

Bonaire

Area

Bonaire is a beautiful island in the Caribbean and is part of the Netherlands. This island is located in the southern part of the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Venezuela and here the sun always shines! Bonaire is the quieter island of the three islands (Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao) and has much to offer in terms of activities and nature. On every corner of the island you can snorkel and you are directly in a beautiful environment where you can swim between the turtles, manta rays and many tropical fish. The island has a perfect and stable climate to spend your holiday all year round with your fishing buddies or with your family! You can practice many water sports such as kiting, wakeboarding, surfing, para gliding, water skiing, diving and snorkeling but also horseback riding and golf or simply enjoy and relax on one of the beautiful beaches.



The island has a total of 20,000 inhabitants and is a wonderful place to relax. There are plenty of beaches and bars where you can sunbathe, swim, snorkel or enjoy a fresh fish or ice-cold beer. Or take a trip on the island with a rental car, take a boat trip, enjoy a meal in the local restaurants or in the evening dip into a bar in Kralendijk to enjoy a fresh cocktail. It's all possible here and therefore perfect to go with your partner or family.

Bonaire is a small island of 39 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide. It is about 100 kilometres from the coast of Venezuela. Bonaire has been recognized for years as one of the better fishing locations in the Caribbean. One of the main reasons for this is the protected status of the waters around the island and the ban on commercial fishing since 1979. The main sources of income here are tourism and salt extraction.



The entire northern part of Bonaire, the Washington Slagbaai National Park, is a protected nature reserve. The park, 6000 hectares large, was established in 1969 as the first nature reserve of the Netherlands Antilles. There are a range of habitats, including the dunes near the bocas (inlets) on the north coast, the saliñas (salt lakes), the pos (springs) and the mountain areas. The park is rich in birds and other animals, especially lizards and iguanas. At the entrance of the park there is an interesting museum. From the entrance some trails are marked. The park is easily accessible by car and mountain bikers are also welcome.



Off the coast at Kralendijk lies the island of Klein Bonaire. The island is 700 hectares large, completely flat and only overgrown with small shrubs and cacti. There are at least 76 plant species and about 55 animal species on the island. It is surrounded by a coral reef. The beaches on the north and west side are the most important nesting places for sea turtles. On the island are also some saliñas (salt lakes). Red flamingos forage here as Bonaire has one of the largest flamingo populations in the world. For this reason and because of the pristine coral reefs and nesting beaches for sea turtles, the island is protected as a wetland of international importance. The island is accessible by boat for divers, snorklers and day guests.

The Lac is a beautiful shallow lagoon in the southeast of Bonaire. The area of 700 hectares is lined with mangroves. Lac is part of the protected underwater nature reerve. The bay is unique because of the presence of seagrass and mangroves. A part of the mangroves is virtually undisturbed due to the limited accessibility and therefore important as a resting area for bird species. Lac is an important resting place and breeding ground for many birds.



The Pekelmeer and the flamingo reserve (800 hectares) are part of the large area in the southwestern part of the island. Salt is still extracted in this area. It is also the most important habitat for the flamingo. A beautiful combination of economy and ecology. In this area there are, depending on the season, between 2000 and 7000 flamingos. The flamingo reserve is the most important breeding ground for the flamingo in the southern Caribbean. The total population that migrates between Bonaire and South America is estimated at 20,000.

Lodging

To stay here we work together with Oceanbreeze, B&B Bonaire and Oasis Apartments. This makes it possible to offer different levels and corresponding budgets.

Oceanbreeze:

This resort has no less than 16 studios, 30 apartments and 7 luxury villas to choose from. The various homes have a high level of finishing and radiate a real tropical atmosphere. This is what a holiday home in the Caribbean should look like. Very tasteful, comfortable and for a fair price. And of course they are also equipped with air conditioning. The homes are available for 2, 4, 6 and 8 persons.

There are different types of apartments:

- Studio apartments with 1 bathroom (2 persons)
- 1 bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom (2 persons)
- 2 bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom and an open mezzanine (4 persons)
- 2 bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom and separate bedroom upstairs (4 persons)



All apartments are equipped:

- A spacious bedroom with ensuite bathroom.
- A bathroom with a walk-in shower, a large sink and a separate toilet and bidet.
- A spacious kitchen with a modern and stylishly decorated layout, equipped with all the necessary equipment and conveniences:
 - A large fridge-freezer, a combi-oven, a ceramic hob, extractor, and dishwasher.
- A spacious living room with a comfortable sofa, coffee table and flat screen TV.
- Air conditioning is available throughout the apartment and the floors have natural tiles.



From the seating area, the sheltered sun terrace is accessible through sliding doors. You overlook the shared jetty and the beautiful lagoon, where you can enjoy the tranquillity and / or sunset. You are free to use the communal swimming pool and all apartments have private parking.

There are three different types of villas available:

- Type "Evita" (8 persons)
- Type "Dean" (6 persons)
- Type "Shanna" (6 persons)



You have access to your private pool or you can use the communal pool at the resort. All villas have several private parking spaces.



Oceanbreeze offers comfort as comfort is meant to be. Delicious luxury and quality retreats.



The local supermarket here is called van den Tweel and offers a good choice of quality products. The choice is extensive and basically everything we have in Europe is available here as well.

On this island all the ingredients are present to enjoy your (fishing) holiday in a wonderful mix of a tropical style with good weather conditions. Beautiful weather, good food, fishing, what more could you want?



Oasis Guesthouse

The Oasis Guesthouse is easily accessible and offers space for fishermen who have a smaller budget. It has two superior rooms, one on the ground floor and one on the first floor. These rooms have a floor area between 20 and 35 square meters.

In addition, there is 1 family room located on the first floor consisting of 2 bedrooms and 1 large bathroom. Enough space for a comfortable night and ideal for a family or two couples.

Finally, the Guesthouse has three standard rooms (Queen rooms), all on the ground floor, one at the front and two at the back (swimming pool). These rooms have a floor area between about 12 and 16 square meters.



All rooms have the following facilities:

- Queen size bed
- A bedside table and bedside lamp with each bed
- Wardrobe with sliding doors
- Flat screen LCD 32" television
- Wireless high-speed internet WIFI
- Minibar (can be filled for you on request)
- Daily cleaning from Monday to Friday
- Dresser
- Electronic safe
- Bathroom
- Air conditioning
- Shower with hot water
- Towels and bath towels

Bed & Breakfast Bonaire

B&B Bonaire is a Bed & Breakfast on Bonaire with six different apartments and / or studios where you can stay. This is also a good option for a family of 4 to rent two rooms.

The Basic Studio (14 m²) is a smaller room for one or two people, but with all the facilities you need. Located in the tropical garden and mostly booked by guests who are on the road a lot.

The Standard Apartment (20 m²) is suitable for one or two persons and has a sitting area in the room, next to the standard facilities. Here you will find guests who want a little more space and want to sit outside.



A lovely spacious apartment (30 m²) with large terrace for one or two people, and an extra bed for a third person can be added. This apartment is mainly booked for longer stays.

The largest apartment has a spacious balcony with a beautiful seaview and view on Klein Bonaire! The apartment is suitable for one, two or three persons (extra bed) and has an outdoor kitchenette and hammock where you can relax.



Furthermore, this apartment has its own entrance, where you have to climb two stairs, but that worth it! The spacious balcony, the hammock outside and the view make this a place not easy to forget.

All rooms have the following facilities:

- Kitchenette (2 burners) pots, pans and crockery
- Refrigerator with freezer compartment(s)
- Shower with hot water, washbasin and toilet
- Spacious terrace or balcony
- Fine beds
- A clean bed every 7 nights
- Final cleaning care
- Coffee and tea facilities
- Air conditioning
- Mosquito net above the bed
- WiFi
- Care towels and bed linen
- Clean towels every 4 nights

Inshore fishing

Along the coast of Bonaire there are a lot of potential hotspots. Mostly with shads, streamers, flies and crankbaits but don't forget to bring the float in combination with natural bait. But also bottom fishing is going to yield a whole range of different species. The choice is up to you which fishing you like the most. You can also fish anywhere with live bait. So a few small hooks and some bread will certainly help you catch the required bait fish.



In the south east of Bonaire there is a large amount of fishing grounds for the bonefish and permit. In Lac Bay the method of fishing is wading as it is not more than 1 meter deep. The water is crystal clear and completely safe. The surface is solid and easy to walk on, there are no sharks, jellyfish or other troublesome animals. A pair of sandals is recommended for wading. At the entrance near the sea you will find tarpon and more close to shore the mangroves provide shelter for snook, smaller tarpon and bonefish.

The average bonefish weighs between 1 and 2 kilos but also specimens of 3 to 4 kilos are regularly caught. The largest caught here is no less than 6 kilos. The largest permit here is 15 kilos where the average is between 4 and 8 kilos. Other species you will encounter here include barracuda, ladyfish, grey snapper and many others. You can go here with the fly-rod as well as with the spinning-rod. There is a fish for everyone here. For the adventurous fisherman who wants to fish for bonefish there are plenty of fishing spots. Drive your rental car to the south along the salinas and the flamingo reserve and eventually you will reach the sea. Here you will find many square kilometres of available 'flats' for bonefish fishing.

On the east side of Kralendijk is a beautiful bay called Lagun. Here you can walk along the concrete jetty on the right side into the water until the end of the jetty. Then you cast towards the buoy and calmly strip your fly or lure. The water can be a bit cloudy but that's fine because you don't disturb the fish and you also have a chance to catch bycatch like horse mackerel and ladyfish.





Along the south west side, from Kralendijk down south, there are many reefs where you can have a lot of fun with a lure or surface bait on a light spinning rod. Think of barracudas, groupers and more kinds of predators. But keep the tarpon in mind at all these locations. This illustrious fish is caught here close to shore. So you don't necessarily have to go after this species by boat, but you can also catch it wading from the shore.

Because of the mostly clear water, the fish are shy by nature. In the evening fishing sometimes results in more strikes. You can fish almost everywhere except in the harbours of Plaza and Harbour Village and Goto Lake.



Active fishing

Peter is our local partner. He has a beautiful 2 great fishing boats. The first is a 27 foot Sailfish fishing boat with 2 x 200 HP engines that can accommodate up to 4 people. The boat is equipped with the necessary lifesaving equipment, AIS, the most modern electronics such as autopilot, plotter, fishfinder, structure scan and sidescan imaging sonar. Fishing equipment is standard on board for jigging, casting and trolling. This is possible in different weight classes from light, medium to heavy. Only the best quality materials from Daiwa, Shimano and Okuma are available. There is a toilet in the console, a lounge area in the bow and a watertight compartment for phones, cameras and other electronics. A sunshade covers the middle of the boat.





The second boat is the Mellow Yellow, a 24 ft McKee Freedom. This boat is similar to the other fishing boat. Thanks to two 175 hp Suzuki engines, this is the second fastest charter boat on the island.



Peter loves active fishing and likes to take you out to sea for a perfect combination of jigging and trolling or to go night fishing for tuna and more.

The trolling takes place along the coast and reef edges, alternating with jigging at a number of locations where structure and steep dropoffs are underwater. When during these trips he spots a group of birds above a school of baitfish, he immediately switches to the casting rods and you can actively target the hunting fish with all kinds of lures. Extremely active and a great cat and mouse game. Different types of fish can be expected depending on the season.



Another super fun way of fishing is night fishing. This takes place at the FAD's (Fish Attracting Devices) off the coast where a lot of fish gather. Targeting tuna is done by active fishing jigging or casting. This involves the use of relatively light material, which allows you to experience super fishing.



Besides fishing from the boat, Peter is also an avid fisherman in the coastal waters. So if you want to get started on the local flats it is absolutely recommended to book Peter for a day (or part of a day) as a guide and show you the best hotspots on the island. Also here the motto is light material. How about 10 gram shads / paddletails? And Peter is the only person who has the right licences to legally fish here.



Material

Coast

For coastal fishing, light (20 to 50 grams) to medium (40 to 100 grams) rods are preferred. Reels in the 3 and 4000 class with braided line in the 6 to 10 kilo breaking strength are perfect combinations. Lures in different types and sizes are required. Lures, spoons, poppers, stickbaits but also the old-fashioned float with a piece of fish on the hook are certainly successful here. For the smaller (bait) species of course smaller hooks.

For fishing for bonefish a 10 gram rod with a 6/100 braided line and a reel size 1 to 2000 is fine. This material is also included with a day of fishing with Peter as a guide but bringing your own equipment is also fine of course. Small shads and twisters from 3.5 to 5 cm. A jighead of 2 or 5 grams and a metre of 10lb fluorocarbon and you are set.

Fishing for bonefish can also be done with the fly-rod. With a size 7 to 8 you will be fine and as flies Gotchas, Baited Breath and pearl, EP brush, EP silver, EP shrimp or tan Charlies are recommended to trick them into a strike. If you prefer to fish for bonefish with a guide we can also arrange that for you. Peter is a great lover and will assist you with advice and material. When it comes to bait, you should consider shrimp or small fishing imitations that work fine in natural colours of silver and white with some contrast colours like green and blue. This can be done with shads, small jigs, spoons, streamer, fly and the like.

In the hunt for tarpon, barracuda or snook the medium rod is recommended from 60 to 120 grams. Lures, stickbaits, shads etc are the preferred materials in light and natural colours such as silver, blue-green and white.



Tarpon



Bonefish

Boat fishing

For fishing from the boat rods up to 2 metres of 20-30 lbs in combination with 5 to 6000 reels are just perfect in combination with a braided line of 20 kilo breaking strength. A leader of 1 to 1.2 mm and a minimum length of 1.5 meters is desirable. We troll with the salt water versions of Rapala, the big Manns crankbaits that run up to a depth of 10 to 12 meters but also the tuna trolling lures for the surface action. For bottom fishing we use the same rods for the big job as for jigging at depths of 30 to 100 meters. For the lighter work and the smaller species we use medium spinning rods with stickbaits and jigs. But feel free to try a shad on deeper water. How about large chunks or entire natural baitfish? Drift along the reefs and you will come across groupers, barracudas, sharks and other large species.

This is the heaviest material that is used but it is also nice to have a medium casting rod on board to cast for fish when seeing them hunt in the surface. Hunting tuna, skipjack's, snooks and dorado's offer delicious fishing with a matching lure choice like a small popper, stickbait or other surface lure.



Season

Bonaire has a very stable and pleasant climate. Both the average air and sea temperature do not vary more than 2 to 3° Celsius throughout the year. Ideal for fishing (and for holidays).

	jan.	feb.	mrt.	apr.	mei.	jun.	jul.	aug.	sep.	okt.	nov.	dec.
Day temp.	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	28	29	30	29	28
Night temp.	24	23	24	25	26	27	27	27	27	27	26	24
Hours sun / day	9	9	9	9	9	9	10	10	9	9	8	8
Rain in mm.	18	14	13	11	13	14	14	14	12	15	19	22
Days rain	6	3	1	4	4	7	9	8	6	9	7	7
Seawater temp.	27	26	26	26	27	28	28	28	28	28	27	27

The best period for the large species such as marlin, sailfish and tuna is at the beginning of the year but for the other fishing (trolling from your own boat for wahoo, barracuda, bonito, tuna, dorado or bottom fishing etc and coastal fishing for tarpon, bonefish and snook) you can really all year round.

	jan	feb	mar	apr	may	jun	jul	aug	sep	oct	nov	dec
Wahoo	G	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Barracuda	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Blue marlin	P	P	P	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
White marlin	P	P	P	G	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Sailfish	G	G	G	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Yellow fin tuna	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Bonito	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
rainbow runner	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
horse eye jacks	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
Dorado	R	G	P	P	G	R	M	M	M	M	M	M
Bonefish	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Tarpon	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
Snook	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G

P	Perfect
G	Good
R	Reasonable
M	Mediocre

If you travel to this location, take into account good weather. Sunglasses, swimming trunks, sunlotion and a suncap are a must here. And that applies all year round. But don't forget your snorkling gear either because that's what you have to do when you go here. There is plenty to do on this island and it doesn't necessarily have to be just fishing. A day at the beach or pool or shopping in the town itself are within easy reach. So men, surprise your wife and take her for a week and then you can go fishing yourself. This is the ideal combination!





Travel & Price

This trip starts with a flight to Bonaire. You can compose this trip as you like. Would you like to spend two weeks with your family, of which a couple of days fishing from shore and the big game boat. A week with three couples where the ladies can stay on the beach or at the pool of the villa and the men can fish for a couple of days. Of course the ladies can also join in on the boat! Or do you want to combine a week of bonefish fishing with the guide or just enjoy a week on the big game boat with your fishing buddies? Compose your desired fishing trip and we will make it possible.



At Bonaire we arrange a rental car so you are flexible and can go wherever you want on the island and you have the freedom to do something and look around for one or more days.

To spend a day on his boat with Peter there are different rates:

Fishing trip: 4 hours € 600,-, 6 hours € 800,- and 8 hours € 950,- and 10 hours € 1100,- with a maximum of 4 persons. Departure in the morning from 06:30 a.m. and departure in the afternoon from 1 p.m. For fishing the fads there is an additional charge of \$100,00

Guide on the flats: from 7 a.m. to 12 noon is the best period and the rate is € 450 for 2 persons and € 400,- for 1 person.

Prices include 6% abb (VAT) and all equipment + drinks. Guests are given a portion of the catch for their own use if they wish. Catch & Release is encouraged.





For a trip of a week with 3 persons with 5 fishing days (1 day fishing trip, 1 time night fishing and 1 time bonefish on the flats and 2 days doing your own shore fishing) rental car and accommodation in a B&B or guesthouse, the starting price (in low season) is € 1.595,- per person. The final price depends on the number of participants, number of fishing days, type of fishing, available flights, period and type of stay. The closer you get to the holiday periods, the higher the prices of course.

Additional costs: personal care, gasoline for rental car and boat, possible tip for the boat crew and a departure tax for each departing tourist of 20 US dollars.

Would you like to inquire about the availability of this location or would you like an offer, please contact us:

Worldsbestfishingtrips.com
De Kruijin 1C
3471 BR Kamerik
The Netherlands
E-mail : mail@worldsbestfishingtrips.com
Telephone : 0031 – 348 702 620
(between 08.30 and 17.00 hours CET)

