

Oranjestad, Aruba

Aruba's capital docks you steps from downtown — pastel Dutch architecture, warm turquoise water, and perpetual sunshine just steps off the gangway. One Happy Island lives up to its nickname.

Docked (pier)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

USD widely accepted / Aruban florin

Dutch & Papiamento (English everywhere)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Berthed at Oranjestad Cruise Terminal — 5 berths, no tender needed

Best For: Beaches, snorkeling, duty-free shopping, island 4x4 tours

Walk to center: 2–5 min to Lloyd G. Smith Blvd; downtown is right outside the gates

Don't Miss: Eagle Beach, Antilla shipwreck dive, Arikok National Park

Getting around: **Taxi** \$10–34 USD · **Rideshare** not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Eagle Beach Day** — Consistently ranked among the best beaches in the Caribbean — wide, white, calm water, and far less crowded than Palm Beach.
 - Arikok National Park 4x4 Tour** — Covers nearly 20% of the island — rugged limestone terrain, natural pools, ancient Caquetio cave paintings, and the Natural Bridge site on the...
 - Antilla Shipwreck Snorkel or Dive** — The Antilla is one of the largest shipwrecks in the Caribbean — a 400-ft German freighter scuttled in
- 1940, now home to enormous coral formations and...

 - Atlantis Submarine Expedition** — Descend 45-100 ft in a real submarine for a narrated tour of Aruba's reefs and wrecks — no dive certification needed, family-friendly.
 - Oranjestad Tram & Town Walk** — Ride the free streetcar through pastel Dutch colonial architecture, browse Havenstraat and Schelpstraat boutiques, and stop at Wilhelmina Park's...

BEST WALKS

- Downtown Oranjestad Stroll** 1.5 km · 30-45 min · Flat — Exit the cruise terminal onto Lloyd G.
- Surfside Beach Walk** 1.5 km one-way · 20 min walk · Easy — Head northwest along the waterfront from the port past the bus terminal toward Surfside Beach — the closest sand to the ship, quiet and local with calm water.
- Oranjestad Waterfront & Historic Downtown** 1.5 km · 30-45 min · Easy — Start at the cruise terminal and walk along L.G.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		84°	78°	5d
Jun		86°	80°	7d
Aug		87°	80°	9d
Sep		88°	81°	9d
Oct		86°	80°	14d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:27AM–6:52PM · Jun 6:15AM–7:06PM · Aug 6:28AM–7:00PM · Sep 6:29AM–6:40PM · Oct 6:30AM–6:21PM

USD widely accepted / Aruban florin

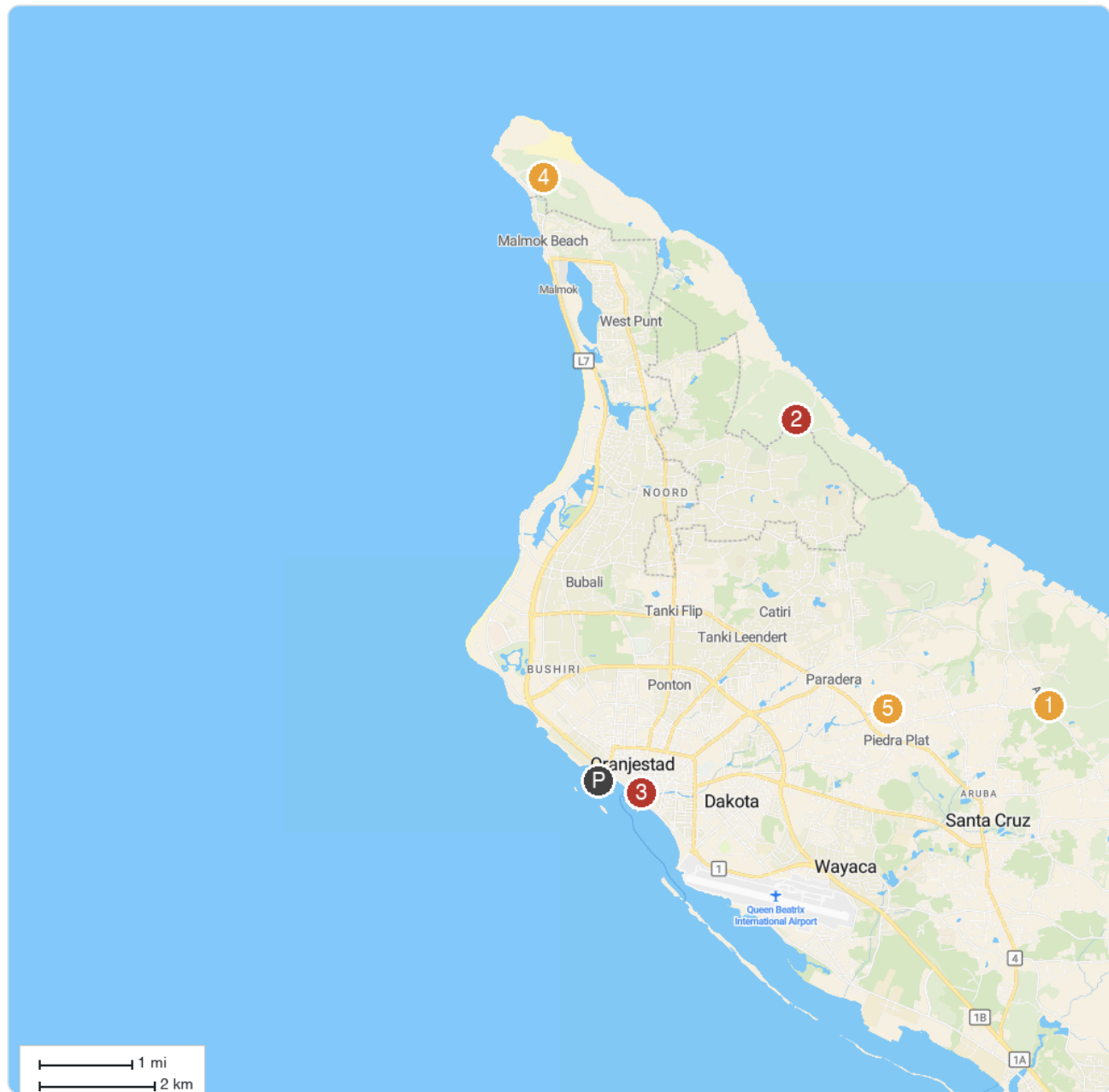
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- USD everywhere: Skip the currency exchange — US dollars are accepted island-wide at near-par rates. ATMs dispense both USD and AWG.
- Arubus is the budget move: The public bus terminal is right outside the port gate. Route 10 to Eagle Beach/Palm Beach costs ~\$2 and runs frequently — far cheaper than taxis.
- Allow 90 min to return: Afternoon traffic from the hotel strip back to port can back up. Leave the beach by 90 minutes before departure, more if you're far out.
- Aruba is windy: Trade winds keep the island cool and mosquito-free but can be strong on the northern (windward) coast. The calm leeward beaches are best for swimming.
- Sun is intense: Aruba sits below the hurricane belt with near-constant sun. Reef-safe sunscreen, a hat, and water are essential — especially on open beach or 4x4 tours.
- Fixed taxi fares: Aruba taxis use government-set zone rates, not meters. Ask for the rate card or confirm the price before you board. Eagle Beach runs about \$28 each way from the pier.

Oranjestad, Aruba — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 Ayo Rock Formations | Massive wind-eroded monzonite boulders with ancient indigenous cave paintings and hiking trails to the summit. | 2 Alto Vista Chapel | Aruba's oldest chapel, a small yellow church built in 1750 on a hilltop overlooking the northern coast. |
| 3 Fort Zoutman | Aruba's oldest surviving structure, an 18th-century fort in downtown Oranjestad housing a historical museum. | 4 California Lighthouse | Landmark stone lighthouse on Aruba's northwestern tip, named after a shipwreck, with coastal views. |
| 5 Casibari Rock Formations | Cluster of massive balancing boulders in the island's interior with marked trails and viewing platforms. | P Cruise port / terminal | |