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AT A GLANCE

DISTINCTIONS

“**ONE HAPPY ISLAND**” is more than a place – it’s an ideal. Year after year, Aruba continues to attract families, couples, friends and meeting planners looking for something remarkably different from the traditional Caribbean travel experience.

Home to one of the “Top 10 Beaches in the World,” Aruba is the most revisited destinations in the Caribbean, with more than half of all visitors returning year after year. Adventure meets serenity on this island of contradictions – where the sun-kissed, sandy shores of the world-famous beaches intersect with the rugged desert of the northeast coast in Arikok National Park, and where Dutch influence meets American ease. Adventure-seekers bask in cool waters at the Natural Pool (Conchi) and hike through the Guadirikiri Caves and Ayo Rock Formations, uncovering history and civilization at every turn.

SETTING

Located on the outside fringes of the Hurricane Belt in the heart of the southern Caribbean, 15 miles north of Venezuela, the island of Aruba is 70 square miles (19.6 miles long and 6 miles wide across its longest point). Aruba’s 108,000 inhabitants live within six official districts including Oranjestad (city center), Paradera, San Nicolas, Noord, Santa Cruz and Savaneta. Pos Chikito is known as the island’s unofficial seventh district.

365 DAYS OF SUNSHINE

The sun shines in Aruba year-around, boasting a constant 82° F temperature, low humidity and refreshing east trade wind breezes.

ACTIVITIES

Aruba’s diverse geographical differences create a distinct combination of land and sea activities, unlike any others found in the Caribbean. Adventure-seekers can explore the depths of Arikok National Park’s rugged and wild interior during an off-road Jeep Safari tour or by hiking, biking or horseback riding more than 20 square miles of wild flora and fauna. Aquatic adventures are abundant along the world-famous beaches, attracting windsurfers, kite surfers, sailors, snorkelers, divers and more. Vacationers craving peace and tranquility often find paradise during a rejuvenating spa treatment or strolling through downtown Oranjestad, exploring high end shopping centers, historic museums and vibrant art galleries. Island excitement continues at dusk with a variety of bars, casinos and festivals beckoning tourists and locals alike.

ATTRACTIONS

Abundant with natural beauty and historical landmarks, Aruba keeps its inhabitants and visitors sightseeing for days. Signature attractions include:

- Alto Vista Chapel
- Archaeological Museum
- Arikok National Park
- Aruba Aloe Factory
- Ayo Rock Formation
- Black Stone Beach
- Boca Prins Sand Dunes
- Bubali Bird Sanctuary
- Bushiribana Gold Smelter Ruins
- Butterfly Farm
- California Lighthouse
- Casibari Rock Formation
- Community Museum
- De Palm Island
- Diving Wrecks
- Donkey Sanctuary
- Downtown Oranjestad
- Fontein Cave & Ancient Indian Markings
- Frenchman's Pass
- Historical Museum
- Guadirikiri Cave
- Jamanota (Highest Elevation)
- Natural Bridge Ruins
- Natural Pool (Conchi)
- Old Dutch Windmill
- Ostrich Farm
- Renaissance Island
- Shipwreck of the Antilla

ACCOMMODATIONS

Guests settle into a glamorous high-rise hotel overlooking the two-mile-long Palm Beach, opt for a stylish low-rise boutique hotel on Eagle Beach or choose one of the 25 luxurious villas, condominiums, beachside cottages or a quaint bed and breakfast on island.

Properties in Aruba Include:

- Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort Aruba
- Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino
- Aruba Marriott Ocean Club
- Aruba Marriott Surf Club
- Brickell Bay Beach Club Aruba
- Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts
- Caribbean Palm Village Resort

Divi Aruba All Inclusive
Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort
Divi Dutch Village
Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort
Holiday Inn Resort Aruba
Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino
La Cabana Beach Racquet Club
Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa
MVC Eagle Beach Resort
Occidental Grand Aruba All Inclusive
Paradise Beach Villas
Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa
Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino
Riu Palace, Aruba
Talk Of The Town Hotel and Beach Club
Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive
The Mill Resort & Suites Aruba
The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
Tierra Del Sol Resort, Spa and Country Club
Tropicana Aruba Resort & Casino

DINING

With more than 90 nationalities on island, Aruba is at the epicenter of a cultural melting pot, offering Amerindian, Latin and European influences found in every aspect of life, from language and island events to flavor-rich cuisine. Foodies enjoy a mouthwatering assortment of culinary flavors from fresh seafood, Caribbean and vegetarian dishes, to exotic churrascaria creations and vibrant Italian, Mexican and Creole, found at more than 200 on-island restaurants ranging from local dining spots to world-class international establishments.

SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Boasting more than 50 events annually, Aruba hosts festive island celebrations for both travelers and locals to enjoy. Hosted every Thursday on Main Street in San Nicolas, the Carubbian Festival ignites Caribbean culture with Carnival parades, dancing and local culinary fare. Downtown Oranjestad comes to life each Tuesday as locals and guests join together for the Bon Bini welcome festival showcasing musicians, dancers, artists and craftsmen who parade around in their very best wares.

2014

January

New Years Day Festival
Aruba's Carnival Celebration
Aruba's Torch Parade
Grand Final Calypso & Road March Contest
Flip Flop Carnival Beach Event
Betico Croes Day
Betico Croes Memorial 10K Run & 5K Fun Walk

Grand Final Tumba Contest
Mrs. Carnival Election

February

Children's Carnival Parade in Noord
Aruba Carnival Grand Tumba Contest
Youth Carnival Queen Election
Caiso & SOCA Monarch 2014
Aruba's Tivoli Lighting Parade
Children's Grand Carnival Parade in Oranjestad
Tourist Night Steelband and Costume Show
Lighting Parade San Nicolas
Grand Carnival Parade in San Nicolas
Aruba's Grand Carnival Parade
Mrs. Carnival Election
Carnival Monday
Old Mask Parade and Burning of King Momito

Aruba's International Carnival Multicultural Queen
Tourist Night Steelband Street Show
International Concert: Window to the World Caribbean

March

Jouvert Morning
San Nicolas Grand Carnival Parade
National Anthem & Flag Day
Carnival Monday
Old Mask Parade and Burning of King Momito/Momo
Ash Wednesday
29th Aruba International Half Marathon

April

Good Friday
Easter Sunday
Easter Monday
12th AHATA Recycled Art Competition
54th International Boulevard Race (10k)
Earth Day
King's Birthday

May

Labor Day
Ascension Day
Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival

June

Aruba Beach Tennis National Championships

Dera Gai (St. John's Day)
28th Aruba International Triathlon

July

28th Aruba Hi-Winds
20th Annual Aruba International Film Festival

August

Aruba Rembrandt Regatta
20th Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament
One Cool Summer International Drag Race

September

21st Aruba Reef Care
Turibana to Santa Cruz 10k Race
Electric Festival
Aruba Food, Wine & Art Festival

October

Fire Prevention 10k & 5k Run
Presidential Challenge Aruba Cup
Interpaso
3rd Annual Battle of the Food Trucks
8th Annual Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival Aruba
Half Iron Man Aruba (10K)
Aruba International Bike Week

November

Aruba in Style (Fashion Week)
12th National Coastal Clean Up
Aruba Beach Tennis International Championships

December

Saint Nicolas Day
Christmas
Boxing Day
Dande Festival

Weekly Events

Bon Bini Festival
Caribbean Festival

TIME ZONE

Atlantic Standard Time (AST)
During Daylight Savings Time, Aruba is one hour later than
Eastern Standard Time (EST).

LANGUAGE

Papiamento and Dutch (official languages)
Spanish and English (widely spoken)

CURRENCY

The Aruban Florin, the United States dollar and major U.S. credit cards are widely accepted.

ACCESS BY AIR

Major carriers to Reina Beatrix International Airport from the United States and Canada include: Delta, American Airlines, US Airways, Continental, Jet Blue, AirTran, Spirit and Air Canada.

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