



CURRENCY

The official currency of Aruba is the Aruban Florin (AFLs.), which is divided into 100 cents. Silver coins are in denomination of 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents, one florin, and 5 florins. The 50-cent florin coin, which is square, is probably Aruba's best-known coin. The Aruban Florin is pegged to the dollar with an exchange rate averaging 1.79. However, US currency is widely accepted throughout the island. Many establishments also accept major credit cards.

FOODIE PARADISE

Aruba has over 200 restaurants to choose from, both in walking distance as well as accessible by car. The abundance, full of flavor and diversity of cuisines prepared by world-class chefs; fine international wines; casual, elegant and creative ambiances, and attentive service combine to create very special dining experiences. Indeed, the tiny island nation of Aruba provides an impressive world culinary tour rivaling the most cosmopolitan of cities.

TIPPING

If there is a service charge, a tip is not obligatory, but a token amount left for excellent service is greatly appreciated. If there is no service charge, a tip of 10 to 20% is appropriate.

CASINOS

There are 13 casinos on the island. Offering much more than familiar table games and machines, Aruba's casinos feature theme-night events, tournaments, bingo, entertainment, special offers, and prizes. Some have sport books for betting on the international sporting events of the day. Hours vary seasonally, so please check before making plans. Only adults over 18 are allowed in casinos.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Travel to Aruba from the USA, Canada, South America, Europe, and the Caribbean is possible via most major carriers. A current passport is required and must be valid through your stay here. American, Canadian, EU citizens do not require visas, nor do most South Americans. For those countries requiring a visa or for complete entry requirements go to www.aruba.com/sigma/Entry_Req-Eng.pdf.

ARUBA CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Besides articles for personal use, persons over 18 are allowed a fifth of liquor, 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, and 250 grams of tobacco. Aruba abides by CITES regulations in monitoring against the international trade in endangered species.

TAXIS

Taxis have no meters; fares are set by the government. Feel free to ask your driver to confirm the fare or show you the rate sheet. Minimum fare is US \$7.00. Please note that most drivers only accept cash. See www.aruba.com for complete listing of taxi fares.

BUSES

There is a daily bus service all along the hotel strip. Retour cards, AWG. 8.75 (local currency) or US \$4.00, can be used for two trips (for example, from downtown to the beaches and back). A day pass is AWG. 17.50 or US \$10.00 and is valid for one day of unlimited transportation on all of Arubus routes across the island. Visit www.arubus.com for more information.

DRIVING AND CAR RENTAL

Driving is on the right-hand side of the road, no right turns on red. Vehicles on the right generally have right of way. Foreign and international drivers licences are accepted (age restrictions may apply). For more transportation information, please visit www.aruba.com.

TELEPHONES, INTERNET & CELLULAR PHONE RENTAL

The country code in Aruba is 297. There are several options for making international calls, but please keep in mind that international calls can be very expensive. You can call internationally from your hotel, the Setar Teleshop office in Palm Beach (in front of the Hyatt Regency Aruba), and at telephone booths throughout the island with an Aruban phone card, which are available at Setar Teleshops and at most refreshment centers, gas stations, and retail stores.

CELLULAR PHONE SERVICE

If you are on a GSM network, you can arrange for international roaming on your personal cell phone via your service provider. If you are not, there are several cell phone rental companies, including Setar and Digicel (both have kiosks at the airport), that will rent cell phones and sell SIM cards.

INTERNET

Most resorts offer Wi-Fi services in public areas and/ or guest rooms. Additionally, there are many free Wi-Fi zones in renowned places around the island.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical voltage in Aruba is 110 A.C. (60 Hz).

DRINKING WATER

Aruba's water meets the highest quality standards of the World Health Organization. The desalination process takes place at WEB N.V., the world's second largest desalination facility, located in Balashi, resulting in the fresh water that flows directly from the tap.

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Aruba is a premier destination for meetings, conventions, and incentive travel. For more information on planning group meetings, or to request the official Meeting Planner's Guide, please visit the website of the Aruba Convention Bureau at www.arubaconventionbureau.com.

WHEN TO VISIT

Temperatures are consistently mild, the island lies below the hurricane belt, and the sea temperature hovers around 82 degrees F (27.7 degrees C) all year long. The most popular time to visit is during Carnival, starting in January and lasting until March, is the most popular time to visit. The island is animated with parades, festivities, and parties. During the shoulder period commencing in mid-April through the rest of the year, Aruba is an ideal destination for gateways, "One Cool Summer" programs, and our annual music festivals. September, October, and November are excellent and timely months that attract corporate meetings, incentive group travel programs, conferences, and conventions. Aruba is also known to be one of the world's top destination wedding and honeymoon locales!

MEDICAL SERVICES

Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital, L.G. Smith Blvd., Oranjestad. This hospital is modern and well equipped. Hemodialysis and oxygen tanks are available. For more information visit www.arubahospital.com. Telephone: 527-4000.

FACILITIES FOR THE HANDICAP

Limited facilities for the handicap are available. Hotels offer ground-floor rooms and doors wide enough to fit wheelchairs. In most cases, wheelchairs and/or canes are available if checked in advance with your hotel.

IT'S ONLY A HOP TO THE PARADISE OF ARUBA

The one happy island of Aruba is easily accessible by air from North America, South America, and Europe on a selection of international carriers.

AIR SERVICE

Queen Beatrix International Airport is served by American Airlines, Avianca, Delta Air Lines, KLM, Surinam Airways, United, Jet Blue and Southwest Airlines. Most major carriers fly direct into Aruba from multiple gateways such as New York, Atlanta, Newark, Charlotte, Miami, Boston, and many more. KLM serves Aruba from Europe via Amsterdam. Aruba is also served by various charter airlines from the U.S., Canada, and Europe. With the completion of the expansion and modernization program, the Aruba Airport Authority (AAA) is attracting even more airlines and direct routes to Aruba. Our airport offers both U.S.A. immigration and customs pre-clearance.

