

Coral Reef Ecology

Coral reefs are complex associations of living animals. Stony corals are the major reef builders, they look like brown/green colored rocks. The tiny animal, called a polyp, extracts calcium from seawater and deposits this beneath itself as a limestone skeleton. The polyps of one coral head are all linked together into one giant colony.

The limestone structures produced by stony corals provide a perfect home for myriads of tiny bottom dwelling animals as well as being a safe haven for the dazzling array of reef fish you see swimming above the reefs.

Coral reefs take millenniums to grow, seconds to destroy. Please keep hands, fins and anchors off. Coral reefs are precious and delicate, their future depends on you. Look, enjoy and leave untouched.

REEFS



Bonaire's Fringing Reef

Bonaire and Klein Bonaire are surrounded by an almost continuous fringing reef. A shallow and narrow terrace slopes down gently from the shoreline to a depth of 10 meters (30 feet) and then drops, typically at an angle of 45 degrees, to depths of 40 meters (130 feet). There are, of course, some variations to this general description, like vertical walls or double reef formations.

STINAPA Bonaire is...

... the non profit foundation that manages the Bonaire National Marine Park and the Washington Slagbaai National Park on behalf of the island government of Bonaire. It is dedicated to the conservation of Bonaire's natural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources.

Bonaire National Marine Park

The marine park extends from the high-water-mark to the 60 meter (200 feet) depth contour, encompassing the entire coast of Bonaire including Klein Bonaire and Lac. The marine park's area of 2,700 hectares (6,700 acres) is home to important and endangered species such as sea turtles, conch, and sharks as well as globally threatened ecosystems such as coral reef, sea grass, and mangroves. As an International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) demonstration site, the Bonaire National Marine Park is a model of its kind in the Caribbean, protecting the marine environment while maximizing appropriate levels of recreation and commercial use. Marine park staff maintain around 100 public moorings, conduct scientific research, provide information to users, monitor human and natural impact and enforce the park's laws and regulations.

Buy your tag before entering our Marine Park!



Washington Slagbaai National Park

Bonaire's terrestrial park is a 5,643-hectare (14,000 acres) nature sanctuary located in the northwest part of the island. It provides safe habitat for many important flora and fauna of Bonaire. Parrots, flamingos, parakeets, iguanas and many other species of birds and reptiles can be found in this sanctuary.

The beaches inside the park are a nesting ground for globally endangered sea turtles. Originally inhabited by the Caiquetio people, and comprised of two of the largest plantations on the island during colonial period, the park is rich in historical and cultural heritage. The Visitor Center at the park's entrance, with its museum, hiking and kids trails, offers an enjoyable learning experience.

Nature and Environment Education

Bonaire's economy is highly dependent on the sustainable use of its natural resources. Information and education for the public is essential in order to gain support for conservation policies and practices.

Aimed at reaching all levels of the community, STINAPA has developed education and information programs that share the purposes of: increasing awareness and involvement, creating a positive attitude towards environmental protection, and informing the people of Bonaire about the role they play in protecting their environment.

Each year many school children participate in STINAPA's educational programs, including after school snorkeling activities providing children with the opportunity to experience the beauty of Bonaire's waters, and to understand the importance of the conservation of our parks. The more advanced youth program, 'STINAPA Junior Rangers', focuses on gaining knowledge, understanding and a sense of ownership of Bonaire's ecosystems while developing leadership and critical thinking skills.

STINAPA seeks to motivate the public to respect park rules and regulations while building awareness of the value of nature and conservation. This is achieved through various leaflets, brochures, posters, banners, signs, STINAPA's website and Facebook page.

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STINAPA BONAIRE IS A MEMBER OF THE DUTCH CARIBBEAN NATURE ALLIANCE
 DUTCH CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION EFFORTS ARE SUPPORTED BY:



Marine Park

CORAL REEFS
 BONAIRE DIVE SITES
 PARK RULES



BONAIRE NATIONAL MARINE PARK

NATURE IS OUR LIVELIHOOD

DIVE SITES

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIVERS

- Practise good buoyancy control. If you have difficulty with buoyancy, ask your dive guide or instructor to help you out.
- Secure all consoles so that they cannot trail along or get caught.
- Do not handle, torment or feed marine species.
- Do not touch or move marine species from their natural habitat.
- Take only pictures and leave only bubbles.
- Diving East Coast recommended with local guide.

MAP LEGEND

- Roads
- Washington Slagbaai National Park boundaries
- Marine reserve
- Marine park
- Indian Inscriptions



DIVE SITES BONAIRE

- 01- Boka Bartol
- 02- Playa Benge
- 03- Playa Funchi
- 04- Bisé Morto
- 05- Wayaka
- 06- Boka Slagbaai North
- 07- Nukove
- 08- Carel's Vision
- 09- Karpata
- 10- La Dania's Leap
- 11- Rappel
- 12- Bloodlet
- 13- Tolo
- 14- Country Garden
- 15- Bon Bini na Kas
- 16- 1000 steps
- 17- Weber's Joy
- 18- Jeff Davis Memorial
- 19- Kalli's Reef
- 20- Oil Slick Leap
- 21- Barkadera
- 22- Andrea II
- 23- Andrea I
- 24- Petries Pillar
- 25- Small Wall
- 26- Cliff
- 27- La Machaca
- 28- Reef Scientifico
- 29- Buddy's Reef
- 30- Bari's Reef
- 31- Front Porch
- 32- Something Special
- 33- Town Pier
- 34- Calabas Reef
- 35- 18th Palm
- 36- Windsock
- 37- Corporal Meiss
- 38- Bachelor's Beach
- 39- Chez Hines
- 40- Lighthouse Point
- 41- Punt Vierkant
- 42- The Lake
- 43- Hilma Hooker
- 44- Angel City
- 45- Alice in Wonderland
- 46- Aquarius
- 47- Larry's Lair
- 48- Jeannie's Glory
- 49- Salt Pier
- 50- Salt City
- 51- Invisibles
- 52- Tori's Reef
- 53- Pink Beach
- 54- White Slave
- 55- Margate Bay
- 56- Red Beryl
- 57- Atlantis
- 58- Vista Blue
- 59- Sweet Dreams
- 60- Red Slave
- 61- Willemstoren Lighthouse
- 62- White Hole
- 63- Cai

DIVE SITES KLEIN BONAIRE

- A- No Name beach
- B- Ebo's Reef
- C- Jerry's Reef
- D- Just a Nice Dive
- E- Nearest Point
- F- Keepsake
- G- Bonaventure
- H- Monte's Divi
- I- Rock Pile
- J- Joanne's Sunchi
- K- Cap. Don's Reef
- L- South Bay
- M- Hands off
- N- Forest
- O- South West Corner
- P- Munk's haven
- Q- Twixt
- R- Sharon's Serenity
- S- Vallerie's Hill
- T- Mi Dushi
- U- Yellow man
- V- Carl's Hill
- W- Ebo's Special
- X- Leonora's Reef
- Y- Knife
- Z- Sampler

PARK INFORMATION & REGULATIONS

Please pay the mandatory Nature Fee/tag before using the Bonaire National Marine Park. \$25 for scuba divers and \$10 for all other water activities. This tag is valid for one calendar year.

Your contribution provides funds to manage the parks and guarantees our lasting success in nature protection and conservation.

Pay the entrance fee at any dive school or activity center. Having paid the entrance fee of \$25 you may enter the Washington Slagbaai National Park free of charge by showing the written receipt of purchase of your tag and a picture ID.



Buy your tag before entering our Marine Park!

All users of the marine park

- A dive orientation from your dive operator is mandatory before you can dive in the Bonaire National Marine Park.
- Anchoring is forbidden in the Bonaire National Marine Park. Please use the mooring buoys provided.
- Spearfishing is prohibited. If you have a speargun, please leave it at the Customs office.
- Wearing gloves in the Bonaire National Marine Park is prohibited except with permit from Park Manager.
- It is forbidden to remove anything alive or dead from the Bonaire National Marine Park.
- Do not damage the reefs in any way. Especially don't touch the corals and avoid silting up the bottom.
- Kite surfing is prohibited on the waters of Lac.
- Building campfires on the beach is prohibited.
- For more information on regulations check the brochures, our website or contact us.