

# DESTINATION REPORT

## YOUR TRAVEL SPECIALIST

Clare Lagiewski  
ATHome  
800-690-3128 x2  
Email: [clare@clare2gotours.com](mailto:clare@clare2gotours.com)

71 Cassandra Cir  
Churchville, New York 14428

---

**YOUR TRAVEL SNAPSHOT:** Destinations included in this guide

**Oranjestad, Aruba**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| ORANJESTAD, ARUBA _____                             | Page 3  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - Overview _____                  | Page 4  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - See & Do: Sightseeing _____     | Page 5  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - See & Do: Recreation _____      | Page 6  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - See & Do: Nightlife _____       | Page 7  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - See & Do: Performing Arts _____ | Page 8  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - See & Do: Shopping _____        | Page 9  |
| Oranjestad, Aruba - Dining _____                    | Page 10 |

DESTINATION GUIDE

# Oranjestad, Aruba



---

## INTRODUCTION

---

With its charming Dutch-Colonial architecture, Oranjestad, Aruba, is a wonderful place to explore on foot.

In Wilhelmina Park, on the waterfront next to Renaissance Marketplace, is a statue of the late Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Her granddaughter, Queen Beatrix, recently handed the throne to her son, who is the first King of The Netherlands since 1890. Queen's Day (30 April) in Aruba and in The Kingdom of the Netherlands, will become King's Day (27 April) beginning in 2014.

Across the street is Fort Zoutman, a restored 17th-century fort on Zoutmanstraat. In 1869, the people of Aruba wanted to honor Wilhelmina's father, William III, then king of the Netherlands, on his birthday. So they built the stone William III Tower at the fort. They topped it with a lighthouse instead of a candle. Unfortunately, William III had more pressing business at home and never did visit Aruba.

While you're downtown, stop at the Aruba Numismatic Museum, also known as Mario's Worldwide Coin Collection, which includes more than 45,000 pieces of money from more than 400 countries. Also, walk over to the Archaeological Museum of Aruba, located close to the bus station on Schelpstraat.

---

## MUSEUMS

---

### **Aruba Aloe Museum and Factory**

Get in touch with Aruban history at this factory and museum. Aloe grows well in the dry climate and was once a very important part of the island's economy. The factory estimates that its 1,600 acres/647 hectares produce about 2 million plants, concentrating on the aloe vera species (used for skin ailments and for healing burns). The modern building houses a museum, which documents the history of aloe in Aruba, and an enclosed catwalk lets you look down on production in progress. The aloe-oriented gift shop sells the full line of products produced in the factory, including body lotions and hair-care items. Monday-Friday 8 am-4:30 pm, Saturday 9 am-4 pm. Free. Pitastraat 115 (Hato), Oranjestad. Phone 588-3222. Toll-free 800-952-7822. <http://www.arubaaloe.com>.

### **The Historical Museum Of Aruba at Fort Zoutman/Willem III Tower**

Learn all about Aruba's history, culture, art and architecture by inspecting old documents, maps and photographs, historic artifacts and other interesting museum collections in the oldest building in Oranjestad. Explore the latest exhibitions and celebrate Aruba's music, folklore and cuisine every Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm during the Bon Bini Festival. Museum open Monday-Friday 9 am-4:30 pm. US\$5 adults, US\$2 children. Fort Zoutmanstraat z/n (right across the Renaissance Marketplace), Oranjestad. Phone 588-5199.

---

## BOATING & SAILING

---

### Red Sail Sports

This operation offers a variety of choices, including sailing, scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing and JETLEV (a water-propelled jetpack that soars up to 30 ft/9 m in the air). A four-hour snorkeling trip by catamaran with equipment, lunch and open bar costs US\$72 adults, US\$39 children ages 3-12. L.G. Smith Blvd. 17 Oranjestad, Oranjestad. Phone 586-1603. <http://www.redsailaruba.com>.

---

## GOLF

---

### The Links at Divi Aruba

The Links at Divi Aruba is a nine-hole course with a pro shop and restaurants. Daily 6:45 am-7 pm. J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 93 (directly across from the Divi Village and Tamarijn resorts), Oranjestad. Phone 581-4653. <http://www.divilinks.com>.

---

## HORSEBACK RIDING

---

### Rancho Daimari

Provides transportation for guests taking a one-hour ride-and-swim at the ranch or a two-hour ride through the national park and a dip in the natural pool. Prices run US\$50-\$75, with private tours for US\$105. L.G. Smith Blvd 382-A, Oranjestad. Phone 586-6285 or 586-6284 for reservations and pick-up. <http://www.arubaranchodaimari.com>.

---

## SCUBA & SNORKELING

---

### De Palm Tours

Offers a choice of catamaran cruises including a snorkel trip to the German shipwreck *Antilla*, with open bar, lunch and equipment. The company also offers snuba, a combination of snorkeling and scuba diving where you go to depths of 15 ft/5 m using a hose attached to an air tank floating on the surface. De Palm's Sea Trek adventure involves a large helmet over your head with a window that allows you to explore the depths as you walk on the sea floor in the midst of marine life. Full-day packages 9 am-5 pm, half-day packages noon-5 pm. Catamaran cruises with snorkeling US\$78 adults, US\$59 children; snuba lessons are an additional US\$56 adults, US\$42 children age 8 and older, US\$29 children ages 4-7. One-hour Sea Trek tours are US\$48 adults, US\$35 children age 8 and older. L.G. Smith Blvd. 142, Oranjestad. Phone 582-4400. Toll-free 800-609-7374. <http://www.depalmtours.com>.

---

## BARS, TAVERNS & PUBS

---

### Local Store

This popular bar located in downtown Oranjestad has local prices for drinks and snacks. There's also live music, and spectacular views of Aruba's harbor, boulevard and outdoor markets are free. Sunday-Thursday 11 am-midnight, Friday and Saturday 11 am-2 am. Weststraat 4-D (across from the Royal Plaza Mall), Oranjestad. Phone 583-8229.

---

## LIVE MUSIC

---

### Cafe Chaos

This well-seasoned Dutch pub is a local favorite for its happy hours, live music from local bands, a friendly mixed crowd and lots of beer. Monday-Thursday 5 pm-1 am, Friday 5 pm-3 am, Saturday 8 pm-3 am. L.G. Smith Blvd. 60 (across from the Renaissance Marketplace), Oranjestad. Phone 588-7547.

---

## FILM

---

### **The Cinemas**

The Cinemas feature the best and newest film releases on the finest wall-to-wall screens with comfortable theater-style seating and sound. There are additional locations at Paseo Herencia (phone 297-523-6745) and Crystal Theater. Open Monday-Thursday 3:30-11 pm, Friday 3:30 pm-1 am, Saturday noon-1 am, Sunday noon-11 pm. Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad. Phone 523-6735. <http://www.thecinemas.aw>.



---

## MARKETS

---

### **Tourist Go Flea Market**

This is an entertaining stop for bargain hunters. Visitors will find good prices on local art, crafts, souvenirs and beachwear. Don't expect to find amazing things, but the people-watching and group dynamics make this a worthwhile event. Vendors sell barbecue and cold drinks. Saturday and Sunday 8 am-8 pm. L.G. Smith Boulevard (across from the waterfront), Oranjestad. Phone 582-3777.

---

## SHOPPING AREAS

---

### **Renaissance Mall and Marketplace**

Aruba's first shopping center has evolved into the island's most exclusive venue—a superb resort mall with elegant stores, high-end products, luxury brands, the finest restaurants and one of the best spas on the island. For a more casual shopping spree, the Renaissance Marketplace across the street offers a variety of cafes and cozy eateries, souvenir shops, nightly live entertainment and a seaport casino. Daily 10 am-8 pm. L.G. Smith Blvd. 82, Oranjestad. Phone 582-4622 or 583-6000. <http://www.shoprenaissancearuba.com>.

---

## SPECIALTY STORES

---

### **Aruba Aloe**

This local company focuses on skin- and hair-care products made from Aruban aloe. Tour the manufacturing plant in Hato or stop by one of the shops to pick up top quality lotions, shampoos and soaps. Various store locations, including at the cruise-ship dock, downtown and at Palm Beach shopping center. Pitastraat 115 (Hato), Oranjestad. Phone 588-3222. <http://www.arubaaloe.com>.

### **Beauty and the Beast**

You'll find unique jewelry at this shop. Costume pieces and playful sterling silver designs are stylish and affordable. Open daily 10 am-7 pm. L.G. Smith Blvd. 82 (Renaissance Marketplace), Oranjestad. Phone 582-4622.

### **Ecco**

Pick up Delft blue pottery, tablecloths and well-priced gifts at this shop. Open Monday-Saturday 8:30 am-6:30 pm. Caya G. F. Betico Croes 22, Oranjestad. Phone 582-4726.

### **Taste of Belgium**

Chocolate fans will need a bit of willpower at this decadent shop. Irresistible choices include dark, milk and white chocolate in artistic shapes and sizes. Gift boxes are available to go, and a cozy sitting area serves coffee drinks and pastries for those who need instant gratification. The company also has a bistro in the Paseo Herencia shopping mall. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm. L.G. Smith Blvd 82 (Renaissance Mall), Oranjestad. Phone 586-6388. <http://www.tasteofbelgium.aw>.

---

## LOCAL & REGIONAL

---

### Cunukero

The name (Farmer) alludes to a story about a local farmer who lost his plantation, but kept his country house and the traditional style of home cooking you'll find there. Waitresses wear traditional dress, and portions are generous. Stews, soups, and typical entrees such as shark and grouper have an Aruban flair. The chicken salad with peas and mashed potatoes on top—colored with beet juice—is delicious. Top off your meal with the drink *chuculati pinda* (hot chocolate with milk and peanut butter) or one of the island's fresh fruit beverages. Daily lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards. Tanki Leendert 145-K, Oranjestad. Phone 582-5281.

#### Address

Tanki Leendert 145-K  
Oranjestad, Aruba

#### Phone

582-5281

### Pinchos Grill & Bar

Located on a pier hovering over the Caribbean sea, Pinchos Grill & Bar is a chic yet casual restaurant that is equally known for its food and ambiance. Owners Robby Peterson and Anabela Peterson de Sousa bring decades of experience in the hospitality industry to the open-air dining spot. Each entree, whether it is seafood, meat or vegetables, is expertly cooked over an open grill. The cocktails are well-crafted, including frozen options, and there is a large wine list. Live music is featured on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Open nightly for dinner. L.G. Smith Blvd. 7 (at Aruba Surfside Marina), Oranjestad. Phone 583-2666. .

#### Address

L.G. Smith Blvd. 7  
Oranjestad, Aruba

#### Phone

583-2666