

Aruba

One Happy Island!



Aruba is part of the ABC's





Aruba Fast Facts

- ✪ Independent nation, member of Dutch Commonwealth
- ✪ Currency is the Florin (1 dollar = 1.72 fl)
- ✪ Island is 19 miles long by 5 miles wide
- ✪ Language is Papiamentu
- ✪ Nearly everyone speaks English
- ✪ Main industries are tourism, oil refining



Aruba Fast Facts

- ☀ Fresh water produced by desalinization
- ☀ Favorite stopover for cruise lines
- ☀ At least 12 casinos
- ☀ Air temp constant year round, low to mid 80's
- ☀ Humidity is moderate
- ☀ Trade winds constant at 10-25 knots or more

Aruba Curious Facts

- 🚫 Service charges and tipping are unique
- 🚫 Drinking water is best out of the tap
- 🚫 More lost golf balls per acre than any other Caribbean island
- 🚫 Cuban cigars look like ripe bananas after 1 day
- 🚫 Even the customs officers are happy
- 🚫 No out-of-work web site developers on entire island



Aruba Diving

- ✦ Best wreck diving in Caribbean
- ✦ Water temp 77-78° in March, low 80's in the summer and fall
(you'll be OK in a 3 mil, and very happy in a 5 mil wet suit)
- ✦ 400' Antilles, German Freighter at 60'
- ✦ Perdanales at 30'
- ✦ Red Sail Sports
- ✦ Unique Sports of Aruba



Aruba Web Sites

- ✦ [Aruba.com](#)
- ✦ [Aruba Travel Guide](#)
- ✦ [Aruba Links.com](#)
- ✦ [Aruba Website Links](#)
- ✦ [Welcome to Aruba \(Brittanica\)](#)
- ✦ [Aruba Carnaval](#)
- ✦ [Airline Routes](#)

Getting There

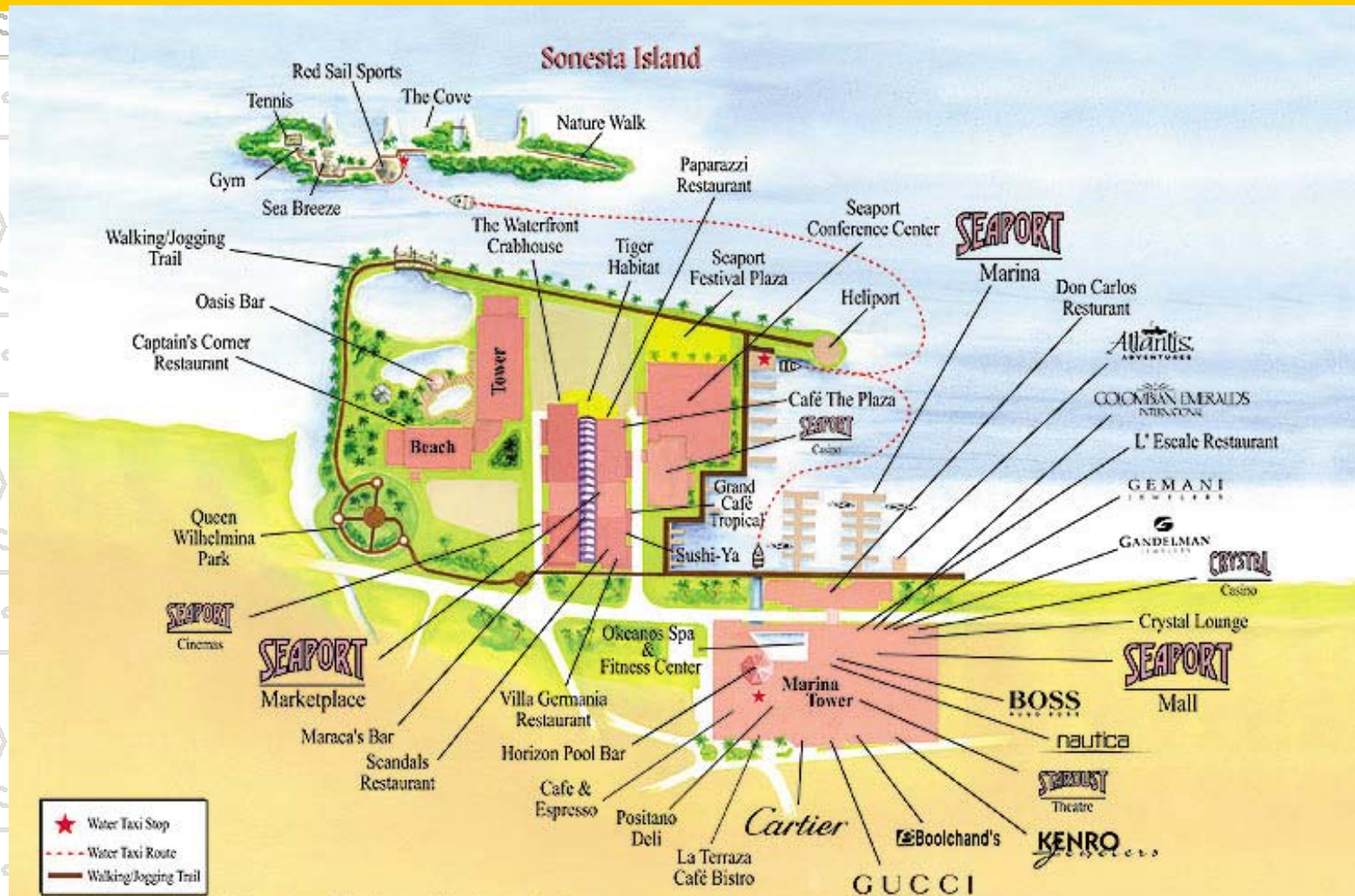
Miami*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Air ALM via Curacao (Daily)- American Airlines (twice daily)- Martinair (starting April 5th on Thursdays & Fridays, Service until Saturday October 27th)
Houston	- Continental (Tuesdays & Saturdays)
L.A.	- TWA via San Juan (daily)

*If routed to Miami, stay overnight and catch the morning flight to Aruba



- A short 2.5 hour flight from Miami, adult beverages included!

Sonesta Map



• Complimentary Water Taxi departs to and from Sonesta Island every 15 minutes.

• 130 shops and restaurants



The Sonesta Resort, close yet far away...



- The private lagoon is a great place to do absolutely nothing



Sonesta island is a 10-minute water taxi ride away



A view toward the harbor and "Cruise Ship Central"



The Arubans love color, the more pastels the better...



- Speaking of color, these snowbirds could use a little...



Shelby and Carolyn in obligatory keepsake shot



John and Karen sharing a Kodak moment



Looking toward downtown Oranjestad across the harbor



- Waiting for water taxi to Sonesta Island (remember the cooler!)



The Sonesta Marine Tower and mall dominates the harbor



View of Crystal Casino, Seaport Mall, and The Paddock



Closeup of Sonesta Marine Tower



Do you think they'd mind a couple of stow-aways?



Sonesta Island long-time residents



Got an itch you can't scratch? Hey, what are friends for?



The things they make me do just for a *%&#! cracker!



Arubans love a good party...



Especially a party featuring lots of colorful costumes!



Colorful dancer with young apprentice...



The Aruban Carnival is a very big event in February...



And of course the guys are not to be outdone...



Young and old alike love a good parade...



The Arubans crown a queen of the Carnival



The festive air is very contagious!



Great attention to detail...



Moonlighting as the new mascot for NBC TV Network



Nice plumage!



Deserves a second look



Positively angelic...!



One for the ladies...



"But what if I gotta...you know,... go?"



Nice cactus...



Meet the biggest, baddest...and happiest bird on the island!



One of over a dozen casinos featuring LV style gaming



View toward Sonesta Mall (beware of timeshare salespeople!)



View from Sonesta Marine Tower



- Sunny days predominate after 2-minute morning showers



Central Plaza, early Sunday morning



Central Plaza after everyone wakes up...



What's wrong with this picture?



Even the local fauna are friendly on Aruba...



It's easy to over-indulge in Aruban cuisine



Iguana Bar terrace is a great place for people watching



Shopping for jewelry, fashions, electronics, Cuban cigars...



...but smoking too many Cuban cigars can stunt your growth



Iguanas are ubiquitous, photogenic, and obliging...



Have you heard that people often resemble their pets?



Artistic makeover of leftovers



Sonesta Island is a great place to relax...



Sombra o sol? Decisions, decisions...



Karen enjoys a Cuba Libre (especially good when smuggled)



Nature walk on Sonesta Island (that's the resort in the distance)



Beachcombing can be an individual or a team sport



Eyes on stalks

Can't take this conch shell home – it's occupied!



Official greeter on Sonesta Island's sugar sand beach



Why do flamingoes scratch their tails?

Location of Lighthouse

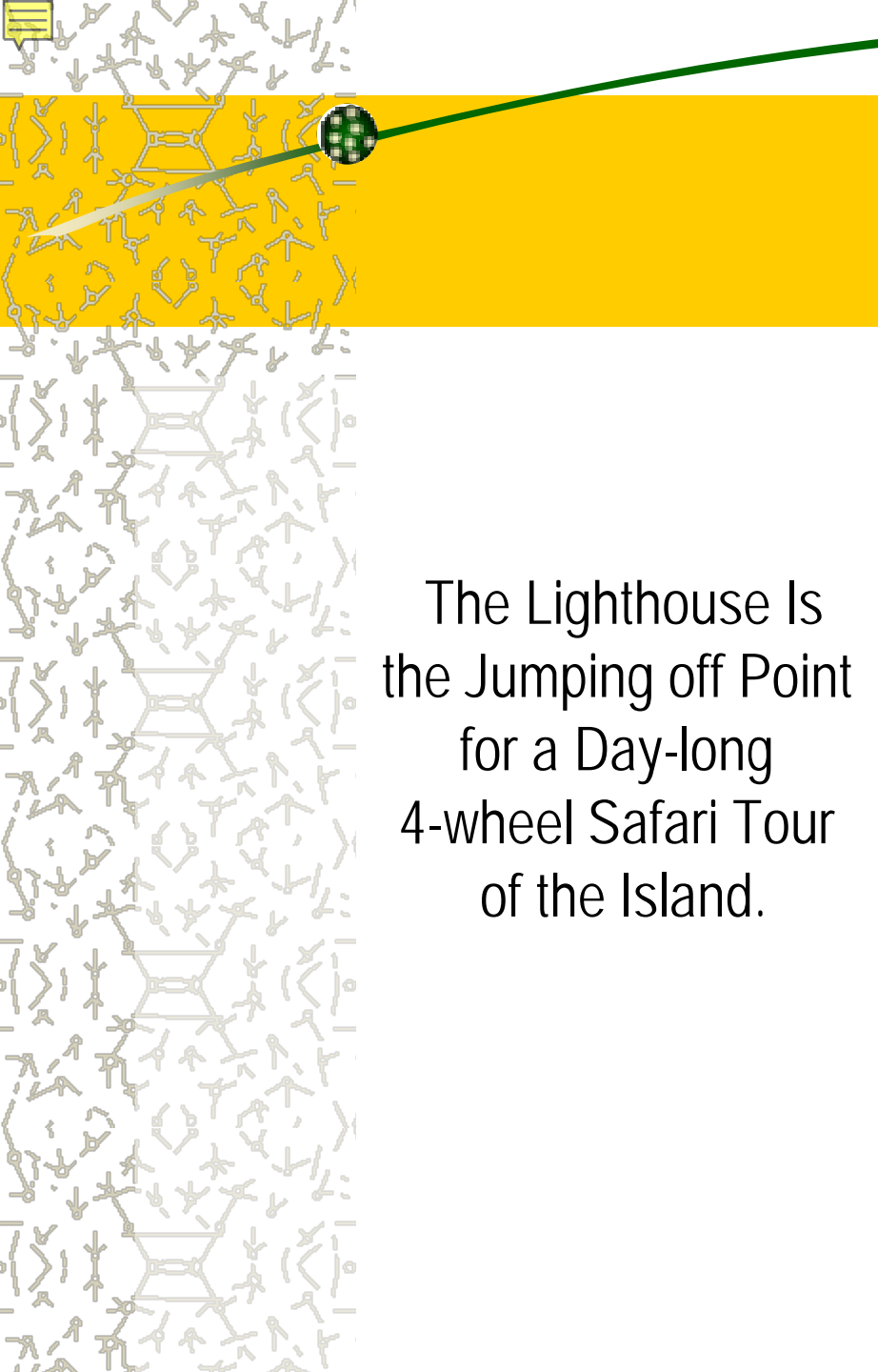




Looking southwest from Lighthouse toward Arashi Beach...



...the "Beverly Hills" of Aruba



The Lighthouse Is
the Jumping off Point
for a Day-long
4-wheel Safari Tour
of the Island.





Sailing is a breeze thanks to 15-knot trade winds



Safari Land Rovers have seating for 4 or 6



Catching some shade

Location of Chapel





Chapel grounds offers 360° vistas of the island



Karen and local flora



When on safari, be prepared to “shake and bake”

Location of Gold Ruins





Ruins of gold processing operation



View to the north from gold processing ruins



View to the south toward Natural Bridge



View toward the "pier"





The Natural Bridge



If you're not careful, you'll get wet!

Location of De Palm Island





Desalinization plant on southwest coast near DePalm Island



DePalm Island – a nice pit stop!

Location of Arikok Park





Indian caves in Arikok National Park



Indian Graffiti



Caves are cool in more ways than one



Near the caves at Arikok Park Visitors Center



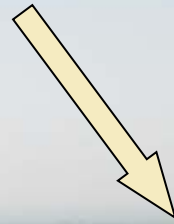
Looking toward the ocean from Arikok Visitors Center

Location of High Point

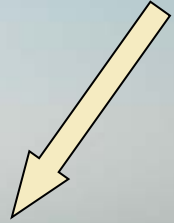




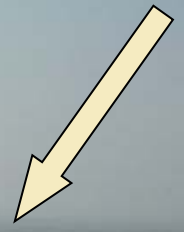
Airport



Sonesta



Hotels



View from east to west from highest point on Aruba (600 ft)



Trade winds especially strong up here...



- Looking to the southwest – cowpokes would feel right at home here!



The World Infamous "Carlos and Charlies "



great sign →

← wearing plastic butt...

Drinking Games at C & C's



Carolyn masquerading as a Hyatt guest



speaks for itself



near Divi resort



Let's Go Latin



Let's Go Latin



Let's Go Latin



Let's Go Latin



Cuban food is big on Aruba



Happy sunburned faces



Pirates snorkeling cruise - "Ar be gar" and all that



The rum punch is a great ice-breaker



Snorkeling near the lighthouse



"Beverly Hills"



Horseback riding is another popular activity



A rope swing brings out the kid in everybody



John impersonating a cannon ball



Shelby goes skimming



Good hang time, deserves at least a "9"



Mi Dushi



Snorkeling is very popular, but don't forget your diveskin



You can rent all kinds of watercraft on Aruba



Pelicans roost on the wreck of the Antilles



The crew gets to have fun too



He has to be a quick swimmer to get to the dinghy in time!



Aruban Restaurant



Aruban cuisine is as colorful as the decor



Sunsets are romantic on Aruba...



...and beckon the traveler to return



Omi stima Aruba!