

Willemstad, Curaçao

Curaçao's capital, Willemstad, is one of the Caribbean's most visually striking port towns — a UNESCO World Heritage waterfront of Dutch-colonial buildings painted in vivid pastels, split by a narrow channel you cross on a floating pontoon bridge. Add gin-clear beaches, dramatic limestone caves, and some of the best wreck diving in the region.

Docked — Mega Pier / Otrobanda

Typical call: 8–10 hrs

Netherlands Antillean Guilder (ANG) · USD widely accepted

Papiamentu · Dutch · English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Mega Pier (Sint Annabaai channel), Otrobanda side — steps from Willemstad center

Best For: UNESCO Old Town · Beaches · Snorkeling & Diving · Dutch Colonial Architecture

To center: ~5 min walk to Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge / Punda waterfront

Don't Miss: Cross the Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge and stroll Punda's colonial waterfront

Getting around: **Taxi** \$20–\$30/taxi (up to 4) · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Willemstad UNESCO Walking Tour** — Wander Punda's pastel Dutch-colonial waterfront, browse the Floating Market where Venezuelan vendors sell fresh produce from their boats, and visit...
- Hato Caves** — Explore an ancient limestone cave system 20 minutes from Willemstad, with stalactite and stalagmite formations, resident long-nosed bats, and cave...
- Cas Abao or Playa Kenepa Beach Day** — Curaçao's best beaches are on the rugged western coast — Cas Abao offers calm turquoise water, a beach bar, and good snorkeling, while Playa Kenepa...
- Wreck Diving & Snorkeling** — Curaçao is one of the Caribbean's top diving destinations, with the USAT Tugboat wreck (perfect for beginners at just 5 m depth) and the Superior...
- Curaçao Liqueur Distillery Tour** — The Curaçao Liqueur Distillery (Senior & Co.) operates from the historic Landhuis Chobolobo in Willemstad, the company's home since 1947.

BEST WALKS

- Otrobanda to Punda Waterfront Walk** 1.5 km · ~30–45 min · Easy — Start at the cruise terminal in Otrobanda, walk east along the waterfront past the Rif Fort (now a shopping complex), cross the Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge to Punda...
- Punda Historic Core** 1 km · ~45 min · Easy — From the Pontoon Bridge, walk into Punda's historic grid: pass Fort Amsterdam (the governor's residence and active church), explore Gomezplein and Bredestraat for Dutch...
- Punda & Handelskade Loop** 2 km · 1.5 hrs · Easy — Cross the Queen Emma Bridge into Punda, walk the iconic Handelskade waterfront, loop through the market square (Wilhelminaplein) and Gomezplein, then return via the...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		84°	78°	8d
Jun		85°	79°	13d
Aug		86°	80°	12d
Sep		87°	81°	10d
Oct		86°	80°	18d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:23AM–6:47PM · Jun 6:11AM–7:01PM · Aug 6:24AM–6:55PM · Sep 6:25AM–6:36PM · Oct 6:25AM–6:16PM

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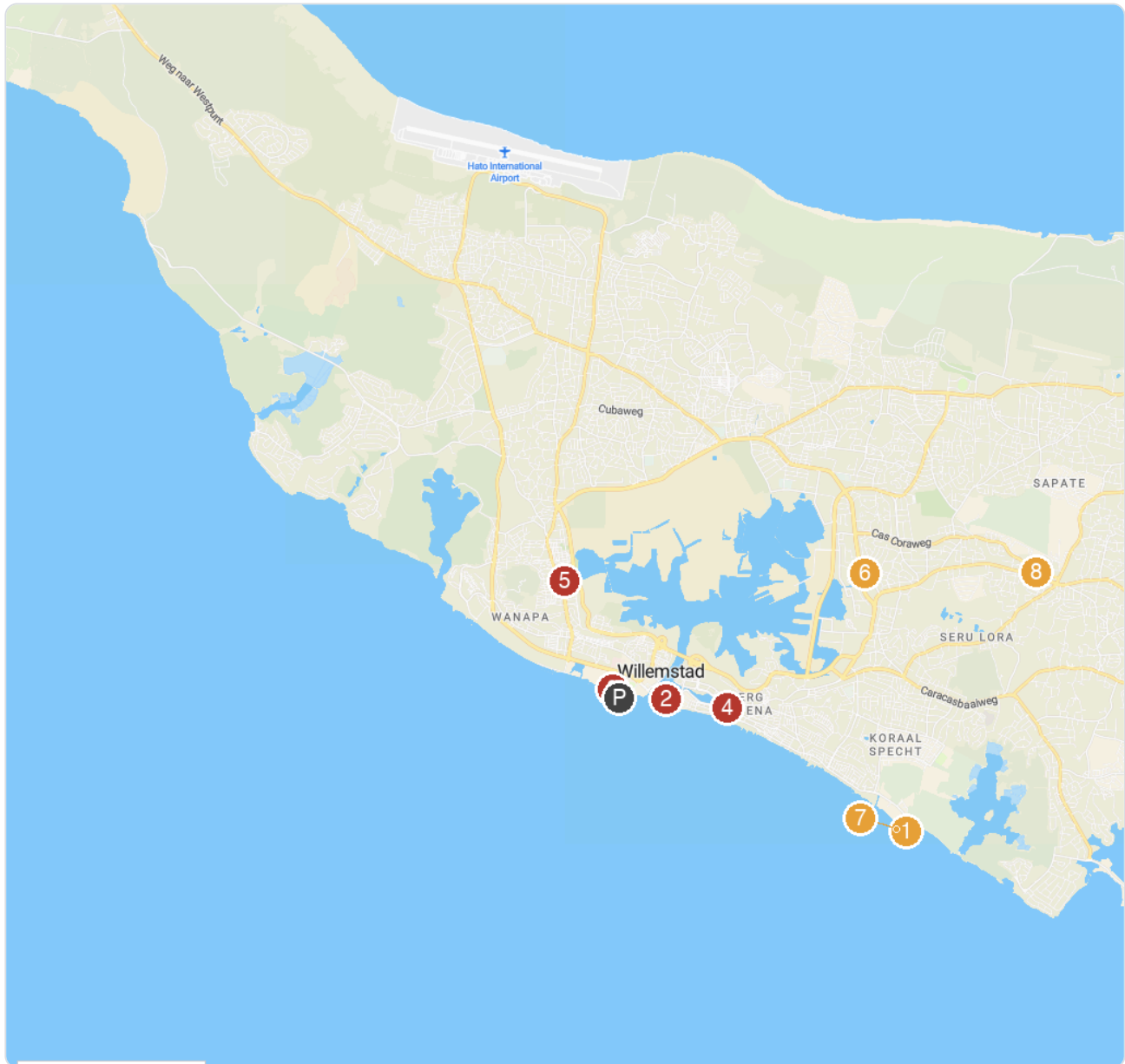
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Pontoon Bridge timing: The Queen Emma Bridge opens frequently for ship traffic. When it's open, a free shuttle ferry takes you across in 2 minutes — no need to wait for it to close.
- USD works everywhere: US dollars are accepted at virtually all tourist businesses, shops, and taxis. You'll often get change in Netherlands Antillean Guilders (ANG).
- Negotiate taxis upfront: Curaçao taxis don't use meters.
- Beaches need transport: The best beaches (Cas Abao, Playa Kenepa, Playa Porto Mari) are 30–45 minutes west and not walkable from the pier.
- Outside the hurricane belt: Curaçao sits south of the hurricane track.
- Try keshi yena: Curaçao's signature dish — a whole Edam cheese stuffed with spiced meat and baked.

Willemstad, Curaçao — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|--|---|--|---|
| 1 Curaçao Sea Aquarium | Large aquarium with marine life and dolphin shows. | 2 Fort Church | Historic church inside Fort Amsterdam. |
| 3 MV Superior Producer - Curaçao Iconic Shipwreck | Dive or snorkel this iconic sunken cargo ship. | 4 Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral | Beautiful, historic Catholic cathedral in Willemstad. |
| 5 Gallery Alma Blou | Oldest art gallery showcasing local Caribbean artists. | 6 Mongui Maduro Historic House Museum | Explore a historic Jewish family's home and library. |
| 7 Substation Curacao | Experience deep-sea exploration with submersible tours. | 8 Montaña Bierhuis Village | Craft beer brewery and restaurant complex. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |