

ARUBA
CALENDAR
OF
EVENTS
2018





JANUARY & FEBRUARY

NEW YEAR'S DAY JANUARY 1

Aruba welcomes the New Year with traditional music and an amazing island-wide display of fireworks. With the pop of the champagne cork at midnight, troupes of traveling musicians, known as "Dande" groups, brighten the New Year with song, bestowing blessings of goodwill and prosperity upon the local community. Aruba's joyous holiday atmosphere can be enjoyed with just a simple evening on the beach under the stars and fireworks, or at one of the glitzy gala receptions held at various island resorts. A nationwide firework display will take the breath away of any visitor lucky enough to ring in the New Year on the Island.

ARUBA'S 64TH CARNIVAL CELEBRATION JANUARY - FEBRUARY

Aruba's biggest party of the year is a month-long celebration consisting of festive "jump-ups" (street parties), spectacular parades, and musical events. Dazzling costumes and music play a central role in events ranging from the queen election to the Grand Parades, which wind their way down the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad to the delight of thousands of spectators. The Grand Parade in Oranjestad will take place February, 11, 2018.

ARUBA'S TORCH PARADE JANUARY 6

Originally organized by the Tivoli Club, Aruba's oldest social club, the Torch Parade is now the official opening parade on the Carnival organizer's (SMAC) schedule. The tradition continues with bright lights leading the way down the streets of Oranjestad. The parade begins at 8 p.m. and sets the pace for the festivities to come in the following weeks.

ARUBA INTERNATIONAL BIKE WEEK JANUARY 24-28

Didn't bring your Harley with you? No worries—just watching hundreds of bikes parade around the island is a remarkable sight to see! Bikers are taken along scenic roads, pristine beaches, and through the Arikok National Park. This annual international bike event attracts bikers from several countries who ship their motorcycles here to participate in the festivities.

Contact Mr. Rudy Croes at Tel. (297) 593-5344 or croesrudy@gmail.com, or Mr. Nahar at Tel. (297) 593-0014 or ttriders.aruba@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH CARNIVAL QUEEN ELECTION JANUARY 19

Carnival excitement builds as Aruba elects its first queens of the season. Contestants in the Children's Carnival Queen Election are 6-9 years of age. Youth Carnival Queen contestants are aged 13-17. All demonstrate their Carnival spirit through dance performances, speeches, and Carnival shows. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:00 p.m.

GRAND FINAL TUMBA CONTEST JANUARY 20

Originally from Africa with a Caribbean influence, the tumba music played during the Carnival has the rhythm of the "tambu" which is a tambour with a 6/8 beat. This event features local bands and singers competing for the Tumba King or Queen title with their original musical compositions and lyrics. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 8:00 p.m.



**PRE-FINAL ARUBA CAISO &
SOCA MONARCH 2018**
JANUARY 22-23-24

Setting the tone for the music of the new Carnival season, hundreds of talented locals compete for entry into the grand finals for the King or Queen title of Aruba's Calypso and Road March. Venue: Carnival Village in San Nicolas at 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

BETICO GROES DAY
JANUARY 25

Aruba pays tribute to its greatest statesman on his birthday. The late Gilberto Francois "Betico" Croes obtained Aruba's "Status Aparte" (separate status) within the Dutch Kingdom, which occurred in 1986. This official holiday features various cultural and sporting events, culinary festivals, folkloric shows, bike tours as well as popular games held at various venues throughout the Island.

**BETICO GROES MEMORIAL 10K
RUN & 6K FUN WALK**
JANUARY 25

Calling all runners! Betico Croes' hometown of Santa Cruz sponsors an amateur road race through the hilly, scenic terrain of that area. The circular route takes runners through residential neighborhoods and back to the main intersection of Santa Cruz. Avoiding the hotter hours of the day, the starting pistol sounds at 6:00 p.m. Open registration through IBISA at Tel. (297)-582-4987, Fax (297)-583-6478, or ibisaaruba@gmail.com.

**CARNIVAL QUEEN AND
MRS. CARNIVAL ELECTION**
JANUARY 26

During a fun-filled event, Aruba elects its two most important Carnival representatives: the Aruba Carnival Queen and Mrs. Carnival. Contestants of the Aruba Carnival Queen Election are between the ages of 17 and 25, while the Mrs. Carnival contestants are more experienced participants—young at heart and full of pride—representing districts, schools, and social clubs on the island. Marked by lavish production numbers, the election is judged by a panel of local and international judges. Highlights of this festive election event include skits and joyful displays of bright and colorful Carnival costumes and dance. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

**CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE
IN NOORD**
JANUARY 27

The district of Noord demonstrates its Carnival spirit with the presentation of its own children's parade. Children representing elementary schools and social clubs participate in vibrant interpretations of various trendy and fun themes. This event starts at 2:00 P.M.

**GRAND FINAL ARUBA CAISO &
SOCA MONARCH 2018**
JANUARY 27

Attracting more than 10,000 spectators, one of the most exciting and popular local music festivals is the annual Calypso and Road March contest. This festival is your best bet for enjoying imaginative music of the people, by the people, and for the people. Original musical compositions and lyrics are presented with the social commentary of Calypso or the catchy beat of Road March, helping to define the Carnival season. The most popular songs will be featured in the upcoming jump-ups and parades. Venue: Carnival Village in San Nicolas at 8:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.





CHILDREN'S GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE IN ORANJESTAD

JANUARY 28

The largest children's parade of the season includes all of the island's various Carnival groups coming together to form Aruba's 38th Children's Grand Carnival Parade. Hundreds of children enjoy the opportunity to show off their dancing skills and colorful costumes. Held in downtown Oranjestad, the event begins at 2:00 P.M.

JOUVERT MORNING

FEBRUARY 3

An early-morning open invitation to Aruba's largest "jump-up" is extended to Carnival enthusiasts throughout the island. Popularly known as the "pajama party," thousands of people gather in San Nicolas to follow the various live-music caravans down the city streets. Set the alarm clock! This exciting jump-up begins at 4 a.m. and continues until sunrise.

ARUBA'S LIGHTING PARADE

FEBRUARY 3

Aruba's favorite evening Carnival parade is a visual treat. Thousands of tiny lights are incorporated into costumes, road pieces, and floats, heightening the dramatic effect of an already stunning and creative display. Live bands accompany the various participating Carnival groups. Held in downtown Oranjestad, the parade begins at 8:00 P.M.

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE IN SAN NICOLAS

FEBRUARY 4

Aruba's youngest Carnival enthusiasts take center stage as they parade down the streets of San Nicolas dressed in colorful costumes representing various themes. The parade starts at 2:00 p.m. in downtown San Nicolas.

OLD MASK PARADE & BURNING OF KING MOMITO

FEBRUARY 4

Children's Carnival parades comes to an official end by burning of "King Momito". Venue: Carnival Village in San Nicolas at 7:30 P.M.

SAN NICOLAS LIGHTING PARADE

FEBRUARY 8

Although not as extravagant as the Oranjestad version of the parade, the San Nicolas Lighting Parade is no less jubilant in its presentation of dance, music, and Carnival spirit. The parade starts at 8:00 p.m.

SAN NICOLAS GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE

FEBRUARY 10

This is a prelude to the Grand Carnival Parade in Oranjestad. Local musicians create an exceptional ambiance in San Nicolas by playing their latest Carnival hits to the delight of hundreds of marchers dressed in resplendent costumes. Beautifully decorated themed floats accompanied by their floor members parade through the streets of San Nicolas until sunset. This parade starts at noon in San Nicolas.

ARUBA'S 64TH GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE

FEBRUARY 11

The largest Carnival parade is the Grand Parade through Oranjestad, held on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This parade is filled with unforgettable music, spectacular floats, and original costumes decorated with colorful stones, sequins, and feathers, creating a unique display. This event starts at noon in Oranjestad and continues into the early evening hours.

BURNING OF KING MOMO & CLOSIGN OF ARUBA'S 64TH CARNIVAL

FEBRUARY 11

Carnival 64th comes to an official end with the burning of "King Momo.". The event is held at 7:30 p.m. at Oranjestad Harbor Arena.

CARNIVAL MONDAY

FEBRUARY 12

Official holiday. This official holiday in Aruba is used by the locals to recuperate from all the dancing and partying during Carnival Season in Aruba.

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14

This Christian event is prominently marked on the island at our many Catholic churches, and begins the official start of the Lenten season. Locally, Ash Wednesday also represents the end of the Carnival season.

In 2019 and 2020, the Grand Parades will take place on Sunday, March 3rd, and Sunday, February 23rd, respectively. Contact the Aruba Carnival Organizer (SMAC) at Tel. (297) 592-8792 or info@smacaruba.com for additional information.

MARCH





NATIONAL FLAG AND ANTHEM DAY

MARCH 18

A strong sense of pride is displayed each year as Arubans celebrate their “Status Aparte” and the Flag and Anthem Day. An impressive folkloric production marking the holiday is held each year at Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad. This official holiday also features many cultural events showcasing the local gastronomy of Aruba, as well as sporting events and organized games for both adults and kids around the island.

33RD ARUBA INTERNATIONAL HALF MARATHON (21K)

MARCH 25

International competitors participate in Aruba’s longest road race covering the length of the island from San Nicolas to Oranjestad. The race begins at 5:00 a.m. Contact IBISA at Tel. (297) 582-4987, Fax (297) 583-6478, or ibisa.aruba@gmail.com/ ibisa.socialmedia@gmail.com or visit the Website www.ibisaaruba.com for additional information or registration.

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 30TH

Official holiday.





APRIL



EASTER SUNDAY AND EASTER MONDAY

APRIL 1-2

Official holiday.

EARTH DAY

APRIL 22

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life, and is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement. Growing out of the first Earth Day, Earth Day Network (EDN) works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries to broaden, diversify, and mobilize the environmental movement. Here on Aruba, many resorts and businesses celebrate Earth Day with interactive events and activities to promote awareness.

KING'S BIRTHDAY

APRIL 27

An official government ceremony in honor of King Willem Alexander is followed by numerous sporting events and family-friendly celebrations. Sports competitions, kite-flying contests, and fun-filled activities are held at various sites including community centers.

57TH INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD RACE (10K)

APRIL 27

Aruba's most popular running race draws over 200 competitors from countries including Aruba, Venezuela, Colombia, the Netherlands Antilles, USA, and Holland. The 10K event starts at 5:30 p.m. on L.G. Smith Blvd. and ends at the Marriott parking lot. Contact Vanessa Tromp at Tel. (297) 593-5801 or arruwac@gmail.com for additional information.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

APRIL 27-28

Ready to experience the deliciousness of our food trucks? Savor the best of Aruba's Food Trucks during Eat Local's: Food Truck edition. Taking place on April 27th & April 28th in Downtown Oranjestad from 7 to 11 PM. All of the islands best food trucks gathered in one place. Experience sizzling dishes and let your taste buds go wild. Bring your friends and family and enjoy great food, craft beers and, live music. Eat, drink, and chill the night away. Venue: Downtown Oranjestad



MAY
&
JUNE





LABOR DAY

MAY 1

Official holiday.

AMSTERDAM MANOR BEACH RESORT 4TH ANNUAL 10K RUN

MAY 7

Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort 10K run and 5K fun walk/run to race funds for the Red Cross to contribute to their efforts. For more information please contact: Email: hrmanagerasst@amsterdammanor.aw. Tel: +297-587-0107

ASCENSION DAY

MAY 10

Official holiday.

16TH AHATA RECYCLING ART COMPETITION/EXPOSITION

MAY 7-11

Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association organizes annually an awareness campaign for adults and kids promoting the re-use of old articles to create recycled art. Last day for registration is April 10. Exposition will be at UNOCA from May 8 to 12 at Stadionweg 21, Oranjestad, Aruba. Free entrance. For more information please contact The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association at Tel. (297) 582-2607, Fax (297) 582-4202, or vanessa@ahata.com.

18TH EDITION ARUBA SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

MAY 23-29

Held on Memorial Day holiday weekend, the Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival is a star-studded, two-night concert series that has featured such artists as Mary J. Blige, Tony Braxton, Alicia Keys, Sinbad, Jennifer Hudson, Ne-yo, Babyface, Robin Thicke, Charlie Wilson, Trey Songz, The Isley Brothers, featuring Ronald and Enest Isley, singer-songwriter Fantasia, Jazmine Sullivan, Usher, The Roots, Cedric the Entertainer. Venue: Harbor Arena.

Contact: email: email at: info@soulbeach.net

Visit: www.soulbeach.net for additional information.

ALOE WELLNESS MONTH JUNE

Start your summer off in June with a unique and holistic wellness program hosted by the One Happy Island. Aruba offers the perfect backdrop to revitalize your mind, body and soul with special hotel deals and exclusive on-property activities. Recharge with invigorating yoga, tai chi or Pilates, or explore the island on adventures such as organized beach walks and captivating Caribbean nature hikes. Aruba's warm waters, constant sunshine and tropical temperatures with cooling trade winds will lift your spirits no matter what you choose.

KLM ARUBA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

JUNE 3

The 1st edition of the Aruba Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K and 5K will be held on the 3rd of June 2018. The Race is AIMS/ IAAF certified and this road race is organized on the highest International level.

Contact: e-mail: info@arubainternationalmarathon.com
Tel.: IBISA (297) 582-4987

<https://registration.mylaps.com/aruba-marathon/>

DERA GAI (ST. JOHN'S DAY) JUNE 24

Aruba's harvest festival is now a cultural celebration featuring traditional song and dance. The symbol of the rooster and bright yellow and red costumes are central to events held at various locations including community centers.

Contact Tel: (297) 582-2185 / www.gobierno.aw.

32ND ARUBA INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON

JUNE 24

International competitors participate in a triathlon comprised of a 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike race, and 10 km run. Beginners can test their endurance in the triathlon of a 750-m swim, 20 km bike race, and 5 km run. Beginning at Eagle Beach, the event is planned on a safe and closed circuit. More than 100 athletes are expected to participate in this event hosted by the Aruba Triathlon Association. For registration and information contact Glenda Croes-Tromp at Tel. (297) 594-0067 or arubatriathlon@hotmail.com / Glenda_croes@hotmail.com or visit www.arubatriathlon.com.

ARUBA SUMMER FESTIVAL 2018 JUNE 29-30

4th edition of a two-day festival features exciting artists never before seen live in Aruba. Previous editions have featured artists like Nicky Jam, Jerry Rivera, Elvis Crespo, Carlos Vives, Pitbull, Enrique Iglesias, Gente de Zona, Juan Luis Guerra, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Maluma, Zion & Lennox. Confirmed for 2018 Festival's edition are performances by: Ozuna, Nacho, Eddy Herrera, Felipe Pipe Pelaez, Foseca & Victor Manuel. Along with the performances of Aruba's local bands: Buleria, D'Licious & N'Fuzion. Contact Email Loco Lobo Productions at: info@arubasmf.com for travel packages information.





JULY &
AUGUST



31TH ANNUAL ARUBA HI-WINDS JULY 3-9

Aruba's trade winds provide the perfect conditions for the largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean. Exciting windsurfing and kite boarding competitions in various categories are held off Hadicurari Beach (Fisherman's Huts). Come and experience five days of non-stop entertainment, beach parties, events, and activities! Contact email: hiwindsaruba@gmail.com, or visit: <http://www.hiwindsaruba.com/> for additional information.

ARUBA INTERNATIONAL REGATTA 2018 AUGUST 17-19

This sailing event features fun, action, and competitions among international yachts, catamarans, sunfish, and windsurfers during the day, combined with music, parties, and dinners at night. Contact the Organizing Committee at Tel. (297) 565-6887 or eric@aruba-regatta.com, or visit www.aruba-regatta.com for registration and additional information.

VOW RENEWAL CEREMONY AUGUST 22

The world-famous Eagle Beach creates a perfect scenery for couples around the world to celebrate and reaffirm their love and commitment for one another by saying "I do" again. This chic evening attracts over 160 couples and guests eager to participate in the largest vow renewal ceremony in the Caribbean. Come and experience this memorable ceremony with your better-half as the sun sets over the water! Venue: Eagle Beach

24TH ANNUAL ARUBA INTERNATIONAL PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT AUGUST 24-26

Professional and amateur golfers team up in a two-day, 36-hole tournament featuring gifts, prizes, and special events. Contact: Tierra Del Sol at Tel. (297) 586-7800, Fax (297) 586-4970, or teetime@tierradelsol.com for more information.

ONE COOL SUMMER INTERNATIONAL DRAG RACE AUGUST TBA

This exciting international drag racing competition will take place at the Palo Marga International Raceway Park. Contact Lucho Werleman at Tel. (297) 593-4125 or luchotowing@hotmail.com





SEPTEMBER



37TH TURIBANA TO SANTA CRUZ 10K RACE SEPTEMBER 9

A unique way to experience an Aruban sunrise is during this open road race that starts at 5:30 a.m. at Panaderia del Campo in Noord and finishes at the Betico Croes Sports Complex in Santa Cruz. Contact IBISA at Tel. (297) 582-4987, Fax (297) 583-6478, or ibisaaruba@gmail.com/ibisa.socialmedia@gmail.com or visit the Website www.ibisaaruba.com for additional information or registration.

12TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 21-22

This annual festival ignites Aruba's music scene with an impressive lineup of international and local jazz, Latin, soul, and funk musicians at Renaissance Marketplace downtown. It is not only about music; the vibrating atmosphere, food stands and numerous bars make this an unforgettable, unique experience. There is a four-day warm-up preceding the festival held at smaller, intimate venues. Famous featured artists at past festivals include George Benson, Candy Dulfer, David Sanborn, Chakan

Khan, Oscar d'Leon, Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, Prince Royce, Grupo Niche, Earth, Wind & Fire Experience, Kool & Gang and so much more! Contact Caribbean Sea Jazz Foundation at Tel. (297) 588-0211 or info@caribbeanseajazz.com or visit www.caribbeanseajazz.com for additional information.

24TH ANNUAL ARUBA REEF CARE PROJECT SEPTEMBER 23

If you are in search of a great eco-tourism opportunity, join more than 800 participants from both the local community and those visiting us from abroad for the island's largest volunteer initiative. A cleanup of the island's most popular beaches, dive and snorkel sites helps raise awareness for a clean marine environment. Contact: Mr. Castro Perez at Tel. (297) 740-0797 or castroeperez@gmail.com for additional information.

WORLD TOURISM DAY SEPTEMBER 27

Event celebrated with a conference. Contents and venue: TBA
For more info: www.aruba.com, call + 297 582-3777 or email support@aruba.com

ART FAIR ARUBA SEPTEMBER 28-30

Starting in the month of June and culminating in September Aruba will be infused with art. The Aruba Art fair will consist of different elements such as a Culinary Art Competition, Building Take Overs (Visual Art), Art TV Program, Art Magazine, School Art Contest and Sculpture Making. The 3-day fair will be taking place in the streets of San Nicolas where the true local and international showstoppers of Aruba Art Fair get to perform live art and display their brilliant masterpieces. The fair will be combined with other forms of art such as music, dance, poetry, and other creative forms of expression. Venue: San Nicolas. Contact Mr. Bolivar Tel +(297) 593 4475 or visit www.arubaartfair.com for additional information.



OCTOBER



**33RD FIRE PREVENTION
10K & 5K RUN
OCTOBER TBA**

Don't forget to pack your running shoes! This race is open to all local and visiting runners (and walkers!), and follows a circular route that begins and ends at the Fire House in Tanki Flip. Contact IBISA at Tel. (297) 582-4987, Fax (297) 583-6478, or ibisaaruba@gmail.com/ibisa.socialmedia@gmail.com or visit the Website www.ibisaaruba.com for additional information or registration.

**EAT LOCAL RESTAURANT
MONTH
OCTOBER**

Indulge in the island's zesty flavors at the Eat Local Restaurant Month with more than 60 restaurants participating, offering critics, wine connoisseurs, foodies, and everyone in between. Come and get the chance to sample Aruba's diverse culinary heritage! Contact the Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777 or visit www.aruba.com for additional information.



**CHALLENGE ARUBA TRIATHLON
2018
OCTOBER TBA**

The Challenge Aruba course is an internationally branded triathlon that stands out for its scenic routes, speed, variety and quality. The event consists of 1.9 km swim followed by a 90-km cycle and finally a 21-km run. Aruba and its crystal clear blue waters, 11 km stretch of beautiful clean beaches, and delightful Caribbean climate is the perfect combination for a memorable race in paradise! Contact www.challenge-aruba.com/ Mr. Bas de Groot at Tel. (297)733-2424 or e-mail bas@w-i-u.com for more information.

**ATECH' CONFERENCE
OCTOBER TBA**

This Multi-day day event has become the meeting place in the Caribbean for creative entrepreneurs, startup founders, investors, innovative companies, industry stakeholders, world class speakers and key global players to gather, exchange knowledge, discuss the future of tech, and network with fellow tech enthusiasts. Contact Mrs. Varelie Croes at +1-347 4200919 or Mr. Tristan Every at Tel. (297) 594-8300 or info@atechconference.com or visit the website www.atechconference.com for additional information.



NOVEMBER



TEDX ARUBA **NOVEMBER TBA**

In a world that has its challenges we need people who speak up and who can show us the way to lead and create a wave of positive vibrations. At TEDx Aruba we are happy and humble to welcome the thinkers and doers who can teach and lead us. Visit the website www.tedxaruba.com for additional information.

INTERPASO **NOVEMBER TBA**

Interpaso in Aruba is a showdown of the best Paso Fino horses from Latin America and the Caribbean competing in different categories. Interpaso is organized by OCA, the Aruban Horse Riding Organization. A must-see if you enjoy Paso Fino show horses, horse riding, horse competitions, and an exciting, local ambiance! Contact Mrs. Betty Werleman at Tel. (297)563-5878 or ocaboard@ocaruba.com for additional information.

LOVE FESTIVAL **NOVEMBER**

The word says it all; love Festival is all about love. Love for Aruba, Love for the beach, love for each other, love for the universe and especially love for dance music. Three days, featuring, about 50 plus international and local DJ's set to perform from noon till midnight and beyond. Previous editions have featured Chris Lake, Franky Rizado, David Tort, Adrian Hour, Andre Hommen,

Saeed Yoenan, Patrick M. Maksym, Natsuj, Alex Young. Early bird tickets, weekend and VIP passes are available online and through several retail locations. For more information on tickets and travel packages, please visit www.lovefestivalaruba.com.

17TH ANNUAL AHATA NATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP **NOVEMBER 3**

Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association organizes annually a national cleanup concentrating on areas near and along the coastline. For more information please contact AHATA at Tel. (297) 582-2607, Fax (297) 582-4202, or send an email to vanessa@ahata.com.

12TH EDITION ARUBA INTERNATIONAL BEACH TENNIS TOURNAMENT **NOVEMBER 11-18**

Aruba's international beach tennis event is the premier tournament in the Caribbean. International beach tennis pros and amateurs travel from around the world to compete in the prestigious tournament and take part in the festive beach-chic ambiance on the gorgeous Eagle Beach. No entrance fee! Contact Sjoerd de Vries at Tel. (297) 593-6512 or Aruba Tennis at Tel. (297) 583-7074, Fax (297) 588-4278, or sjoerd@tennisaruba.com, or visit www.arubabeachtennis.com for additional information.



A woman with long brown hair is singing into a small black microphone. She is wearing a black top with a brown mesh pattern and a gold watch. She is holding a brown hat. In the background, a band is playing instruments: a man in a plaid shirt plays an acoustic guitar, a man in a pink shirt plays a guitar, a man in a red shirt plays a violin, and a man in a maroon shirt plays a double bass. A young boy in a light blue shirt is in the foreground on the left. The scene is indoors with a wooden wall on the left and white blinds in the background.

DECEMBER

SAINT NICOLAS DAY
DECEMBER 5

Aruba's children line Oranjestad's harbor for the ceremonious arrival by boat of "Sinterklaas" (Saint Nicolas), dressed in bishop's robes and accompanied by his "Zwarte Pieten" (helpers). Days before Sinterklaas' birthday on December 5, children leave out their shoes and treats for Sinterklaas' white horse in anticipation of his nighttime visit and gifts. Sinterklaas and his helpers appear at many daytime events throughout the island.

ARUBA CUP - PGA TOUR
DECEMBER 10-15

The PGA TOUR Latino América is a professional golf tour created in 2012 by the PGA TOUR in collaboration with promoters, clubs and national golf Federations in Latin America. The Aruba Cup is one-of-a-kind team match play competition that brings top players from two of the PGA TOUR's feeder – Mackenzie Tours vs. Latino América to Aruba for the ultimate head-to-head golf tournament. Contact Mr. Cisco Quant at Tel. (297) 586 7800 Ext. 206 or cisco.quat@tierradelsol.com or Mr. Oliver Riding oliver.riding@tierradelsol.com or www.tierradelsol.com for additional information.

CHRISTMAS **BOXING DAY**
DECEMBER 25 **DECEMBER 26**

Official holiday.

Official holiday.

DANDE FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 27

In Aruba's biggest traditional musical event, more than 50 singers accompanied by typical musical groups present their original compositions and lyrics as well as the traditional Dande song. During the new year holiday, Dande groups travel around to homes of their families and friends, bestowing them with blessings, success and happiness in the coming year through singing.

Venue: TBA at 8:00 p.m.



BONBINI FESTIVAL

Bonbini means “Welcome!” in Papiamentu, and this weekly folkloric music and dance festival is the perfect introduction to the warmth and hospitality of Aruba’s people. The Bonbini Festival takes place in downtown Oranjestad in the outdoor courtyard of Fort Zoutman, Aruba’s oldest building. Catch the flavor of the island, its history, unique culture, people, music, and cuisine during this entertaining event held every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CARUBBIAN FESTIVAL: TBD IF IT WILL CONTINUE

The Carubbian Festival takes place in San Nicolas every Thursday night from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., showcasing the multicultural charms of Aruba’s “Sunrise City.” Visitors can relax and have a taste of delicious local and Caribbean cuisine and enjoy a colorful parade of local entertainers. Closed to traffic, the main street is a pedestrian mall filled with colorful booths selling food, handcrafts, and souvenirs, with fun activities for the whole family. Packages including round-trip transportation are sold at hotels.



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