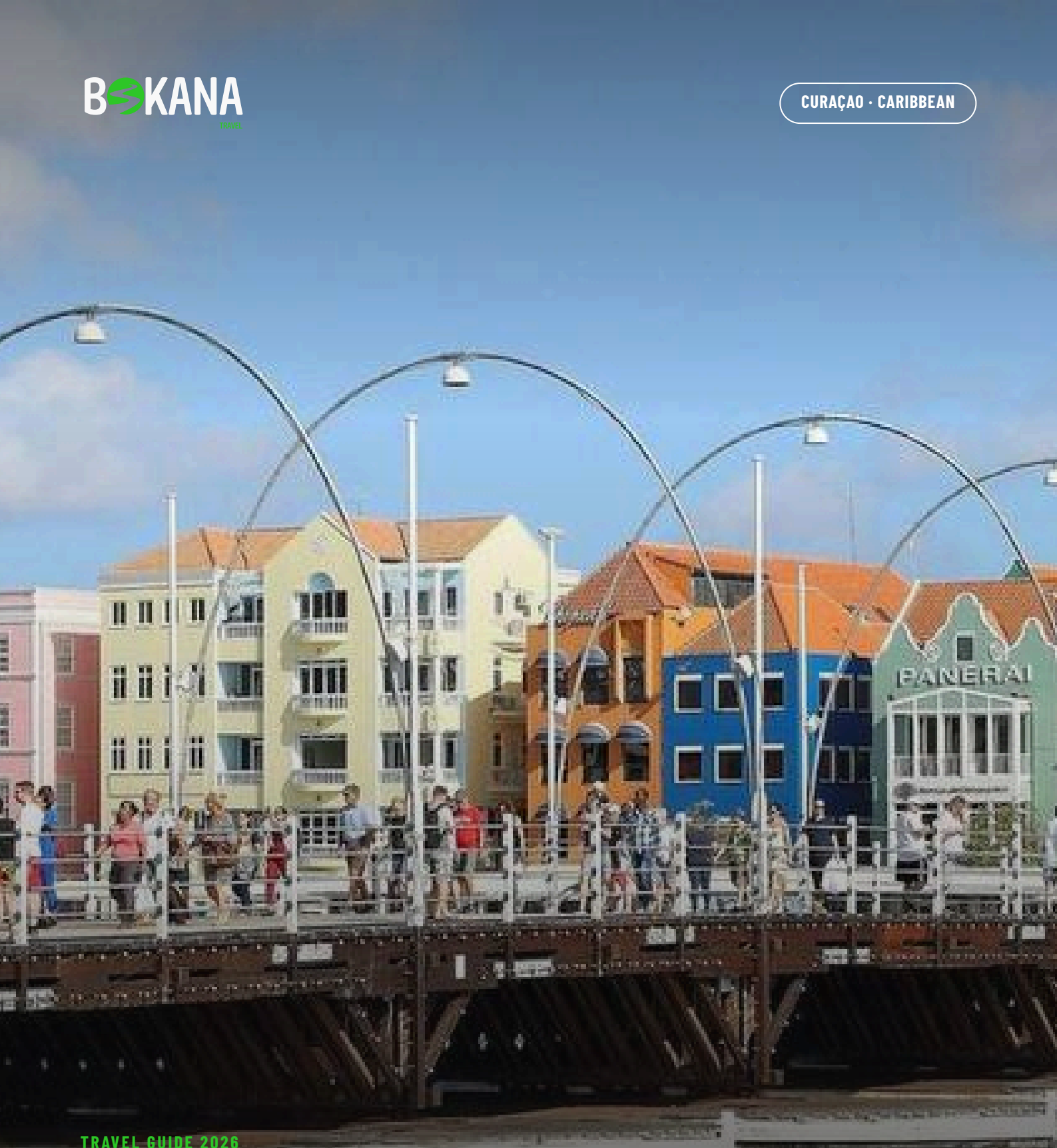
BOKANA TRAVEL

CURAÇAO · CARIBBEAN



TRAVEL GUIDE 2026

CURAÇAO

A UNESCO World Heritage capital, dozens of cliff-framed coves and first-rate diving, about a two-hour flight away, with no visa for Colombians.

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THE ESSENTIALS

CURAÇAO: COLORFUL FACADES, CRYSTAL-CLEAR COVES

Curaçao is the largest of the ABC islands and an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Willemstad, the capital, looks like a Dutch harbor painted in Caribbean colors: its Punda and Otrobanda districts face each other across St. Anna Bay, linked by a floating bridge that swings open to let ships through.

Outside the city, the island changes pace. The west hides white-sand coves tucked between rocks, reefs a few meters from shore and turtles that swim up to the fishermen. The north is wild, with waves crashing against limestone. You can drive it all in a few hours, with dry weather and without the usual hurricane threat.

WHERE IT IS

Southern Caribbean, about 65 km (40 mi) north of Venezuela; an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Capital: Willemstad.

GETTING THERE

Direct from Bogotá in about 1 h 55 min (Avianca, plus seasonal Wingo flights). From Medellín, direct flights of about 2 hours with Wingo or EZ Air, a few times a week.

WEATHER

Warm and dry: highs of 28 to 32 °C (82 to 90 °F), nights of 24 to 26 °C (75 to 79 °F), sea at 26 to 28 °C (79 to 82 °F) and 500 to 600 mm (20 to 24 in) of rain a year, mostly from October to January.

DOCUMENTS

No visa: valid passport issued less than 10 years ago, free Digital Immigration Card, onward ticket, accommodation, proof of funds and yellow fever vaccination.

MONEY

Caribbean guilder (Cg, code XCG), which replaced the Antillean guilder on March 31, 2025; pegged at Cg 1.79 per dollar officially and 1.82 in shops. US dollars are accepted across the island; change comes in guilders.

LANGUAGE

Papiamentu, Dutch and English are official; Spanish is widely understood and spoken.

TIME ZONE

One hour ahead of Colombia (UTC-4, no daylight saving time).

PLUGS

Types A and B, same as Colombia; 110 to 130 V but at 50 Hz. Some hotels have European-style 220 V outlets.

DON'T MISS

HIGHLIGHTS

01
WILLEMSTAD AND THE HANDELSKADE

The historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997, spans four districts: Punda, Otrobanda, Scharloo and Pietermaai. The colorful houses of the Handelskade are the island's postcard, and Punda is home to the oldest surviving synagogue in the Americas.

02
QUEEN EMMA BRIDGE

A pedestrian bridge floating on pontoons that links Punda with Otrobanda. When a ship approaches, an operator swings it against the shore with motors in a few minutes. Cross it at nightfall, when its lights come on.

03
PLAYA KENEPA GRANDI (GROTE KNIP)

Curaçao's most photographed cove: turquoise water, white sand and cactus-covered hills. It's public and free, with free parking. Arrive early to get shade, and climb to the lookout at the entrance before heading down.

04
KLEIN CURAÇAO

An uninhabited 1.7 km^2 (0.66 sq mi) islet about 10 km (6 mi) southeast, with an abandoned lighthouse, shipwreck remains and a reef full of turtles. You get there on a full-day trip, with about two hours of sailing each way.

05
CHRISTOFFEL AND SHETE BOKA

Climb the 372 m (1,220 ft) Christoffelberg, the island's highest point; the trail closes at 10 a.m. because of the heat. Then head to Shete Boka, where waves roar into the Boka Tabla cave.

06
PLAYA PISKADO AND THE WEST COAST

At this fishermen's beach near Westpunt, green turtles swim close when the boats clean their catch, especially mid-afternoon. Snorkel calmly and don't touch them. For a beach-club scene, go to Mambo or Jan Thiel.





PLAN YOUR TRIP

WHEN TO GO

Curaçao is good year-round. February to June is the driest season, with a steady breeze that takes the edge off the heat. July to September is hotter and the wind drops, so the sea is usually calmer for diving. October to January brings a bit more rain, mostly in short showers. December, January and Colombian school vacations push up airfare and lodging prices.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

BEST

FEB – JUN

The best time to go.

GOOD

JAN · JUL – SEP

A good time, with a catch on weather or crowds.

RAINY

OCT – DEC

More rain: keep plans flexible.

WHAT YOU NEED TO TRAVEL

For Colombian passport holders: no visa is required for tourism in Curaçao since July 1, 2015. You can stay up to 30 consecutive days and a maximum of 90 days in any 365-day period. Filling out the Digital Immigration Card before you travel is mandatory. Traveling on another passport? Requirements differ, so message us and we'll check yours.

- Colombian passport issued less than 10 years ago and valid for your entire stay.
- Digital Immigration Card (DI Card) completed on the official portal dicardcuracao.com within the 7 days before your trip. It's free and mandatory for every foreign traveler, including children.
- Return ticket to Colombia or onward ticket to another country.
- Hotel booking, or a letter of invitation if you're staying with family or friends.
- Proof of funds: about USD 150 per person per day if you stay in a hotel, or USD 100 if you stay with family or friends.
- Yellow fever vaccination for anyone over 9 months old, at least 10 days before arrival, since Colombia is a risk area.
- Medical or travel insurance covering hospitalization, emergencies and repatriation: recommended by the tourist board, not an entry requirement.

Checked in September 2026 with Curaçao Tourist Board: travel requirements for Curaçao. Rules change, so confirm with the official source before you travel, or message us and we'll help.

WHAT WE'D TELL A FRIEND

BOKANA TIPS

1 Skip the DI Card middlemen

The Digital Immigration Card is free at dicardcuracao.com. Many lookalike sites charge for the same form. Fill it out within the 7 days before your flight and keep the PDF or confirmation email on your phone.

2 Rent a car

The best beaches are in the west, far from Willemstad, and public transportation is limited. A small car reaches almost all of them. You drive on the right, and there's no right turn on red.

3 Christoffel at sunrise

Tickets to climb the Christoffelberg are sold only in the morning, and the trail closes at 10 a.m. because of the heat. Start between 6 and 7 a.m., and bring 2 liters (about half a gallon) of water per person and shoes with good grip.

4 Dollars yes, euros no

You can pay in dollars anywhere on the island, usually at 1.82 guilders per dollar, with change in guilders. Euros can only be exchanged at banks. Restaurants and hotels usually add a 10 to 12% service charge.

5 Check your chargers

The outlets are the same as in Colombia, but the current is 50 Hz. Phone and laptop chargers work fine; wall clocks, hair dryers or devices with motors may behave differently.

6 Tap water

Tap water comes from Aqualectra's desalination plants and is safe to drink. Bring a reusable bottle to the western beaches, where there's sometimes nowhere to buy water.

7 Watch your car at the beach

Don't leave valuables visible inside the car at beaches and lookouts. Take only what you need onto the sand, and put everything else in the trunk before you arrive.

TRAVEL MINDFULLY

At Playa Piskado and on Klein Curaçao, watch the turtles without touching, chasing or feeding them, and don't stand on the coral. Use mineral, oxybenzone-free sunscreen. At Shete Boka, respect the turtle nesting areas that the Carmabi foundation monitors from May to December.

WHERE TO EAT

OUR RESTAURANT PICKS

Chosen for their food, their track record and what past diners say. Price: $ budget · $$ mid-range · $$$ splurge.

PLASA BIEU (OLD MARKET) $

Curaçao Creole (krioyo) · Punda, Willemstad (De Ruyterkade)

★ **4.3** · 1,034 reviews on TripAdvisor

An old market turned food court with about six family-run kitchens. It's where locals eat lunch and the most direct way to taste krioyo, the island's Creole home cooking.

What diners love: Hearty, cheap home cooking, with goat stew, fried fish and funchi. It fills up at midday and the most popular dishes sell out early.

Order: Stoba di kabritu (goat stew) with funchi

Lunch only, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Arrive before 12:30 p.m. and bring cash.

GOUVERNEUR DE ROUVILLE $$

Creole and international · Otrobanda, Willemstad

★ **4.3** · 4,324 reviews on TripAdvisor

A colonial mansion in Otrobanda with a balcony facing the Handelskade facades. It serves local dishes in a setting that works well for groups.

What diners love: Reviewers praise the balcony view, the friendly service and well-made local dishes, plus beef tenderloin and pastas. A pleasant atmosphere at night.

Order: Keshi yena

Ask for a balcony table to see the harbor lit up.

KOME $$

Caribbean chef-driven, wood-fired grill · Pietermaai, Willemstad

★ **4.5** · 2,214 reviews on TripAdvisor

Chef-driven cooking with local produce, a wood-fired oven, a smoker and its own bakery. One of Willemstad's top-rated restaurants for more than a decade.

What diners love: Creative, well-executed dishes, attentive service and a relaxed atmosphere in a neighborhood house. Reviewers recommend booking because it fills up.

Order: Meats from the wood-fired grill or smoker

Book ahead. Closed Sunday and Monday; brunch on Saturday.

MOSA/CAÑA $$$

Sharing plates, Caribbean-Latin · Pietermaai, Willemstad (Penstraat 41)

★ **4.6** · 1,101 reviews on TripAdvisor

A sharing-plates concept blending Caribbean, Latin and Asian influences, with signature cocktails. A good night out in the liveliest neighborhood.

What diners love: Reviewers highlight surprising flavors, cocktails made with fresh ingredients and staff who explain the menu well. Colorful, lively atmosphere.

Order: Several plates to share and a cocktail

Book on their website. Open Wednesday to Sunday from 6 p.m.

BRISA DO MAR (POP'S PLACE) $$

Creole and seafood on the water · Caracasbaai, 5 minutes from Jan Thiel

★ **4.4** · 1,174 reviews on TripAdvisor

A local restaurant on the shore of Caracasbaai, near the Jan Thiel hotel area. Creole seafood in a less touristy setting than the beach.

What diners love: Reviewers love the stewed karko (conch), the seafood and the spot over the water, sometimes with a live saxophonist. Fast, friendly service.

Order: Stewed karko (conch)

Book if you want a table by the water.

Ratings and review counts checked in October 2026; they change over time. Review summaries are our own. Hours and prices vary, so check before

LOCAL FLAVORS

WHAT TO EAT

KESHI YENA

A Gouda or Edam cheese stuffed with chicken or beef, olives, raisins and onion, baked until it melts. The signature dish of the Dutch Caribbean.

FUNCHI

A firm cornmeal side, similar to polenta, served with stews and fish. Fried in slices, it's delicious too.

STOBA DI KABRITU

A slow-cooked goat stew with local spices, the essential taste of home cooking. Served with funchi or rice.

LARAHA LIQUEUR

The original Blue Curaçao is made from the peel of the laraha, a local bitter orange. You can taste it at the distillery in Landhuis Chobolobo.



BOKANA TRAVEL

PICTURE YOURSELF IN CURAÇAO? LET'S PLAN IT TOGETHER.

Join one of our groups on your own, or bring your people on a private trip.
Scan the code or message us.

Chat with us on WhatsApp

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bokanatravel.co/en/destinations/curazao/

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