

Understanding the Port

Bonaire is the Caribbean for people who want to be in the water, not just beside it. The entire coastline is a protected marine park, the reef starts at the shore, and the ship docks right in town. This is the easiest world-class snorkeling you will ever reach.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

Ships dock at the piers in downtown Kralendijk. Shops, restaurants, and the waterfront promenade start at the gangway.

Cash & Currency

The US dollar is Bonaire's official currency — no exchange, no math. Cards are widely accepted around town.

Getting Around

Taxis meet the ship, and pickup trucks and golf carts are the favorite DIY rentals. Most of the island sits within 30 minutes of the pier.

GOOD

Kralendijk & the Waterfront

Best for: Short stops, easy days, minimal logistics

- ✓ Colorful Dutch-Caribbean town at the gangway
- ✓ Shore snorkel entries within walking distance
- ✓ Back at the ship whenever you want

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

Klein Bonaire by Water Taxi

Best for: Snorkelers, swimmers, beach lovers

- ✓ No Name Beach: white sand, pristine reef
- ✓ Some of the easiest great snorkeling anywhere
- ✓ Bring water and sun cover; the islet is bare

Note the return boat times before you swim.

BEST

The Southern Loop

Best for: Explorers, photographers, history minds

- ✓ Salt pyramids and blinding-white salt pans
- ✓ The historic slave huts by the shore
- ✓ Flamingos wading in the wild

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

Town & Shore Snorkel

Stroll the waterfront, then slip into the marine park right from shore — gear rents in town. Anyone entering the water pays Bonaire's nature fee (about \$10 on a cruise day, via dive shops and operators). It funds the reef you are floating over.

BETTER

Klein Bonaire

A short water-taxi hop to an uninhabited islet ringed by reef. Drift along the drop-off at No Name Beach and you will see why divers cross oceans for this island.

BEST

The Southern Loop

Rent a pickup or join a tour down the south coast: salt pyramids, the slave huts, flamingos in the ponds, and windsurfers skimming Lac Bay. Small island, unforgettable loop.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

Klein Bonaire

The consensus snorkel pick: clear water, healthy coral, and an easy boat ride from the pier.

The Do-It-Yourself Island Loop

Bonaire is one of the Caribbean's best rent-and-roam islands. A pickup truck and a snorkel bag make the whole coast yours.



Stove-pipe sponges on a Bonaire reef



Kralendijk's waterfront, Bonaire

Key Considerations

The marine park is the island's crown jewel and it has rules: everyone 13 and older entering the water pays the nature fee (included in most ship excursions), and touching or standing on coral is out. Wear reef-safe sunscreen and water shoes, and you will fit right in.

Shade is scarce — this is a desert island — so bring real sun protection, especially for Klein Bonaire, which has none at all. Rental trucks and golf carts go fast on ship days; reserve before you sail. Watch for wandering donkeys on the roads.



The salt pyramids of southern Bonaire



The 19th-century slave huts by the salt pans



Caribbean flamingos, Bonaire

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Port Orientation

FROM THE PORT (KRALENDIJK)

● Downtown Kralendijk	At the gangway
● Shore snorkel entries	Walkable along the coast road
~ 15 min by water taxi	
● Klein Bonaire	No Name Beach
~ 15–20 min by car	
● Salt flats & slave huts	The southern loop
● Lac Bay / Sorobon	Windsurfing lagoon
~ 20 min by car	
● 1000 Steps	Snorkel stairway, north coast
~ 30 min by car	
● Rincon & Cadushy Distillery	Cactus liqueur; closed Sundays

DON'T FORGET

Confirm your all aboard time before you leave the ship.
Set a phone alarm. The ship will not wait for you.

Key Takeaway

Bonaire keeps it simple: the best thing here is the water, and the water starts at the shore.

Snorkel from town, boat to Klein Bonaire, or loop the salt-and-flamingo south. Any of the three done well is a perfect day.

ETA will help you choose the right experience based on your travel style.

steve.ernst@ernst.llc
ernst.llc | 814/602-1851

Did You Know?

Diver's Paradise. It is printed right on the license plates. Bonaire is widely called the shore-diving capital of the world.

A Marine Park Since 1979. The entire coastline, from the high-water mark down to 200 feet, is protected — one of the oldest marine reserves anywhere.

Dutch Island, American Dollars. Bonaire is a special municipality of the Netherlands, yet its official currency is the US dollar.

Flamingo Country. Bonaire's Pekelmeer sanctuary is one of only four nesting grounds for the Caribbean flamingo on Earth. Watch for them from the southern loop road.

Salt and Memory. Sea salt has been harvested here since the 1600s. The gleaming pyramids and the restored slave huts beside them tell both sides of that story.