

Nightlife on Curaçao



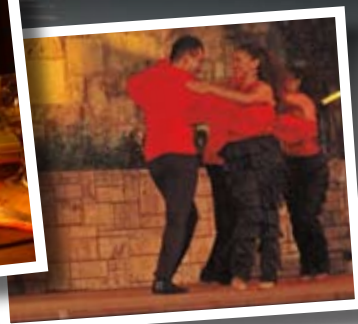
Curaçao has a lively night life, mainly centred on Willemstad, and Mambo Beach. Willemstad is busy at night, with a number of clubs with live bands. With a diverse cultural background, there is a lot of variety, although blues and jazz are the local favourites. The real bonus is the music is raw with an authenticity you rarely find elsewhere. The clubs and bars stay open until the early hours. Many hotels, and some restaurants, in Willemstad and around the island, have live music. This is often ad hoc, and impossible to detail here, but part of the fun is walking around and making "surprise discoveries" yourself. The informality of it all is a big part of the enjoyment. It is worth checking with your accommodation, and they will point you in the right direction.



As befits a small island with 55 distinct cultures, Curaçao has a wide range of excellent restaurants, scattered around the island, not just in the capital. Willemstad offers the full range of types of restaurant and cuisine. From fast food to the superb Gouverneur

de Rouville which overlooks the quay, one of the very best restaurants, for food, atmosphere and service. There are dozens of specialised restaurants, Caribbean, European and Asian. In spite of its vibrancy, Willemstad is not hectic, it retains the relaxed, friendly Caribbean atmosphere.

If you seek out the restaurants, become the pioneer again, all around the island you will find some real gems, serving excellent food, in a variety of styles, and in some unique and interesting settings. It is hard to describe the enjoyment of eating Creole food on a balmy Caribbean evening, in the courtyard of an old colonial mansion, in a wonderfully informal atmosphere. Most resorts, and hotels, around the island have excellent restaurants, so you do not have to stay in town. The resorts will have quieter, more informal



restaurants often with an ocean view. They also have regular theme nights, you will always be welcome and these are great fun. Again, best to check locally. It is not expensive to eat out, prices are very reasonable, much the same as Europe, but a lot more interesting and enjoyable! A few miles south of Willemstad, near SeaQuarium beach is the famous Mambo Beach, a particularly lively spot, with two bars and two good restaurants. The food served is modern, more international and good quality. Mambo Beach is busy and energetic. The bars play modern dance music each night and live bands most weekends.

SALSA is a way of life here. Fun Travel are pleased to be a sponsor of the Salsa Tour to Curaçao each year, when Salseros and Salseras can indulge their passion for the dance of the Caribbean. In addition to flights and accommodation, our Salsa Tour package includes day time workshops, where instructors of an international level, from all over the Caribbean, help all standards of dancer, including beginners, to improve their technique. With an evening pass, Salseros visit a different location each night, where they can dance until they drop! Of course the tropical atmosphere is all-important, and what better than to be able to dance the night away, and to really let yourself go.

The tour includes people from different countries, coming to the Caribbean, the home of the Salsa, and enjoying a week of dancing combined with an exciting holiday, on an island virtually unknown to tourists from the UK and Ireland.



Sightseeing on Curaçao



Sightseeing

Willemstad, the capital, a 17th century Dutch port, is a charming and enthralling small city. It is a UNESCO world heritage site with 700 protected buildings. It's cultural diversity is illustrated by its picturesque mix of Dutch colonial architecture, narrow, gabled buildings crowned with red tiled roofs, painted in bright vibrant Caribbean

colours. Willemstad has several museums, monuments and historical sites to enjoy like:

- * the Mikve Israel Emanuel Synagogue, built in 1732, the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Western Hemisphere. The sand floor is to remind the congregation of their ancestor's wandering the desert;
- * 17th century Fort Amsterdam encloses the Dutch Reformed Church, with a cannonball embedded in the wall, fired by Captain Bligh in 1804;
- * the Governor's Palace.

Two bridges dominate Willemstad, the Queen Juliana, the highest in the Caribbean, and the Queen Emma Pontoon bridge, the largest floating pedestrian bridge in the world, which separates the two halves of the city, Punda and Otrobanda. Outside of Willemstad there is a lot to see.

- * Baya Beach Club - naturally designed to be explored by bicycle, on foot or by car;
- * Caracas Bay Island;
- * Christoffel Park, with the island's highest point Mount Christoffel at 1,239 feet/372 metres, a 1820 hectare wilderness where local flora

and fauna live in their natural habitat - guided tours - iguana presentation - jeep tours;

- * Curaloe Eco-city;
- * Aloe Vera plantation;
- * Den Dunki National Park;
- * Den Paradera - healing herb gardens;
- * Hato Caves - hourly tours - the

caves were formed below sea level millions of years ago

- * Midden Seinpost Hill at Rooi Santu, a lookout point with spectacular views of Curaçao;
- * Ostrich and Game Farm is one of the biggest Ostrich farms outside Africa;
- * Park & Camping Imaan in Hofi Pastor known for its variety of vegetation, with the oldest tree in Curaçao an 800 year old kapok tree;
- * Parke Tropical environment centre where children learn about flora and fauna of Curaçao;
- * Shete Boka National Park;
- * Natural Bridge, Blow Hole/Boca Pistol - more than 10 beautiful boca's (cave bays) where three species of turtle breed. Boca Tabla, where huge waves strike down on an underground cave - an impressive experience;
- * Curaçao Liqueur distillery at Chobolobo;
- * Many old colonial mansions, (Landhuis) some beautifully restored, and often housing local artwork.



We would be happy to arrange any excursions for you. Although Curaçao is not a large island, there is a lot to see, do and explore, and we recommend hiring a vehicle if you want to get the best from this fascinating island, whether exploring or making the most of the many shore diving sites.

