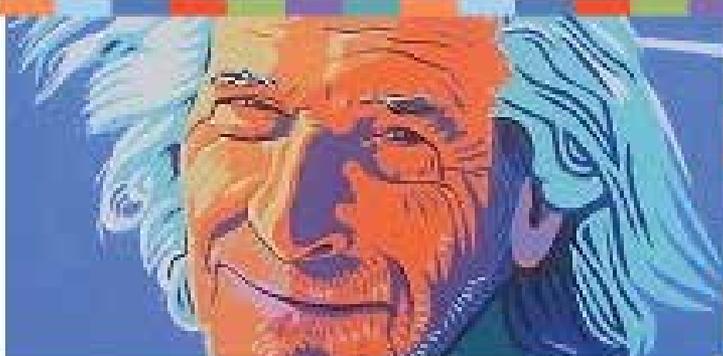
FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Winter 2025/2026  
starting October 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	DETAILS
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue						✓		Last flight on January 3, 2026
MIAMI	American Airlines	✓		✓		✓	✓*		DAILY Dec. 17, 2025 - Jan. 5, 2026 *Saturdays 2 daily flights (seasonal)
ATLANTA	DELTA			✓*			✓	✓*	*Starting Dec. 20th, seasonal flights
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED						✓		Starting Nov. 21st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tues.
AMSTERDAM	KLM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	*Fri & Sun, 2 daily flights - Dec 19, 2025 - Mar 15, 2026
AMSTERDAM	TUI	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Wed   Thu   Fri direct from AMS
AMSTERDAM	corendon.		✓*					✓	*Starting Oct. 14th - till Oct. 8 on Wednesdays
SANTO DOMINGO SDO	SKYhigh					✓			
CURACAO   SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun   Tue   Thu
CURACAO   ARUBA	DIVIRIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO   ARUBA	ZAir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Please note this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

THE  
JOY  
OF  
CREATION



• Henk Roozendaal & José Smit  
 13 December - 31 January 2026  
 OPENING: Saturday 13 December 5-7 PM  
 Open Weekly: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 2-5 PM

Art Center  
Antricol  
SACA  
Bonaire  
Kaya  
Korona 74

