



ARUBA

One happy  
island



# Calendar of Events 2015



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Thank you for spending your vacation with us in Aruba. We hope you enjoyed your stay on our **One happy island.**

Visit Aruba's official website, [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com), for the latest updates on festivals, events, and conferences, or contact any of the following offices or representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority.



# January



## JANUARY 1 | NEW YEAR'S DAY

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.

## JANUARY- FEBRUARY | ARUBA'S 61ST CARNIVAL CELEBRATION

Aruba's biggest party of the year is a monthlong 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 elections 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 15, 2015.

## JANUARY 10 | ARUBA'S TORCH PARADE

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 the capital of Oranjestad. The parade begins at 8 p.m. and sets the pace for the festivities to come in the following weeks.

## JANUARY 23 | CHILDREN'S & YOUTH CARNIVAL QUEEN ELECTION

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.

## JANUARY 25 | BETICO CROES DAY

Aruba pays tribute to its greatest statesman on his birthday. The late Gilberto

Francois "Betico" Croes helped Aruba obtain its "Status Aparte" (separate status) within the Dutch Kingdom. This official holiday features various cultural and sporting events, as well as popular games held at various venues on the island.

## JANUARY 25 | BETICO CROES MEMORIAL 10K RUN & 5K FUN WALK

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](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com).

## JANUARY 27-29 | PRE-FINAL ARUBA CAISO & SOCA MONARCH 2015

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

## JANUARY 31 | CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE IN NOORD

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 different themes. This event starts at 1 p.m.

## JANUARY 31 | GRAND FINAL ARUBA CAISO & SOCA MONARCH 2015

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 p.m.

# February



## FEBRUARY 1 | CHILDREN'S GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE IN ORANJESTAD

The largest children's parade of the season includes all of the island's various Carnival groups coming together to form Aruba's 37th 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 1 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 6 | CARNIVAL QUEEN AND MRS. CARNIVAL ELECTION

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 Carnival costumes and dance. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 7 | JOUVERT MORNING

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.

## FEBRUARY 7 | ARUBA'S LIGHTING PARADE

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 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 8 | CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE IN SAN NICOLAS

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 noon in downtown San Nicolas.

## FEBRUARY 8 | OLD MASK PARADE AND BURNING OF KING MOMITO

The end of the Carnival season is first marked in San Nicolas with a parade ending in the symbolic burning of "King Momito." This event takes place from 7-10 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 12 | SAN NICOLAS LIGHTING PARADE

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 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 14 | SAN NICOLAS GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE

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.

## FEBRUARY 15 | ARUBA'S 61ST GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE

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. Aruba's main event starts at 10 a.m. in Oranjestad and continues into the early evening hours.

## FEBRUARY 16 | CARNIVAL MONDAY

Official holiday. The traditional horse parade through downtown Oranjestad begins at 4 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 16 | OLD MASK PARADE & BURNING OF KING MOMO

Carnival 61 comes to an official end on the eve of Ash Wednesday with the burning of "King Momo." This is preceded by a parade throughout the streets of Oranjestad. The parade starts at 8 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 18 | ASH WEDNESDAY

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 2016 and 2017, the Grand Parades will take place on Sunday, February 7, and Sunday, February 26, respectively. Contact the Aruba Carnival Organizer (SMAC) at Tel. (297) 592-8792 or Email [info@smacaruba.com](mailto:info@smacaruba.com) for additional information.**

# March/April



## MARCH 15 | 30TH ARUBA INTERNATIONAL HALF MARATHON (21 K)

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. Registration on Feb. 8, 2015. Contact IBISA at Tel. (297) 582-4987, Fax (297) 583-6478, or Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com) or [juan.dake@aruba.gov.aw](mailto:juan.dake@aruba.gov.aw) for additional information or registration.

## MARCH 18 | NATIONAL FLAG AND ANTHEM DAY

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.

## APRIL 3 | GOOD FRIDAY

Official holiday.

## APRIL 5-6 | EASTER SUNDAY AND EASTER MONDAY

Official holidays.

## APRIL 22 | EARTH DAY

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.

## APRIL 14-25 | 13TH AHATA RECYCLED ART COMPETITION

This public awareness campaign for adults and kids promotes the collection and re-use of old articles to create recycled art. Last day for registration is April 5. Contact AHATA at Tel. (297) 582-2607, Fax (297) 582-4202. Email: [vanessa@ahata.com](mailto:vanessa@ahata.com). Exposition Venue: Cas di Cultura

## APRIL 26 | 55TH INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD RACE (10K)

Aruba's most popular running race draws over 200 competitors from countries including Aruba, Venezuela, Colombia, 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. Entry forms will be issued in February. Contact Vanessa Tromp at Tel. (297) 593-5801 or Email: [arruwac@gmail.com](mailto:arruwac@gmail.com) for additional Information.

## APRIL 27 | KING'S BIRTHDAY

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.

# May



# June/July



## MAY 1 | LABOR DAY

Official holiday.

## MAY 1-3 | SAIL ARUBA 2015

The largest event planned around the festivities commemorating the 200-year existence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to be held at the Port of Oranjestad. Visitors will be able to enjoy a seafood festival, a sail-in cinema, the Sail Aruba Races, miniature boat races, a walking tour in Oranjestad, live music, food and refreshment tents, a BBQ cook-off, and to top it all off, a final night of international music.

For information and updates follow us on [www.facebook.com/sailaruba](http://www.facebook.com/sailaruba) or visit our website [www.sailaruba.com](http://www.sailaruba.com). Contact Sanne Fetlaar Tel. (297) 736-2012 for additional information.

## MAY 14 | ASCENSION DAY

Official holiday.

## MAY 20-25 | 15TH EDITION ARUBA SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015

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 and Robin Thicke. This year the Festival celebrates its 15th anniversary. Venue: to be announced. Visit [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com) / [www.soulbeach.net](http://www.soulbeach.net) for additional information.

## MAY 31-JUNE 4 | HEALTH CONFERENCE ARUBA

This engaging conference offers healthcare professionals and policy makers an opportunity to network, hold a broader discussion about healthcare and its associated challenges, and work together towards solutions. The conference is open to other communities in our region, including those outside of the Dutch Kingdom, as well international organizations like PAHO, WHO and CARPHA. Venue: Renaissance Convention Center. Contact Marinus Wegereef at (297) 594-0983 Email: [marinus@hcca.aw](mailto:marinus@hcca.aw) or visit the website [www.hcca.aw](http://www.hcca.aw)

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

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. Tel. (297) 582-2185. For more information visit [www.gobierno.aw](http://www.gobierno.aw).

## JUNE 26-27 | ARUBA SUMMER FESTIVAL

This new two-day festival will feature exciting artists never before seen live in Aruba. Featured artists, as well as packages for the festival, will be announced soon. Contact Loco Lobo Productions Email Loco Lobo Productions Email: [diarioaruba@yahoo.com](mailto:diarioaruba@yahoo.com) for additional information.

## JUNE 28 | 29TH ARUBA TRIATHLON OLYMPIC

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.

Email: [arubatriathlon@hotmail.com](mailto:arubatriathlon@hotmail.com) or [Glenda\\_croes@hotmail.com](mailto:Glenda_croes@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.arubatriathlon.com](http://www.arubatriathlon.com).

## JULY 7-13 | 29TH ANNUAL ARUBA HI-WINDS

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). There are five days of non-stop entertainment, beach parties, events, and activities. Contact the Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777 or Fax (297) 583-7403, or visit [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com) or [www.aruba-hiwinds.org](http://www.aruba-hiwinds.org) for additional information.

# August/ September



## AUG.14-16 | ARUBA INTERNATIONAL REGATTA 2015

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 Email: [eric@aruba-regatta.com](mailto:eric@aruba-regatta.com), or visit [www.arubaregatta.com](http://www.arubaregatta.com) for registration and additional information.

## AUG. 20-24 | 21ST ANNUAL ARUBA INTERNATIONAL PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT

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 Email: [teetimes@tierradelsol.com](mailto:teetimes@tierradelsol.com) for more information.

## AUG. 29-SEPT.1 | ONE COOL SUMMER INTERNATIONAL DRAG RACE

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 Email: [luchotowing@hotmail.com](mailto:luchotowing@hotmail.com), or visit the website [www.draginaruba.com](http://www.draginaruba.com), for additional information.

## SEPTEMBER | ELECTRIC FESTIVAL 2015

This hip, two-day event features world-renowned DJs such as Chuckie, Erick Morillo, Begovic, and Nutbeatz, and musical artists like Slash. Venue: TBC. Organized by GM Affairs in conjunction with the Aruba Tourism Authority, Amsterdam Dance Event, Eventpro, ID&T, and Dirty Dutch. For additional information contact Davina Mansur at Tel. (297) 592-6965.

Email: [info@electricfestival.com](mailto:info@electricfestival.com), or visit the website [www.electricfestival.com](http://www.electricfestival.com). Venue: Beach adjacent to Nikki Beach.

## SEPTEMBER 6 | 35TH TURIBANA TO SANTA CRUZ 10K RACE

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. Registration begins on August 20, 2015. Contact IBISA at Tel. (297) 582-4987, Fax (297) 583-6478.

Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com) for additional information or registration.

## SEPTEMBER | 22ND ANNUAL ARUBA REEF CARE PROJECT

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 and dive and snorkel sites helps raise awareness for a clean marine environment. Contact Mr. Castro Perez at Tel. (297) 740-0797. Email: [castroperez@gmail.com](mailto:castroperez@gmail.com) for additional information.

## SEPTEMBER 25-26 | 9TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL ARUBA 2015

This annual festival ignites Aruba's music scene with an impressive lineup of international and local jazz, Latin, soul, and funk musicians at Renaissance Market Place. 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, Angie Stone, Eddie Palmieri, Marcus Miller, Isaac Delgado, Candy Dulfer, Raul Midon, Richard Bona, Izaline Calister, David Sanborn, Moon Baker, The Ploctones and Tango Extremo, Chakan Khan, Oscar d' Leon, Pete Philly, Randy Bracker, Giovanca, El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico, Jose James, Willy Garcia, Prince Royce, and Candy Dulfer. Contact Caribbean Sea Foundation at Tel. (297) 5880211 or Email [info@caribbeanseajazz.com](mailto:info@caribbeanseajazz.com) or visit [www.caribbeanseajazz.com](http://www.caribbeanseajazz.com) for additional information. Venue: Renaissance Marketplace downtown.

# October



# November



## OCTOBER | INTERPASO 2015

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 Mr. Alex Cybul at Tel. (297) 594-2495.

Email: [ocaboard@ocaruba.com](mailto:ocaboard@ocaruba.com) for additional information.

## OCTOBER 4 | 31ST FIRE PREVENTION 10K & 5K RUN

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. The race begins at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins on September 24, 2015. Contact IBISA at Tel. (297) 582-4987, Fax (297) 583-6478, or Email: [ibisaaruba@gmail.com](mailto:ibisaaruba@gmail.com) for additional information or registration.

## OCT. 26-NOV.1 | ARUBA INTERNATIONAL BIKE WEEK

Didn't bring your Harley with you? No worries—just watching hundreds of bikes parade around the island is a remarkable sight to see! The 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 Email: [croesrudy@gmail.com](mailto:croesrudy@gmail.com) or Mr. Nahar at Tel. (297) 593-0014.

Email: [ttt.riders.aruba@gmail.com](mailto:ttt.riders.aruba@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER 8 | 12TH ANNUAL NATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Sponsored by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association, this national cleanup day concentrates on areas near and along the coastline. Contact AHATA at Tel. (297) 582-2607, Fax (297) 582-4202, or Email: [vanessa@ahata.com](mailto:vanessa@ahata.com) for more information.

## NOVEMBER 16-22 | ARUBA INTERNATIONAL BEACH TENNIS TOURNAMENT

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 gorgeous Eagle Beach. Contact Sjoerd de Vries at Tel. (297) 593-6512 or Aruba Tennis at Tel. (297) 583-7074, Fax (297) 588-4278, or Email: [sjoerd@tennisaruba.com](mailto:sjoerd@tennisaruba.com) or visit [www.arubabeachtennis.com](http://www.arubabeachtennis.com) for additional information.



# December



## DECEMBER 5 | SAINT NICOLAS DAY

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). For 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.

## DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS

Official holiday.

## DECEMBER 26 | BOXING DAY

Official holiday.

## DECEMBER 27 | DANDE FESTIVAL

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. A Dande group is a troupe of traveling musicians brightening the New Year with a song bestowing blessings, goodwill, and prosperity. Venue: TBA at 8 p.m.

# Weekly Events



## 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, people, music, and cuisine during this entertaining evening held every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

## SHOPPING BAZAAR

Shopping hours are extended on Main Street Caya Betico Croes during various holidays and celebrations. Shopping Night every Wednesday, 6-9 pm. Live music and folkloric shows, 7 -9 pm.



## CARUBBIAN FESTIVAL

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

### Disclaimer:

This Calendar of Events has been produced by the Aruba Tourism Authority to provide general information about events and activities taking place in Aruba during 2015. This information is subject to change without any notice. All efforts have been made to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information of each event at the time of printing. The Aruba Tourism Authority is not liable for any possible errors, omissions, or cancellations. Visit Aruba’s official website, [www.aruba.com](http://www.aruba.com), for the latest updates on festivals, events, and conferences, or contact any of the following offices or representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority.



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