A-MARONIS

Bon bini

Stories of Curaçao



A-MARONIS OASIS

STAY • RELAX • EXPLORE

ENGLISH EDITION



The pool and garden at A-Maronis.

A NOTE FROM A-MARONIS

Bon bini, welcome

Welcome to Curaçao, and welcome to A-Maronis.

We created this place for slow mornings, long swims and quiet evenings on the rooftop, with the island just beyond the gate. This book is our way of sharing what we love about Curaçao: its coasts, hills, streets and flavours, and the people and history behind them. Read a little before you head out, or return to a page when something catches your eye.

If you need anything during your stay, just message us. We are happy to help.

Bon bini,

A-Maronis

INSIDER TIP

Leave a little time unplanned. Not every good day needs an itinerary.

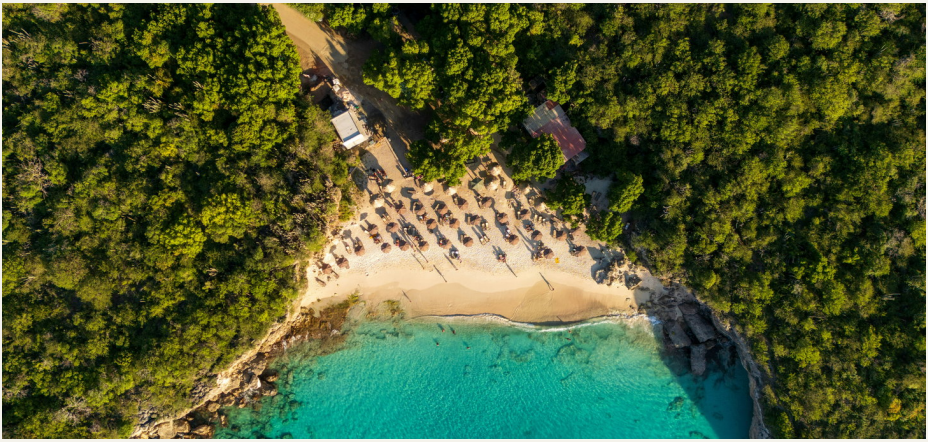
Say it in Papiamentu



Papiamentu is central to everyday life on Curaçao. These few phrases are a friendly place to begin.

Bon bini	Welcome
Bon dia	Good morning
Bon tardi	Good afternoon
Bon nochi	Good evening or good night
Masha danki	Thank you very much
Dushi	Sweet, lovely or delicious; also an affectionate ‘sweetheart’
Ayo	Goodbye

An island with many beginnings



A cove on Curaçao, seen from above.

Curaçao's story begins long before the colourful harbourfront. Indigenous communities travelled here from the South American mainland thousands of years ago. The earliest inhabitants gathered food and fished; later communities, including the Caquetío, also farmed and made pottery.

Spanish explorers arrived in 1499. In 1634, the Dutch captured the island, and a settlement grew around Fort Amsterdam and the natural harbour. That settlement became Willemstad.

Its historic inner city and harbour became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997. European building traditions, Caribbean adaptations and local craftsmanship meet in its streets.

A history to remember

The harbour's trading history also carries a painful legacy. Under Dutch colonial rule, Curaçao became a centre of the transatlantic slave trade. Enslaved Africans were brought here and sold; many were transported onward, while others were forced to work on the island.

Slavery was abolished here on 1 July 1863. Remembering the people whose lives were shaped by slavery is essential to understanding Curaçao, alongside its architecture and beauty.

Since 10 October 2010, Curaçao has been an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Its story continues in language, music, food and the communities that make the island their home.

A small island with a layered story.



A detail of the Handelskade façades.

At home in Jongbloed



A-Maronis and its Jongbloed surroundings.

A-Maronis sits in Jongbloed, a residential neighbourhood of Willemstad. A rental car gives you freedom to explore at your own pace. Save the apartment's location before setting off, then choose between the city and the coast.

Approximate drive times

Queen Emma Bridge (road access) · 15–20 minutes · 10.0 km
Mambo Beach · 15–20 minutes · 9.7 km
Jan Thiel area · 15–20 minutes · 12.5 km
Airport · 15–20 minutes · 11.1 km

Times vary with traffic and route. Allow extra time for parking and walking.

Make it your own

This book is for the things that last: a coastline, a story, a flavour you remember. Start anywhere. Follow the beach colours, choose a city walk, or leave the afternoon unplanned.

The island, by mood: Pages 8–13 help you choose a stretch of coast.

Beyond the beach: Pages 14–23 lead into nature, history and food.

Before you head out: Check the destination's own website for access, tickets and opening times. Sea conditions and arrangements can change.

Stay in touch: Scan the code for A-Maronis online, or message us with a question.



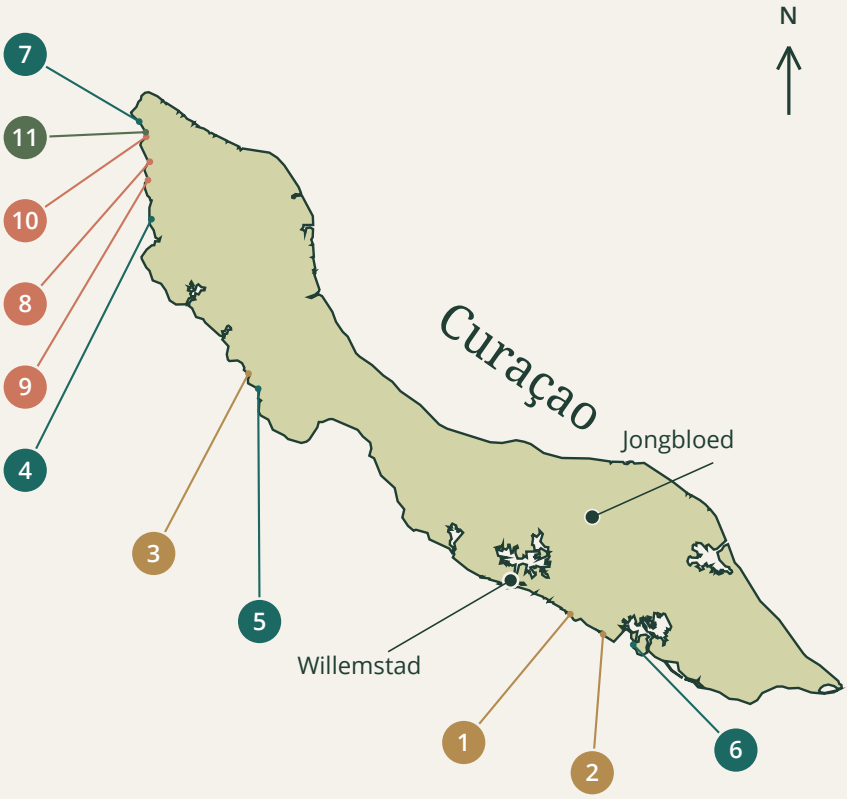
A bedroom at A-Maronis.

a-maronis.com

Keep practical apartment details with the separate information sheet.

A beach for your mood

CURAÇAO · NORTH UP



Orientation map · Beach key opposite.

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One island, many moods

The sea changes with the weather. Choose a beach that suits today's conditions and your swimming ability, not just yesterday's photograph.

Easy beach days

01 Mambo Beach
02 Jan Thiel Beach
03 Cas Abao

Snorkel & dive

04 Playa Lagun
05 Playa Porto Mari
06 Tugboat Beach
07 Playa Kalki

Postcard coves

08 Playa Kenepa Grandi
09 Playa Kenepa Chiki / Kleine Knip
10 Playa Forti

Working shores & wild coast

11 Playa Piskadó

INSIDER TIP

Check access before leaving. At exposed shores, enjoy the view from established paths.

An easy kind of day



The shoreline at Cas Abao.

For days when you would rather settle in than keep moving.

Mambo Beach: A lively sandy stretch with food, shopping and people-watching close by.

Jan Thiel Beach: A sociable beach setting with places to eat and spend the afternoon.

Cas Abao: White sand, palms and shade shelters frame a broad turquoise bay.

INSIDER TIP

Check entry, parking and lounger charges before you settle in. Sheltered does not mean risk-free: assess the sea each day.

Below the surface



A green sea turtle in Curaçao's waters.

There is another island just beneath the water. Explore slowly, with space between your fins and the reef.

Playa Lagun: A narrow bay between rocky cliffs, popular with snorkellers and divers.

Playa Porto Mari: A sandy bay known for its shore-accessible double reef.

Tugboat Beach: A small wreck in shallow water gives this snorkelling spot its name.

Playa Kalki: A western cove with rocky water entry and steep steps to the beach.

INSIDER TIP

Go with a buddy, check conditions locally and stay within your abilities. Never stand on coral.

The blue you came for



Playa Forti, on the western coast.

Pause before reaching for your camera. Let the colour register first.

Playa Kenepa Grandi: Also called Grote Knip: white sand and turquoise water on the west coast.

Playa Kenepa Chiki: Also called Kleine Knip: the smaller neighbouring cove, with its own intimate scale.

Playa Forti: Brown sand, smooth pebbles and a wide view towards the island's western tip. Reach the shore by the steps or ramp.

INSIDER TIP

Enjoy cliff views from safe viewpoints. Do not jump from cliffs.

Working shores, wild coast



The north coast at Shete Boka.

Not every shore is a place to spread a towel. Some are workplaces; others belong to the force of the sea.

Playa Piskadó: Also known as Playa Grandi, this is a working fishing beach. Give boats and fishing activity space. If a turtle appears, watch without following, touching or feeding it.

The north coast: Waves strike exposed rock and limestone inlets. This is a coast to admire from marked paths and viewpoints, not a swimming recommendation.

INSIDER TIP

A wildlife encounter is a privilege, never a promise.

An island beyond the sand



Mount Christoffel and the surrounding landscape.

Turn inland and Curaçao changes character. Cactus, dry woodland and rocky hills replace the shoreline's familiar blue.

Christoffel National Park offers trails through this landscape, from gentler walks to the strenuous climb up the island's highest mountain. The summit is not an easy stroll: choose a route that suits you, and start early within the park's permitted times.

INSIDER TIP

Check the current trail rules before leaving. Bring plenty of water, a hat and sturdy closed shoes.

Where the island opens



The north coast at Shete Boka.

Shete Boka National Park: On the exposed north coast, waves thunder into rock inlets. These shores also protect turtle nesting areas. Follow marked routes and barriers, and give closed areas their space.

Hato Caves: A guided visit reveals limestone chambers and formations shaped over time. The caves can be warm inside, not a cool refuge from the sun. Check access requirements before visiting.

INSIDER TIP

Wear shoes with grip. Leave formations, wildlife and nesting areas undisturbed.

Flamingos, salt and watapana



Flamingos at the Jan Kok salt pans.

A flicker of pink across a salt pan can stop you in your tracks. Flamingos feed in Curaçao's wetlands, moving between places as conditions change. Their presence is not tied to your itinerary. Watch quietly from established viewing spots, without approaching the birds.

On land, look for the divi-divi, known here as watapana. This wind-resistant native tree is a distinctive part of the island's landscape. A few minutes spent noticing a tree or a bird can change the pace of an entire day.

INSIDER TIP

Use binoculars or your camera's zoom instead of moving closer.

A slow walk through Willemstad



Queen Emma Bridge at night, towards Otrobanda.

Start in Punda and leave time for shade and detours.

1 · Fort Amsterdam: Begin by the old fort, where Willemstad's Dutch colonial settlement took shape.

2 · Handelskade: Follow the colourful harbourfront towards Queen Emma Bridge.

3 · Queen Emma Bridge: Cross the floating pedestrian bridge when open to walkers. It swings aside for ships.

4 · Otrobanda: Explore the historic streets across the water.

5 · Scharloo: Return to Punda, then continue towards Scharloo and its merchant houses.

INSIDER TIP Go early and carry water.

Step into the story



A historic house in Scharloo, Willemstad.

Beyond the façades, these places offer different ways to understand the island.

Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue: A living place of worship with a sand-covered floor and a congregation rooted in centuries of Jewish life here.

Curaçao Maritime Museum: Charts, ship models and navigation equipment tell stories of the island and its harbour.

Landhuis Chobolobo: A historic country house and working liqueur distillery, where visitors can learn about Curaçao liqueur.

More than a beautiful house



The exterior of Landhuis Kenepa.

Across Curaçao, historic country houses are known as landhuizen. Many stand on former plantations, where the lives of enslaved people underpinned the wealth of owners. Their beauty cannot be separated from that history.

In 1795, Tula led a major uprising of enslaved people seeking freedom. His resistance remains central to the island's remembrance of slavery.

When you visit a landhuis, look beyond the façade. Ask whose labour sustained the estate, whose stories are told, and whose voices are missing.

The story behind the blue



A Blue Curaçao cocktail.

The colour catches the eye, but the aroma begins with orange peel. Laraha, the bitter citrus grown on Curaçao, supplies the fragrant dried peel used in the liqueur made at Landhuis Chobolobo.

A traditional local story traces Laraha to oranges brought by the Spanish and grown in the island's dry conditions. It is an origin story, not a simple botanical explanation.

The blue is added colouring, not the natural colour of the fruit or its peel. Curaçao liqueur also comes in a clear version.

No need to do it all



A living room at A-Maronis.

A few ingredients are enough for a memorable day.

A west-coast day: Choose a cove, leave room for lunch, and stay a little longer if the afternoon feels right. Snorkel only when conditions suit.

A Willemstad day: Walk the harbour in the morning, choose one heritage visit, then take a long pause before an evening stroll.

A day at home: Breakfast without rushing. A swim, a book, an afternoon rest. Let the rooftop light be the evening's only appointment.

INSIDER TIP

Choose one main outing, not a checklist.

A taste of Curaçao



Karni stobá with aros moro: meat stew, rice and beans.

Let lunch become part of the journey. Local cooking brings together generous flavours, slow-simmered pots and recipes that vary from kitchen to kitchen.

Keshi yena: Stuffed cheese, commonly filled with seasoned chicken or meat, vegetables and other additions.

Stobá: A slow-cooked stew. Beef and goat are familiar versions; recipes vary.

Kabritu: Goat. On a menu, kabritu stobá means goat stew.

Small bites, lasting memories

A quick breakfast or an unhurried fish lunch can be just as memorable as a special dinner.

Pastechi: A golden, filled pastry, often eaten at breakfast. Cheese, chicken, beef and fish are common fillings.

Funchi: A firm cornmeal side dish, often served with fish or stew.

Fish: Ask about the day's catch and how it is prepared. Grilled and fried versions both appear in island cooking.



A kitchen at A-Maronis.

Good food does not need a grand occasion.

INSIDER TIP

A snèk is an informal snack bar. Let curiosity guide you, and ask before assuming a dish is vegetarian.



The quiet part of the day.

TIME TOGETHER

Just the two of you

Wake without an alarm. Let coffee take as long as it takes. Choose a cove because you like the look of it, not because it is on somebody else's list.

Come back with salt on your skin and nothing urgent to do. Read a few pages. Share something simple to eat. When the light softens, find a comfortable place on the rooftop and watch the sky change.

Sometimes the best part of being away is the space to enjoy each other's company.

Island know-how

On the road: Drive on the right, follow local signs and allow time for traffic. Watch for animals on country roads.

Keep it simple: Carry only what you need. Never leave valuables unattended on the beach or in a parked car.

Water & sunshine: Tap water is generally safe to drink. Follow any local advisory. Refill a bottle; use sun protection and take shade breaks.

At the shore: Check the sea before entering. Water shoes can help at rocky entries, but never make it acceptable to step on coral.

Back at A-Maronis: Keep evening noise low and follow the apartment's separate house information.

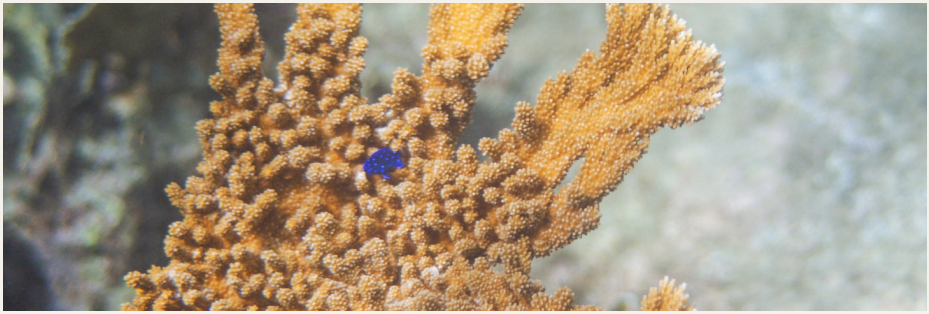


The pool at A-Maronis at blue hour.

INSIDER TIP

Save your route before leaving and keep your phone charged.

Respect the reef



Elkhorn coral in Curaçao, photographed in 2011.

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What looks like underwater scenery is a living community. Give it room.

Look, do not touch: Never stand on coral. Keep fins, hands and equipment clear of the reef.

Let wildlife be wild: Do not chase, touch or feed turtles and fish. Leave them a clear path to move away.

Take memories, not souvenirs: Leave shells, coral and other natural objects where they belong. Take your rubbish home.

Protect your skin thoughtfully: Choose shade and UV-protective clothing as well as appropriate sunscreen. A “reef-friendly” label alone is not a guarantee.



The pool at A-Maronis after dark.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

Until we meet again

We hope you leave with more than photographs: a new favourite flavour, a story that stayed with you, or the memory of an afternoon that asked nothing of you.

Thank you for choosing A-Maronis. An honest review of your stay is always appreciated. We would love to hear what you enjoyed.

Travel safely, and come back when you can.

Masha danki, and ayo.

Website
a-maronis.com

Instagram
@amaronis.oasis

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