



Amerindian inscriptions
 Photo Julie Morgan

Bonaire explores Fontein

The wonders of Bonaire aren't only on the beautiful coral reefs that have given the island the name of Diver's Paradise, but also on the rocky, cactus strewn land. Hidden away in the rocky landscape is another kind of paradise called Fontein (Fountain) a natural stream of water that filters down through rocks where it collects every day of the year. In archaic times the area was populated by a large prehistoric settlement of Amerindians. Indian drawings can still be seen on one of the rocky ridges. This wonder on Bonaire was once Plantage (plantation) Fontein, a place for agriculture and always a source for water. Evidence of the former plantation is seen in stone wall remnants and a huge stone staircase. A partitioned concrete pool was built to collect the flowing water somewhere around the 1930s when concrete came to the island.

In the 50s and later, people of Bonaire would come to Fontein for picnics, gatherings and to swim in the pool until the property was sold and closed off to the public. But in October 2023, Fontein was purchased by the Bonaire government with a promise of preservation for the peo-

ple of Bonaire. The entire property has undergone major renovation and the pool is partially repaired.

On May 17, a Canon Day at Fontein was held to allow the people of Bonaire to rediscover and experience Fontein. Due to the lack of

parking, people were bussed in and out from Kralendijk and Rincon. Boi Antoin of FuHiKubo discussed the Fontein's ever present water flowing down from the rocky cliffs. Information was presented by Emma Louise Pratt of FuHiKubo regarding the Indian drawings and the desecration

of the area by a graffiti artist adding faux inscriptions.

Adelina Piard and Alexson Plantijn gave an informal medicinal herb and plant workshop. Guests could touch, smell and taste the seven plants as Adelina and Alexson discussed each

of their homeopathic qualities. The plants grow wild but are cultivated for their healing effects by many on Bonaire.

Yerba di Hole (basil)- leaves are made into a tea for colds and respiratory problems; Shoshori (corona of virgin) - used for itching, chicken pox cold sores. Mixed with Lifeboy soap it is good for all skin care; Neem - as a tea it's a good detox, for cramps and inflammation. Spray it on your plants to prevent white flies; Yerba di Seru - a hot tea of this is good for cold and flu. At 12 noon precisely, take a warm shower with the mix but don't get it into your eyes. If you add oregano or basil it's good for headaches and muscle pain.

Yerba di Flaira - three to five leaves of this is a good tea to regulate blood sugar for diabetics. Wait an hour and drink three times; Yerba di Flaira Blancu - good for cleaning and disinfecting wounds. The small



Adelina Piard discusses the healing element of plants
 Photo Julie Morgan

Fontein to page 17

Island Council responds positively to Jetten's offer of Dutch support

The Island Council of Bonaire handed Prime Minister Rob Jetten a positive petition during his visit. The Council's petition acknowledged the reality that Bonaire's population explosion -- from 15,000 to 27,000 inhabitants since 10-10-10 -- overwhelmed the island government's finances, expertise, and implementation capacity. The petition asks for the European Netherlands' full support in carrying out five core tasks of governance: waste disposal, educational accommodation, food security and agriculture, assuring adequate housing, and managing demographic developments. The petition does not read like a surrender of sovereignty. It sounds like a responsible affirmation of sovereignty and Council's willingness to cooperate constructively with the central government to achieve mutually agreed goals.

The petition proposes the island, "supported by central government instruments where appropriate," "will guide its own spatial and economic future through the democratically elected Island Council." "We ourselves will determine what Bonaire can sustainably accommodate and what Bonaire wishes to develop economically. We will assess plans against the well-being standard: do they contribute to a better life for our population?"

The petition points out that Bonaire has had to bear responsibilities that in the European Netherlands are distributed among the municipality, province, boards, and partly the

central government — without comparable administrative capacity and financing of its own. The petition cites other limitations as well, such as restrictions on the OLB's ability to borrow and its dependence on appropriations rather than systemic funding. The Council proposes that the Selibon Lagun location decision before July 1, 2026 illustrates the type of cooperation it has in mind. That decision calls for structural central government responsibility for licensing, supervision, and enforcement analogous to the Type IV regime under the BES Establishments and Activities Decree.



Prime Minister Rob Jetten

The Island Council is finalizing the Bonaire 2050 Structural Vision this year, its plan based on consultation in all residential centers and Rincón, and with an explicit main goal: to make the island a better place to live for all Bonaireans. According to the Council's petition to Jetten, the Bonaire 2050 Structural Vision can be the starting point for everything that follows: space, infrastructure, facilities, and financing.

DMR

People do not report integrity violations on BES study says

State Secretary Van der Burg forwarded to the House of Representatives the results of a study of BES government ethics. The report, 'Integrity Protection' by research firm SEO, said that potential whistleblowers do not report integrity violations they have witnessed on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba. The findings apply not only to civil servants but also to those in businesses and citizens generally. Reports of integrity violations often lead to nothing due to a lack of priority, leadership, and organizational support.

There is a great reluctance to actually file a report. The small island populations, fear of reprisals, a culture of restraint, and a lack of confidence that reports will lead to action contribute to this attitude. At the same time, there is broad support on the islands for better protection of whistleblowers.

The full legislation that protects whistleblowers in the European Netherlands would not be suitable for the islands, the report says. Better results could be achieved by focusing on preventing violations, on clear and workable frameworks, on clear reporting procedures and support, and to cultural change efforts. DMR

Classroom shortage keeps kids at home

Responding to written questions from Members of Parliament Heera Dijk and Ilana Rooderkerk (both D66), Judith Tielen, State Secretary for Education and Emancipation acknowledged that at least 30 children are unable to attend school on Bonaire because of a shortage of places in primary education. She is very concerned. "When children fall outside the educational process, this poses risks to their development, basic skills, language acquisition, social participation, and future school career," she said. Tielen confirmed that both the Ministry and the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) are pondering short term relief, such as constructing additional classrooms, renting a building, and recruiting teaching staff from outside the Kingdom.

Tielen said the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) and the OLB are jointly responsible for providing school accommodation. The immediate short-term solution is preparing six to ten classrooms in a rented building. Following a meeting between the OLB and the school boards, one of the school boards has offered to staff the classrooms in this building. The OLB and OCW are supporting this school with the necessary additional funding.

All short- and long-term solutions bring complications. When a building has been arranged, emergency facilities must be installed, sufficient and appropriate school furniture must be found, the school grounds at a primary school must be made safe. Plus the school has to be staffed.

Staff recruitment is the responsibility of the school, and the right teachers can be hard to recruit. Some of the kids who are not attending speak Spanish only, and some have special needs. Efforts are being made to achieve broader and faster recruitment, make better use of candidates already available on the island or in the region, and reduce practical obstacles to the deployment of teachers from outside the Kingdom.

DMR

This Issue's Stories

Fontein: Canon of Bonaire	1
Sandwich Bar in Hato	3
STCB anniversary	7
Art & Justice Auction	8
Culinaire: Wine & More	10
Books: <i>St. Eustatius Restoring Our Ties</i>	
<i>Beg Me</i> by Angliet Baidjoe	
Ban Lesa FM102.7 Caribbean Books	12
RRFB collects brain coral spawn	13
Chess at library	15
Funds for slavery projects Cat. 3&4	15
TCB: April stayovers	15
Capt Don anniversary arrival May 21	16
Field hockey	16
Dutch Research Week in June	16
Xprodivers move	20

Our Facebook page brings you news that arrives between issues

Columns

Who's Who in <i>The Reporter</i>	2
Island News:	
• Council responds positively to Dutch; Whistleblowers; Classroom shortage	2
• Strategic reserves; Political Awareness course; Complaints about notarial services; new flights from Canada to Aruba; Cabinet appeals Greenpeace ruling; Hantavirus; Media survey	6
Police Report	4
Ask Bob: Three types property tax	5
Letters: IND visit; Santa Clara purchase	5
Optimal Health: Depression & ego	7
Buckley: Attenborough	9
Accessibility: Do what you are told	9
Foodies' Dining Guide	11
Reef Glimpses: Trunkfish	13
Corjan recipe: Tabbouleh Salad	13
What's Happening: Events; Cleanups;	
Cruise ships	14
Funding; Churches	15
Garden: Bitter melon	17
Business Directory	18
Pets of the Week: Cat- James;	
Dog - Dropje	19
Animal Shelter: Cat palace	19

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Island news
 ...to page 6

The Sandwich Bar is just what we needed

To make it more expeditious, clients can order online, at the counter or with the QR code linked to their specific table. Online payments can be made through the Caribbean bank app Sentoo.

Sandwich Bar ...to page 9



Coffees: Latte Macchiato and Cappuccino
Photo Julie Morgan



Sandwiches: Avocado Toast, Chicken Parmesan and Roast Beef with pesto
Photo Julie Morgan

As Bonaire continues to grow and traffic congestion and limited parking has become a real thing in Kralendijk, I was super excited to see The Sandwich Bar open in Hato. This cute little place serves healthy and quick breakfasts, lunch, coffees and there is plenty of parking.

were no real places to pop in and have a quick bite or take away.

The Sandwich Bar offers healthy options. It's super easy to grab something quick or sit down inside at one of their four tables or outside at one of the 10 tables under a canopy.

Owner and director Daphne Nossels said, "There are a lot of resorts, hotels and businesses in the area and there



- **Location: Sabadeco**
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POLICE REPORT

Contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or the anonymous tip line 9310.

Property crimes

May 12. Unknown persons gained access to the grounds of the Public Body Bonaire and stole a concrete mixer from a construction site on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham.

May 12. A black Sym, Fiddle 2 scooter, license plate MF-4160 was stolen while parked in front of a residence on Kaya Sirena.

May 12. Unknown persons gained access to a storage shed on the grounds of a residence on Kaya Linda and took a case containing documents, cards, and a GC radio.

May 11. In the night unknown persons gained access to a garage on Kaya Nikiboko North and took away, among other things, a pressure washer and a white pick-up of the brand Toyota, type Hilux, without license plates.

May 10. While the owner was diving unknown persons took a camera brand Insta360 X5, model 8K 360 Action Cam, from a pickup truck parked at the top of the salt pan pier at the E.E.G. Boulevard. The camera was in a backpack in the vehicle.

May 9. During the overnight hours, unknown persons gained access to a car rental company on Kaya Industria Pariba and made off with four iPads, a safe containing various car keys and a large amount of cash, among other things. They also stole a Toyota, Hilux pick-up, license V-6915. At around 6 a.m. that morning, police received a report of a vehicle on fire near Kaminda di Lac. Firefighters put out the fire. The pickup truck was the truck taken during the burglary.

May 6. An unknown person took two JBL brand speakers without paying from a business located on the Kaya Industria North.

May 5. During the night hours, unknown persons gained access to the warehouse of a convenience store on Kaya Neerlandia, taking, among other things, two boxes of Lavish alcohol. When leaving the convenience store, the suspects stole a Nissan Frontier pickup truck. Around noon the same day, police received reports that the vehicle stolen in the burglary had been found burning near Onima.

May 5. The front license plate B-17674 was stolen off a car parked on Kaya Oro.

May 5. Unknown persons gained access to the container on a property on Kaya Electron and took a power drill including its case.

May 5. Unknown persons gained access to the container on Kaya Korona and took, among other things, an angle grinder and a saw.

May 4. 7:40 a.m. An unknown vehicle, presumably stolen, was reported found on the premises of a company near Plan-tashi, Aruba. It was a pickup truck belonging to a car rental company. The vehicle was parked near Te Amo Beach on Kaya Internashonal and had been taken by unknown persons during the night.

May 3. A Sym Fiddle II scooter, license MF-4619 was stolen while parked in front of a residence on Kaya Frater Odulfinus.

May 3. Unknown persons gained access to the home on Kaya Maria and took, among other things, a tablet, a mobile phone, passports, cards, and cash.

May 1. Unknown persons gained access to the premises of a company near Punta Blanku and took 8 large boxes, each containing 12 pallets of 30 eggs. On Friday, April 24, a report of egg theft was also filed at the same company. On that day, unknown persons made off with 120 boxes of 12 eggs each.

April 30/May 1. 10 p.m. A pedestrian was approached and assaulted by two unknown men. They pushed the victim to the ground and took his bag and its contents. After the robbery, both suspects fled on foot in the direction of Hanchi Amboina.

April 25. Unknown persons gained access to a home near Punt Vierkant and took, among other things, seven air conditioning compressors and an air conditioner.

Arrests

May 16. 11:25 a.m. A man, 21, was arrested on Kaya Shoshori for assaulting a minor.

May 15. 1:30 a.m. A man, 56, was arrested on Kaya Korona for threatening a person with death.

May 11. 11:20 p.m. A boy, 15, was arrested on Kaya Den Haag for threatening with a (stabbing) weapon and violating the BES Weapons Act after he threatened supervisors at an institution on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot.

May 11. 9:10 p.m. A woman, 51, was arrested on Kaya Gemini for attempted assault with a weapon and insulting a public official in the performance of their duties.

May 9. 5 a.m. A man, 51, was arrested on Kaya Ramona for trafficking in narcotics, and for resisting arrest and failing to comply with police orders. A quantity of cash, various scales,

and bags containing suspected narcotics were seized.

May 8. 12:40 p.m. A man, 44, was arrested at the police station for theft. On Wednesday, May 6, the suspect entered a business on Kaya Industria Nort and took two JBL speakers without paying.

May 7. 9:35 p.m. A boy, 13, was detained at Kaya Bototé for menacing after he threatened students and a teacher at the school. Two house searches were conducted on Kaya Mango and on Kaya Trupial. Nothing in particular was seized during these house searches.

May 7. 2:35 p.m. A surveillance officer gave the driver of a pickup truck a stop sign on Kaya Papa Cornes because the vehicle did not have a license plate. The driver ignored the order and increased his speed, stopping the vehicle near Kaya Gloria. From there, he got out and fled on foot. Police searched the scene and recovered a firearm and ammunition. Following the search operation, the suspect, a man 34, reported to the police station around 8:45 p.m. and was detained.

May 7. 5 a.m. The Special Operations Group (GBO), arrested two 18-year-old men at a residence on the Kaya Benue for violating the Firearms Act BES. Detectives conducted a house search, seizing items relevant to the investigation. The arrests relate to the ongoing investigation into the fatal shooting that occurred on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at the Kaya Princess Marie.

May 7. 7:45 a.m. A man, 56, was detained at Kaya Dialma for menacing. The suspect was believed to be under the influence of narcotics. He acted aggressively and threatened to kill one person.

May 7. 10 p.m. A woman, 33, was arrested on Kaya Fedalma for assault after she assaulted two women. Both victims were taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Driving under the influence

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.

From Apr. 29 to May 15. Police reported that 16 drivers (including three scooter drivers and one motorcycle driver) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Two drivers were identified during a traffic check; three for not wearing helmets; and two for driving in a prohibited direction. Police stopped one vehicle because a headlight was not working, and another because it didn't have a front license plate and the driver was driving with his hazard lights on. Police also stopped a scooter for driving dangerously and two for swerving across the road. One driver was reversing his car and struck two people sitting on a parked scooter. Another driver crashed his pickup truck into a lamppost then into the fence of a home, hitting a water pipe. Two drivers collided with other vehicles.

One driver was also fined for not producing insurance papers, and another for failing to produce a driver's license. One driver had been arrested before for driving under the influence.

Eight drivers were given driving bans of 2- to 6 hours. Seven driving licenses were confiscated.

Traffic accidents

May 15. 3:50 p.m. Two vehicles collided at the intersection of Kaya Internashonal and Kaya Maximiliana Rosaria. A car and a pickup truck collided due to failure to yield.

May 14. 10 a.m. A single-vehicle collision was reported on Kaminda Sorobon. Officers found the driver still inside the pickup parked along the road with damage to the front of the truck. The victim was conscious but could not explain exactly what had happened. Ambulance personnel checked the victim on site and transported him to the hospital.

May 9. 10:40 p.m. A single-vehicle collision was reported on Kaminda di Gurubu. The driver of a car lost control and crashed into a lamppost. The vehicle and the lamppost sustained significant damage. The driver remained unharmed.

Around 10:45 p.m. a car and scooter collided at the same location. The driver of a scooter was not alert to traffic, lost control and fell. He sustained minor injuries. Ambulance personnel medically examined both the scooter driver and the car driver on site.

May 9. 9 p.m. A car and a scooter collided on Kaya Korona because right of way was not yielded. The scooter driver was injured and taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

May 8. 5:25 p.m. A scooter collided with a delivery van on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid because right of way was not yielded. The scooter driver sustained minor injuries and was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel. The scooter driver received a fine for driving without a valid driver's license.

May 4. 6:15 p.m. Two cars collided on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. The driver of car 1 took a sharp turn and ended up on the wrong side of the road. As a result, she collided with car 2, which was coming from the opposite direction. The driver of car 1 complained of pain, and ambulance personnel provided her with medical treatment at the scene. The driver of car 2 received a fine for driving without a license and because he could not produce insurance papers.

May 1. 9:50 p.m. Two vehicles collided at the intersection of Kaminda Yato Bako and Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. The injured driver was taken to the hospital by ambulance for medical treatment and due to medical priority, the breathalyzer test could not be administered. Both vehicles involved sustained significant damage.

Apr. 30. 1:15 a.m. A car and a scooter collided on Kaya Neerlandia. To avoid a collision, the scooter driver attempted to swerve to avoid a car pulling onto the road, losing control in the process. He fell, after which the scooter collided with another approaching vehicle. The scooter driver was injured and was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Due to medical priority, a breathalyzer test could not be administered to the scooter driver.

Apr. 30. 12:15 midnight. Two vehicles collided on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. A pickup truck (vehicle 1) was driving northbound when a car suddenly pulled onto the road from Kaya P.N. Antonio Neuman. To avoid a collision with this car, the driver of the pickup swerved but collided with a vehicle parked along the road. A passenger in the pickup was injured and taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

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

From May 6 to May 14. Police conducted traffic, alcohol and speed checks on Kaya Neerlandia, Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot, Kaya Internashonal, and Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar. Fines were issued for driving without: • a valid driving licence (12x) • valid insurance (11x) • a seatbelt (5x) • a front license plate (1x).

Three fines were issued for exceeding the maximum speed.

May 4. 1:45 a.m. A patrol saw a car stopped in the middle of the road on Kaya Kamari. The vehicle had no lights, no rear license plate, and two people were working on it. By the time the patrol turned around for a check, the car and the people had disappeared. After a short search, the car was found on a nearby dirt road. The people were also located. Neither could identify themselves nor produce a driver's license or insurance papers. Since the car had no license plates and was not permitted to drive on public roads, the vehicle was seized. Additionally, various technical parts were missing from the car. The owner can only reclaim the vehicle once he can produce a valid driver's license, the insurance papers, and the license plates.

Apr. 30. 10:10 a.m. A patrol spotted a moped without a license plate near the Seurnan di Roosendal roundabout. The moped driver ignored the police order to stop and increased his speed. He overtook several vehicles causing a dangerous traffic situation. Shortly thereafter, the driver pulled the moped over on Kaya Nikiboko Sùit. He was unable to produce a valid driver's license. The moped was confiscated and the driver received a fine for driving without a license, driving without a license plate, and ignoring a police stop signal.

Traffic fines range from \$30 to \$225.

Fire

May 16. 4:20 a.m. A car was reported on fire on Kaya Kalipso. The police and the fire department brought the fire under control. The police have recorded a report of arson.

Public order

May 3. Police received a report that unknown persons drove past and fired shots at the home on Kaya Demerara twice in the same week. Shell casings were seized. In the late evening hours a report came in of another drive past shooting at a home in Mamparia Kutu. Shell casings were seized here as well. There were no injuries and the cases are being investigated.

May 2. 2:10 a.m. A fight at a hospitality establishment on Kaya Bonaire was reported. Police found a large crowd present, and a person lying on the ground. Bystanders stated that the victim was under the influence of an unknown substance. He was very aggressive and attempted to fight with everyone present. To prevent the situation from escalating further, those present managed to keep the man on the ground. The man had lost consciousness and was injured. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

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.

Brief story of visiting IND

When you arrive at IND a guard from SSS (briefly) listens to you before giving you a laminated piece of paper with a color and number. If you are lucky, you got the correct color and number, the one matching what you went there to do.



Last 2 times I was not lucky, and after waiting 3 hours someone from IND told me I had the wrong number. It is ridiculous that the first contact, the person in charge of deciding the nature of your request, is a security guard, who is not trained on IND matters

On top of that this laminated piece of paper is used and reused, touched by hundreds of people every week, becoming a fantastic vehicle to transmit diseases.

Maybe you realize this, and try to wipe your hands with the hands sanitizing station at IND. Sadly It stopped working a few years ago.

On top of that one of the couches is broken, and even the vending machine is rusty.

In my most recent visit I arrived and I was given a number for the information desk. During the next 40 minutes the young employee in the front desk had to get up 4 times to get assistance from someone inside. She even had problems with the printer. Either she was dealing with a very complex information request, or, most likely, she is not fully trained.

By the way, in my 40 minutes there, not one number was called for the information desk. When I arrived the young worker was taking care of "number 4", and by the time I gave up and left, 40 minutes later, she was still not done with that same person.

I also noticed that a large portion of the people there were or seemed Spanish speaking Latinos, yet neither the front desk or the security guard were fluent in this language. Again, I don't blame the security guard, I blame IND for "outsourcing" the first contact to someone that is not an actual IND worker.

I finally gave up and left, and sent an email requesting a meeting to get the information that I wanted. The fastest answer I got in the past, when I emailed IND, was two weeks.

Maybe in two or three weeks, when I go to my appointment, the front desk worker would finally be done with "Number 4".

Improper purchase of Santa Clara land

To the ACM, Gov. J Soliano, Executive Council, Island Council and all it concerns:

I have complained to the ACM (copy below) regarding the improper purchase of land owned by the family of Clark Abraham (who was a member of the Executive Council) by the now former Executive Council as:

1. the land was never discussed as being needed or necessary for Bonaire to purchase;
2. the island secretary and the Governor clearly knew about it and scheduled it when, if the land was needed, it should have gone before the Island Council;
3. the price paid was \$50,000 over listing price;
4. the Island Council was properly incensed that it was not involved.

We have a situation where a representative of the people, stole from the people but not without the knowledge and help of other representatives of the people. One does not have to wonder why there is no trust or

respect for the government when its high ranking members are caught red-handed but still, with the help of the Media, expect to continue on as if nothing has happened.

This is not the first time Bonaire has been subject to administrative malfeasance. We still have:

1. the Sunset Beach debacle when the then Governor cast an unwarranted vote on an ill-advised/planned project and yet is now still involved in government service as a 'Special Envoy', a new position created to keep his 'hand in the cookie jar';
2. the ill advised/planned rotary on Kaya Amsterdam.

The next debacle is sure to be the 'planned' building next to the Salina off of Kaya Amsterdam and where the rotary was never finished. There was no discussion about 'affordable housing' or if it is environmentally proper to consider building in that area as it is an area often studied for its unusual flooding characteristics and the associated nature.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,

I am a resident of Bonaire and I have a sedula. I own the house that I live in, I have another property that I rent out as an investment and I also own a vacant plot of land. What should I expect to pay for property taxes? Regards, Margaret

Hi Margaret,

Good question.

In general, there are two types of property tax that may apply, depending on how each property is used.

1. Your home (primary residence) Because you are a Bonaire resident with a sedula and this is your main residence, you will pay grondbelasting (land tax).

- The current tax rate is 0.345% of the assessed value
- For example: a home valued at \$ 300,000 USD - grondbelasting will be \$1,035 USD per year

2. Your rental property (investment property) Your investment property falls under vastgoedbelasting (property tax).

- The current tax rate 0.91% of the assessed value
- The first \$ 70,000 USD of assessed value is exempt
- For example: Property value is \$ 300,000 USD minus exemption \$ 70,000 USD = \$ 230,000 USD

taxable value, property tax will be \$2,093 USD per year

3. Your vacant lot If the lot is undeveloped and you are a resident, you do not pay taxes on it.

If you are NOT a resident then you would pay vastgoedbelasting (property tax) on the assessed value of the lot.

All taxes are based on the government's assessed value, which is not always the same as market value.

Hope this helps.

Kind regards,

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.

Bonaire: +599-717-7362.

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

The Media have been too lenient on the improper and likely illegal activities surrounding the Santa Clara land. (Clark Abraham and Santa Clara: formally correct, but administratively uncomfortable -

The news from Bonaire). The people of Bonaire deserve not to be abused and when the abuse is so blatant, the abusers should be held to the highest standards and minimally be relieved of their ability to exert their influence through government positions. The members of the Executive Council that voted are no longer a part of the Executive Council but the Island Secretary who knew it was an improper item to schedule permitted the vote to occur. He and the former members should immediately have been removed and relieved of any and all roles in the public sphere. The Governor is likely complicit as he should have been aware of the Executive Council and their doings, yet he chose to do nothing but institute a useless investigation that didn't touch upon the critical problems in his government or expose the corruption within.

The people of Bonaire deserve better, please ensure that we get it.

Initial complaint to the ACM (and forwarded to the Island Council):

The Executive Council, circumventing normal procedure (going through the whole Island Council) voted to purchase a piece of land that: 1. was not a necessary or predetermined purchase; 2. was owned by the family of one of the Executive Council's members (Clark Abraham); 3. was voted to purchase at \$50,000.00 over normal listing price (when there were no other offers competing); 4. was known and had to be on the scheduled by the Island Secretary (Christopher Frans (who is also appointed as a criminal judge in a clear conflict of interest)). This is all reported on Bonaire.nu.com at multiple junctures. Island Council member Hennyson Theilman has brought the issue forward publicly. I personally and publically have made the complaint to the Island Governor and the Island Council asking for the immediate removal of all involved, to no avail

Sincerely, Charles M. Baltayan

Audit reports lack of strategic reserves in BES

The Netherlands Court of Audit has informed the House of Representatives that Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba do not have strategic reserves of drinking water, food, medicines, and fuel. The audit found the regular stocks of food and drinking water are also limited, though the regular stocks of medicines and fuel are sufficient.

The report cited the vulnerability of the Caribbean Netherlands to natural threats, such as hurricanes or volcanic eruptions, and the tense situation in Venezuela less than 70 kilometers from Bonaire.

A strategic reserve is an additional stock of essential raw materials to be used only when supply is interrupted by a crisis. Under EU regulations, the Netherlands has obligations to maintain certain strategic reserves. However, these EU regulations do not apply to the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*

Political awareness course coming to Bonaire

ProDemos and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) will offer citizens on Bonaire a political awareness course in advance of the island council elections in March 2027.

The Politiek Actief course, which has been successfully conducted for years in more than 130 European Dutch municipalities, has been adapted to the local situation and context of the BES islands. Course participants will gain more insight into the how, why, and what of local government, who makes decisions within the public body and how those decisions are reached, the role and working methods of the Island Council, and how they, as a citizen, can exert influence on policy.

The course is primarily intended for people who are considering becoming politically active but do not yet know exactly what the possibilities are. Interested individuals can also register for the NIMD's Democracy Schools where they will receive training in skills such as debating and presenting. *DMR*

Complaints raised of notarial services on Bonaire

During question period in Parliament concerns were raised about reported complaints against the notarial services on Bonaire. The complaints enumerated persistently long waiting times, reduced access to the notarial profession, and indications of possible unequal treatment. *DMR*

More Canadian Snowbirds flying directly to Aruba

Porter Airlines, a premium Canadian regional carrier, will begin operating five direct flights per week between Aruba and Toronto, and two between Aruba and Ottawa, starting in the winter of 2026. The new service will fly the Embraer E195-E2 aircraft which has a cabin configuration with no middle seats. Passengers will be offered complimentary Wi-Fi and snacks. The new routes will add approximately 924 seats per week between Aruba and Canada during the winter season. *DMR*

Cabinet will appeal the Greenpeace ruling

The Netherlands is preparing to appeal the judge's finding in favor of Greenpeace in the Bonaire Climate case. Cabinet says it intends to argue the ruling was unnecessarily harsh because the government is already investing in climate mitigation on Bonaire. Cabinet will cite, among other the existing measures, its efforts to prevent further degradation of coral on Bonaire: coral restoration projects, improvement of wastewater management, control of sargassum, and reducing sediment runoff.

Some in parliament have accused the judge of bias because he is an advocate for environmental protections. However, Cabinet believes that the judge raised legitimate concerns. Besides, Cabinet emphasized, judges, like the rest of us, have freedom of speech too. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

Low risk of hantavirus for Bonaire and the Caribbean

In response to recent international reports regarding multiple cases of hantavirus on a cruise ship, the Public Health Service Bonaire / Salubridat Públiko of the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) states that the risk for Bonaire and the Caribbean is currently very low.

The reports concern a hantavirus outbreak on an expedition cruise ship that sailed along South America and the Atlantic Ocean. Several passengers and crew members became seriously ill, and some people died.

No cases of hantavirus have been confirmed on Bonaire. Nor are there any indications that the virus is spreading in the Caribbean.

According to the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), the risk for the region is currently very low.

Hantavirus only occurs in specific species of rodents. The type of virus identified in this outbreak is found primarily in parts of Chile and Argentina and is transmitted by wild mice and rats living there. These rodents do not occur on Bonaire.

Infection usually occurs through contact with urine, feces, or saliva from infected rodents, for example by inhaling dust in infected areas. Human-to-human transmission is very rare and only occurs in exceptional situations involving close and prolonged contact.

According to international health organizations, the risk of a pandemic is also very small, because the hantavirus does not spread easily between people.

GGD Bonaire / Salubridat Públiko is monitoring the situation in cooperation with CARPHA, the RIVM, and the WHO, and will inform the population if there is reason to do so. *OLB release*



Results of media survey reported

Opinion Carib has released the results of its 2026 survey of media use on Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius, including social media, local news websites, radio stations, and newspapers.

Social media The survey results show that social media still has the largest reach on all three islands. On Bonaire 91.6% of the respondents say they use social media, 92.7% on St. Eustatius and 94.3% on Saba. Facebook and WhatsApp remain the most widely used platforms.

News websites Of the respondents who visit local news websites, 76.9 % indicated that they consult Bonaire.nu. The biweekly BonaireReporter.com was reported by 14.7%, Awor.nu and Caribbean Network with 14.1% each, and Dossier Koninkrijksrelaties with 13.9%. On Bonaire 10.2 % said they visit the BES-Reporter.

Radio Radio is still an important medium on the island. According to the study, Live99 FM is the most

listened to radio station on Bonaire with 76.3%. Breezy FM follows with 35.5%, then Mega Hit FM with 25.9%. Bon FM and Voz di Boneiru FM share fourth place with 17.3 % each.

Newspapers The newspaper Extra is the most read with 53.1%. Bonairiano follows with 52.3%, the bi-weekly Bonaire Reporter with 30.2%, and the Antilliaans Dagblad with 24.6%. *DMR*

Thanks for reading us

Although we appear on the newsstands only every other week, 30.2% of the respondents to the 2025 media study cited The Bonaire Reporter as their most read newspaper. In the news website category BonaireReporter.com was named by 14.7% as their favorite. That was a distant second in the category, but it ranked higher than four other news websites. We like you too. *DMR*

STCB turns 35

Some 75 people gathered on May 15 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) at their new waterfront visitor center and office.

STCB manager Kaj Tamar Schut spoke to the crowd of volunteers, sponsors and staff, "Without any of you, none of this would be possible."

Recognition and gifts were presented to thank several individuals. Kaj recognized STCB's first employee, Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts hired and trained by original STCB director Robert van Dam. Now retired, Funchi was STCB field and educational expert for 23 years. Kaj told the crowd, "Funchi" has seen more turtles than any of us combined. He was presented with a driftwood sign for his kunuku.

Kaj thanked now 82-year-old Rob Hulsbergen, for his seven years on the board, presenting him with a dinner certificate. He traveled with Kaj to Suriname, Costa Rica and St Kitts for the annual WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network) meetings. Thanks was also expressed to Vera Maartens, not present, for her years of service.

Ger Bakker, was presented a wood clock bearing the STCB logo handmade by Rob Hoekstra and a photo album for his 10 years of service, first as a board member then president. Ger explained he had two things he wanted to achieve at STCB: a pension plan for staff



Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts, Rob Hulsbergen, Kaj Tamar Schut and Ger Bakker
Photo Julie Morgan

and a new visitor facility. He did both along with gifting a

Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts larger boat for beach and in-water surveys which made STCB more professional.

Ger said, "This was a most enjoyable experience: the in-water surveys, swimming and snorkeling the whole coasts with the sea turtles and finding a nest is a life changing experience.

We need to focus on what's important for the sea turtles...Make it understood the population of the turtles and their survival is important... Setting a goal for the

whole Caribbean, not just here. We need a greater vision: tourism or ecotourism. Bonaireans need to make a choice."

Guests enjoyed drinks and food courtesy of Payam from Artisan Bakery and volunteers Yvette and Sue.

STCB currently has 60 volunteers, and many companies provide support through Adopt-A-Nest or selling merchandise. To become a volunteer, join a fishing line cleanup or for more information visit: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/bonaireturtles.org) or <https://bonaireturtles.org>.

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



Creating Optimal Health

When the Self Takes Over: Depression as an Excess of Ego by Irene da Cunda Costa

We often imagine depression as a lack of self-esteem. But there is a more paradoxical lens: depression as an excess of ego. Not the flamboyant ego of grandiosity, but the hyperactive ego of self-preoccupation. The ego's job is to construct a coherent identity, separate, solid, continuous. When it works overtime, it traps us inside an echo chamber of "I, me, and mine." Every failure becomes a verdict on the self. Every sadness becomes a statement about personal worth. The world recedes; the self-swells to fill the horizon. That is the ego's quiet tyranny.

One unmistakable sign that your ego has taken the driver's seat is the question: "How could this happen to me? On the surface, it sounds like ordinary pain. But listen carefully. This question carries a hidden assumption of specialness, that you are so unique, so exempt from life's natural difficulties, that misfortune should not touch you. This is not reality; it is entitlement wearing a mask of victimhood. The moment you hear that phrase in your mind, be alert. That question will never lead to peace. It will only generate endless suffering because life owes none of us a pain-free existence. Replacing it with "This is painful, and it is part of being human" deflates the ego's claim to exceptional suffering.

In depression, the ego mistakes its thoughts for reality. It clings to narratives ("I am broken," "I am alone") as if they were immutable facts. It constantly compares, judges, and protects its image, even an image of being irreparably damaged. Healing begins not by inflating the ego further with positive affirmations, but by loosening its grip.

So how do we transform the ego from a source of suffering into an instrument of well-being?

1. Witness the ego, don't feed it. Practice mindfulness: observe your self-talk as weather, not geography. Instead of "I am depressed," note: "There is sadness passing through awareness." This shift from *identity* to *experience* deflates the ego's overinvestment in every thought.

2. Cultivate other-centeredness. The ego starves when we serve others. Small acts of kindness, listening without fixing, volunteering, even holding a door, dissolve the obsessive self-focus that fuels depression. Purpose turns attention outward, giving the ego a healthier job: being a functional part of a larger whole.

3. Embrace self-distancing. When trapped in self-criticism, speak to yourself as you would a friend. Use your name: "Alex is struggling right now, but this will pass." Compassion, not indulgence, becomes possible.

4. Accept impermanence and ordinariness. The ego craves permanence and specialness. But you are not above life's ups and downs. Pain is not a sign that the universe has singled you out; it is a sign that you are alive. Letting go of "Why me?" opens the door to "Why not me?" and suddenly, the burden lightens.

A healthy ego is necessary for life, is not a king but a steward, functional, flexible, and humble. When it steps aside, we don't disappear. We finally breathe. And in that breath, depression's grip begins to loosen.



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

Art & Justice auction exceeds funding goal

Sobremesa Art Gallery hosted the charity art auction, Art & Justice, which brought in USD \$9,850 for the Golden Meand Society (GMS). Despite a modest audience turnout, the event exceeded expectations thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of participating bidders.

The event featured 35 donated artworks from a mix of well-known and emerging Caribbean artists. Pieces by artists such as Jean Grigori and Winfred Dania were displayed alongside works from newer talents including Dillon Rannou and Joeldrich Muzo.

One of the standout moments of the evening were two beautiful portraits made by Louise van der Zwaag and Paul Turner and a mixed media piece by Eric Cremers with the interesting title Heavenly Whore which sparked lively bidding. The top sale of the night was a painting by relatively unknown artist Steven Verbiest, which sold for \$1,500.

Guests enjoyed drinks and snacks throughout the evening, with the Kite City food truck adding to the relaxed atmosphere outside the gallery.

The Golden Meand Society received



Heavenly Whore by, Eric Cremers
Photo Julie Morgan



White Hats by Steven Verbiest
Photo Karine de Wit

85 percent of the proceeds which will go directly to help fund legal assistance for people who cannot afford representation.

ists, volunteers, bidders and supporters who helped make the fundraiser a success. There are already hopes to turn the Art & Justice Expo and auction into a yearly event.

Both Sobremesa Art Gallery and the Golden Meand Society thanked the art-

Karine de Wit



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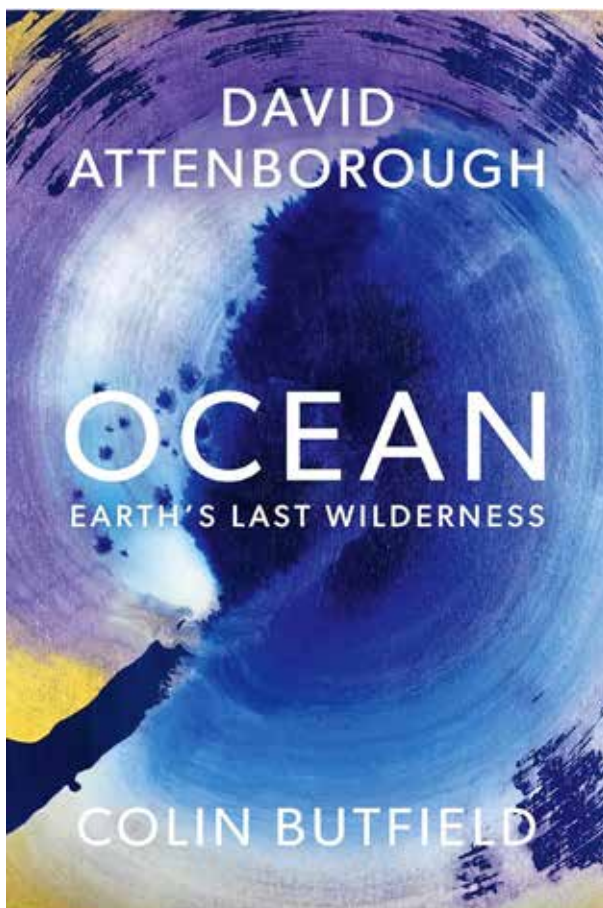
Buckley's Books by George Buckley

A huge "Thank You" to David Attenborough!

We should all raise a toast and Thank you to Sir David Attenborough, who celebrated his 100th birthday on May 8. Attenborough has had a very long career providing the world with a close up, dynamically narrated window to the natural world in all its forms on land, in the air and in the sea. The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) has planned a series of special programs in recognition of Sir David's many accomplishments.

Growing up as a boy in England, in the 1930's, Attenborough developed a keen interest in fossils, inspired by his discovery of an Ammonite, a hundreds of millions of year old nautiloid molluscan fossil. This spurred a career of investigating, filming and reporting about nature. He focused his undergraduate studies on geology and biology at England's Clare College in Cambridge and soon thereafter began his long career at the British Broadcasting Company. His first short film in 1952 about the discovery of a living Coelocanth, a lobe finned fish once thought to be extinct, was the beginning of decades of highly engaging radio programs and many dozens of superb books and films about nature. Through them he has brought the world the beauty, diversity, complexity, ecology, behavior and importance of the natural world. Amazon and e-Bay offer many of them on their sites.

My favorite Attenborough films and accompanying books include *The Private life of Plants*, warning, plant sex can be sexy; *The Trials of Life*, survival techniques at their best; *The Frozen Planet*, about the polar regions; *Planet Earth*, a stunning view of the planet's environments, habitats and biodiversity; *Blue Planet*



and *Blue Ocean* about seas and sea life. His most recent film, *Ocean*, about the world's seas, is demonstrably his Magnum Opus. In words and video it brings magnificent images of the beauty and diversity of the world's

oceans while demonstrably showing the myriad issues that they face, all the while providing hope and urging positive action to rehabilitate and protect them. If you have not seen *Ocean*, by all means do so and read his accompanying book, *Ocean: Earth's Last Wilderness* with long time collaborator Colin Butfield.

Through the years, Attenborough grew from documenting and commenting on nature to actively encouraging its protection, becoming a forceful advocate for special protected areas such as the '30 by 30' programs to protect at least 30% of the unprotected areas on earth by 2030. His efforts these decades can be best summarized in his recent entreaty to: "Cherish and protect the natural world because you are part of it and depend on it for air, water and food as well as for its beauty and diversity."

George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don (who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.



Make Bonaire Accessible

Do what others tell you to do.... by Ria Dokter

This week I read a sentence that hit me hard and made me start thinking: "Children have to do, what the grown-ups think is best for you."

And that was how it used to be, when we were young. The grown-ups were supposed to know it all. They were the parents, the grandparents, the teachers, the people you looked up to because they were the adults. They were experienced. And of course you listened and acted accordingly, until puberty hit you.

After graduating from school it was your bosses, until you retired. And you thought that things were going to be different then. But then it was the younger ones telling you what to do and they were people the age of your grand-children.

Now, when you are an elder, it's your children who tell you what is best for you. And that is not good. That is not the way it should be. The younger should learn from the elderly and ask advice. Decisions should be made together. The elderly should not start to feel stupid or less appreciated.

This weekend was full of activities organized by "Bon Doet." There are many volunteers involved and it's a wonderful opportunity to discuss, plan, work together and look back with pride, when the jobs are done.

When you are depending on others for your care, your caretakers are often young. But they are learning, and you will have perfect moments to teach them. Your experiences are worth a lot, when you share them. You will notice how others are willing and eager to learn.

I love it when the younger ones love to listen and hear me talk about my experiences from the past when I was young and knew nothing. I had to learn how to work with sick people. And I also love it when I am being asked my opinion. That is where I can teach, a thing I love to do.

This is why I firmly believe that experienced elders should be involved where young people learn and are taught.

After a long period of waiting, I was finally presented with a great vehicle that will be very helpful for me to be more independent. It is a motorized wheelchair. And that made me very, very happy. The engine is clicked onto the wheelchair, which seemed very hard at first, but I am a fast learner. I am being coached to learn how to drive and get the technical assistance I need. Next Monday will be the last training session and then I will be "free at last." I used to ride a motorcycle for a long time and in a special way I get to do his again.

The only thing I need is a tall flag, for my safety and so others can see me. And.... I need a name for this awesome ride. I think I will post it on FB to get a stream of cool names.



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.

Sandwich Bar

from page 3

The Sandwich Bar is open for breakfast from 7:30 – 11 a.m. and offers six breakfast items including omelets and avocado on toast. For lunch there are three different salads, sushi to go and 13 different sandwiches (choose your own bread) and four types of Toasties and Paninis. A few popular menu items, Dutch croquettes and a steak and cheese sandwich, were borrowed from their sister restaurant On Broodje in Kralendijk. As for drinks, there are homemade fruit smoothies, sodas, tea, vitamin shots and all types of barista coffee from Espresso to a Latte Macchiato.

The Sandwich Bar opened May 6, so they are just getting started, but Daphne and the other owner/directors Michiel van Heusden and Floyd van Hees already have plans to grow. In the future they hope to expand their hours, offer catering and even serve adult beverages. But to move forward they will need more experienced staff.

Drop by to enjoy this new addition to Bonaire restaurant offerings. The Sandwich Bar is located at Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 66, unit 7 at the Hato Circle. They are open Monday – Friday 7:30 – 3 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and coffee. Visit them at: www.instagram.com/thesandwichbarbonaire

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Try Wines & More during Culinair

For the next 15 days some 20+ restaurants on Bonaire will be expressing their culinary creativity during Bonaire Culinair May 21 – June 4. If you are lucky enough to live on the island or are visiting at this time, you have the opportunity to taste the results of Bonaire’s chefs’ creative imaginings in dishes unique to their normal menu.

The Bonaire media are assigned one restaurant to cover (dine and publish a story) prior to the event. My dining partner, Leanne Pinkerton and I were especially excited to be the first to try Wines & More’s Culinair expression.

Dining at Wine’s and More is like having your own personal chef and sommelier in Mathieu and Annemarie. They have traveled the world working at various restaurants and this menu reflected the influence of Mathieu’s work at a Thai restaurant in Switzerland.

Annemarie explained, we haven’t done Thai for a while as the spices aren’t readily available.

We began the 3-course dinner with a wine selection from Annemarie, a Verdejo by Onerom from Spain. As usual, the Annemarie’s pairing was perfect with not only the first course but all three.

Two options were available for the starter, homemade spring rolls (vegetarian) and fish cakes. The rolls were literally stuffed with veggies in a light wrapping and the mini fish cakes were crisp and flavorful. Both were served with a dipping sauce and a salad of fresh



Leanne served the Massaman curry by Mathieu and suggested wine by Annemarie
Photo Julie Morgan

field greens and radish sprouts farmed at Bonaire’s Tera Bon.

The main was truly different with a Massaman type curry, and not too spicy. The dish was offered with either chicken or beef, but as I don’t eat either beef or chicken, my personal chef Mathieu made mine with fish and adjusted the sauce. The Massaman sauce included fresh cut local green beans, potato, spices and peanuts?

Leanne usually doesn’t like curry, but she loved this dish saying, “It was like a flavor bomb going off in my mouth”.

Annemarie prepared an amazing, layered spice cake with vanilla ice cream and gold white chocolate sprinkles. This labor-intensive dessert “spekkoek” is made with the Indonesian pandan spice for the green layer and traditional nutmeg, cinnamon and cloves for the

brown layer. The first layer is poured and baked, then the next is poured on top and baked and then the next until there are 15 layers.

Annemarie said, “It takes a long time, but it is so worth it.” And we agreed.

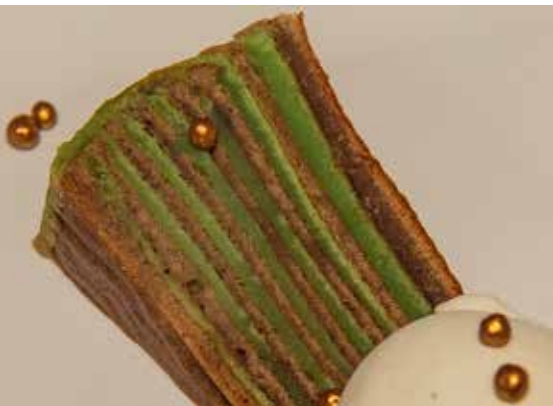
This cake is available for pre-order.

Culinair is a great way to enjoy new restaurants and new offerings at your favorites for a reduced price. The choices are amazing. And while you are out enjoying yourself, don’t forget to leave a review. You could win some great prizes: gift cards, breakfast, dinners, pastries or even a High Tea.

For more information about Bonaire Culinair visit: bonaireculinaryweek.com

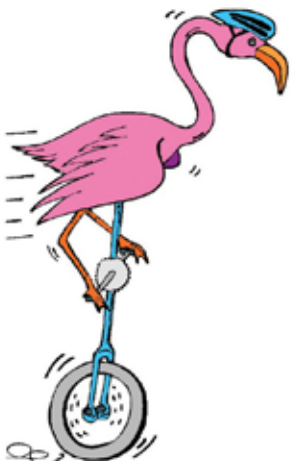
For more information about Wines & More visit: winesandmorebonaire.com.

Story/ Photos Julie Morgan



The 15 layer Spekkoek dessert
Photo Julie Morgan

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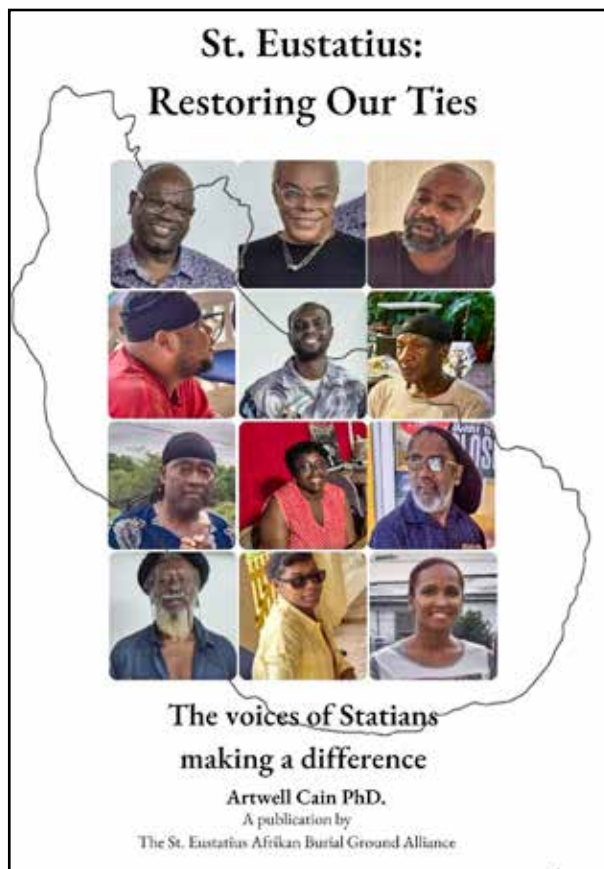
St. Eustatius: Restoring Our Ties

The voices of Stadians
making a difference

On Saturday May 23, AFRO Magazine facilitated a soft launch of “St. Eustatius: Restoring Our Ties - The Voices of Stadians Making A Difference”. The book is the end result of the research project “St. Eustatius: Restoring Our Ties” launched by the St. Eustatius Afrikan Burial Ground Alliance on June 10, 2025 and carried out by cultural anthropologist, Dr. Artwell Cain.

Mr. Kenneth Cuvalay, project leader and president of the Alliance, explains, “ This project focuses on the community itself, thus capturing the voice of the Afrikan diaspora community on the island. Through interviews and focus groups, respondents discuss various topics, including the role of memory and cultural heritage; the reburial of their ancestors’ remains, which were unethically excavated in 2021 without community engagement; the importance of social mobility; the significance of knowing one’s history; the role of their ancestors in resisting the chattel slavery system; commemorative rituals; and identity.”

Following the publication in the Netherlands, in late June/early July a ceremonial public publication of the book will take place to honor our ancestors . The ceremony will also recognize the people of St. Eustatius



who promoted an Afrikan-centered education in order to rewrite their distorted history and narrative.

In 2021, a group of international archaeologists commissioned by the government began excavations at the Golden Rock, an 18th-century burial ground of Afrikan men, women, and children. The purpose was to conduct

scientific research on their remains, but the community did not consent. This act represents the centuries-long abuse of “black bodies,” continuing into the 21st century, now on Dutch territory. In 2024, the Golden Rock Afrikan burial ground was added to UNESCO’s “Network of Places of History and Memory linked to Enslavement” together with the Godet Afrikan burial ground, initiated by the Alliance.

As of this writing, there has been no announcement about where or when the reburial will take place. The Stadia Cultural Heritage and Implementation Committee (SCHIC) of St. Eustatius, led by Ms. Xiomara Balentina, is responsible for organizing the reburial for the St. Eustatius Executive Council and has suggested that it takes place on November 13, 2026.

Our thanks goes to Dr. Artwell Cain, cultural anthropologist, who conducted the research. With special thanks, we take this opportunity to thank our collaborating partner Mr. Marvin Hokstam Baapoure, founder and director of Broos Institute, for his tireless willingness and contributions. This book is published for the St. Eustatius Afrikan Burial Ground Alliance by Hokstam Baapoure’s publishing company, HOX Projects BV, and the Broos for Afrocentric Studies and Research (Broos. institute).

The project is made possible through funding from the Culture Funds Caribbean region (CCG) and Funds Social Initiatives Transatlantic Slavery Past for the Caribbean Part of the Kingdom (SUMS-C), to which our gratitude also goes.

St. Eustatius Afrikan Burial Ground Alliance



Angliet Baidjoe latest book, *Beg Me*, released in March, is the author’s first book written for adults. Baidjoe, a former teacher, usually concentrates on books for children. But this one is a book of poetry written over many years for adults. Themes focus on beauty, travel, love, sorrow, happiness, loving, sensuality and even humor.

Baidjoe said, “This new style made me grow in my creativity and gave me satisfaction in the experience of writing.”

Keeping with the custom of making the book accessible to all readers, the 130 page book includes the poetry in English, Dutch, Papiamentu and Surinamese.

Beg Me is available to view at Bonaire Public Library and for sale at Terramar Museum and Bruna. JM

Ban Lesa 2.0: new radio series about Caribbean books on BonFM 102.7

On Tuesday, June 2 at 5:30 PM, BonFM 102.7 will launch the new radio series Ban Lesa 2.0. Across 24 episodes, the series celebrates the diversity, and power of Caribbean books.

Each episode brings together two guests who know each other well and who, in a warm and personal conversation, talk about a book that has moved them. This results in lively and sometimes touching stories.

The series is intentionally multilingual, allowing listeners to recognize themselves in their own language while also enjoying Caribbean storytelling. Eight episodes are presented in Papiamentu by Christy Cecilia, eight in English by Bradley Howard, and eight in Dutch by Linda de Veer.

Ban Lesa 2.0 focuses on the magic of stories and the ways in which books affect us. The hosts ask their guests which music best fits the book and which sentence stayed with them the most. This leads to surprising and memorable moments.

The series covers a remarkable selection of Caribbean books. Among the featured titles are *Changá* by Frank Martinus Arion, *De Engelenbron* by Erich Zielinski, *Miguel Street* by V.S. Naipaul, *Mi negrita mi ruman* by Cola Debrot, *A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James, and *Tardi op Bonaire* by Hanny Lim. Together, these books form a mosaic of styles and perspectives that reveal the Caribbean experience in all its depth and complexity. All featured books can be borrowed at the Public Library of Bonaire.

Ban Lesa 2.0 is a series for everyone who loves stories. Through its personal approach and multilingual format, the series invites recognition and connection.

The series will be broadcast every Tuesday at 5:30 PM on BonFM 102.7 starting June 2. Ban Lesa 2.0 promises to be an inspiring cultural radio project created by Fundashon di Kurason, Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru, and the Dutch Foundation for Literature.

Fundashon di Kurason release



Reef Glimpses - Trunkfish Secrets by Dee Scarr

One of the most beautiful of underwater sights is a courting cowfish. Normally a pale-colored fish with honeycomb markings, cowfish turn a vibrant, saturated, gloriously bright blue when they're courting. They don't always flirt in close proximity to each other, though, so when you see an intensely-colored cowfish, look around for the object of its attentions.

If the courtship is well advanced, you'll see the two participants spiraling upwards around each other, until they suddenly release eggs and sperm -- after which the future parents swim back to the bottom and resume foraging. Trunkfish matings aren't as easy to find, but occasionally we'll see a group with some intensely marked males; mating is in the near future for them, too.

The eggs drift near the surface, hatching larval trunk- and cowfish in only two days! After about a week, they settle as pea-sized juveniles who hang out in crevices in the reef.



Cute baby trunkfish
Photo Julie Morgan

And they're here, now! I saw one last week, between coral rocks on a mooring block off Playa. The little darling was dark with bright yellow spots, and it was bobbing around in its little cave as if it was just learning buoyancy control.

If you look up "cute" in the dictionary, you might see its picture there.

Other fish don't care that baby trunkfish are cute, and many predators might consider trunkfish tasty. How do the trunkfish and cowfish keep safe from predators?

The trunkfish's first line of defense is evident: its hard, shell-like carapace, which has openings only for eyes, mouth, fins, and tail. The rounded bodies of juveniles become triangular as viewed from the front (or rear), and the cowfish "horns" appear. Thin-

Trunkfish ...to page 17

On Tuesday night, grooved brain coral (*Diploria labyrinthiformis*) spawned across at least six sites along Bonaire's west coast. This was an important milestone for Reef Renewal Bonaire Foundation's (RRFB) coral breeding program, as grooved brain coral was the first target species to spawn in the 2026 season.

Grooved brain coral is an important reef-building species in the Caribbean, but its populations have declined in recent years due to climate-driven bleaching events and stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD), leading to increasingly fragmented populations across Bonaire's reefs.

As populations become more isolated, natural reproduction becomes more difficult. Coral breeding helps address this challenge by bringing sperm and eggs together during spawning events, supporting successful fertilization and increasing genetic diversity, a key factor in reef resilience.

RRFB hits another milestone



In the months leading up to May, RRFB wrangled a group of volunteers, dive instructors, and local dive shops to survey grooved brain coral populations

along Bonaire's west coast. This community effort was pivotal in finding adult colonies of this species that could potentially spawn, helping RRFB choose sites

to monitor during the spawning window.

On Tuesday May 12, 11 days after the full moon, RRFB's team of staff, dive instructors, and volunteers collected sperm and egg from 20 colonies during their brief spawning window. The samples were brought back to their new land-based facility to be fertilized, resulting in more than 560,000 coral larvae with an estimated 94% fertilization success rate.

This marks the first coral breeding activities carried out in RRFB's new Coral Lab, combining in-water collection with land-based propagation to support their restoration efforts. This successful spawning event is an encouraging start to the 2026 breeding season and a step forward for coral reefs on Bonaire!

Caitie Reza, RRFB Communication and Development officer
Photo: [juulbeccari/bonaire_photography](https://www.instagram.com/juulbeccari/bonaire_photography)

Coconut filled with Caribbean Tabbouleh Salad by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



For two people: 1 coconut, chopped in half, scrape out the flesh and cut 75 g (1C) into cubes • 200 g (1 ¼ C) (whole wheat) bulgur, cooked according to package instructions • 2 tomatoes, seeded, diced • 10 sprigs of parsley, chopped • 1/2 (local) cucumber, seeded, diced • 3 sprigs of mint, finely chopped • 1 red onion, chopped • 1 jalapeno pepper, cut into small cubes • 1/2 mango, diced • 1/2 avocado, diced • 200 g (1 ¼ C) cooked black beans • 4 fried shrimp tails • 1 dl (3.38 oz) olive oil • 1/2 dl (1.69 oz) lime juice • 1 teaspoon cumin powder • 1/2 teaspoon chili powder

Mix all ingredients and season with pepper and Bonaire sea salt. Optionally, cook bul-

gur in water with a bouillon cube and some sambal for extra flavor. Serve the Caribbean bulgur salad in the half coconut for an extra Caribbean touch.

Optionally serve with a refreshing sauce of full-fat yogurt, mint, and lime zest. Bulgur is a cereal product made from wheat. The wheat grain is first steamed, then dried and coarsely broken. It usually still contains bran and germ, so it is relatively high in fiber, with vitamins and minerals. Faster to cook than rice or whole grains and has a slightly nutty flavor. It is actually one of the oldest "quick meals" in the world.

Thousands of years ago, people in the Middle East pre-boiled wheat, dried it in the sun and broke it into pieces. With this process, the bulgur would keep for a long time and only had to be boiled for a short time to consume. A kind of instant food of antiquity.

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

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/beatennisbonaire/>

Becoming Movement Club Free monthly event for runners and walkers. Sorobon five-kilometer route Sunday 7.15 a.m. Check [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/becomingmovementclub/).

Bridgeclub Bonaire organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels welcome. Info: 795-0128 (Whatsapp text), 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).

Cultural activities for the elderly at Hôfi Kultural Tues., Wed. and Fri. at Cultural Garden, Antriol Papou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: manon@culturalplatform.com or call +599 7708437

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

Field Hockey. Kids 6-12. Thurs. free training in May & June. Adults train twice weekly.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Bonaire-Hockey-Foundation/61576259612469/>

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

JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire. ALL WELCOME. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Kunuku Allee, Kaminda Lac 38. We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

Live Music Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Every Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

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. Social play and beginners from 8 – 10 a.m. Advanced Competitive play from 10 a.m. - Noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

Radio program "Krese" Bonaire's development over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 6 - 7 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. In Papiamentu; A recap is planned in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6YY3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Radio program "Ban Lesa 2.0" Tuesdays 5:30 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. Multilingual; Episodes bring together two guests who know each other well and who, in a warm and personal conversation, talk about a book that has moved them.

Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, 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 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 Free presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. 7:30 p.m. Email: 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@reefrenwalbonaire.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/> Nesting season patrol starts in May. Reserve your spots reserving on: <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/monitoring-patrols/>

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

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. 1-5; Tues. & Thurs. 8-7; Wed & Fri. 8-5-; Sat. 10-2. 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

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/>

Each month: Family Saturday, March 7 Pay a "family" fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. March 21. 10 - 12 noon. We will be making piggybanks. Register via terrarmuseum@gmail.com or phone. **Museum at Night** Free entrance. 5 to 6:30 p.m. to explore and shop; also **Sisterhood Circle** by Vibra Foundation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 25. Pay what you can. Info. +599 785 4399

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)

May 1 – 31	"Creativity Knows No Age" Month-long campaign for active seniors (60+). At Bonaire Public Library and neighborhood locations. See online end pages.
May 21 - June 4	Bonaire Culinary Week Spring Edition Use this 15-day event to discover the wide variety of restaurants on Bonaire. Most 3-course menus will be \$45 but this may vary. https://bonaire-culinaire.com
Saturday, May 23	Maritime Safety Open Day on the North Pier. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Demonstrations, presentations and activities for young and old by various security services at sea and on land.
Saturday, May 23 Sunday, May 24	ABC Hockey Cup 2026 Playa Stadium, Kralendijk. Sat. 5 - 8 p.m. Sun. Finals. 9 a.m. -12 noon.
Thursday, May 28	FREE REEF Fish ID course 7 p.m. TransWorld Radio. More on the wonderful world of wrasses and their many different phases. Explore what it means to be a citizen scientist. Gather with fellow ocean lovers! All are welcome!
Saturday, May 30	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
Sunday, May 31	Guardian Group Walk & Run Choice of 1 to 8 kms https://www.myguardiangroup.com/events/my-guardian-group-walk-and-run-bonaire-2026 STINAPA's 40th anniversary at Washington Slagbaai Park. 'Dia pa Apresia Naturalesa, Kultura i Idioma (DANKI) 9 a.m. till 12 noon.
Tuesdays, 24 weeks starting June 2	Ban Lesa 2.0 at 5:30 p.m. BonFM 102.7 The series celebrates the diversity, and power of Caribbean books. Multilingual. See page 12.
Saturday, June 6	Food Truck Festival See page 16
Wednesday, June 17	Culinary Team Fundraiser at Joe's Restaurant 6 p.m. \$75 pp — 4-course menu including an amuse and 4 beverage tokens— The chefs will cook from a mystery basket, so the menu will be a surprise. Reserve at https://www.bonaireculinaryteam.com/fundraiser-training-dinner-2/
June 17-19 June 22-24	Dutch Caribbean Research Week https://www.dcrw.nl see page 16
Sunday, June 21	International Yoga Day - Meditative walk and gentle yoga at Seru Largu 6: 45 a.m. FREE

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:**

- Fridays 3 - 5 p.m. After School Art. \$20. Ages 8+. Studio Muzo. Materials included.
- 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

You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	One Hour Cleanup Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanupPower/
Saturday, May 30	The Beach Boost collects trash washing up on Bonaire's shores in Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.
Sunday, June 14	Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month. 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire
	Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends. 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. https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. May 27	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Fri. May 29	0630-2200	HEBRIDEAN SKY 120 guests	North
Wed. Jun 3	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. Jun 10	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. Jun 18	0500-1300	SEVEN SEAS MARINER 730 guests	North
Wed. Jun 24	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Wed. July 1	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. July 8	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

You can play chess at the library

Thanks to Bonaire Chess Association and Bonaire Youth Chess Club (BJSC) anyone can now sit down to play a nice, quiet game of chess at Bonaire Public Library. The beautifully appointed library is perfect for a game.

Assistant Director Liane Sliep received the game materials from the young people of Bonaire Jeugd Schaakclub (Bonaire Youth Chess Club).

Demonstrations and instruction are available from the chess club and coach Serapio Pop at various times. Contact Serapio Pop for more info on this +599-796-9660.

The Bonaire Public Library is open Monday 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The library is located on Kaya Amsterdam behind Penha. For more information visit them on Facebook at Biblioteka Publiko Boneiru.



Young chess players and coach Serapio Pop hand over chess materials to Liane Sliep at Bonaire Public Library

April sees the first decrease in stayovers



Find TCB's full report in our online issue, page 24.
<https://bonairereporter.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

Funds Available

Application periods for subsidies for history of slavery initiatives closing June 1, 2026.

Since April 1 Category 3 and 4 charities and associations have been able to apply for subsidies for social initiatives relating to the transatlantic slavery history of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

The deadline for applications is 17:00 CET on June 1, 2026.

Categories 3 and 4 include projects relating to the history of slavery, organizing meetings or events to help people come to terms with our slavery past, and projects in the fields of education and artistic expression, including exhibitions and performances. The projects must benefit the (community of) descendants of enslaved people and have a(n) (lasting) impact.

Subsidy amount

The subsidy amount per Category 3 application ranges from a minimum of USD 25,000 to a maximum of USD 125,000. The amount per Category 4 application ranges from a minimum of USD 125,000 to a maximum of USD 500,000. The next time application periods will open for these categories will be on April 1 and 1 June 1, 2027.

Background information on the subsidy regulation

The subsidy regulation is one of the measures introduced following the Prime Minister's apology for the Netherlands' history of slavery on 19 December 2022. A budget of well over €29.3 million is available for the subsidy regulation for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. In total there are eight application periods for four different subsidies, spread over three years.

Further information

A special [Legacy to Future Funds](https://www.legacytofuturefunds.com) website has been set up for the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. There you can find information about the subsidy regulation and a link to the [Policy Implementation Unit \(Uitvoering Van Beleid, UVB\)](https://www.uitvoeringvanbeleid.nl) website of the Ministry of So-



cial Affairs and Employment which is implementing the regulation. A subsidy application can be submitted via the [UVB subsidy portal](https://www.legacytofuturefunds.com), once you have created an account. Information about the regulation and the registration process in the application portal is available on the website in Papiamentu, Papiamento, English and Dutch.

If you have any questions, you can also chat directly with the helpdesk, which can be contacted by sending a message to +5999 563 1863. Helpdesk staff can answer your questions in Papiamentu, English and Dutch. The [Legacy to Future Funds facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/legacytofuturefunds) also offers help.

Kingdom Relations release



Did you pay your

Nature Fee?
All conservation projects, research, education and work we do are made possible by the nature fee you purchase. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication to preserving our nature. Thank you for purchasing your nature fee. Available online at [STINAPAbonaire.org](https://www.stinapabonaire.org)



Remembering Captain Don Stewart

Organized diving began on Bonaire May 21, 1962, at 1630 hours. How do we know that time? "Well, we cleared customs at 1430 and I would guess it took me about an hour to greet the local officials and visitors. Then another hour to move up to Heit's pier, secure my vessel, gear up and get in the water," said Captain Don Stewart, recognized as the father of Bonaire diving.

"I could see the reef as we tied up. I could hear it calling my name."

Adventures of Captain Don by Captain Don Stewart

Fontein ...from page 1

leaves can be used in the early stages of cancer and Yerba Oregano – a tea of 3-5 leaves is good for indigestion, increasing appetite, cold, headache and stomach cramps.

A natural pigment workshop was given by artist Ghislaine Monte and Dorian Crespo Gomez gave a clap soap making workshop. Canon Day ended with ancestral stories of Bonaire.

Canon Day was part of a project of the Past Slavery Action Agenda and implemented by the Community and Care Directorate of Public Entities Bonaire. We were unable to learn from

the government the timeline on the completion of the pool and other repairs.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan

Shown below:

The partitioned concrete pool which collects the natural flowing water is in the middle of renovation. No word on completion date

For more photos see our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter>



Hockey has been played on Bonaire since 2018, and since 2026 we have officially been a foundation. With an enthusiastic group of senior players, we train twice a week and organize an internal tournament four times a year. In addition, we have a fun ABC tournament every year.



During our tournaments, we play Hockey 5s.
 Kids hockey training - Ages 6-12
 Thursdays May June 4-5 p.m. free

Adults tourney – May 23, 5-8 p.m. May 24, 9 a.m.-12 noon – Playa Stadium

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Bonaire-Hockey-Foundation/61576259612469/>
<https://www.instagram.com/bonaire.hockeyfoundation/>

Dutch Caribbean Research Week 2026 coming in June

The Dutch Caribbean Research Week 2026 (DCRW2026) is a free multi-day conference. It brings researchers from the Caribbean science community together on Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Saba, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius. This event is packed with lectures, panel discussions, cultural performances and networking opportunities.

Register for DCRW2026

Participation in the Dutch Caribbean Research Week 2026 is free of charge, but registration is required for both live and online attendance. Register for DCRW2026 via www.dcrw.nl/registration.

Keynote speakers

Across the six conference days, the following keynote speakers will deliver addresses that frame each day's theme and stimulate dialogue between researchers, policymakers and societal partners:

- Drs. Stephanie Croes (Aruba) *Education, Research & Technology in the Caribbean*
- Dr. Soraya Verstraeten (Curaçao) *Health & Healthcare in the Caribbean*
- Drs. Elly Rojer (Bonaire) *Social Behavioural Science in the Caribbean*
- Drs. Oliver Klokman (Saba) *Ecology & Environment in the Caribbean*
- Drs. Raymond Jesserun (Sint Maarten) *Culture, Literature & Arts in the Caribbean*
- Island Governor Alida Francis (Sint Eustatius) *Governance & Law in the Caribbean*

Explore the full programme

The complete programme for all six islands of DCRW2026 - including sessions, timings, keynote speakers and participation formats - is now available online. View the full DCRW2026 programme on www.dcrw.nl/programme.

Communication SSO-CN



Reef Glimpses Trunkfish secrets- from page 13

toothed predators, such as spotted morays, might not be comfortable biting through a trunkfish carapace.

The trunkfish's second line of defense is much less obvious: trunkfish can secrete a powerful poison. This was discovered by aquarists to their dismay, when a single stressed trunkfish would kill every fish and invertebrate in its tank, including itself. Since perfectly

healthy sharks, barracudas, and groupers have been found with trunkfish remains in their stomachs, the poison obviously doesn't work all the time. But think about it: have you ever seen a trunkfish in an aquarium?

Where we have seen them is over our reefs and especially over sand or sand and rubble areas near the reef. Trunkfish forage around the sand and rubble,

seeking prey such as tiny worms, crabs, or shrimp, and their way of uncovering these critters is fun to watch. They tilt their bodies head down to be almost vertical, and jet a stream of water onto the sand. The water blows the top layer of sand away, and the trunkfish dines on any critters thus exposed. We divers can be part of this procedure: if we pat a hand on the sand within view of a trunkfish, it may well come over to see what we're uncovering – they accompany goatfish, why not us?

On the reef, trunkfish search for just about anything small enough to fit into their mouths, including sponges, tunicates, gorgonians, and – back when we were feeding the fish – occasionally hot dog. A trunkfish would put its mouth on the hot dog for a moment and then back away, leaving a little-fingertip-sized crater in the hot dog. It would swallow, then come in and “kiss” the hot dog again, leaving another crater.

How the trunkfish ate hot dog would have been especially useful information for one dive guide back in the olden days. On a night dive, the guide decided to pose with a trunkfish for his photographer client. When the guide touched his puckered lips to those of the trunkfish, he didn't expect the trunkfish to kiss back. And he definitely didn't expect the trunkfish to suck really hard onto his lip! But it did, making it impossible for him to replace his second stage,

so he couldn't breathe, and since it was his third dive of the day and he was at 60', he couldn't bolt to the surface. In desperation, he purged his regulator to try to grab some passing air; that didn't work, but, luckily, the bubbles disturbed the trunkfish, who released the guide and swam away.

The photographer, not fully realizing the guide's predicament, was laughing so hard he had no chance to immortalize the moment on film.

Another piece of luck for the guide.

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.



This smooth trunkfish is demonstrating its suction creating ability on an empty worm tube, seeking any tiny residents. The holes already on the tube may be the trunkfish's work
Photo Julie Morgan

A Garden? Just Do It! - Fighting the drought with wine bottle corks - by Angliet, Nature Lover

Despite this drought, it is incredible that so many trees are still bearing fruit. You wonder where they get the energy to perform such heavy work under such extreme climatic conditions. When I cycle for half an hour in the wind and sun, I feel my energy seeping away, and after a while, I am exhausted. Plants in nature and in gardens on Bonaire are exposed all day long to extreme sun, wind and bone-dry soil. And yet... they continue to fight bravely for survival. And they also produce flowers and/or fruit. It sounds strange, but I really feel sorry for my plants and trees to be ravaged by the climate so mercilessly. These days I have young mangoes on the tree, young papayas, young soursop and young star fruit. But I wonder if they will develop into mature, juicy fruits due to the lack of water.

• **Natural drainage** - Good drainage is important to prevent root rot in plants in pots and containers. Cork consists of countless small air pockets that allow water to pass through without retaining it for a long time. By placing a layer of chopped **corks at the bottom of the pot**, just above the drainage holes, you create a natural buffer.

• **Cork in the top layer of the potting soil** helps the water to drip. It retains moisture and releases it slowly, regulates the moisture balance and prevents the soil from drying out too quickly.

• **A layer of cork around the base of the plant** also acts as insulation keeping the plant cooler and reducing moisture loss due to wind and sun. Furthermore, most insects dislike cork and won't touch the plant, although the ants will. Just add some coffee grounds and that will keep the ants away.

• **You can also use cork as plant labels.** Place the cork on a wooden stick and write the name of the plant with a permanent marker. Finally, cork in a compost bin acts as carbon-rich material. So, no more throwing away cork, save them for your plants or for your friends' plants.

Wine bottle corks

I keep searching for information that can alleviate the suffering. For instance, I read an article in de Volkskrant today that mentioned we shouldn't throw away wine bottle corks. For the following reasons, they can be a very good tool for better water management and protecting your plants:



Wild bitter melon from my garden despite the drought
Photo Angliet Baidjoe

Finally, my large lemongrass plant in the garden was slowly drying out. I pulled everything out and put it in two buckets of water. After two weeks, young leaves started growing again from the nearly dried-out parts. I have now replanted them as clumps in large pots in the shade, out of the wind.

I also have a lot of fruit from my wild bitter melon plant these days. They are small as marbles but good to eat. By the way, I always eat all my own home-grown vegetables: small, ugly, no nice color, I have no problem with that. They always taste better to me than those from the store.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del



Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.

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Pets of the Week

Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.

Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Call/What's App 701-4989 animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



Dropje

eyes. Dropje has such loyalty to humans you will think you have the best fur friend ever.

Unfortunately her love was not wanted, her loyalty was not appreciated, her tail wagging annoying and her puppy eyes took a last look at her human 11 months ago when she was dumped at the animal shelter, for being too sweet. Despite her experience of being abandoned, she hasn't lost her spirit to love and care.

Dropje is a very sweet girl and good with children. She is good with other dogs and if they are younger than her, Dropje loves to play. She likes to go for walks with you and even car rides. If you have a place in your heart and home for her, you will have a sweet, loving furry companion for the rest of her life.

Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt

This is James. This is James. He is an 11 month old black and white cat with a cute, black nose and beautiful greenish eyes.

James was found in a garden by a dog when he was three months old. He was very skinny and skittish but is now very playful and confident. James is not afraid to ask for attention when he wants it and is good with other cats. Because he is still young he wants to play alot.



James

James can be visited in the Shelter Cat Palace, and maybe this cute little boy will steal your heart and go to the home he deserves.

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

Meet our girl Dropje. .

She is around 4 years old and has a big heart full of love, with an ever constantly wagging tail and puppy

Animal Shelter News

You are invited to the Cat Palace

Did you know Animal Shelter Bonaire has a purr-tastic Cat Palace that you can visit during opening hours from Monday till Friday from 11a.m. till 3 p.m. and on Saturday from 11a.m. till 2 p.m.

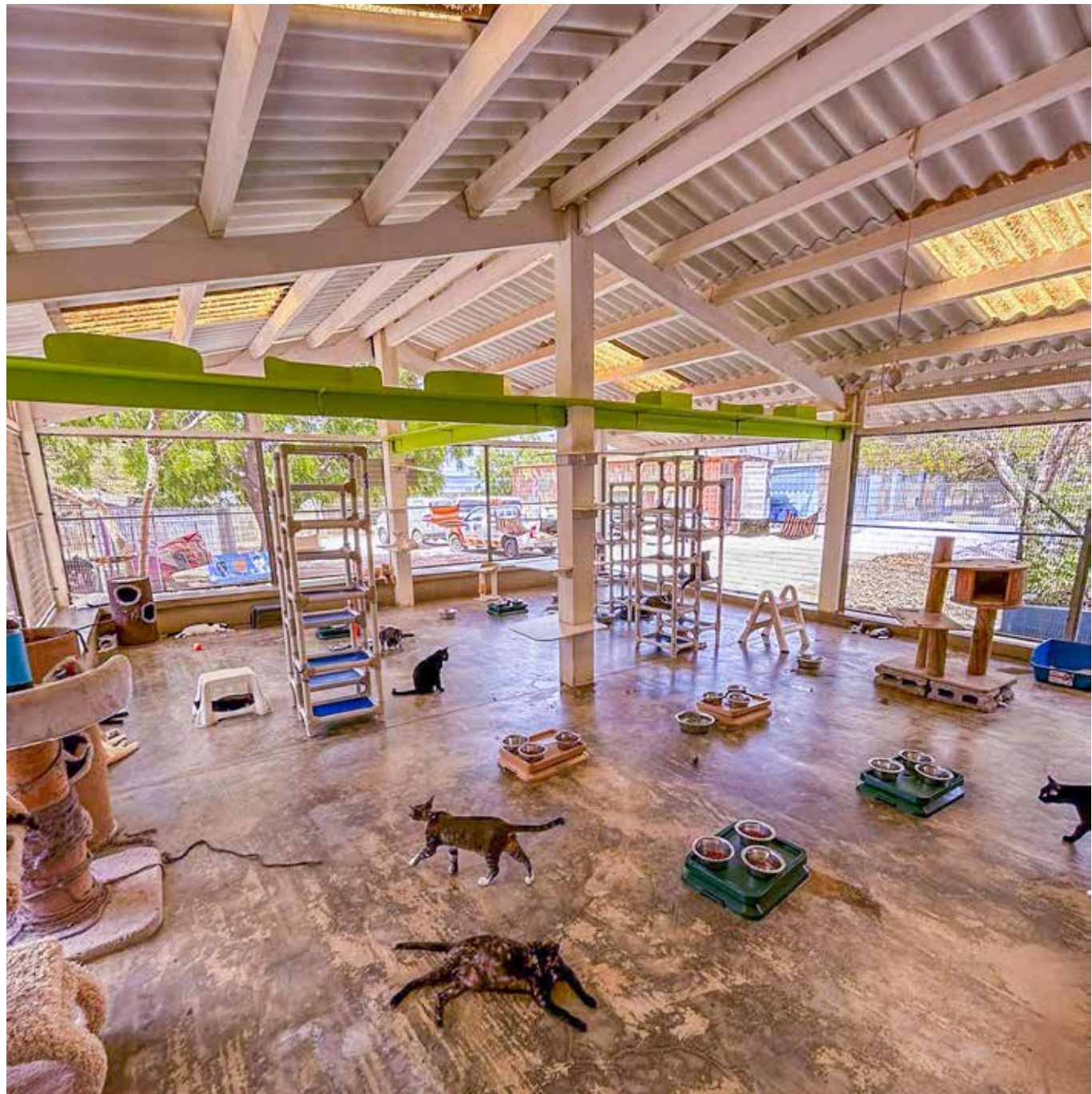
At the Cat Palace, you will be greeted by 45 palace residents, who all want your attention. Some will want to play with you, others might be sleeping on your lap or just sitting next to you. There is never a dull moment as there are so many cats to see, meet and love.

All the palace residents are available for adoption and each one is neutered, vaccinated, treated against worms and other parasites and all are tested for FeIV/ FIV.

How do they end up at the cat palace? They each have their own story: surrendered by people moving off island, unwanted litter of kittens, some found on the streets and others were just unwanted.

If you have some time to spare, come spend it in our Cat Palace and have a purr-tastic time.

Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt



Xprodivers has moved

After 10 years in a 24 sqm building, Xpro has moved just around the corner to a spacious 110 sqm showroom. Owners Hens Silva and Sigrid Torbay agree that everything is just the same, equipment, same personalized service but the new location is far more comfortable.

The new location has two classrooms, a separate repair/work room, easily viewed dive equipment on display for sale, a rental gear area to actually try on the gear and tank fills-air, nitrox and custom mixes. Then there is Hen's great wall of dive accessories, dive computers, gear bags, custom tees, books, artwork and other dive goodies. And there is even a private parking area.

Hens has been in the dive industry since 2008 bringing dive groups to Bonaire for Xpro Divers in Caracas, Venezuela. After seeing the need for a new Xpro dive shop in Bonaire, Hens and Sigrid moved to the island in 2016. They entered the dive market carrying Hollis and Oceanic and then added Atomic, Zeagle and Bare. Xpro is the only dealer for Hollis and Atomic.

The Xpro family is made up of Hens: dive instructor, tech diving instructor, service tech for Atomic, Hollis, Zeagle, Aqua Lung, Mares, Apex and Oceanic. Sigrid: dive instructor, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire instructor, and Alvaro Consuegra: dive instructor, gas blender and dive service.



The Xprodiver family L-R: Hens Silva, Allana Silva, Alvaro Consuegra and Sigrid Torbay
Photo Julie Morgan



With three instructors, Xpro provides classes on demand, personal guiding and personalized service before and after your dive.

As for repair service, Hens follows the words of the late Bruce Bowker of Carib Inn who was known for saying, "Solve the problem immediately for the people, so they can go back to diving."

Visit Xpro at their new location, Kaya Princes Marie 12A-B, meet the Xpro family and see everything they have to offer. Xpro is open Monday – Saturday 8:30 – 6 p.m. and open Sunday for tank fills.

For more information visit xprodiver.com and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/xprodiver); WhatsApp + 599-777-REEF (7333). See linked ad on the Reporter business page.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



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Fecha	Orario	Aktivitat	Lugá
5 di mei 2026	10:00 - 12:00	Kòfi, te i Freedom Meals	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
6 di mei 2026	8:00 - 12:00	Eksperensi'é, kreativitat na Nikiboko!	Sentro di Bario Nikiboko
7 di mei 2026	8:00 - 12:00	Eksperensi'é, kreativitat na Rincon!	Klup di UBP Rincon
12 di mei 2026	9:30 - 12:30	Kòfi, te i kreativitat na Mangazina di Rei	Mangazina di Rei
14 di mei 2026	18:00 - 20:00	Tayer: E arte di rèp ku Juny Martina	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
16 di mei 2026	14:00-16:00	Tayer: Skibi poesia ku Aline Abdul	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
16 di mei 2026	18:00-21:00	Presentashon Spoken Word	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
19 di mei 2026	9:30 - 12:30	Kòfi, te i muzik na Hòfi Kultural	Hòfi Kultural
20 di mei 2026	8:00-12:00	Eksperensi'é, kreativitat na Antriol!	Plasa Chiku Goeloe
21 di mei 2026	8:00-12:00	Eksperensi'é, kreativitat na Nort'í Saliña!	Sentro di Bario Nort'í Saliña
23 di mei 2026	18:00-20:00	Siña e arte di areglá flor	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
26 di mei 2026	10:00 - 12:00	Kòfi, te i "pruf" buki	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
27 di mei 2026	8:00 - 12:00	Eksperensi'é, kreativitat na Tera Kòrá	Sentro di Bario Tera Kòrá
28 di mei 2026	8:00 - 12:00	Eksperensi'é, kreativitat na Amboina	Sentro di Bario Amboina
29 di mei 2026	8:00 - 12:00	Arte & Kultura Ruta Rincon	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
29 di mei 2026	13:45-17:00	Arte & Kultura Ruta Playa	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru
30 di mei 2026	18:00-21:00	Festival di Makerspace	Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru

ABC

HOCKEY CUP 2026




BAR OPEN!!

bright

HOCKEY 5'S

ARE YOU COMING TO CHEER US ON?!



SATURDAY MAY 23RD; 5PM-8PM =
BRACKETSYSTEM
SUNDAY MAY 24RD; 9AM-12AM = FINALS

STADION PLAYA, KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE

Kids Trainingen Hockey



Kinderen 6-12jaar



Donderdag 16u-17u
Mei-Juni 2026



Stadion Playa



Signup->




Gratis





SAVE THE DATE!

 *31ST MAY*  *9AM - 12PM*

 Entrance of the
Washington Slagbaai National Park



BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE **APRIL 2026**

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

These data are preliminary figures.

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
18,778 **2026**

All non-residents are registered as visitors

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
18,858 **2025**

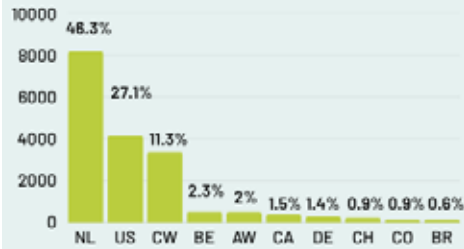
2026 COMPARED TO 2025

0.4%

Decrease in non-resident arrivals



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



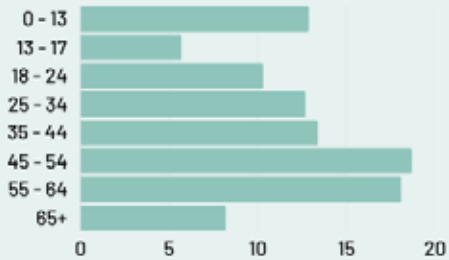
TOP STATES & REGION

US California, Florida, New York, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

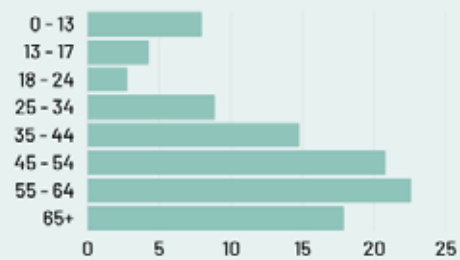
NL South Holland, North Holland, North Brabant, Gelderland, and Utrecht.

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE | DUTCH



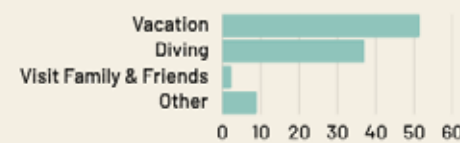
AGE | AMERICAN



REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH



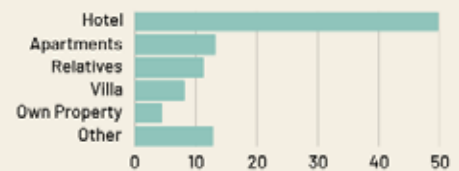
REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN



VISITOR BEHAVIOR

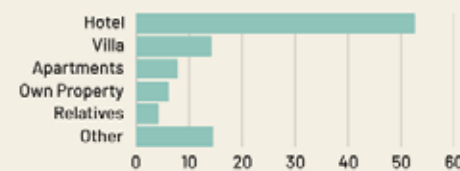
ACCOMMODATION TYPE

DUTCH



ACCOMMODATION TYPE

AMERICAN



LENGHT OF STAY

DUTCH

AMERICAN



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Foodtruck
Festival
2026

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

18:30 – 01:00 | PARKE ISIDEL

BONAIRE
It's in our nature



WHAT IS 'BAN LESA 2.0?'

A new radio series about Caribbean books with a new episode every week!

Starting Tuesday, June 2, the new radio series Ban Lesa 2.0 begins on BonFM. Every week at 5:30 PM, listeners will dive into the richness of Caribbean literature for half an hour. The series consists of 24 episodes of 30 minutes, divided across three languages: eight in Papiamentu, eight in English, and eight in Dutch. In this way, the versatility of the Caribbean language area will be made accessible to a broad audience.



BAN LESA 2.0



on view...

Group Exhibition

• IN THE PIANO & FRONT GALLERIES •
Tuesday - Saturday • 9AM - 3PM

José Smit

Ceramicist / artist

José combines reclaimed tiles with her handmade ceramics and found, given, and used materials. Cups, plates, and other treasures that lived a life before, she gathers in her studio. In her hands, by cutting, sawing and grinding, fragments come intuitive together. Slowly figures are born, playful, colourful and full of quiet surprises.



Dillon Rannou

Painter / artist

Whether depicting scenes from the natural world or abstract forms that evoke emotion and feeling, Dillon's art is always tuned in to the rhythms and energies of the island of Bonaire and its people.



Jozee Tjoa

Painter / artist

Jozee creates multiple layered abstract paintings inspired by her surroundings. They are an ongoing exploration of her feelings in nature, like diving into the sea and the beautiful colours that she sees every day around her. Colours of flowers, the sky, sunsets and of course the Caribbean Sea.



Carlos Porras

Painter / artist

Bonaire has many artists, many of whom are not well known. Carlos Porras is one of them. Born in Lima, Peru, Carlos has been living and working on Bonaire since 1995. Most of his paintings are abstract, though not all, and every one carries meaning. Look at them intently and carefully, let your imagination go, and the paintings will begin to speak to you.



Hilma Koelman

Painter / artist

Hilma, from our neighbor island Curaçao, is inspired by the beauty of nature and intuitively expresses emotions through abstract paintings. While her art occasionally depicts hints of seascape and flowers, she moves away from reality to reach a sense of feel. The movements and the comfort arising from her canvas allow your imagination to run free as the harmony of shapes and colours leaves space for you to create your own story.



Henk Roozendaal

Painter / artist

Roozendaal's work is recognizable from even a mile away. In his opinion having a style of your own is at the core of art itself. In the past he had several successful solo exhibitions on Bonaire: Portraits of Bonaire (2002 & 2006), Indians of Bonaire (2008) and Caribbean Queens (2011). In later work he focused more on landscapes.



ENG



PRICE COMPARISON BONAIRE – APRIL 2026

168 basic products | 20 supermarkets | FTPKB

- New World (temporarily closed)
- Snapshot 2nd week of April 2026 – prices are subject to change

Savings difference on full shopping basket: **\$820.37 Percentage difference between cheapest and most expensive basic products 42.7%**

TOP 3 CHEAPEST SUPERMARKETS

Caribe Nobo

- Savings: **\$159.73**
- 43 cheapest products
- Strong: Baby items, Vegetables & fruit

Kadushi

- Save: **\$57.88**
- 13 cheapest products
- Strong categories: Flour & grain, Baby items

Bondigro

- Saving: **\$56.41**
- 15 cheapest products
- Strong categories: Fruits & vegetables

CONCLUSION

- Caribe Nobo and Kadushi dominate **23% of the lowest prices**
- Large price differences remain
- Consumers often pay too much

Price differences are structural, not incidental

ADVICE

- Shopping without price comparison = losing money
- Smart Choosing = Saving Hundreds of Dollars
- Plan your shopping (route)
- Use price comparisons
- Combine supermarkets
- Focus on biggest price differences
- Check offers (not included)

Your purchasing power lies in your own choices

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"On Bonaire, smart grocery shopping can save you more than \$800."



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. 1st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tue.
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 SDQ	SKYhigh Dominicana					✓			
CURACAO SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun Tue Thu
CURACAO ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO ARUBA	ZAir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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

2026 Clean Coast Bonaire Schedule 2nd Sunday of each month		
January 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
February 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
March 8th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
April 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
May 10th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
June 14th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
July 12th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
August 9th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
September 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM
October 11th	Boka Onima	4:00-6:00 PM
November 8th	Piedra Pretu	4:00-6:00 PM
December 13th	Te Amo Beach	8:00-10:00 AM

STUDIO MUZO

Creative Color Lab - Afterschool Art

at Sobremesa

J.A Abraham Boulevard 10

15:00-17:00

Starting
20 March 2026

\$20,-
EACH FRIDAY
AGE 8+

- Paint on different surfaces
- Learn color mixing & expressions
- Create unique and abstract art
- No "right or wrong" way
- Lets have fun in a supportive group

*Materials included

Contact via whatsapp : +599 700 7115
Email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

No dogs on beaches

STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems.

Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

Nesting Area Respect: No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

Off-Limits Shores: Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
- Playa Chachacha
- Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
- Fòrn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
- Sorobon and Cai
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
- Tolo
- Klein Bonaire





BONAIRE FRIENDS

CELEBRATING THE BEST PART OF BONAIRE

DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND DURING YOUR STAY ON BONAIRE?

SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US

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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