



BONAIRE The REPORTER

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Lisetha Saragoza, Gibi Soleano
and Valerie Soleana transport the
Virgen de Valle Photo Julie Morgan



Fishers honor the Virgen de Valle

Before tourism, diving, wind surfing and cruise ships, fishing was Bonaire's major business. And every fisher, back then just like today, honors the Virgen de Valle, the patron saint of fishermen and mariners. She's also known as the Star of the Ocean, likened to the Virgin Mary and she first came to Bonaire some 100 years ago with families from Venezuela.

Last weekend on September 12, fishers, sailors and their families gathered to feast and honor La Virgen de Valle, in perhaps one of the oldest traditional celebrations on Bonaire.

The history of the Virgen of the Valley goes back some 500 years when the statue was brought by Spanish mariners to Cabagua Island in Venezuela. Due to a natural disaster, she was moved to El Valle del Espiritu Santo on Margarita Island. When people began moving away from Margarita Island to other coastal areas of Venezuela and to Bonaire the statue or something symbolizing her, a picture, small idol or medal, traveled with them.

When Pedro Diaz from Margarita Island moved to Bonaire along with

his family, some 100 years ago, he brought the tradition of the Virgen de Valle. And every year since the Virgen has been celebrated on Bonaire with original traditions from Venezuela dating back to 1911.

In Venezuela, thousands would gather to express their thanks to the Virgen. A celebration would last for

days with church masses, parties and feasts. The Virgen was placed on a beautifully decorated boat and followed by a parade of other boats.

The Diaz family has kept the celebration alive from generation to generation with Pedro's wife Catarina taking over and then son Doei. The celebrations were held at

their home on JD Abraham. In 2009 Doei's children took over the celebration and son Elvis Martinez took the lead.

Elvis said, "I had a dream a week before, of the Virgen in Sorobon, I contacted Erwin who was on the committee, and he said, 'Don't worry, we will do it.' And the kids of the

family have kept up with the tradition."

Since then, the Virgen de Valle celebration has been held at the fisherman's pier at Sorobon. Last Saturday, as per tradition, the Virgen was placed in a decorated boat and approximately 25 boats followed in her wake along with a few windsurfers. A mass was held accompanied by the choir of La Virgen del Valle followed by a communal toast and the traditional feast.

Elvis said, "Every year, the celebration gets better and better with more volunteers every year. They all get together and have some great ideas. We don't have sponsors we just get donations. Some give beer, food, fish, snacks and ice and there was enough to feed everyone. We made 200 shirts and sold them for the same price they cost, and they are all gone. The boats organized themselves and with all the families it was a nice celebration. I'm super happy."

If you would like to see the Virgen del Valle, she is kept in her own little chapel looking out over the fisherman's pier in Sorobon.

Story / Photos Julie Morgan



Government appeals Greenpeace ruling

In the 1970s an estimated 60 to 70 percent of the seabed along the west coast of Bonaire consisted of live coral. According to research at 115 locations, the average coverage is now around 5 percent. The coral is being killed principally by increasing seawater temperatures, diseases, erosion, and poor water management, plus a host of other causes related to climate change. "Everyone knows" the problems exist, that they seriously threaten life as we know it on the island and on the planet, and that we must try to solve them. But concrete action seems suspended in the gap between scientific realities and human capabilities.

Two stories by Hans Hofstra in Bonaire.nu illustrate the many climate change dilemmas that need to be untangled. On the one hand, on January 28 of this year the court of The Hague ruled in favor of Greenpeace Netherlands and a few residents of Bonaire that the Netherlands must do more to protect Bonaire from climate change. The court ordered that the government must establish new legally binding climate targets for the entire economy within eighteen months.

On the other hand, on September 15 the Dutch State will attempt to convince The Court of Appeal in The Hague that the January judgment is unrealistic, and that the State will need more than eighteen months to formulate a true solution to such a complicated set of problems. *DMR*

OLB has more than \$100 million unspent in the bank

The Board of Financial Supervision (Cft BES) has informed the House of Representatives that the earmarked reserves of the Public Entity Bonaire have grown to 85 million dollars. Another 20 million dollars in special grants is waiting to be dispersed as well. The Cft also revealed that an estimated only 61 percent of planned OLB activities have been carried out.

The Cft now considers insufficient implementation capacity to be a structural theme in the financial supervision of Bonaire. The issue is not solely a shortage of staff. Stable governance, clear decision-making and the setting of clear priorities are also needed according to the Board.

While Bonaire regularly struggles with backlogs, inadequate services and major investment challenges, a vast amount of public money is simultaneously sitting unused.

DMR (First reported by Bonaire.nu)

BES supporters in parliament protect BES funding

The Cabinet has promised to allocate 30 million euros annually as additional funding to strengthen livelihood security in the Caribbean Netherlands. The island councils of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba informed the House they are concerned the funds might be used to finance existing measures that are intended simply to cushion islanders from the high cost of living.

MPs Heera Dijk (D66) and Don Ceder (ChristenUnie) have responded by introducing a motion stipulating the money must be used to support activities intended to actually reduce the cost of living. The motion also stipulates that the island administrations should be involved "regarding the deployment of these funds from the start in the decision-making." *DMR*

Executive Council adopts island climate plan



The Executive Council has adopted its own Climate Plan 2026-2050. The plan recommends measures to protect the island against the consequences of climate change. It predicts rising sea levels will flood the southern part of the island and that longer periods of drought, heavy rain, and higher temperatures will prevail.

Under the leadership of table chair Reynolds (Nolly) Oleana, the plan was developed in collaboration with the Bonairean community, organizations, entrepreneurs, youth, and government partners. It focuses on sustainable energy, water, nature, and local food production. No decision was made regarding who will finance the measures. *DMR*

Cft slams new coalition's 2027 budget submission

The Board of Financial Supervision (Cft) rejected the new Executive Council's draft budget for 2027 by return mail. In a letter to Governor Soliano, the Cft's independent auditors declared the budget prepared by Finance Deputy Jennifer Mohamedjoenoes (UPB) is so flawed that the Cft was unable to "form a responsible judgment regarding the realism" of the budget and the financial risks Bonaire may face. The Cft declared September 28 an absolute deadline for resubmission. It pointed out that, in accordance with FinBES, the Island Council should have been able to vote on a finished budget by September 1.

The letter to the governor specifically criticized the new UPB coalition for failing to adopt the Cft's recommendation that Deputy Anthony Weber (M21) be appointed to serve as a specialist deputy when the new coalition was formed. Weber had made good progress in reversing the years of chaotic budgeting that marked Clark Abraham's stint as Finance Deputy. However, the UPB insisted on appointing its own candidate (Mohamedjoenoes) and, reportedly, bypassed the specialists from the Finance department during the drafting of the budget.

DMR (dossierkoninkrijksrelaties-nl.)

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Dee Scarr's
Reef Glimpses
will return soon

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History of Machi Mimi commemorated



Win de Grijze spoke of his grandmother, Machi Mimi
Photo OLB



Many generations of Bonaireans gathered at the sea wall by the North Pier to buy catch-of-the-day from Bernabé Dominga Evertsz, who they fondly knew as Machi Mimi ("Mother Mimi"). Her name and history were kept alive over the years by a sign her family had attached to the kiosk there. Now the Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB) has mounted an official nameplate: Plasa Machi Mimi.

Descendants of Machi Mimi were present at the ceremony. The speakers at the dedication included her grandson, Max Erwin Juan de Grijze, well known on the island

as Win. He shared memories of his grandmother and his childhood around the plaza. Among other things, he recounted how he learned to swim behind the plaza.

During the unveiling, Commissioner Dennis Martinus affirmed the importance of preserving Bonaire's history. "A people that knows its history knows where it comes from. This sign helps us continue telling the story behind the name and recognizes the people who have contributed to Bonaire."

DMR



- Located in Sabadeco
- Lot size : 891 m2 / 9589 sq. ft. owned land
- 4-bedrooms / 2-bathrooms / storage-laundry room
- Swimming pool with deck
- Fully fenced tropical garden

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POLICE REPORT

From August 17 to August 30 the KPCN reported ...

Property crimes

Sept. 14. A pencil case with cash was stolen from business premises on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot.

Sept. 13. Three bicycles were stolen from the front yard of a house on Kaya Kapachi. Police found two of the bicycles at Kaya Shoshori.

Sept. 13. 5:30 p.m. A 17-year-old boy was arrested at Kaya Caribe on suspicion of receiving stolen goods. A patrol saw him riding an electric bicycle that was (probably) stolen. fat bike was confiscated and the suspect was arrested.

Sept. 12. Bank cards and cash were among the items stolen from a home on Lagoen Hill.

Sept. 8. Strangers smashed a window of a pick up and took away several personal belongings at 'Pink Beach' when the occupants got out to look at flamingos.

Sept. 7. A blue and black Yamaha, Raptor-R quad bike was stolen while parked in front of an apartment complex on Kaya Irlandia.

Sept. 6. Four car tires were stolen from a vehicle that was parked outside in front of a garage in Kaya Bulgaria.

Sept. 6. A helmet and a bag with contents was stolen from the space under the seat of a scooter parked at Kaya J.N.E. Craane.

Sept. 4. 6:45 a.m. A patrol found two scooters, one registered as stolen, at Kaya General C.M. Piar during a routine check. Police suspect the second scooter is also stolen. Both scooters have been seized for further investigation.

Sept. 3. A black electric bicycle (fat bike), model V20 was stolen while parked behind a catering facility on Gobernador N. Debrot Boulevard.

Sept. 3. A white Sym, X-Pro scooter license plate MF-2736 was stolen while parked in front of a house on Kaya Suecia.

Sept. 3. Between Aug. 18 and Sept. 3 a hydraulic hammer chisel was stolen from a yard on Kaya Sabaló.

Sept. 3. Between 3:10 and 4 p.m. two bags with contents were stolen from a vehicle at the Karpata diving site while the owners while the were diving.

Sept. 1. A bag containing an iPhone and cash was stolen from a car parked at Kaya J.N.E. Craane when the occupants had no view of the vehicle.

Aug. 31. A black Tamobyke, V20 electric bicycle was stolen while parked at a school on Kaya Korona.

Arrests / Searches

Sept. 13. 9 a.m. A man , 30, was arrested at Kaya Generoso for threatening, assaulting and vandalism. He smashed a car window with a stone, assaulted a police officer during his arrest and threatened police officers with death.

Sept. 12. 11:30 p.m. On Kaya Princess Marie police saw a pick-up approaching with squealing tires, colliding with a car and then leaving the scene. The driver did not slow down when a police officer gave a stop sign but drove straight towards the officer who was forced to swerve to avoid being hit. Police switched on the flashing light and siren and chased the pickup, which increased its speed. The chase ended on the Kaminda Lagun after the vehicle drove into the garden of a house.

The driver, a man, 21, was arrested for attempted manslaughter, failure to obey an official order and endangering road safety. There was also an underage passenger in the car. The suspect could not show a driver's license and the pick-up was confiscated. Two police officers have filed a report of attempted manslaughter in this case.

Sept. 6. 1 a.m. A man, 52, was arrested at Kaya Taki for assault and resisting arrest.

Sept. 5. 5:50 p.m. A man, 38, was arrested at Kaya Iguaza for assault with a weapon. He assaulted a woman with a stone. Ambulance staff treated the victim on the spot, and took her to the hospital for further treatment.

Sept. 4. 1:30 p.m. A woman, 39, was arrested for assaulting a public servant in office. A report was received about a conflict between students, a parent and a teacher at a school on Kaya Barakuda. When the police arrived, they found a group of people in the school's parking lot. The police tried to talk to the suspect, but she got into her car and drove off at high speed. A chase ensued, in which the police managed to block the suspect's car on Kaya Korona. At that moment, the suspect got out of her car and hit a police officer who was walking in her direction. She was arrested and taken to the police station.

Sept. 2. 2:10 a.m. A man, 28, was arrested on Kaya Nikiboko Nort for stolen goods. A patrol stopped the suspect because he was riding a scooter without a helmet and without a license plate. The scooter was registered as stolen on August 31, 2026. The suspect

was arrested and the scooter was confiscated. In addition, the suspect received fines for driving without a license, without valid insurance papers, without a license plate and without a helmet.

Sept. 1. 11:25 p.m. A man, 26, was arrested in the Mamparia Kutu district for vandalism. The suspect had destroyed a window of a house.

Aug 26. A man, 51, was arrested for assault and attempted aggravated assault. He is a second suspect in connection with the stabbing in the night of Sunday, August 2, near a bar on Kaya Korona.

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.

Police reported that 12 drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Drivers were given driving bans of 1, 3 and 6 hours. Seven driving licenses were confiscated.

Drivers were identified because: Three were driving erratically. • One lost control in a bend and drove his car into the mondi. • One collided with a scooter. • Two collided with another vehicle - one driver collided with another car in the parking lot of a supermarket on Kaya Industria and the other driver collided with a car on Kaminda Tras di Montaña. • One driver was involved in a collision between three cars on Kaya Korona. • One driver drove off the road and got stuck. • One driver caused a collision on Kaminda Djabou and left the scene of the accident, to be stopped later for reckless driving. • A scooter driver fell with his scooter near the Suman di Roosendaal roundabout

Four drivers were fined for driving without a license and three for not being able to show insurance papers. Four drivers refused to cooperate with a breathalyzer test

Traffic accidents (breathalyzer test negative)

Two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Sonmontuno and Kaya Mendelssohn.

A truck collided with a scooter on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot because the pick-up did not give way to the scooter. The driver of the pick-up was fined for driving without valid insurance.

Two cars collided on Kaya Lodewijk D. Gerharts, near the Kaya Soeur Bartola because no right of way was given. The driver of one of the cars involved was fined for driving without a license and without valid insurance.

A car turned upside down on Kaminda di Rincon because the driver lost control in a bend. When the police arrived, the occupants had already managed to leave the vehicle under their own power. The ambulance staff checked the driver and passenger and took the passenger was taken to hospital.

A scooter collided with a goat on Kaminda Lagun. The driver of the scooter was injured and was taken to hospital by an ambulance. Due to medical priority, a breathalyzer test could not be taken from the driver.

Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

Speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside. Traffic fines range from \$30 to \$225.

Sept. 11. In the evening police checked 17 vehicles on Kaya Nikiboko North. Three fines were issued: 2x for driving without valid insurance; 1x for driving with-out a valid driver's license.

Sept. 10. In the evening Police checked the speed check of 53 cars on Boulevard Gobernador N. Debrot. Seven fines were issued: 5x for exceeding the maximum speed of 40 km/h; 1x for driving without a license; 1x for driving without valid insurance.

Sept.5. Police stopped an underage boy on an electric bicycle 'fat bike' in Kaya Grandi because he was driving on the sidewalk. The boy could not identify himself. The fat bike had no chain or brakes and could only ride on the battery via a lever on the handlebar (throttle). Based on these findings, the vehicle is classified as a moped according to the Bonaire Road Traffic Ordinance 2019 and a driver's license, helmet, insurance and license plate are required. The boy did not meet the requirements so the fat bike was confiscated to carry out a speed check on a roller bench at the police station. The speed check showed that the vehicle can go faster than 30 km/h. The boy will receive a fine for all violations.

Public order

Sept. 1. Police found a young man safe and sound who had been reported missing. Around 10:30 p.m. the young man 16, left an institution on Hanchi Amboina and did not return. KPCN thanked everyone who contributed to his search and asked those who shared his image online to remove it for his privacy.

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,

I read your last column about buying a property that is rented out long term. I recently bought a property on Bonaire that was supposed to be delivered free of tenancy. This is clearly stated in the purchase agreement, and the seller told me that the tenant would move out before the transfer. However, the tenant has not left and now says that they have the right to stay. What can I do?

Regards, Kaylee,

Hi Kaylee,

As I mentioned in my previous column, it is very important to check the current rental agreement before making an offer. In your situation, this could have been very important, because the rental agreement may give the tenant certain rights that mean they do not have to leave just because the property is sold.

However, if the purchase agreement clearly states that the property will be delivered free of tenancy, the seller has to deliver the property as agreed.

If the seller cannot do this, you may have the right to cancel the purchase agreement, because the seller cannot meet the agreed conditions of the sale. Depending on the situation, you may also have a claim for damages.

My advice is to contact your real estate agent immediately. Your agent can contact the seller and help you find the best solution.

So, before buying a property with a tenant, always check the rental agreement and make sure you understand the tenant's rights. And make sure the purchase agreement clearly states whether the property will be delivered with or without a tenant.

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.

S

Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

Sept. 1. In the evening police stopped a pick-up with two occupants on Kaya Waltz during a routine check. During the check, the driver could not show a driver's license or insurance papers and was fined for this. The passenger could not identify himself and was found to be on the island illegally. He was then taken to the JICN to await deportation to his country of origin.

Fire

Sept. 8. 12:35 p.m. Car wrecks were reported on fire in the Santa Clara area. The fire was probably caused by grinding car parts. The fire brigade extinguished the fire.

Letters & Opinions

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

Dangerous conditions for cyclists

Dear Editor,
For quite some time, I have felt unsafe on the streets and in traffic as a cyclist. Now that I am confronted with this specific unsafe situation almost daily, I feel compelled to bring it to your attention. The issue concerns the unsafe condition of the bicycle paths.

To begin with, there are many broken bottles and shards of glass on the bike paths, roundabouts, and roads. Added to this are the many small stones falling from truck beds—which are particularly scattered across roundabouts—as well as construction sand, screws, nails, bits of wire, sharp objects, donkey droppings, and so on. I frequently suffer flat tires and am often forced to swerve off the bike path to avoid hazardous objects lying in my way.
Another safety hazard arises when cars and

pickup trucks are parked on the bike paths; I have to ride around them—thereby entering the busy roadway—to continue my journey. Needless to say, this creates a very dangerous situation amidst increasingly heavy traffic.

Furthermore, I would like to point out the white road markings at roundabouts and bike paths that indicate right-of-way for cyclists and pedestrian crossings. These white markings on the asphalt have faded and are barely visible in many places. As a result, fast-moving traffic ignores the right-of-way belonging to slower traffic, creating highly dangerous conditions for cyclists at busy intersections and roundabouts. Dear Editor, achieving optimal road safety involves three key factors:

- behavioral change among road users and the acceptance of appropriate responsibility;
- increased government oversight and traffic law enforcement, alongside efforts to

- raise awareness about safe road use through the media;
- clear traffic signs and road markings, as well as clean roads and cycle paths.

Angliet Baidjoe

Finally a new name for Sint-Eustatius

Dear Editor,

In the Caribbean part of our Kingdom, two islands bear names given to them by Columbus: Sint-Eustatius and Sint-Maarten. He reached these islands - as the first European to do so - on the feast days of these saints. However Pope Paulus VI abolished in 1969 the feast day of Saint Eustace due to a lack of evidence that the saint ever existed.

The island - and since 2010, the Public

Body as well - are therefore named after a saint who no longer exists. So, by now it really is time to choose a new name.

In the European part of the Netherlands, a municipality can choose a name for itself. However, changing the name of a Caribbean Public Body requires an amendment to the “Wet Openbare Lichamen Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba”. Fortunately, State Secretary Van den Burg for Kingdom Relations is also responsible for an Effective Governance. Then it should be possible to quickly change the name of the island and of the Public Body. A name that has been outdated now for over fifty years. Especially when another name has long been widely used by many: Statia.

With kind regards,
Gerrit van der Meij,
retired senior civil servant, Den Haag

STINAPA files formal complaint following statements regarding Proyecto Parke Bunita (with minor redactions)

The management of STINAPA Bonaire has filed a formal complaint against statements made during a September 8 ENERGIA TV broadcast that opposed Proyecto Parke Bunita, STINAPA's a multi-year nature restoration project in Washington Slagbaai National Park.

During the broadcast, serious allegations were made against STINAPA and explicitly named employees who are involved in Proyecto Parke Bunita. STINAPA has filed a complaint to the police against the person who made the statements, citing potential defamation and slander.

For STINAPA, this decision is emphatically not about suppressing criticism. Critical questions regarding STINAPA's work and Proyecto Parke Bunita may and should be asked. However, management believes a line is crossed when factually incorrect and damaging allegations are leveled against individual employees who are explicitly named.

Threatening reactions to the broadcast followed on social media. They demonstrated that such statements are not only unfair, they also impact employee safety. As an employer, STINAPA has a responsibility to ensure a safe working environment. Management therefore has an obligation to intervene when the safety or integrity of employees is potentially jeopardized.

Objectives of Proyecto Parke Bunita. Proyecto Parke Bunita is a multi-year nature restoration project in Washington Slagbaai National Park. Feral goats have long posed a major threat to the dry tropical forest there. The animals consume young trees and other plants, preventing the forest from recovering adequately. Overgrazing also leads to increased soil erosion. During heavy rainfall, soil washes more easily into the sea. Sediment and nutrients then end up in the Bonaire National Marine Park, where they compromise water quality and the health of the coral reef.

Removing invasive grazers is part of Bonaire's broader nature policy and has been

identified as a key measure for ecological restoration. It helps rebuild the terrestrial environment and protects the waters surrounding Bonaire from further erosion caused runoff.

Area by area. As part of Proyecto Parke Bunita, STINAPA works area by area. Sections of the park are separated by fencing, after which feral goats are removed. Various methods are employed, including live capture, collaboration with community volunteers, camera monitoring, and the use of GPS to track the animals. In recent years, the majority of the animals have been donated to the community, including to local farmers (“kunukeros”), churches, and foundations.

Culling is used only when other methods are not ineffective and the rugged, inaccessible terrain makes it impossible to remove the animals by other means. The goal is not to kill animals, but to remove invasive grazers from the protected nature reserve so that the native vegetation can recover.

This recovery is already visible in areas where the pressure from goats has been significantly reduced. Young trees are once again growing there.

STINAPA understands that “Proyecto Parke Bunita” raises questions and stirs up emotions. Goats hold significant historical and cultural value on Bonaire. Precisely for this reason, STINAPA believes it is important to allow space for dialogue, questions, and criticism regarding the approach.

However, the management insists that such dialogue must be based on facts and conducted with respect for the people carrying out the work.

STINAPA's management stands behind its staff. While criticism is part of public debate, STINAPA draws a clear line at personal accusations and situations that could compromise employee safety. By filing an official report, the management demonstrates its commitment to upholding that boundary.

STINAPA Bonaire Management

History is catching up with Bonaire *Two realities are about to collide like comets*

STINAPA and Goats

The historical context

“The depletion [of vegetation] has continued until the present day, mainly on account of ... the grazing and browsing of great numbers of semi-wild goats, sheep, and donkeys.”
A Land Capability and Land Use Survey of the Island of Bonaire, 1956

“The goal is not to kill animals, but to remove invasive grazers from the protected nature reserve, so that the original vegetation can recover.”

Statement released by STINAPA, September 10, 2026

Painful truths

Bonaireans will never achieve their goals of protecting and enhancing Nature unless they permanently rid the island of free-ranging goats and donkeys.

STINAPA is now striving to achieve that goal humanly and in socially positive ways. But inevitably it has to kill some goats.

Selibon and Goats

The scientific context

“Strongly increased dioxin levels were found in goats that roamed the Selibon landfill. In goat meat, up to 4.8 times the European standard was measured. In goat fat, the excess increased to 8.9 times the standard used.”

Investigative reporter Hans Hofstra,
September 12, 2026, Bonaire.nu

Painful truths

Bonaireans used to dispose of their waste by dumping it in the ocean. When they realized that was a bad practice, they started piling it in one place and burning or burying it. The whole world is now seeking better methods.

If the Lagun Landfill is closed hundreds of dangerously poisonous goats will spread unchecked. The potential consequences to people's health and welfare are unknown. They could turn out more serious even than poisoning the atmosphere near Lagun with smoke.

The coming public crisis

Everyone of us is going to have accept the emotional costs, investment of resources, and communal responsibility for culling and destroying truck loads of poisonous goats. We will have to dispose of their carcasses too.

Don M. Ricks

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://stinapabonaire.org)

Sulay Lau appointed Head of Operations ZJCN



Sulay Lau
Head of Operations, ZJCN

Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) has announced that Sulay Lau took over as Head of Operations on September 1.

Lau has 27 years of experience within the government and has held various positions at different departments. Her career began at the SVB, (Social Insurance Bank) after which she worked as a coordinating officer at SZW (RCN Social Affairs and Employment Unit). Following a period as a senior officer Customer Contact and Insured Persons Administration at the Health Insurance Office (ZVK), she most recently held the position of Team Leader Healthcare and Support at ZJCN. *DMR*

Can the OLB make either of the critical landfill decisions?

According to the agreement between the Public Body Bonaire (OLB) and the central government, the Executive Board was obliged to choose a location for the construction of a new waste disposal facility by July 1. That deadline was missed. "Mid-October" is the next promised date. The most realistic bet is that deadline will not be met either.

Selecting the new site is going to be the most difficult decision for the whole project. The political leadership must decide both how Bonaire will dispose of its waste and where the disposal operations will be carried out. Each decision brings its own pragmatic, political, and cost complications to the table. *DMR*

Trial in Club Rush shooting ends

The trial in deadly shooting at Club Rush more than a year ago, known as the Galápagos case, has ended. It was proceeded by perhaps the largest criminal investigations KMAR has ever conducted on Bonaire. Eighteen suspects were arrested following a night of extreme gun violence.

The hostilities began when 15-year-old Clayshenou D. was shot dead. Two young men from Noord Saliña were charged with his murder. A witness testified both fired shots at Clayshenou. One, who was 15 years old at the time, will pass into the juvenile system if convicted. Gedion O. was identified as the other shooter. The prosecution has demanded a prison sentence of 24 years for him if he is convicted. The pair have been in pre-trial detention.

After the shooting outside Club Rush the gun violence spread to Den Tera (Antriol) and Tera Kòrá. Several groups of young people were tried for their role in the extreme gun violence on the night that 15-year-old Clayshenou D. was killed. Marion S., the stepfather of the Noord Saliña suspect, also stood trial. The prosecution has demanded six years in prison against him. Verdicts are expected in October.

DMR (Source, BES-Reporter.com)

Dutch budget €47.5 million for BES nature

The government is sustaining its efforts to strengthen and restore the unique natural environment and ecosystems in the Caribbean Netherlands. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LVVN) announced on Budget Day (Prinsjesdag) €47.5 million has been made available for this purpose.

Much of the money will be invested in continuing collaborative efforts with the local public entities to support the islands' lifestyles and tourist based economies. Joint measures to protect the islands against the effects of climate change will be carried out, as well as programs to restore vegetation and coral, combat erosion and overgrazing, and reduce invasive species and water pollution. The goal is to create a natural environment that is more resilient to climate change whilst also contributing to a healthy living environment and economy on the islands.

DMR

Hospital employees holding out for 36-hour working week

Contract negotiations between the healthcare workers and the government has reached an impasse regarding a 36-hour workweek. The full-time standard in the Dutch healthcare sector has been 36 hours for almost thirty years. Civil servants in the Caribbean Netherlands and the staff of the Public Bodies already work 36 hours per week. Yet BES healthcare workers are still required to come to work 40 hours a week. Contract negotiations between ZORG BES and the General Federation of Bonairean Workers (AFBW) have therefore stalled. Until the two parties agree on the length of the work week, they cannot settle other issues such as salary increases, continued payment of wages in times of illness, and special leave. *DMR*

Cabinet pondering future policing needs in CN

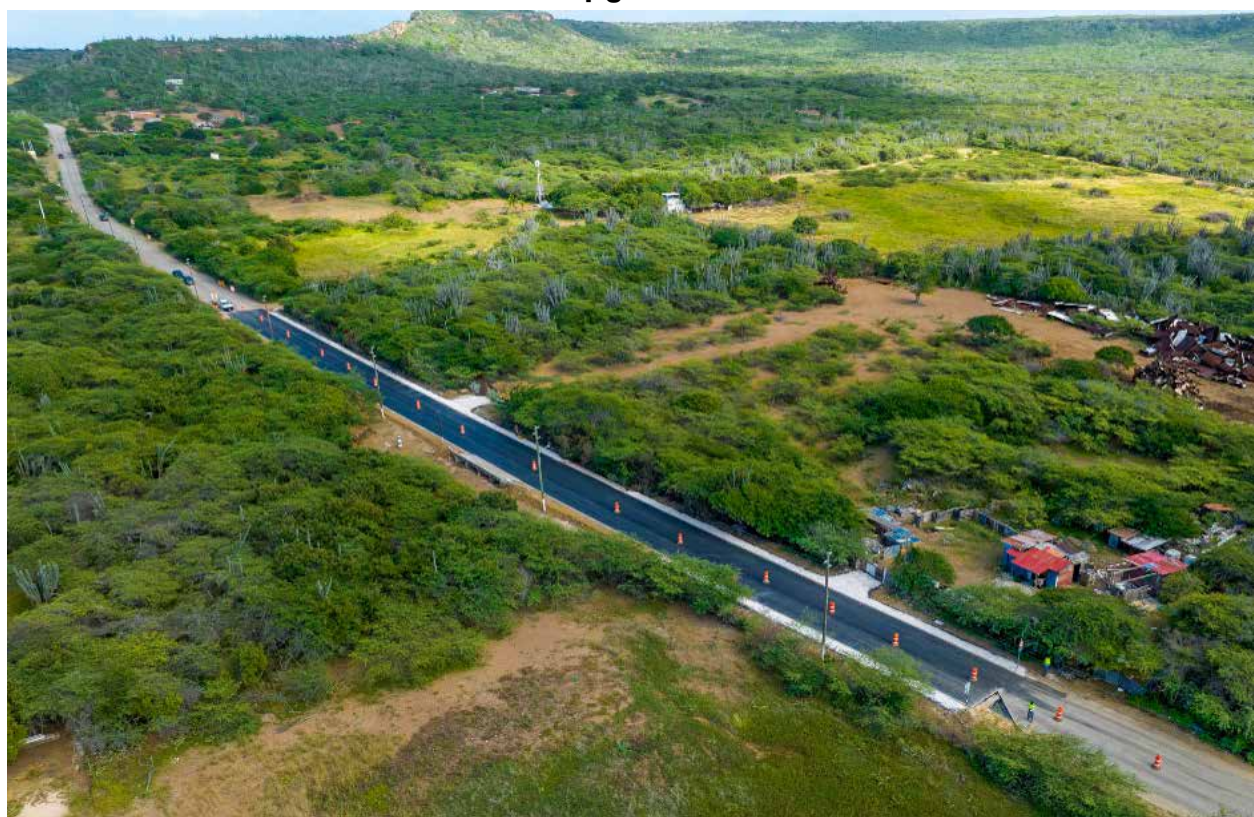
In response to the report 2025 State of Law Enforcement in the Caribbean Netherlands, the cabinet is considering future plans for the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force. A multi-year staffing forecast and a vision for the future composition of the force are being developed.

The KPCN will continue partial staffing from European Netherlands for the foreseeable future. The deployment of twelve officers from the National Police and Royal Military Police has been extended until early 2027. Deployed since February 2025, they primarily provide emergency response services on Bonaire. Eighteen newly trained officers have joined the KPCN recently. Eleven more recruits are expected to finish their training in spring 2027. A further five began their training in August and should join the force at the end of 2028. The cabinet is making additional funding available for hiring more officers.

The Caribbean Netherlands Custodial Institution on Bonaire is adequately staffed, but the cabinet warns that pressure could increase rapidly. The Government Real Estate Agency has developed two options for expanding the prison facility if necessary. Additionally, a study is being conducted into whether a minimum-security unit could be established, allowing detainees to gradually reintegrate into society. The Adelanto reintegration project run by the Krusada Foundation is underused.

New legislation is being developed to address domestic violence and child abuse. This includes the introduction of a temporary restraining order and an expansion of the criminal liability for psychological abuse. The cabinet also aims to gain better insight into juvenile crime in the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*

Contract to be let for upgrade of Kaminda di Rincon



The tender process has begun to select a contractor to upgrade the condition of the entire road between Kralendijk and Rincon.

When more information becomes available, the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) will inform residents, business owners, and other stakeholders about the start and execution of the work, as well as any potential impact on traffic.

OLB thanks everyone for their patience and understanding. *DMR*

PHOTO: Kaminda di Rincon was last worked on February to June 2025. Shown here is the completion of repair section one in March 2025, Kaminda di Onima connecting to Boulevard Miguel A. Pourier. Photo credit OLB

Beukenboom receives Accolade

The Accolade Award and Medal was recently presented to Elsmarie Beukenboom for her life long efforts and endeavors protecting the natural world.



Beukenboom’s work with the Bonaire Marine Park helped to standardize procedures and create a number of new initiatives. She has served as an environmental role model for others while encouraging local participation in projects and programs. Beukenboom has been committed to restoring native plants to Klein Bonaire while encouraging many others to join in those efforts. She and volunteers regularly travel to Klein Bonaire to plant, water and nurture them.

Thanks to Beukenboom’s dedication, Klein doesn’t just look greener, it is. With her advocacy toward a sound environmental management and protection for the little island she is a guardian of Klein Bonaire.

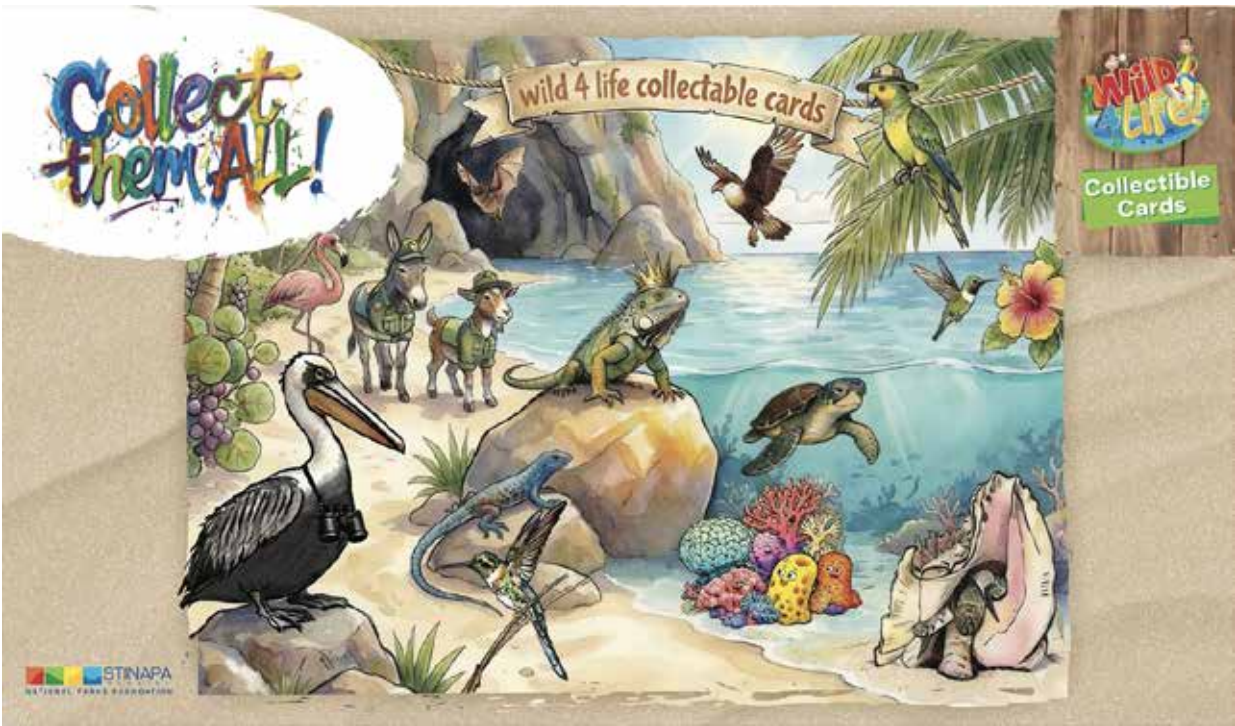
The Accolade Award was created by Captain Don Stewart to recognize individuals and groups for their commendable accomplishments in environmental protection, diving and other community endeavors.

George Buckley
Director of the Accolade Project.
The Accolade Project



Find TCB’s full report in our online issue, page 23.
<https://bonairereporter.com>

STINAPA offers limited edition animal cards



In celebration of 40 years of conservation, STINAPA has created a kind of scavenger hunt game for 12 collectible cards depicting some of Bonaire’s amazing animals. The cards can be found at different locations on Bonaire.

To find where to go, visit <https://stinapabonaire.org/collectible-cards/> for a map of the various card pickup locations. And there is even a folding box to hold your

card collection. Once you complete your collection you might find the mystery, 13th card. Get started now as there are only 1000 copies available of the limited-edition cards.

This is a fun way to get to know some of Bonaire’s animals and different locations on the island. Get started now, with your first card at either the STINAPA office or Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB). *Release*

“She Got Game” sends players to Curacao



Congratulations to the Bonaire Basketball Federation’s (BBF) “She Got Game” girl’s basketball team. Three girl’s from the BBF U12 team, Eliza Koeks, Kamilah Ramos and Danna Martinez, reached another milestone by competing in the Her Way tournament Sept 11 – 13 in Curaçao.

These young girls are the first three players to carry the Bonaire flag in a girls basketball competition outside of Bonaire.

Coach Eddy Carrillo said, “Their participation in Curaçao gave them valuable international experience and shows families across the island that girls basketball on Bonaire is growing.”

BBF, in cooperation with Indebon and Nederlandse Basketball Bond, will continue investing in girls’ basketball through regular training, player development and tournaments. The federation’s goal is to build lasting girls’ teams in multiple age categories and, in time, create a strong and sustainable girls’ competition.

Julie Morgan / Press release photo



Showing pride on Bonaire Day 2026

Bonaire celebrated Dia di Boneiru (Bonaire Day) September 6 in a style of which everyone should be proud. The holiday, also known as Flag Day, became official 41 years ago back in 1985. Historically the day honors the discovery of the island by Spanish explorers Alonso de Ojeda and Amerigo Vespucci in 1499.

Where Bonaire Day used to be a mostly ceremonial affair of speeches and song organized by the government for the morning, in recent years the official holiday extends into the night topped off with an official fireworks display.

The 40-year-old official Coat of Arms

symbolizing protection was the perfect icon for the theme “Protecting our Island.”

With Ruthsaida Rafaela leading the ceremony as MC, the St. Louis Bertrand Choir opened the day as the Island Council and Bonaire governor John Soliano and wife Solange found their places under the cano-

piated seating. An amazing display of protection and service joined the ceremony with a uniformed parade of customs (Douane Caribisch Nederland), KPCN (Dutch Caribbean Police Force), KMar (Royal Netherlands Marechaussee), Brandweer (Caribbean Netherlands Fire Department) and the boy and girl scouts. The Bonaire flag was raised by the scouts and singer Raiza Wilsoe, winner of the Kanta Bo singing contest led the crowd in the Bonaire anthem. Speeches were delivered by Island Deputy for Society & Care Timotheo Silberie and Governor John Soliano.

Singing contest winners Raiza Wilsoe (adult) and Juliendra Janga (youth) sang their original songs from the competition.

Decorations and awards were presented to Honored Citizens Elfried Francisco Jozephia, Lilian Paula-Crestian and Cliff Bruno Frans. (see page 9)

Johnrick Anthony produced an amazing dance and singing show in celebration of the anniversary of the Bonaire Shield. The Royal Dancers made several costume changes with props throughout the show. Soloists Mary Louise Vlijt, Tirzah Richards, Gerald Alberto, Charlise Thomas and Rayshantaly Coffie sang. The show ended with all dancers and singers in a surprise firework finale.

A reception of food and drinks was held in the courtyard of the former governor's mansion complete with a gift box of Bonaire Day memorabilia for every guest.

Story/Photos Julie Morgan



Honorary Citizens Bonaire Day 2026



Cliff Bruno Frans,
OLB Photo



L-R: Elfried Francisco Jozephia, Lilian Paula-Crestian, and stand-in Julio Statie accepting for Cliff Bruno Frans

OLB photo

Three citizens were honored for their dedication and contributions to the Bonaire community during the Dia di Boneiru (Bonaire Day) celebration on September 6. The individuals were nominated, selected and then approved by the executive board of government to be named Honorary (honored) Citizens of Bonaire 2026.

Elfried Francisco Jozephia was selected for his 15 years of extraordinary commitment to the children and young people of Bonaire through the sport of karate. Elfried not only taught them but organized competitions, provided karate attire and transport for those families lacking in finances.

Lilian Paula-Crestian dedicated herself to the Bonairean community for more than 36 years. She has focused mainly in youth education, development, the Papiamentu language and social work. Lilian has contributed to the education of different generations of young people making a permanent contribution to Bonaire.

Cliff Bruno Frans, known as Big Papa, has committed himself to the community of Bonaire for 16 years by taking and sharing his photos, covering the news, cultural events and developments. He has assisted Boi Antoin and Fuhikubo by helping preserve valuable knowledge for current and future generations.

Julie Morgan

Hiking trails

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) is working with Fundashon Historiko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo) and the Chantiwawa hiking group to make hiking on Bonaire more accessible. Chantiwawa, a group of nature lovers and volunteers operating under FuHiKuBo, brings extensive experience in identifying, clearing, marking, and maintaining hiking trails. FuHiKuBo will contribute its historical and cultural knowledge, while TCB will support the digitalization and promotion of the routes.

Selected trails will receive digital information, including maps, route details, difficulty levels, points of interest, and relevant cultural and historical information. Signage at trailheads, including QR codes linking to the digital information, together with markers along the routes, will help hikers navigate the trails more easily and safely.

September is Tourism month

Every Saturday in September arriving visitors at Bonaire's Flamingo International Airport will arrive to folkloric music and will receive a special welcome gift from Bonaireans wearing traditional dress. Island activities include those planned for Bonaire Day; a Tourism Scavenger Hunt in Rincon for children between the ages of 8 and 12; a four-week photo contest, the Annual Bonaire Tourism Summit and a Saturday night Taste of Bonaire.



Tourism Summit

On September 24 and 25, TCB will host its Annual Bonaire Tourism Summit, under the theme "Everything is Connected." The summit update tourism partners and stakeholders on the latest developments within the industry, including airlift, marketing initiatives, public relations strategies, and other key topics shaping the future of tourism on Bonaire. Partners and stakeholders are encouraged to register and participate.

TCB, Cocari II and FuHiKuBo join forces

On September 4th TCB, Stichting Cocari II and o FuHiKuBo signed an agreement. The three organizations will work to bring Bonaire's heritage to life in ways that benefit residents, local businesses, and visitors alike.

The partners will explore opportunities to help more residents and businesses benefit from tourism. Potential initiatives include heritage routes and experiences connected to Bonaire's maritime history, Rincon and the island's historic landhouses.

"Patrimonio di Boneiru, pa Boneiru, Bonaire's heritage, for Bonaire," said J. (Janchi) de Vries, Executive Director of Stichting Cocari II. "For us, every project

must pass the same test: Does it create local work and opportunities? Do the stories remain with the people they belong to? And does the value stay on the island?"

"Accurate storytelling and respect for our history, traditions and language must form the foundation of every heritage initiative," said Bò Antoin of FuHiKuBo. "This collaboration creates an important opportunity for Bonaireans to remain the owners and custodians of their own story."

A joint working group will coordinate the partnership and establish an annual work program with concrete priorities, responsibilities and timelines.

TCB release



The Cocari II Foundation works to preserve the monumental and cultural heritage of Bonaire. Through restoration, research and collaboration, we ensure that valuable places are preserved and given a meaningful function for future generations.



Fuhikubo Dedicated to document, promote and preserve the cultural, historical and natural heritage of Bonaire

Kids enjoy first Ocean Festival



Photo Julie Morgan

A lucky 50 kids, age 7 – 10 attended the first ever Ocean Festival on September 12 at Kas di Regatta. Organized by Kiri Thode Adventures and D's Organisation, the festival featured fun, educational experiences about the ocean, nature and fishing.

Kiri Thode, fisherman and former world champion professional windsurfer taught the boys preparations for different ways of fishing according to the different species of fish. The kids then boarded two boats and headed to Andrea II for a little hands-on practice which resulted in catching five black fin tuna weighing in at 2.5 kilo (5.8 lbs) each. The boys used the traditional hand line, electric line and rod fishing 150 m (492 ft) offshore to 122 m (400 ft) deep.

Kiri explained, we want the children to



Photo Ocean Festival

know more about our ocean and the cultural traditions of fishing on Bonaire.

Kids Ocean Festival
...to page 12

While the boys were out on the water



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Make Bonaire Accessible

Bonaire for everyone by Ria Dokter

Maintaining independence, health and mobility, social connection, purpose and fulfillment and financial security.

After so much attention to accessibility, I thought it would be interesting to know what is really important to the elderly. Having access to Google for help is wonderful, of course, but talking to my peers, being together with them teaches me a lot more. From them I can get real answers, get to know them and know what really moves and motivates them.

For me, being independent is very important. I am by myself and to be able to make my own decisions, do what I want and do what I feel is right for me. There are always people, friends who want to help but then they have their own needs too. I know myself, I know my body and know what I need. When I need help I will let them know exactly what kind of help I need. And this is how most elderly feel.

Maintaining my health: I know myself and my body the best and I handle my health accordingly. Sometimes I could be a bit more careful, but I know my borders and ask for help when I really need it. I am in a lucky position to have a buddy who used to be a nurse.

When together with my peers, I talk with them a lot about health issues, and we give each other advice all the time.

Taking care of my mobility takes a lot more effort due to a few joint issues. I have problems walking and cannot use my left arm properly. For all healthcare related transportation I can call and ask for it. For all other transportation I ask friends for help. I try not to over ask from the persons I ask to help me. Transporta-

tion is a big problem and something that needs more attention.

Social connections were once a problem, but now there is AKSESO that offers activities. There is also Fundashon Plataforma Kultural, that offers a variety of music lessons and other gatherings. Fridays are especially popular, as everyone is welcome to chat, paint, craft, play chess or checkers.

The music lessons are very popular. It is wonderful to learn to play a musical instrument and have fun together as a group and everyone is welcome. F.P.K. offers no transportation but is always willing to help by asking peers and family members. No one is left behind.

On financial security, I cannot say a lot about others, but one thing is certain: every citizen who is officially an inhabitant and is over 65 years old, has a right to a pension plan. When one can afford it, additional assurance can make this more and there are decent funeral assurances. This is important, because the end of life needs to be done in a decent way.

I am very happy with all my peers. They make my life worth living.



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.

An anniversary donation

Captain Don's Habitat, now known as Habitat Bonaire and Captain Don's Dive Shop, celebrated their 50th Golden Anniversary on September 2.

Aside from the party, Habitat Bonaire and Maduro Holding, their mother company presented a check to Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) to assist with their work of protecting and restoring the biodiversity of Bonaire's coral reef.

(L-R Lola Salvador and Perri Rappaport of RRFB, Claire Sealy, Managing Director of Habitat Bonaire, Marius van Noort, CEO of Maduro Holding and Steven van der Kwast, Board Member of Maduro Holding. Photo Julie Morgan



Bob Lassiter

Bob Lassiter was a country boy from North Carolina. People often thought, because of his accent, that he was from Texas and his response was always 'I'm a country boy from North Carolina and proud of it'.

He graduated from the University of North Carolina and joined the United States Marine Corps as a jet and helicopter pilot. After several years as a Marine he decided to return to North Carolina and joined with a partner in building a real estate and development company building houses, apartments and country clubs.

He had a busy, happy life but after working for many years decided it was time to retire. He and his wife Dabney spent time traveling around the Caribbean looking for the right place to settle. Being divers they enjoyed many wonderful trips to Bonaire so got to know the island well; coming back on each visit was like coming home. The decision was made and they arrived at their Bonaire 'forever home' January 2, 2000.

Bob had a strong Christian faith and as a result was instrumental in helping to build The



Bob Lassiter

February 27, 1936 - September 5, 2026

International Bible Church of Bonaire. He loved his church dearly and was loved by the congregation; he will be missed by many.

Kids Ocean Festival from page 10

the girls learned more about Bonaire nature and growing plants on the island. They had fun playing games incorporating the nature theme.

All the kids received breakfast and lunch. Certificates of participation were given to each child. Booths were set up with fresh coconut drinks, teaching the importance of hydration, fluffy mini pancakes and a bar for the parents.

Ocean Festival was sponsored by

Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire, Indebon, Prins Hendrik Stichting, Bonaire Sailing School Association, Pier 2, Karel's Beach Bar, Gunlis, Mr. Sweeper and Sun J.M. Maintenance N.V.

Kiri and Vanessa hope to return with Ocean Fest II and incorporate windsurfing, fishing and more information about the nature of Bonaire.

Julie Morgan

RRFB has much needed lab

Through a partnership with SECORE International in 2019, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) expanded their coral restoration to include coral breeding (larval propagation). By working together, along with FUNDEMAR (Fundacion Dominicana de Estudios Marinos), they are working together to test technologies with solutions that can make the coral breeding process more efficient. So when coral is known to spawn, the spawn is captured and fertilized. The coral larvae are grown and then released to the ocean in hopes the larvae will land on the reef, settle and grow.

In 2023 a floating nursery was used to grow the young coral larvae but what RRFB really needed was a real laboratory. In a makeshift lab in May 2025, RRFB found major success after a coral spawn and produced 236,000 brain coral larvae. And in August the same year, the team delivered a historic first by successfully collecting spawn from Bonaire's critically endangered pillar coral, which they fertilized in a temporary lab and released to the reef.



The Coral Lab techs, L-R: Joel Betteridge, Alex van der last, Shucainel Everts and Ernst Noyans. Photo Julie Morgan



Ernst Noyans observes one of the tanks with coral larvae and seeding stars Photo Julie Morgan

This last May, RRFB had yet another exciting first in collecting sperm and egg from 20 colonies of grooved brain coral. This coral is one of the most important reef building species in the Caribbean but unfortunately, it was possibly the hardest hit by bleaching and SCTLD (stony coral tissue disease). But the most exciting news is the fertilization process for the brain coral spawn was done in RRFB's new Coral Lab and that resulted in more than 560,000 coral larvae.

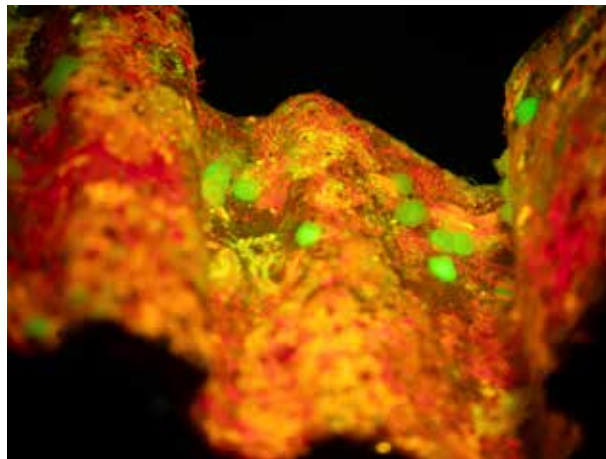
During a spawning event last week, RRFB collected eggs and sperm from boulder brain, staghorn and lobed star coral. The spawn was "mated" in the new lab and are now growing there under monitored conditions.

To create the best growing environment in a lab for the coral larvae, the cleanest water is necessary, free from any sand, sediment, algae, unknown critters or diseases. The smallest mesh netting coupled with UV sterilizers are used to leave out anything that could hinder the growth of the larvae. A loop of pipes encircles the inside of the lab with ocean water that is constantly being refreshed and cleaned from a large tank outside the lab.

The newly fertilized spawn is put in labeled for species separate specialized conical tubs, and once the lar-



Testing the water samples Photo Julie Morgan



Larvae attached and growing to the seeding stars Photo Reef Renewal

Reef Renewal to page 16

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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/beachtennisbonaire/>

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 Pabou, Skandelchi Street z/n Info: manon@culturalplatform.com or call +599 7708437

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/ymhannisarepas/>

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 pp

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; Guests 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. Sept. 21 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; Email: nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mantatrust.org)



Reef Renewal Bonaire. Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. Questions? email: info@reefrenwalbonaire.org



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/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

What's Happening

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.
Aug. 8 - Dec. 1	Tene Pia Seku, Terramar Museum. From shore life and youth perspectives to deep cultural reflection, this exhibition looks at environmental change through the lens of community resilience and care. The exhibit brings together international documentary photography and research with our local contemporary art, historical perspectives and community knowledge.
Saturday, Sept. 16	Prinsjesdag Update 2026 - Language Dutch. Chamber of Commerce Bonaire updates entrepreneurs about the most important tax changes for the BES islands. In collaboration with HBN Law & Tax Bonaire. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Update. 6:30 – 8 p.m. Network drinks. Register: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/5rw3zbfYky
Saturday, Sept. 19	TCB's Kids Scavenger Hunt - Free. Ages 8 - 12 in groups of five accompanied by an adult. Registration deadline Friday, Sept. 11. For more information, please contact Angelo Domacasse at 717–8322. Bonaire Caribbean Flavor Festival - Food and music at Grand Windsock Ocean Club. Entrance Fee \$25. Different dishes are available during the evening for 1 to 3 coins (A consumption coin costs \$5). https://grandwindsockoceanclub.com/bonaire-flavor-festival-2026/
Sunday, Sept. 20	Next Step KLM Nature Walk & Hike Bonaire, 3rd edition. \$20. Register via https://www.facebook.com/61560323968534/posts/registration-is-now-open-mark-your-calendarsregistration-for-the-3rd-klm-nature-/122219093636344132/
Tuesday, Sept. 22	Workshop for fishermen and fish re-sellers. Free. 6 p.m. at Piscabon, Kaya Nikiboko Noord 2. Those who wish may also attend five more sessions. (see page 16) https://www.facebook.com/piskabon/?locale=nl_NL
Sept. 24 - 30	Library Link-up for Teens (see page 15)
Sept. 24	Game Night — 6 - 8 p.m. Board games, an exciting Escape Game & PlayStation gaming competition.
Sept. 25	Makerspace Festival — 6 - 9 p.m. Discover & create: Silent Disco, fluor painting, VR experience, Nintendo Switch, podcast studio & 3D pen challenge.
Sept. 26	Film & Chill — 6 - 10 p.m. A hilarious movie night, including real movie snacks: pizza, hot dogs and popcorn.
Sept. 30	Ki bo sa dje koi? – Your Feed. Your Choice. — 3–4:30 p.m. An interactive session on AI, algorithms, cyberbullying and social media, in collaboration with Aksebo. How do you decide what you see — and what it does to you?
Sept. 24 - Oct. 8	Bonaire Culinary Week – Fall Edition Use this 15-day event to discover the wide variety of restaurants Bonaire has to offer. Bonaire's culinary hotspots have created a 3-course lunch and dinner menus at special prices. https://www.bonaireculinaryweek.com
Saturday, Sept. 26	Nos Zjilea Cultural Event - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink Taste of Bonaire (Tourism Edition) Isidel Park. Starts 6 p.m. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
Sunday, Sept. 27	Two mountain bike races. For partners: Duo Xtreme, Two lengths, Elite 75km & Pro 55km For single riders: Fun race 35km https://www.facebook.com/Bonairextreme/ Alzheimer Awareness Walk. Along Cargill and the Witte Slavenhuisjes. 6 a.m. start at Cargill. \$10. Info & registration: Brandaris Cafe: 717-4596 • Rosalia: 786-4627 • Piar: 701-7335 • Castillo: 770-3498
Friday & Saturday Oct. 2-3	Piskabon's yearly fishing tournament. Free. Park Tului Register Oct. 2. Fish on Oct. 3.
Oct. 11 - Oct. 16	Bonaire International Sailing Regatta
Sunday, Oct. 11	Swim to Klein Bonaire \$30 to support Jong Bonaire. Register by Oct. 9 https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/jL4sf1xzBi?origin=lpLink
Wednesday, Oct. 14	42nd Regatta Loop Comcabon: 5 km run \$10 (16 Year +); 2 km kids run FREE (8-15 years) 5:30 p.m Start Stadion Playa; Finish Karel's Beach Bar. https://patrishisports.com/events/42nd-Regatta-Loop-2026



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/
Sunday, September 9 (October changed to the 18th at Boka Onima 4-6 p.m.)	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
Saturday, Sept. 26	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.
Saturday, October 24	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/

'From Tower to Tower'

Chantiwawa organizes 50-kilometer hike

The hiking group Chantiwawa is organizing a 50-kilometer long-distance hike on Sunday, December 6. We are announcing the event three months in advance to allow participants ample time to prepare, as it is a challenging trek.

The hike begins at 4 a.m. on the 6th, at the Willemstoren—also known as “Torno di Sùit” (Southern Tower)—and concludes at the Malmok Tower in Washington National Park. Malmok Tower is a historic lighthouse that never actually became operational.

We estimate that the first hikers will reach the finish line between 1 and 2 p.m. Along the route, Chantiwawa and INDEBON will provide water, fruit, and soup for the hikers taking on this challenge.

This is not the first time this hike has been organized; it was previously held some 20 to 25 years ago. At that time, however, different routes were used — specifically via Slagbaai and via the Playa Frans-Slagbaai path.

Those interested can sign up over the coming weeks via WhatsApp at +599-7005964. Early registration is recommended, as the hike is limited to 100 participants. The registration fee is \$20.

Chantiwawa is a group of adventurous hikers established under the auspices of FuHiKuBo (Foundation for the Historical and Cultural Heritage of Bonaire). In addition to consulting INDEBON for assistance and advice, Chantiwawa also coordinated with STINAPA, as the final leg of the route passes through the park.

LINK UP!

A week full of new experiences and new friends for young people in the library

Does your teenager feel like discovering something new? From 24 to 30 September, Biblioteka Públiko Boneiru organizes LINK UP!, a week full of free activities for young people from 12 to 18 years old. The slogan says it all: Meet. Create. Belong. Gaming, virtual reality, a movie night and an interactive social media session — there's something for every teenager to explore.

At LINK UP! Young people try out new things, discover what they are good at and get to know other young people in a relaxed way. Knowing no one is no problem: everyone is welcome and everyone belongs.

What's on the program?

Game Night — Sept. 24. 6-8 p.m. An evening full of board games, an exciting Escape Game and PlayStation gaming competition.

Makerspace Festival — Sept. 25. 6-9 p.m. Discover and create: Silent Disco, fluor painting, VR experience, Nintendo Switch, podcast studio and a 3D pen challenge.

Film & Chill — 26 Sept. 26. 6-10 p.m. A hilarious movie night, including real movie snacks: pizza, hot dogs and popcorn.

Ki bo sa dje koi? — Your Feed. Your Choice. — Sept. 30 | 3-4:30 hrs An interactive session on AI, algorithms, cyberbullying and social media, in collaboration with Akseso. How do you decide what you see — and what it does to you?

Bonaire Culinary Week Returns

Discover Bonaire's Finest Flavors Sept. 24 - Oct. 8

Food lovers, culinary explorers and visitors alike are invited to experience the very best of Bonaire's vibrant dining scene during the Bonaire Culinary Week Fall Edition, taking place from Thursday, September 24th through Thursday, October 8th.

As a well-established event held twice a year, this 15-day culinary celebration brings together more than 20 of Bonaire's favorite restaurants, cafés, bakeries and culinary hotspots. Each participating venue has created an exclusive menu or signature special especially for Bonaire Culinary Week, offering guests the perfect opportunity to discover new flavors while revisiting familiar favorites.

Besides enjoying exclusive Culinary Week specials, guests will once again have the opportunity

to win fantastic prizes. By simply scanning the QR code available at participating locations and leaving a short review, visitors will automatically be entered into the prize draw. This year's prizes include: 5-Course Chef's Dinner for 2 at Joe's Restaurant, Gift Card from At Sea, Charcuterie Platter for 2 from Wines & More, Breakfast for 2 at Flora, BBQ Dinner for 2 at Rum Runners, Pitcher of Sangria at Bon Tapa.

For more information and the participating restaurants, visit: www.bonaireculinaryweek.com

Stay up to date through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireCulinaryOfficialPage>

Reservations are highly recommended, as availability is limited during Bonaire Culinary Week.
Bonaire Culinary press release

Coming Up	
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Classical concert for piano and violin. Corallium Hotel \$40 incl. intermission drink https://www.facebook.com/ClassicalMusicBoardBonaire/
Sunday, Oct. 25	Animal Shelter Bonaire Halloween Market 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Secondhand treasure, jewelry, comfort foods, spooky snacks and everything you need for your furry friends and you to celebrate the fun, ghoulish Halloween holiday. And if you are brave enough, a Haunted House with Doctor Fluff's veterinarian clinic and her assistant Miss Purr.
Nov. 28-29	Kaminda di Arte. Open Art Studio Weekend. Artists open their studios to the public. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. https://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com/kaminda-di-arte
Get in shape now for... Sunday, Dec. 6	'From Tower to Tower' Chantiwawa organizes a 50-kilometer hike from Willemstoren (Torno di Sùit / Southern Tower) to Malmok Tower. Sign up via WhatsApp at +599-700-5964. Limited to 100 participants. Registration fee is \$20.

2026 Cruise Ship Schedule			
DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. September 16	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. September 17	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	North
Wed. September 23	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Thurs. September 24	0800-1600	CARNIVAL GLORY 3540 guests	South
Wed. September 30	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 1	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Tues. October 13	1400-2200	CARNIVAL VENEZIA 5260 guests	South
Wed. October 14	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 15	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South
Wed. October 21	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Sat. October 24	0800-1800	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS 3622 guests	South
Sun. October 25	0700-1800	MSC POESIA 3013 guests	North
Mon. October 26	0700-1800	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Wed. October 28	0600-1800	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. October 29	0600-1800	CARNIVAL GLORY 3540 guests	South
Fri. October 30	0600-1800	CELEBRITY REFLECTION 3046 guests	South

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

You might want to visit ...

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://terramarmuseum.org>

Each month: **Family Saturday**, Pay a “family” fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. 10 - 12 noon. Register via terramarmuseum@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. 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-Thur 8-4. Fri 8-12 noon. Sat & Sun Closed +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

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

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

**September is the best month
for coral spawning**

The biggest coral spawning month of the year is here and CARMABI'S 2026 Coral Spawning Predictions for 2026 are available. Check the calendar and plan your dives or snorkels to witness some of the most amazing events in nature.

Bonaire is always considered a hot spot, so enjoy. And if you are a photographer/videographer you may capture some of your best images ever.

Visit the Reporter extra pages online or download the predictions at: <https://www.researchstationcarmabi.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-CARMABI-Coral-Spawning-Predictions-for-the-Southern-Caribbean-FINAL.pdf>

News from Piskabon

Thanks to financing from OLB, Piskabon is holding a **free workshop for fishermen and merkadera's (fish re-sellers) on Tuesday, September 22**, 6 p.m. at Piskabon, Kaya Niki-boko Noorde2. The workshop will be taught by Federashon Kooperativanan Uni di Produksjon (FKUP) from Curaçao along with some local Bonaire experts. Everyone interested is welcome to join the first day, without having to commit to the five following days. Several topics will be covered including, personal development and training, fishing for the present and the future, hygiene and fish quality and safety at sea.

Piskabon's yearly fishing tournament is scheduled for October 2-3, with home base at Parke Tului. Entry is free for all local fishermen and non-Piskabon members are welcome to participate. The captain's meeting will be on October 2nd at Parke Tului. Captains may register from 6 – 7 p.m., if not before, with the meeting at 7 p.m. The tournament is Saturday, October 3, with fish weigh-in from 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Prizes will be awarded at 4 p.m. with a Happy Hour ending at 6 p.m.

Piskabon is preparing for the **79th Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference in sister island Curaçao, November 2 – 6**. <https://www.gcfi.org/gcfi79/>

During the conference, a field trip to Bonaire on November 4 has been organized for attendees, thanks to financing from OLB and TCB and sponsorship from STINAPA, HYPE Events, Fiesta Tours, Rent-O-Fun, Mangrove Maniacs and support of Bonhata. *Nancy Persad*

FUNDING**A new interdisciplinary grant**

A new interdisciplinary grant for artists and cultural organizations has been published on rijkscultuurfondsen.org.

The funding is for professional artists and cultural organizations that integrate multiple artistic disciplines in their work. Are you an artist whose practice is not confined to a single discipline? Or are you an organisation seeking funding for a project that integrates different disciplines? You may be eligible for the Interdisciplinary grant. The submission deadline is October 1, 2026.

Renovation of private historic residences.

From Sept. 1st to 30th private owners can apply for a subsidy for the restoration of their monumental residences. The preservation costs eligible for subsidy must exceed US\$ 25,000 and are subsidised up to US\$100,000. Monuments (historical buildings older than 50 years) without protected status are also eligible. The buildings must be important due to their beauty, artistic value, or historical meaning.

See:

<https://www.cultureelerfgoed.nl/onderwerpen/s/subsidieregeling-monumenten-caribisch-nederland>

PUBLIC SERVICE

**Children's Ombudsman
in Bonaire Sept. 14 -18.**

An important topic during the visit is education on Bonaire. In early July, the Children's Ombudsman sent a letter to the State Secretary for Education and Emancipation, in which she expressed her concerns regarding the shortage of primary school places on Bonaire. Last school year, we received various complaints and reports regarding this. At that time, a group of children could not attend school because there was no place for them.

**Want to change your house doctor?
The Fall switch date is October 1.**

ZJCN allows Bonaire residents to change the general practitioner they are registered with twice a year, on April 1st and October 1st.

The steps: Before you change, confirm that the new doctor's office has space to accept you as a new patient. Then complete a registration/change form available via <https://english.zorgenjeugdncn.nl/healthcare/practical-information-and-forms/change-your-gp> and submit it to their office. Remember to inform both your old and your new doctor about the transition so your medical records can be transferred correctly.

**A VHF exam will be held on Bonaire
Wednesday, October 14, 2026.**

To take the exam for the Basic Mariphony Certificate send an email to the National Inspectorate of Digital Infrastructure (RDI) via: bes@rdi.nl. In the email, include the keyword "Radio-examens" and state your name, address, email address, and telephone number. You can register until September 23, 2026 at the latest. Cost \$28.

<https://www.rijksdienstcn.com/economie-klimaat/rdi/examen-doen>
Call (+599) 717-3140 or visit the office at Kaya Grandi 69.

A BONAIREAN FANTASY

With a few hints for futuristic readers ...



Arich Anpin, the "Infinitely Patient One" is the operative Divine Will that governs the universe.

M. Bijkerk has made available online his free e-book, "A BONAIREAN FANTASY." Written in English, the book can be read from the website, or the pdf-file can be downloaded.

<https://www.arcocarib.com/ebooks/bonairean-fantasy/>

RRFB has much needed lab from page 13

vae start swimming, a small amount are scooped out and counted to estimate the total amount. The different coral larvae species are then placed in separate open tanks with 3-D ceramic substrates, designed by SECORE International, the seeding stars provide an optimal place for coral larvae to settle.

RRFB Director of Operations Ernst Noyans explained that the larvae attach to the grooves in the stars as the aerated water circulates through the tank. In addition, there are mini water sprinklers on the surface of the water that mimic the ocean, but not too much movement as the larvae are smaller than a grain of sand at this point and very delicate.

The water is constantly being tested for PH, temperature and salinity in addition to tests for alkalinity, calcium, nitrates, phosphates and ammonia.

"We are learning a lot every time we do this, making improvements each time by trial and error. The larvae will stay in here, short term for now. But in the future, we'll be doing long time holding," said Ernst.

Outside the Coral Lab, large 369-gallon tanks are being readied for coral fragment growth, which has always been done in the ocean on the familiar trees we see at many dive sites.

Ernst said, "What we do in the water we want to replicate on land, taking advantage of the controlled environmental conditions. A lot of people are moving to land, growing the fragments in land facilities. Everything produced via coral breeding is a unique individual, which brings greater diversity and strength to the reef. I only see possibilities for the future by collaborating with other labs and researchers that want to do studies. We're all trying to get the best possible results."

RRFB's new lab was a long time coming and necessary to increase the development quality of this technology to propagate coral and help our vulnerable coral reefs recover, adapt and thrive. If you are interested in helping contact RRFB to volunteer and donate.

You might just feel like one of the lab technicians who said, "I feel like I'm saving the world."

*Story and Lab photos Julie Morgan
Larvae Photo Reef Renewal*



A Garden? Just Do It! -Expanding your taste by Angliet, Nature Lover

I often give away plants that are abundant in my garden. They are usually vegetables that sprout spontaneously because they can easily thrive in this climate. When giving them away, I explain how to care for the plant, what its nutritional value is and how to prepare it as a vegetable.

Usually, these plants require little care, and you get a lot of them once the seeds have spread throughout the garden. One of these plants is purslane. The species has four flower colors: the purple, pink, yellow and salmon varieties. People like the plant because it grows so easily and is ornamental with its many small flowers. But strangely enough, people do not dare to consume the plant; even those who know it is edible do not touch it. They give various reasons: It tastes a bit bitter and has a strange texture. It is a bit slimy (just like spinach, to which it is related). Like most leafy greens, it can be stir-fried, incorporated into mashed potatoes or omelets, or added to salads.

It is strange that people see so many negatives because purslane is a vegetable that was widely used in the past. Likewise, this is the case with bembé, kalaloe, cactus, etc - all edible plants that are very healthy and grow easily here, but are no longer consumed. I started thinking about the reason. One of the points people raise is that they don't like the taste. And why is that? Well, because the modern food industry has focused on a limited number of flavors, we no longer like the other flavors. We have simply become accustomed to sweet, savory, and sour. We don't like other flavors, such as bitterness or a strange texture. And in our modern eating habits, we only eat what we find "tasty," and the choice often does not lean towards what is healthy.

Do we often throw away edible seeds from fruit, and do we not like eating fruits with seeds, such as apple-dam or kenepa/pomegranate?

The bitter taste has completely disappeared from our food. By manipulating crops and fruit, our current diet is seedless (such as mandarins), everything is the same size, has the same taste and comes in the desired color,



in order to present it as beautifully as possible. Through biological crossbreeding and genetic manipulation many essential nutrients are lost, as well as the true nature of the crops. So, for example, tomatoes no longer taste as sour as they originally did.

Commercial grapefruit no longer tastes as bitter as a grapefruit from an old tree in a traditional garden. And pumpkins in the store are all equally orange inside, whereas that is not the case when you grow them in your own vegetable garden. It is a shame that we let so much good, high-quality food go to waste because we are no longer accustomed to eating purely natural foods; and only sweet and savory can make us happy.

We are spoiled with beautiful, flawless-looking vegetables and fruit. In the trade, they look perfect, but in reality, in nature, that is not the case. The Kalaloe plant

in my garden is always somewhat nibbled by lizards, the pomegranate is slightly damaged by birds, and woodlice often feed on the cherry and eggplant plants. And yet, it is many times healthier to eat what is supplied purely by nature, as the nutritional value of pure nature is many times higher than that of manipulated food.

Unfortunately, we have become estranged from what is called pure food. And people no longer want to eat purslane and kalaloe, nor make tamarind syrup for corn porridge because it is too sour. They find that bembé takes too much time to clean and there are too few wandu beans to do anything with them.

But what if a global crisis makes the transport of food impossible? And isn't it already the case that food is very expensive and we would be better off eating something from our own garden? Vegetables that grow easily are essentially loving gifts from nature. Fruit hanging on the trees are abundant and valuable because they are unsprayed, ripened by the sun, and have undergone no loss of nutrients. They are directly from the tree to your plate and certainly very important: we save money.

Now get started with the "forgotten" vegetables. Scatter some seeds of purslane, kalaloe, wandu beans, bembé, papaya, shimaruku, pomegranate, etc. in the garden and let nature spoil you.

If you have overly high expectations, look with curiosity at what grows, you will certainly see many good things happen.

Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she trained as a teacher, then in Alternative Healing. Returning to the Caribbean, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



Creating Optimal Health by Irene da Cunda Costa

Romantic Love: origins, purpose, benefits, and social consequences

Romantic love as an irresistible emotional force that promises fulfillment, identity and lifelong happiness is a cultural construction built on selective truths and powerful illusions. The "deception" of romantic love is not necessarily malicious; rather, it's a culturally reinforced narrative that often obscures the complexity of human relationships.

The origins of romantic love can be traced to medieval European courtly traditions. Troubadour poetry celebrated longing, unattainable affection, and the ennobling power of desire. These stories were less about marriage and more about emotional intensity. Over time, this notion merged with religious symbolism, literary romanticism and later, enlightenment ideas about individual rights and personal choice. By the nineteenth century, the belief that marriage should be based primarily on romantic passion, rather than duty, alliance or economic need, had become widespread in Western societies. This shift was radical: it replaced collective, family-oriented decision-making with personal emotional fulfillment as the foundation of partnership.

From an evolutionary and social perspective, the purpose of romantic love may be more pragmatic than poetic. Biologically, strong attachments support bonding long enough for partners to cooperate in raising off-

spring, increasing survival odds. Socially, the romantic ideal helps stabilize pair bonds by framing commitment as destiny rather than obligation. It encourages individuals to invest emotionally and materially in one partner, which can reduce conflict within communities and create predictable family structures.

The benefits of the romantic-love narrative are easy to recognize. It gives people a language for intimacy and longing. It inspires art, music and literature. It allows individuals to imagine lives built around emotional choice rather than imposed arrangements. For many, believing in romantic love provides comfort, hope and a sense of meaning. The idea that one might find someone perfectly attuned to one's needs can be psychologically uplifting and can motivate people to cultivate empathy, vulnerability and deep companionship.

Yet the downsides are equally profound. The deception lies in how romantic love is often idealized as effortless, predestined or all-consuming, an expectation impossible to sustain. When reality diverges from the myth, as it inevitably does, people may feel betrayed or defective. The belief that a partner should intuitively fulfill emotional needs can create unrealistic demands, placing immense strain on relationships. Moreover, romantic love frequently gets confused with infatuation. When the initial dopamine-fueled intensity fades, many interpret the shift as failure rather than evolution, leading to cycles of disappointment, heartbreak or serial re-

lationship-hopping in search of a perpetual "spark."

On a societal level, the romantic love myth can cause significant harm. It narrows the definition of valid relationships, often dismissing friendships, communal bonds, and chosen families as secondary or inferior. It can trap individuals in unhealthy relationships if they believe that suffering is a sign of "passion" or that love must conquer all obstacles. The ideal also reinforces consumerism: industries from weddings to advertising rely on selling the promise of perfect romance. Additionally, romantic love as an ultimate life goal can marginalize those who prefer independence, nontraditional arrangements, or a life centered on purpose rather than partnership.

Ultimately, the deception of romantic love is not that love is false, but that one particular script has been elevated above all others. Recognizing its cultural origins and limitations does not diminish love's value. Instead, it frees us to build relationships based on reality, mutual respect, and adaptability, rather than on myths that cannot bear their own weight.



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

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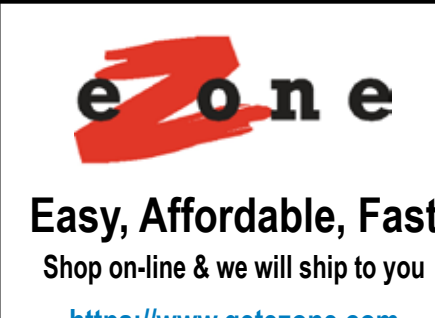
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Pets of the Week

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



Valentino

Hello, my name is Valentino. And i am now five years and six months. I came to the shelter as a tiny kitten with my siblings in 2021. And after spending three years in the shelter I finally got

adopted with my dog sister Jodie. After two years our family decided to move off the island, and placed us in a pet hotel so we could join later. But later never came. Our family moved on, and told the pet hotel to return us to the shelter. So now my dog sister Jodie and I are once again residents of the shelter. The place where we thought we'd never return. I am a big boy but I am very calm, love to cuddle and prefer to lounge around. Now Jodie and I are hoping this time we can find a home where we can stay. Come meet me at the cat palace, and to meet my sister Jodie ask the staff.

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

I'm a sweet five year old girl named Jodie. Unfortunately, I share the same story as my cat brother Valentino, and was taken to the shelter once before. I have known what it's like to be part of a family with all the love and the happiness, but I have also experienced the emptiness in my heart. But despite it all, I still love, trust and have hope to find my forever home, where I will be loved, wanted and stay a part of a family.

I'm a very gentle girl, I'm good with other dogs, and of course



Jodie

cats. I like small children too, so basically I'm the perfect family dog. Please come and see me, and take me home.

Story / Photo: Sanne Attevelt



Sietske van Hoef (L) won gold and Sandra Villamizar (R) won bronze

Photo Team Bonaire Pickleball

Team Bonaire wins gold and bronze at Pickleball World Cup

Team Bonaire returned from the Pickleball World Cup 2026 in Da Nang, Vietnam with two medals following strong performances in the individual events.

Sietske van Hoef won gold in the Women's Singles 3.5 All Ages category, while **Sandra Villamizar** secured bronze in the Women's Singles 4.0 50+ category.

The medals are an achievement for the entire Bonaire delegation. Throughout the tournament, the players supported and encouraged each other on and off the court, representing Bonaire together as one team.

The results mark an important milestone for Bonaire pickleball and demonstrate the progress the sport continues to make on the international stage.

One gold, one bronze, one Team Bonaire.

A Halloween Market

Animal Shelter Bonaire is holding a Halloween Market on October 25 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

There will be a variety of stands featuring lots of goodies from secondhand treasure, to jewelry, comfort foods, spooky snacks and everything you need for your furry friends and you celebrate the fun, ghoulish Halloween holiday.

And if you are brave enough, tickets will be available for a unique Animal Shelter Haunted House with Doctor Fluff's veterinarian clinic and her assistant Miss Purr. More information on this first time attraction is coming soon.



Burger with stuffed portobello by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

Burger: 1 Italian Roll • 1 portobello mushroom • 1 burrata (fresh Italian cheese) • 1 slice of cheddar cheese • 1 lettuce leaf • 1 slice of fried bacon • 1/2 tablespoon grated Parmesan • 1/2 shallot, chopped • 1 sprig of parsley, chopped • Oil

Scoop some out of the inside of the portobello with a spoon and chop it, but not too finely. Sauté shallot, garlic and chopped inside of the Portobello briefly in a small frying pan, add parsley and Parmesan, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Now briefly fry the portobello on all sides in some oil, and season to taste.

Fill the lightly browned Portobello with the fried mixture and the burrata, and place the slice of cheddar cheese on top. Bake for about 5 minutes in an oven at 180°C (356°F) until thoroughly heated. Cut the Italian fried roll in half and spread it with some mayonnaise or truffle sauce if desired. Now make a nice burger out of it with the lettuce,

fried bacon, the portobello, and the mango-tomato salsa.

Mango/tomato salsa: 1 tablespoon fresh mango cubes • 1 tomato, flesh only, diced • 1/2 shallot • 1 clove of garlic, chopped • 2 sprigs of coriander, finely chopped • 1/3 red chili pepper, finely diced • A splash of lemon juice • Pepper & Bonaire sea salt

Mix all ingredients and let them soak in nicely. Serve with the burger.

(To make this vegetarian, just omit the bacon or use vegetarian or vegan bacon)

A portobello is essentially an overgrown mushroom: larger, firmer, and with a more powerful, earthy umami flavor. This makes it very versatile: grilling, frying, stuffing, roasting, or as a meat substitute in a burger.

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.



What a catch



"He was eating our reef fish, so we made burgers for dinner," said Alejandra Rosa of Lionfish Patrol. Alejandra and Javier are avid lionfishers on Bonaire. They are record holders on Lionfish.co for capturing a 48 cm, 1.2kg lionfish in 2024 and they have won several of STINAPA's lionfish hunts for the biggest and smallest specimens.

While preparing to clean this one, they found the fish's last meal which illustrates how detrimental these invaders to Caribbean waters are. Invasive lionfish can consume up to 5000 reef fish per year. Hunting of these voracious fish is encouraged by STINAPA as long as you are a resident on Bonaire, hold

a lionfish hunting certificate and use an ELF (Eradicate Lionfish Tool) to kill them.

If you are a Bonaire resident and interested in becoming a certified lionfish hunter, contact STINAPA for more information. Several local dive shops teach the course including: Private Divers, VIP Divers, AB Divers and more.

Alejandra and Javier Rosa, originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina split their time living part time in Argentina and the other half hunting and trying to rid Bonaire waters for lionfish.

Julie Morgan
Photo Alejandra Rosa



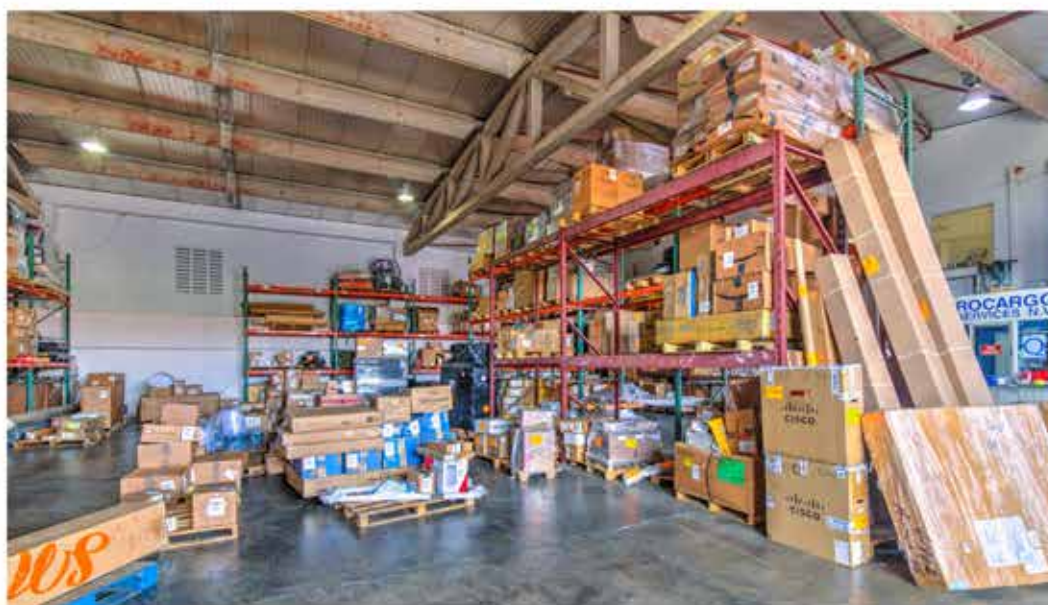
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Male *Montastraea cavernosa* polyps spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Dear spawning community: Whew! Disease and bleaching continued to stress our region throughout 2025. Spawning looks different than it did just a few years ago. Overall, corals on remote, protected, and healthier reefs are continuing to spawn "on time" on their predicted dates and times. Corals in urban, stressed, overfished, and polluted sites are spawning more sparsely, if at all, but they are still generally "on time" when they do spawn. If your joy, your job, or your photo album depend on coral spawning, we suggest seeking out the densest populations you can access, and diving a few extra nights to be sure you find what you're after. Also pay close attention to late August and late September, when the full moons occur just after midnight. Corals will "feel" the full moon a night early - we suggest starting dives one to two nights earlier than usual to catch them. Wishing a prolific spawn to all!

Aug-Sept Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)		Common Name	SUNSET	6:48 PM	6:47 PM	6:47 PM	6:46 PM	6:45 PM	6:45 PM	6:44 PM	6:43 PM	6:43 PM	6:42 PM	6:42 PM	6:41 PM	6:40 PM	6:39 PM	
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral	*The full moon is VERY early on Aug 28: Start monitoring on the orange dates!														5:46–7:06 PM		
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							7:01–10:31 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)										
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral								7:09–8:39 PM									
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral									8:00–11:15 PM								
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral										7:14–8:14 PM (Peak in first 30 min)							
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral				8:28–9:38 PM													
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral					8:13–9:28 PM (Known to spawn from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: please help us explore this window!)												
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral									9:25–11:00 PM								
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral							9:08–9:58 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Aug 26: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)										
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral					9:18–9:58 PM (As early as Aug 26)												
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral									9:50–10:55 PM								
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral									9:50–11:00 PM								
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							10:00–11:25 PM										
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral										10:04–11:14 PM							



Orbicella polyps setting/staging gamete bundles before spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Sept-Oct Corals

		26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct
		SUNSET	6:29 PM	6:28 PM	6:27 PM	6:27 PM	6:26 PM	6:25 PM	6:25 PM	6:24 PM	6:23 PM	6:23 PM	6:22 PM	6:21 PM	6:20 PM
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name														
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral											5:28–6:48 PM			
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral														
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral					6:42–10:12 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)									
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral	*The full moon is VERY early on Sept 26: Start monitoring on the orange dates!						6:50–8:20 PM							
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral									6:55–7:55 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)					
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral									7:40–10:55 PM					
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral									7:56–8:56 PM					
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral			7:59–9:09 PM											
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral					7:54–9:09 PM (Expected nightly from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: new observations are encouraged!)									
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (140–190 MAS)	Elkhorn Coral	8:49–9:39 PM (Spawning is possible as early as Sept 24: this species varies its spawning dates in our region)													
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (150–190 MAS)	Staghorn Coral					8:59–9:39 PM (As early as									
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral										9:07–10:42 PM				
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral							9:31–10:36 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral							9:31–10:41 PM							
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral					9:41–11:06 PM									
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral										9:55–10:40 PM				
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral										9:45–10:55 PM				
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral					all night									
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral					all night									

Oct-Nov Corals

		26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov		
		SUNSET	6:12 PM	6:11 PM	6:11 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM		
Scientific name (and spawning window)	Common Name																
<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i> (70 MBS–10 MAS)	Grooved Brain Coral											5:00–6:20 PM					
<i>Meandrina meandrites</i> (10–70 MAS)	Maze Coral						6:20–7:20 PM (Expected nightly until at least Oct 26: new observations are										
<i>Montastraea cavernosa</i> (15–225 MAS)	Great Star Coral							6:25–9:55 PM (Peaks in first 90 min)									
<i>Colpophyllia natans</i> (25–115 MAS)	Boulder Brain Coral						6:34–8:04 PM										
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Early group 30–90 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral											6:39–7:39 PM (Peaks in first 30 min)					
<i>Eusmilia fastigiata</i> (75–270 MAS)	Smooth Flower Coral									7:25–10:40 PM							
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella franksi</i> (90–150 MAS)	Boulder Star Coral								7:40–8:40 PM								
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i> (90–160 MAS)	Pillar Coral	7:42–8:52 PM															
<i>Dichocoenia stokesii</i> (85–160 MAS)	Pineapple Coral				7:37–8:52 PM (Expected nightly from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: new observations are encouraged!)												
<i>Stephanocoenia intersepta</i> (160–255 MAS)	Blushing Star Coral							8:50–10:25 PM									
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella annularis</i> (185–250 MAS)	Lobed/Boulder Star Coral								9:15–10:20 PM								
<i>Montastraea/Orbicella faveolata</i> (185–255 MAS)	Mountainous Star Coral								9:15–10:25 PM								
<i>Siderastrea siderea</i> (195–280 MAS)	Massive Starlet Coral							9:25–10:50 PM									
<i>Pseudodiploria clivosa</i> (210–255 MAS)	Knobby Brain Coral								9:39–10:24 PM								
<i>Pseudodiploria strigosa</i> (Late group 200–270 MAS)	Symmetrical Brain Coral											9:29–10:39 PM					
<i>Madracis senaria</i> (All night)	Ten-Ray Star Coral							all night									
<i>Agaricia humilis/Agaricia agaricites</i> (All night)	Lettuce Coral							all night									

2026

Coral Spawning Predictions for the Southern Caribbean

Eusmilia fastigiata with eggs visible in tentacles before spawning (Photo: Mark Vermeij)

Late Nov Corals

Scientific name (and spawning window)

Common Name

Meandrina meandrites (10–70 MAS)

Maze Coral

Eusmilia fastigiata (75–270 MAS)

Smooth Flower Coral

Dichocoenia stokesii (85–160 MAS)

Pineapple Coral

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	Tue 24-Nov	Wed 25-Nov	Thu 26-Nov	Fri 27-Nov	Sat 28-Nov	Sun 29-Nov	Mon 30-Nov	Tue 1-Dec	Wed 2-Dec	Thu 3-Dec	Fri 4-Dec	Sat 5-Dec	Sun 6-Dec	Mon 7-Dec
SUNSET	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:07 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:08 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:09 PM	6:10 PM	6:10 PM
6:18–7:18 PM (Expected nightly through early Dec)														
7:23–10:38 PM														
7:32–8:47 PM (Known to spawn from mid-Sept to mid-Nov: please help us explore their late season spawning!)														

Fall Sponges, Brittle Stars, Gorgognians, and More

Scientific name (and spawning window)

Common Name

Holothuria mexicana

Donkeydung Sea Cucumber

Hermodice carunculata

Fire Worm

Diadema antillarum

Long-Spined Sea Urchin

Neofibularia nolitangere

Touch-Me-Not Sponge

Plexaura, Pseudoplexaura, Eunicia

Sea Rods

Plexaura homomalla

Black Sea Rod

Ophiuroidea

Brittle Sea Star/Serpent Star

Pseudopterogorgia spp.

Sea Plume

Spirobranchus giganteus

Christmas Tree Worm

NAFM	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
DATE	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	1-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep	4-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep	7-Sep	8-Sep	9-Sep	10-Sep
	26-Sep	27-Sep	28-Sep	29-Sep	30-Sep	1-Oct	2-Oct	3-Oct	4-Oct	5-Oct	6-Oct	7-Oct	8-Oct	9-Oct
	26-Oct	27-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct	30-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov	2-Nov	3-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov	6-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov
12:00–6:00 PM														
12:00–7:00 PM														
12:00–9:00 PM														
2:00–7:00 PM														
starting at 7:00 PM														
7:00–11:00 PM														
7:30–11:00 PM														
8:00–11:00 PM														
9:00–11:30 PM														

Abbreviations & Colors

NAFM: Nights After the Full Moon

MBS: Minutes Before Sunset

MAS: Minutes After Sunset

Pale yellow: Spawning may be possible but data are sparse:

Please help by diving on these dates

CARMABI orange: Spawning is possible:

Spawning has been observed on these dates

Red: Spawning is likely:

Spawning is often observed on these dates

Dark purple: Spawning is very likely:

Spawning is reliably observed on these dates

Times are shown using a 12h clock (AM/PM)

Colors are distinct for grayscale/CVD



Tips for Success

- Spawning is never guaranteed in a changing climate: When in doubt, dive!
- Our predictions span the known range of spawning times without an added buffer; be sure to enter the water before the predicted spawning time.
- Dive at sites with high coral cover.
- Make multiple dives on multiple nights.
- Dive shallower than 50' to maximize time.
- Use a moderately bright dive light.
- Scan the water for clouds of spawn:
 - Spawn from most brain, star, elkhorn, and staghorn corals looks like snow, confetti, or polka dots.
 - Spawn from starlet, pillar, maze, and pineapple corals (and male great star corals) looks like puffs of smoke or sprays of fine sand.
 - Spawn from female great star corals looks like chunky vomit (hooray!)
- Spawning depends on local sunset times; to adjust dives based on your local sunset times, visit www.timeanddate.com

More Info & Ways to Help

- **Bonus features and PDF download:** Download this PDF, get notified when future calendars are released, and help us measure our reach: Please take our quick survey at www.tinyurl.com/CarmabiCal2026.
- **Coral breeding reference sheets:** This new community resource is led by Val Chamberland: www.crc.world/resources-propagation-outplanting.
- **Spawning community Q&As:** Join us for our Facebook Q&A series; we're answering spawning and larval propagation questions here: www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch.
- **Please share your observations:** Your discoveries help coral research and conservation! A new AGGRA database is collecting and distributing regional spawning data. If you monitor spawning, please record as many of the following details as possible: Date, location, site name (or lat/long), depth, species, setting time (if seen), spawning start/stop times, area monitored (m²), # of colonies monitored, % of colonies that spawned, # of male/female colonies (if applicable). Photos, partial records, and records of no spawn are all valuable! Send reports to carmabilog@gmail.com, v.chamberland@secore.org, kristen@marhaverlab.com, or post your observations at www.facebook.com/groups/CoralSpawningResearch.
- **Epic thanks** to everyone who has shared observations over the past 30+ years. Spawning has been a challenge lately, but larval propagation and genetic conservation teams continue to have success. The Curacao team wishes everyone a safe and productive spawning season!
- **Suggested citation:** KL Marhaver, VF Chamberland, and MJA Vermeij, "Coral Spawning Predictions, Southern Caribbean, 2007–2026." CARMABI, Curacao.

Page 3 of 3

On September 5, we will be having our Family Saturday, where families only pay a fee of \$10 and can enjoy our exhibitions and activities we have. Family is who you decide.

For Dia di Boneiru, we will be having a pop up exhibition 'Playa di Re' of artist Stephen Rosario and Jaqueline Mariën from 5pm to 7pm.

On September 15, it will be International Day of Democracy. For this we will be focusing on Democracy, Climate and Women, offering a women only tour of our current exhibition.

In collaboration with Miles for Matches, we will hosting the movie 'A Walk to Remember' on September 17.

This months Kids Workshop will be on September 19, where kids will be able to create their own sailboats.

The film 'Lanta riba, Watapana' will be screened on September 24.

Join us for this month's Museum Night on September 30 between 17:00 to 19:00, where the museum will be open extra hours with free entrance for all and the opportunity to explore, shop and experience the museum. This night we will also be offering guided tours.

For information or questions, contacts us!
terramarmuseum@gmail.com
+599 701 4700



BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE

AUGUST 2026

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

These data are preliminary figures.

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
13,701 2026

All non-residents are registered as visitors

NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR
14,435 2025

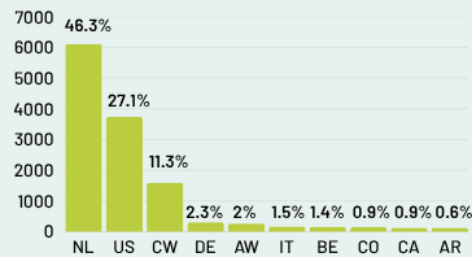
2026 COMPARED TO 2025

5%

Decrease in non-resident arrivals



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



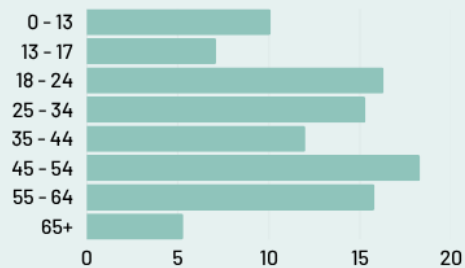
TOP STATES & REGION

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

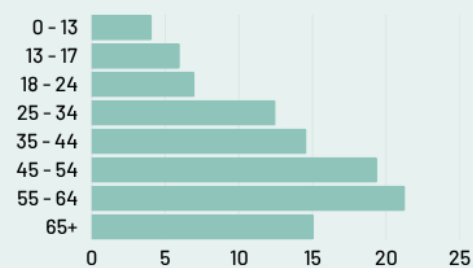
NL South Holland, North Holland, Gelderland, North Brabant, and Utrecht.

DEMOGRAPHICS

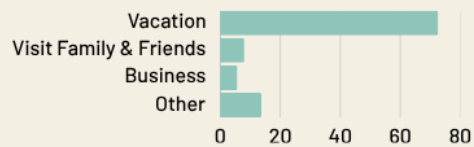
AGE | DUTCH



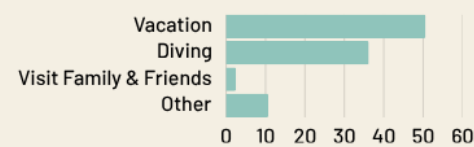
AGE | AMERICAN



REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH



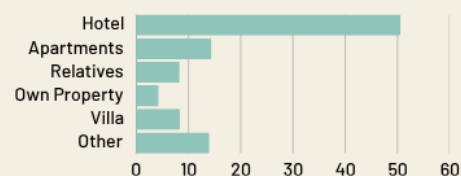
REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN



VISITOR BEHAVIOR

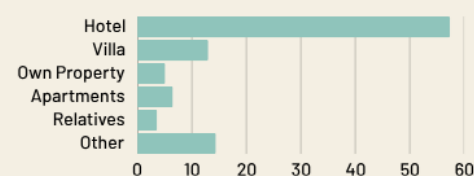
ACCOMMODATION TYPE

DUTCH



ACCOMMODATION TYPE

AMERICAN



LENGHT OF STAY

DUTCH
AMERICAN



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

• www.bonaireisland.com
• info@bonaireisland.com
• bonaire.portcall.com



BONAIRE
CULINARY WEEK

FALL EDITION 2026

Save the date!

Bonaire Culinary Week

FALL EDITION 2026

September 24 – October 8

Next Step KLM Nature Walk & Hike Bonaire September 20, 2026

Location & Time

Start & Finish: Dragstrip Bonaire
10 km Challenge Walk: 6:00 AM
5 km Challenge Hike: 6:30 AM

Registration fee

\$20

Register here

<https://5qnmfhag.forms.app/nstnw2026bonaire>

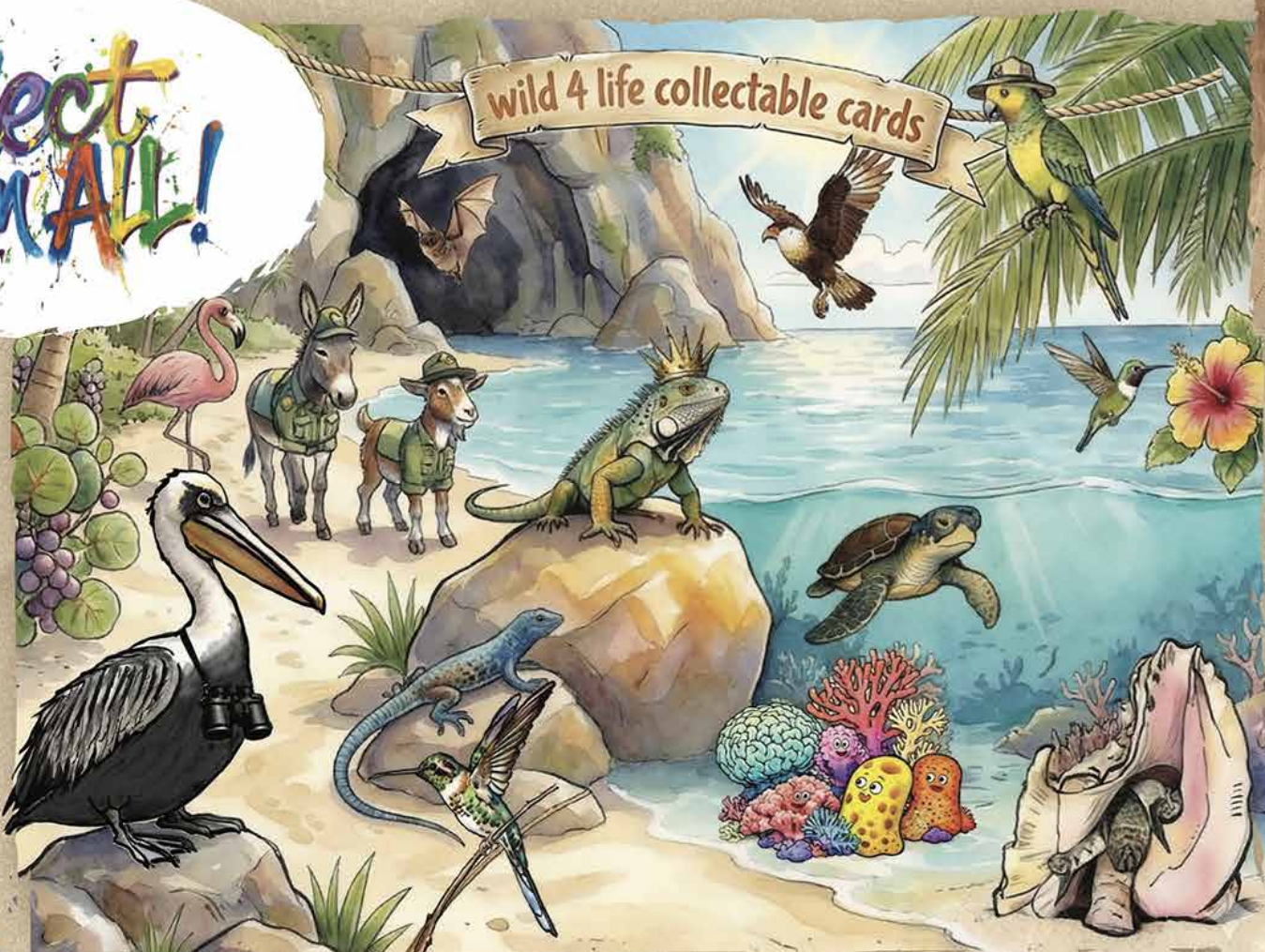
or scan code
to register →



KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
Travel Well



Collect
them ALL!



Collectible
Cards

DUO XTREME

**REGISTRATION
OPEN!**



We have two links, one for **DUO riders (55 en 75 km)**
en one for **single riders (35 km)**

Bonaire Duo Xtreme MTB race

Date: Sunday, September 27, 2026.
Start 6:30 a.m. Mirage Beach Bar (Eden Beach),
Facebook: bonairextreme

Race director: Jelmer Krap +5997017872. Jelmerkrap@hotmail.com
Elite: <https://www.strava.com/routes/3407502406708213854>
Pro: <https://www.strava.com/routes/3407037331334936224>

Payment (\$50 per team) and collection of race plates will take place on
Saturday, September 26 at Mirage beach bar from 17:00 to 19:00.

Routes (Please note, these may still change in the coming weeks. You
will receive the final routes well in advance).

PISKABON

TAYER FORMASHON PA PISKADO I MERKADERA

Kooperativa Piskabon den koperashon ku Federashon Kooperativanan Uní di Produksion (FKUP) i Gobiernu di Boneiru, ta bai organisa un tayer pa piskadó i merkadera.

TÓPIKONAN lo ta entre otro:



Desaroyo personal

(siña konose bo mes, asumi responsabilidad, un parti di EHBO den e area, etc.).



Higiena i kuido di piská

(kuido di piská riba laman, limpia i konserva piská durante di bentá, etc.).



Peskeria

(piska pa awor i den futuro i seguridat riba laman).



Prinsipionan di un koperativa

i e importancia di traha hunto den e sektor di peskeria.

*Kooperativa ta mas fuerte
ku kada un so!*



Tayer lo kuminsa

dia 22 di sèptèmber 2026

Kursista lo partisipa den 6 seshon di 3 ora pa dia, 3 biaha pa siman, 6'or pa 9'or di anochi.



Luga

Piskabon

Kaya Nikiboko Noord 2



E kurso ta pa:

Piskadó, merkadera i tur persona ku ta desea na amplia nan konosementu kon pa atende ku piská for di momentu ku e wòrdu piská te na momentu ku e piská ser entregá na e kliente.



Interesadonan por inskribi via email na

piskabon@gmail.com òf yama/whatsapp na

📞 telefòn **777 8318**.



Kupo ta limita,

inskribi na tempu pa bo no keda afó.



Gobiernu di
Boneiru

*Huntu pa un
peskeria mas fuerte!*

TASTE OF BONAIRE

TOURISM EDITION



SATURDAY
26 SEPTEMBER 2026



TIME
18:00 - 22:00



LOCATION
ISIDEL BEACH PARK

Come experience local & international food, music, handcraft and much more!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DJ MARV



PALU GRANDI

**BRASSBAND
THE BOYZ**

**GRUPO
KARINO**

BONAIRE
It's in our nature

PISKABON

COOPERATIEVE VISSERIJ VERENIGING

TORNEO

di Peska

PISKA KU PASHON,
HONRA NOS TRADISHON!



**REUNION
DI KAPITAN**



**DJABIERNE
2 DI OKTOBER 2026
6:30 PM**



PISA PISKA



**DJASABRA
3 DI OKTOBER 2026
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**



LUGA: PARKE TULUI



INSKRIPSHON GRATIS!

– TUR PISKADÓ TA BON BINI! –



MAS INFORMASHON:



7778318

GALACONCERT

Een bijzondere muzikale avond

LESTARI SCHOLTES

PIANO

&

EDUARDO
PAREDES CRESPO

VIOOL

Met werken van
onder anderen

BRAHMS

DEBUSSY

GRANADOS

STATIUS MULLER

en nog veel meer!

TICKETS

\$40

INCLUSIEF EEN
DRANKJE IN
DE PAUZE



WOENSDAG
14 OKTOBER
2026



19.30 – 21.30 uur



CORALLIUM HOTEL



TICKETS VERKRIJGBAAR BIJ:

DELMAR

LISA CONVENIENCE STORE

MULTISHOP HATO

MEDE MOGELIJK GEMAAKT DOOR:





SAVE — THE — DATE

HALLOWEEN MARKET

— AT —
PAW ANIMAL SHELTER PAW



SHOP SPOOKY
GOODIES!



TICKET SALE FOR
OUR HAUNTED HOUSE!



SUPPORT OUR ANIMALS
AND THE SHELTER!

★ SATURDAY | OCTOBER 25 ★

♥ TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE ♥

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



TENE PIA SEKU

**Shared Shores:
Climate, Community &
Island Resilience**

Inspired by 'Rising Tide' by Kadlr van Lohulzen

Opening Bonaire
8 august 2026
Terramar Museum

Opening Curaçao
27 august 2026
Habaai Art Gallery

Presented by



Institute of Museums
& Heritage of Europe

Inspired by

het scheepvaart
nationaal maritiem
museum

Funded by



Cultuur Fonds
Netherlands

NOOR



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.

NEW OPENING HOURS

Headquarters
Monday - Thursday: 8AM - 4PM
Friday: 8AM - 12PM
Saturday - Sunday: **CLOSED**

Washington Slagbaai National Park
Monday: **CLOSED**
Tuesday - Sunday: 8AM - 5PM
Entry allowed till 2:30PM

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 18th (Changed)	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

**SOBREMESA
PRESENTS**

**NOV 28 & 29
10 AM - 5PM**

KAMINDA di ARTE



BONAIRE'S OPEN ART STUDIO WEEKEND 2026

**Visit studios and galleries to
meet artists, explore the local
art scene, and take home
unique pieces!**

INFO ARTISTS AND LOCATIONS

www.sobremesa-bonaire.com



STUDIO MUZO

The Creative Color Lab

\$20,-
EACH FRIDAY
AGE 8+

Sobremesa

J.A. Abraham Boulevard

15:00 - 17:00

Contact via whatsapp: +599 700 7115

Email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com



OPEN ART STUDIO

every saturday

11 am - 2 pm

your inspiration, our space and materials

\$5



ABRAHAM BOULEVARD 10 @SOBREMESA.BONAIRE | WWW.SOBREMESA.BONAIRE.COM



Sobremesa
KAS DI ARTE

ART CLUB



EVERY WEDNESDAY
7-9 PM
START NOV 5



Abraham Boulevard 10
Playa Pariba
Bonaire

\$15 Per session or
\$50 for 4 visits
includes all
materials except a
canvas

*Join us and create your own
masterpiece*

What to expect:

- **a professional artist to guide and inspire you**
- **Freedom to explore different techniques and materials**
- **A friendly and relaxed atmosphere**

More info and to join:

Whatsapp +599 700 7115

e-mail: 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!



FILL IT IN HERE!



BONAIRE
It's in our nature.

WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM