

Discover Dushi Korsou!



The Story of Curaçao

The history of Curaçao starts more than 6.000 years ago, when the Arawak Indians migrated from regions of South America and discovered the island. The group that settled on Curaçao were the Caiquetios, who some historians believe gave the island its name. In 1499, the Spanish lieutenant and explorer, Alonso de Ojeda visited the island to chart the South American coast and several offshore islands including Curaçao. Not long after de Ojeda's voyage, the Spanish settled in large numbers on the island. However, by the early 16th century the Spaniards abandoned the island because of the lack of fresh water supply and valuable minerals.

In 1634, long after the Spanish had abandoned Curaçao, the Dutch West Indies Company claimed the island. The natural harbour of Willemstad was ideal for trade. Commerce and shipping became Curaçao's most important economic activities and Curaçao played a pivotal role in one of the most intricate international trade networks in history: the Atlantic slave trade. During this period, the local language Papiamentu, a mixture of Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, and African dialects began to develop and Papiamentu became the primary source of communication between slaves and their owners.

The end of slavery in 1862 led to an economic downturn that lasted until Shell built an oil refinery on the island in 1915. The new oil refining industry was responsible for a long economic boom. Curaçao became the seat of government for the newly autonomous Netherlands Antilles in 1954. It was during this period that offshore finance became a major factor in the island's economy. However, the 1970's oil crisis ended the long economic boom and a reduction in international investment in the following decade led to a further economic decline. Shell closed the refinery in 1985.

In recent years the island's fortunes have turned around. The government took over the refinery in the 1990's and leased it to a Venezuelan company, which gave the economy a much-needed boost. Other industries like tourism, offshore banking, shipping and ship repair all make a considerable contribution to the economy nowadays.

Curaçao became autonomous within the Kingdom of the Netherlands on October 10, 2010. The future of greater independence brings many possibilities, but the rich cultural history of the island remains.

Facts

With a population of over 142.000 inhabitants and a land area of 444 square kilometres (171 square miles), Curaçao is located in the southwestern Caribbean, just 70 km (44 miles) north of South America. Below we have listed a few fun facts about our unique island:

- Most people from Curaçao speak Papiamentu, Dutch, Spanish and English.
- Although the majority of the inhabitants are Catholic (80%) Adventists, Anglican/Episcopal, Baptists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews Muslims and Methodists are all represented and practice their religions freely.
- Local food is called Krioyo (pronounced the same as criollo, the Spanish word for "Creole") and boasts a blend of flavours and techniques best compared to Caribbean cuisine and Latin American cuisine.
- Curaçao is on Atlantic Standard Time: one hour earlier than US Eastern Standard Time (the same time as Eastern Daylight Savings Time) and four hours later than Greenwich Mean Time.

Weather

Located in the tropics under the hurricane belt, Curaçao has a warm and sunny climate year round. Cooling trade winds blow constantly from the east, picking up in the spring months. The rainy season is usually marked by short occasional showers (mostly at night) and continued sunny weather during the day.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high °C	29.7	30	30.5	31.1	31.6	32	31.9	32.4	32.6	31.9	31.1	30.1
(°F)	85.5	86	86.9	88	88.9	89.6	89.4	90.3	90.7	89.4	88	86.2
Average low °C	24.3	24.4	24.8	25.5	26.3	26.4	26.1	26.3	26.5	26.2	25.6	24.8
(°F)	75.7	75.9	76.6	77.9	79.3	79.5	79	79.3	79.7	79.2	78.1	76.6
Precipitation mm	44.7	25.5	14.2	19.6	19.6	19.3	40.2	41.5	48.6	83.7	96.7	99.8
(inches)	1.76	1.004	0.559	0.772	0.772	0.76	1.583	1.634	1.913	3.295	3.807	3.929

Learning Papiamentu

Bon bini	Welcome	Mi ta bini di...	I am from...
Bon dia	Good morning	Danki	Thank you
Bon tardi	Good afternoon	Di nada	You're welcome
Bon nochi	Good night or good evening	Te otro biaha	See you later
Kon ta bai?	How are you?	Homber	Man
Mi ta bai bon, danki	I am fine, thank you	Muhe	Woman
Kon ta bo number?	What's your name?	Muchanan	Children
Mi number ta...	My name is...		

Money

Curaçao uses the Netherlands Antillean guilder, although everyone accept U.S. dollars as well. The exchange rate is about 1.78 Nafl to \$1 U.S. The Hyatt Regency Curaçao accepts Netherlands Antillean guilders, U.S. dollars and Euros. Major credit cards are accepted almost everywhere on the island.

ATM machines can be found all over the island at major population centers and at the airport. To recognize an ATM machine, look for the signs "Bankomatico" or "Geldautomaat." Most ATM 's offer the option to withdraw in local currency or U.S. dollars. The hotel has an ATM on property as well.

Electricity

The Hyatt Regency Curaçao has both 110-130V and 220V plugs in the rooms, allowing you to use U.S. as well as European devices.

Communication

From our Guest Rooms you can call directly outside the hotel. Calls to the U.S., Canada and the Netherlands are \$1 per minute and all other international calls are \$2 per minute. Local calls are \$1 per call. Unfortunately calling cards do not work from your Guest Room Phone.

Airport Transportation

Airport transportation is \$30 USD + 5% tax per person. This fee will be added to your room folio and must be arranged 48 hours in advance. Children under 12 years receive a 50% discount. Infants up to one year will be complimentary. Extra services such as baby seats are available upon request, providing advance notice and require additional fees.

Taxi

Taxis are available at the airport to transport you to our hotel. Taxi fees are approximately \$60 - \$70 USD per trip, one way, with a maximum of four people, including children. Rates increase by 25% from 11:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Taxis are available 24 hours per day. From the hotel taxis are available, however making arrangements in advance is recommended.

Rental Car

A Hertz rent-a-car office is located at our resort and will be happy to assist you with rental car reservations during your stay. For more information and rates, please contact Hertz at www.hertz.com or email them at hertz-curacao@luxury-nv.com. Making arrangements in advance is recommended, especially during the Holidays.

Driving

In Curaçao we drive on the right-hand side of the road. At intersections and traffic circles, yield to traffic coming from your right unless signs indicate otherwise. At all T-crossings, through-going traffic has priority. The speed limit is 45 km/hour in town and residential areas, and 60-80 km/hour outside the city and on the four-lane Ring Road. Most gas stations are full service; a few are open 24 hours. To drive in Curaçao, a valid driver's license is necessary. An international driver's license is not required.

Hotel Amenities

Recreation

Surrounded by remarkable scenery and turquoise waters, the Hyatt Regency Curaçao offers fun activities for the young and old. Whether you feel like learning about the interesting culture and nature of Curaçao, exercising or simply having fun, our Recreation team is dedicated to make your stay memorable. From a Meditation Hike to Caribbean Yoga and Coconut bowling, your stay at The Hyatt Regency Curaçao will be truly a memorable one. Our Concierge has a monthly calendar with recreational activities available upon request.

Camp Arawak

Camp Arawak offers your kids, ages 3-12, their own vacation fun at Hyatt Regency Curaçao. Our team is excited to join your children in fun team games, creative activities, and sessions focused on the culture, history and environment of Curaçao.

Tennis

Surrounded by beautiful landscape and waters, Hyatt Regency Curaçao's state of the art tennis courts are ideal for a perfect tennis vacation. With four Hydro-grid clay courts – each lit for night play –our tennis facility is one of the finest in the Caribbean. The courts feature a full-service pro shop with the latest men's and women's tennis apparel, tennis gear, racquets and balls.

Whether it is instructional, competitive or social programs you are looking for, our PBI Tennis pro Karl Vukobrat is excited to improve your game. The courts are open daily from 8 am to 9 pm. Our tennis center also has bikes available to explore the beauty of Santa Barbara Plantation.

ATABEI SPA

Named for the creator of life, the mother earth, at ATABEI all of our treatments are created with the natural and organic products and ingredients from this, our native land, to Awaken, Hydrate, Nourish and Renew.

Located at the pool level, ATABEI offers 4 spacious Treatment Suites with indoor/outdoor treatment space, including a Couple's Suite. All spa suites include a personal vanity, rain shower and outdoor relaxation patio with views of the Caribbean Sea.

Sooth your senses and enjoy one of the relaxing treatments featuring natural botanicals, herbs and oils. Our Spa also features a Relaxation Lounge and a Salon with Manicure, Pedicure and Hairstyling services.

For more information and prices please contact Atabei Spa at +5999 840 4950 or curac-spa@hyatt.com. We recommend making arrangements in advance, especially during Holidays.

Old Quarry Golf Course

Our 18-hole, par 72 championship Old Quarry Golf Course, designed by the renowned golf course architect Pete Dye, provides an extraordinary and memorable golf experience.

The full-service golf shop is open daily from 7 am to 7:30 pm and is equipped with the latest men's and women's apparel, equipment, accessories and locker-rooms. They offer Callaway rental golf equipment for men, ladies and junior players.

The Old Quarry also offers a full-service practice area, including a driving range, fully equipped with bag stands and towel attachment, club cleaning pails, and yardage information.

The qualified PGA Professionals welcome the opportunity to help improve your game. Golf instruction is kept simple and fun so you can enjoy learning and improving your golf game. Private or family lessons, corporate outings, and group instruction are available. Please contact our Golf Shop at +5999 840 6886 or info@oldquarrygolfcourse.com for more information and prices.

Fitness Center

Located at the pool level, our state of the art fitness center is equipped with lifecycles, treadmills, stair masters, cross trainers and a wide range of strength equipment. Enjoy your daily workout with wonderful Caribbean Sea views.

Watersports

Located right at our beach, Ocean Encounters – a PADI 5-star IDC Dive and water sports facility – offers a wide selection of watersports. From the large dock, comfortable boats will take you daily on exciting diving, snorkeling trips and sunset trips. For more information, please visit their website at www.oceanencounters.com or email Ocean Encounters at hyatt@oceanencounters.com. We recommend making arrangements in advance, especially during Holidays.

Tours

Our Tour desk is located by the transportation corridor and is the expert on Curaçao's history, culture and nature. A wide range of tours and excursions ensure that you experience Curaçao's many hidden treasures and fascinating natural attractions. From City walk tours to Natural Treasure and Island Tours, our Tour desk will be happy to assist you with booking your exciting adventures. For more information, please visit their website at www.curaçao-actief.com or email Explore Curacao at info@explorecuracao.com. Making arrangements in advance is recommended, especially during Holidays.

Shuttle to Historic Willemstad

Enjoy shopping, sightseeing and dining in the picturesque city of Willemstad. Shuttles depart Hyatt Regency Curaçao on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 am, with a return pick-up time of 2:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00 plus 5% tax per person. We also have an Evening Shuttle available on Tuesdays and Fridays, leaving the resort at 5 pm and returning from Riffort (Otrobanda) at 10 pm. The cost of the Evening Shuttle is \$15 plus 5% tax per person. Reservations are available through the Tour Desk.

Internet access

Wireless Internet is available throughout the entire hotel for \$15 per day + 5% tax per person. From your Guest Room wired Internet is available as well.

Business Center

Our Business Center, located in the lobby, offers Internet access, faxing, photocopies, mailing and printing. It is also equipped with an Airline Arrival/Departure screen and an ATM.

Do not forget to pack.....

- Passport
- Mosquito Repellent
- Sunscreen (at least SPF 30)
- Hat & Sunglasses
- Swimwear & Flip flops

Dining

Medi

Our Full-service restaurant Medi features an exhibition kitchen, complete with a wood-fired oven and upscale dining room serving fresh Mediterranean dishes along with traditional favorites. Outdoor seating with a view of the sea is available for those who prefer to dine al Fresco. Medi is also featuring an upscale lounge, serving a creative Tapas menu and artistic Caribbean libations.

Shor

Shor offers an American-style grill featuring our upscale Burger bar for lunch and offering the freshest catches of the day, all served in a contemporary upscale seating in our oceanfront golf clubhouse. Shor is the perfect venue to re-live your game while enjoying one of our creative cocktails in the tranquility of the Caribbean.

Swim

Swim is a full service restaurant offering the finest frozen drinks and pan Latino dishes. Enjoy a refreshing “frio-frio” (snow cone) with local syrups around our pools or whole sunbathing at the beautiful Barbara Beach.

Great Room

The open setting of the great room with its refreshing breeze will enable your senses to be indulged by all that Curaçao has to offer, while enjoying one of our specialty cocktails & Hors D’ouvres.

In-room Dining

Let us bring the restaurant to your room. Whether you prefer a breakfast, a lunch or a romantic dinner, our professional in-room dining team is at your service. Choose from an all day dining menu, including a full selection of wines and beers.

Recommended restaurants outside the resort

Curaçao offers a wide variety of restaurants with different cuisines. Below we have listed a few of our favorites.

Bistro Le Clochard	SWISS/FRENCH
Boathouse	SEAFOOD
El Gaucho	ARGENTINIAN STEAKHOUSE
L'Aldea	BRAZILEAN STEAKHOUSE
Landhuis Brakkeput Mei Mei	STEAK/SEAFOOD/GRILL
Mambo Beach	INTERNATIONAL
Pampus	FRENCH CARIBBEAN
Saint Tropez	INTERNATIONAL
Tinto	INTERNATIONAL
Cru Steakhouse	STEAK/SEAFOOD
Fishalicious	SEAFOOD
Jaanchie's Restaurant	LOCAL/CREOLE
The Wine Cellar	INTERNATIONAL
Perla Del Mar	SEAFOOD

For more information and reservations, please do not hesitate to contact our Concierge at +5999-840 1234 or conciierge.curac@hyatt.com. Please be advised that making reservations in advance is recommended, especially during Holidays.

Curaçao attractions

Beaches/Bays

Curaçao's beaches are its best-kept secret. The best beaches are not the long, expansive patches of sand found in other islands, but rather smaller, more intimate beaches found in secluded inlets, called "bocas" in Papiamentu.

Below we have listed our favorite beaches:

- Jan Thiel Baai
- Sea Aquarium Beach
- Cas Abou
- Grote/Kleine Knip
- Porto Marie



Willemstad

Willemstad is the capital of Curaçao and boasts an array of colonial architecture that is influenced by Dutch styles. The city center, with its peculiar architecture and beautiful harbour entry, has been made a UNESCO world heritage site in 1997. The famous "Pontoon Bridge", also known as the "Swinging Old Lady" divides the two districts Punda and Otrobanda. From 1901 to 1934, people had to pay a toll to cross the bridge — with the exception of pedestrians going barefoot. When the bridge is open to let ships from the harbour pass, pedestrians are transported free of charge by the ponchi, a small ferry.

Besides shopping, there are several places of interest in Willemstad. The floating market located in Punda is a colorful bazaar and so named because all the goods have "floated" in from Venezuela. It is almost entirely manned by visiting Venezuelan merchants who sell all manner of tropical fruits and wares from small wooden boats on the Willemstad waterfront.

Christoffel Park

Christoffel Park is the largest national park of Curaçao and a must see for everyone. The park has a rich variety of local flora and fauna. There are eight hiking trails, allowing the visitor the choice between an easy stroll, or for instance, a challenging hike to the top of Mount Christoffel (recommended for early morning).

Klein Curaçao

Curaçao's longest and whitest beach is on Klein Curaçao, an uninhabited island eight miles off the southeast coast. Ocean Encounters (hyatt@oceanencounters.com) offers catamaran trips to this beautiful island where you can go snorkeling, swimming and explore the island. The shore is covered in soft white sand and the water is crystal clear.



Ostrich Farm

Come and visit the Curaçao Ostrich Farm and take the opportunity to meet these fascinating birds up-close and personal. You can touch them, feed them even ride them (for real daredevils only). Every hour a safari truck will take you on a remarkable tour through the farm corals where the ostriches live. All you have to do is announce yourself at Restaurant Zambezi.

Aloe Vera Plantation

Curaçao is gifted with abundant natural Aloe Vera plants. This world famous plant with its natural healing power has been in use for ages as a natural remedy for various diseases. The plantation produces Aloe Vera gels for our CurAloe products. Visitors are warmly welcomed to discover the natural healing power of Aloe Vera and enjoy an informal excursion in a relaxed atmosphere.

Sea Aquarium

In 1984, one of Curaçao's finest assets, its underwater world, became accessible to everyone. The Curaçao Sea Aquarium was developed directly on the oceanfront with a healthy coral reef only a stone's throw from the entrance. This beautiful aquarium complex is one of the most unique in the world because of its 'open-water-system', which means that sea water is continuously pumped into the aquaria. During the feeding shows you can touch and learn about the animals.



Dolphin Academy

At the Dolphin Academy Curaçao visitors get the opportunity to meet dolphins and swim, snorkel or even dive with these special animals in 6 different programs. There are suiting programs for everybody!

Substation Curaçao

On the Caribbean island of Curaçao anyone can now discover the sea at a depth of 1.000 feet (320meters). Substation Curaçao launches Curasub, the world's most spectacular certified mini-submarine for tourists. The Curasub descends four times a day from Bapor Kibra to unreachable depths for divers. Onboard, submarine passengers make a memorable journey to places where very few people have ever been. The colorful fish, corals and old shipwrecks are perfectly visible in the crystal clear waters that surround the island of Curaçao.



Shete Boca National Park

Boca Table Cave, Natural Bridge, Blow Hole / Boca Pistol Area with more than 10 beautiful boca's where 3 kind of turtle species breed.

Hato Caves

The Hato Caves were formed below the sea level millions of years ago. With the Ice Ages the water level dropped down and Curaçao was born. The Hato cave covers an area of 4900 m², and is the home to the beautiful limestone formations, romantic pools, waterfall and our famous Madonna statue. Also inside the Cave is a colony of Seldon seen long nose fruit bats.

Herb Garden Dinah Veeris

In 1981 Dinah Veeris started her research for healing herbs and traditions by interviewing the older people to recover and preserve the secret knowledge of the former generations. In 1991 she started the garden plant by plant. She wrote a book about the herbs and their use and received several awards for her input in preserving the culture and the healing herbs. Den Paradera refers to Paraguiri Indians who long ago had the biggest herb garden at the east side of the island.

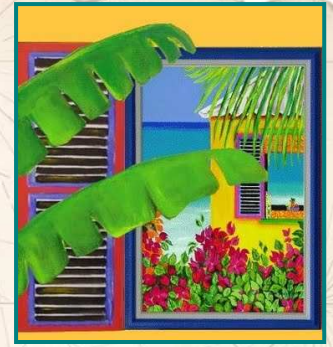


Curaçao Distillery

Since 1946 Chobolobo houses the distillery Senior Co, which has produced the famous Bleu Curaçao. During the guided tour of the distillery you can also get a good impression of both the interior and exterior of the land house.

Nena Sanchez Gallery

Nena Sanchez's colorful paintings have a personality of their own. Born in Curaçao, a Dutch Caribbean Island, she grew up surrounded by sunlight and the beautiful bright colors of the Caribbean blue skies and turquoise waters, which filled her with inspiration. Wonderful tropical flowers, cottages, cactuses, banana and palm trees all served as living models for her paintings. The beauty and sunlight she sees everyday have become her source of inspiration and have marked her love for the bright colors that are the base of a very personal creation and unique style, which has become her trademark.



Maritime Museum

The Curaçao Maritime Museum will take its visitors on a discovery tour of more than 500 years maritime history of Curaçao. The story-line is illustrated through a permanent exhibition consisting of displays with authentic nautical charts, ship models and navigation equipment combined with audiovisual techniques.



Mikve Israel Emanuel Synagogue & Jewish Museum

The Mikve Israel Emanuel Synagogue is the oldest Synagogue building in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere.

The Curaçao's Jewish Cultural Historical Museum is a delightful museum preserving the most precious religious and cultural artifacts on the island, located adjacent to the Synagogue. Many pieces in collection are still used today in the Congregation's services and rituals. The museum displays an exquisite variety of priceless ceremonial and cultural objects and artifacts collected during the over 350 years of Jewish life on Curaçao.

Curaçao Museum

Located in the Western part of Otrobanda, the Curaçao Museum is housed in a colonial style building and conveys an air of authenticity at the very first glance. In this spacious museum the geological history of Curaçao is displayed, as well as pre-Colombian Indian artifacts; maps and charts of America and the Caribbean region; professions the afro-Curaçaoan practiced after the abolition of slavery, their beliefs and mode of living, a traditional plantation kitchen; antique mahogany furniture (18th and 19th century) and paintings by local and international artist.

Kura Hulanda Museum

The forced relocation of Africans from Africa to the Americas and the Caribbean by Europeans from the 17th to the 19th century changed the face of the world forever. Museum Kura Hulanda is situated right at the city-center harbor of Willemstad, where Dutch entrepreneurs once traded and transshipped enslaved Africans along with other 'commercial goods'. This museum impressively exhibits the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in its totality, from slave capture in Africa through the Middle Passage and the relocation in the New World.

The museum Kurà Hulanda demonstrates that the African and diverse cultural heritage has influenced Curaçaoan and Caribbean societies until today.

Kas Pali Mahishi Museum

The Kas Pali Mahishi is a traditional adobe house with a latched roof built about 130 years ago. It illustrates the way the Afro-Curaçaoan rural population of Curaçao lived till about 1950. The method of construction dates back to before the year 1700 and coincides with the coming of the enslaved Africans. Inside you will find a small museum with typical household artifacts from the past. In the backyard local food is served at lunchtime. This museum forms part of the memory of the Afro-Curaçaoan heritage



Shopping

Bella Italia

Bella Italia offers a wonderful selection of Italian delights. Indulge yourself with daily homemade Italian Gelato, fresh roasted Italian coffee, gourmet sandwiches, salads, sundries and more.

DLG Clothing

Our multi-brand DLG Clothing shop offers a wide variety of merchandise for ladies, men and kids. Our friendly staff will be happy to assist you with finding your perfect apparel, whether you are looking for comfortable beachwear or stylish evening wear.

Emilia Beachwear

Emilia offers the latest beachwear, swimwear, sandals, accessories, and more. The boutique carries unique international fashion brands for ladies.

Penha

Our prestigious perfume retailer is located at the pool level and offers a variety of exclusive fragrances and Sun Products.

The Jewellers

Our exclusive jewelry offers an extensive collection of fine jewelry. Choose from diamonds, rubies, sapphires, watches and more

Curaçao has been a major trade center for hundreds of years, so it's not surprising that stores are stocked with quality items from around the world. Stroll amidst exquisite, centuries-old buildings while ocean liners cruise up the channel cutting through the city, so close you could almost touch them. All this makes the Curaçao shopping ambiance very special.

Besides the famous Bredestraat in Otrobanda and Punda and the Heerenstraat in Punda, there are a few shopping malls on the island. We recommend the following malls:

- Zuikertuin Mall
- Renaissance Mall
- Promenade Shopping Mall
- Salinja Galleries

Nightlife and Entertainment

The Hyatt Regency Curaçao offers great entertainment and live music on several days a week. From Flamingo night to a relaxed movie night on the beach, our resort is the perfect setting for a relaxed and fun filled stay. Please contact our concierge for the current entertainment schedule.

Curaçao keeps vacationers entertained after the sun goes down with a vibrant nightlife, music festivals, high-energy nightclubs and casinos. With great live band venues and nightclubs, the neighborhood of Salinja is the nightlife capital of Curaçao. You also can find classic Caribbean beach parties and live bands at Mambo Beach, Sea Aquarium Beach and Jan Thiel Beach.

Below we have listed our favorite (beach) bars/clubs:

- The Blues Bar
- Jazz Café Miles
- Soprano's Piano bar
- Pampus
- Omundo
- Bermuda
- Mundo Bizarro
- Mambo Beach Bar
- Grand Café De Heeren

Casinos

The island of Curaçao has twelve casinos, all low-key and more restrained than those found in Las Vegas, Nevada.

We recommend the following casinos:

- Renaissance Casino
- The Emerald Casino (Marriott)
- Princess Casino (Breezes)
- Holiday Beach Casino
- Howard Johnson Casino
- Hilton Casino
- Hotel Otrobanda Casino

