

information manual for the guests of Jan Kok Lodges

TO MAKE YOUR STAY EVEN MORE FUN

welcome at Jan Kok Lodges

In this guide you will find practical and useful information that will make your holiday even more enjoyable. Tips about shops and supermarkets, traffic, beaches and of course about your stay at Jan Kok Lodges. In short: everything that can be useful and important.

In addition, information about excursions, plantation houses, nature, food & drinks and much more. And if you need assistance making a reservation, we are happy to help.

Of course, you can also contact us for other matters.

From 08.30-10.30 AM and 7.30-8.00 PM we usually are at home. Ring our doorbell and please wait for us to open the gate. If you can't find us, you can also WhatsApp or call us on +599 9 513 9249.

We wish you a wonderful holiday!

Jeroen & Frederieke

what on which page

	page
news	3
important information from A to Z	4
inventory list and replacement costs	12
activities	14
beaches	15
plantation houses	20
Willemstad	23
nature	25
museums	27
on the water	29
wellness	31
food and drinks	32
more great tips	34

news

COFFEE & LIFESTYLE IN PIETERMAAI

La Reina is a newly opened hotspot in Pietermaai, Willemstad. In the beautifully restored building, you can go for coffee, breakfast and lunch. In the back is a lifestyle store with clothes, accessories and lifestyle items.

Kaya Wilson Papa Godett 86 <https://www.instagram.com/lareinacuracao/>

ACAI BOWLS, BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

Just opened on Mambo Boulevard: Bliss The Berry, a new project from Seeya Home.

VEGAN FOOD FEST

Hofi Cas Cora organizes Vegan Food festivals every few months. For data check

<https://www.hoficascora.com/events/vegan-food-festival>.

FRESH NUTS AND POWER FOODS

For fresh juices, smoothies, bowls and the best nuts on the island go to Nuthouse en The Sane Sister. For orders and info <https://nuthousecuracao.com/>.

SWAE JUICEBAR

Also recently opened is Swae Juicebar. For coffee, bowls and your daily anti-inflammatory & antioxidant shot.

Located in Pietermaai. www.facebook.com/swae.juicebar/

HIKING

Do you want to go on a beautiful hike? To discover the most beautiful paths and not to get lost, we recommend hiking with a group. Nature guide Ans takes you to the most beautiful places.

<https://wandelenmetans.vndijk.nl/>

HOFI MANGO

This beautiful place towards Westpunt with centuries-old trees and buildings, is expected to open to the public this spring. More info to follow soon.

important information from A to Z

Air conditioning

On the last day of your stay at Jan Kok Lodges, the use of the air conditioning will be charged. Payment of the air conditioning in cash in Nafl or dollars only.

To limit the costs, it is advisable to make sure that the AC is off during the day and that you keep your windows and doors closed. ONLY Iguana Studio No. 1 and the Garden Apartment do not have a meter for the AC. In these accommodations Nafl 7.50 is being charged per day.

ATM

At most supermarkets and banks there is an ATM. The nearest is the ATM in Tera Cora (in the parking lot of the Medical Center). Further towards Westpunt there is an ATM in Barber. In the direction of Willemstad there is an ATM at the entrance of Centrum Supermarket as well as in Sambil shopping center.

BBQ

Each accommodation at Jan Kok Lodges has a BBQ. It is easy and hygienic to put aluminum foil on the grid. Clean the BBQ after use and leave no residue.

Broken

In case something is broken, or if something does not work, report it to Jeroen or Frederieke so we can repair or replace it.

Cats

The cats are there to scare away pests. Do not feed them or leave them in the accommodation. All our cats, just like the dog, are vaccinated.

Check-in and check-out

Check-in time is between 4 and 8 PM.

Check-out is at 11 AM.

A later check-out is possible, but only in consultation with Frederieke.

A check-out later than 11 AM is subject to a fee.

	Check out before 4 PM	Check out after 4 PM
Flamingo View Apartments	€ 40	€ 60
Iguana Studio en Outdoor Living Studio	€ 40	€ 60
Garden Bungalow	€ 40	€ 60
Garden Apartment	€ 50	€ 75
Iguana View Apartment nr. 3 & nr. 4	€ 50	€ 75

When you checked out, it is no problem to use the swimming pool and the outdoor showers that day. Luggage can be stored in the outdoor kitchen or in our office. Please consult with Frederieke.

There is no public toilet at Jan Kok Lodges.

Cleaning

The accommodation is being cleaned 1x per week. The linen and towels will also be changed.

If you want the accommodation to be cleaned an additional time, no problem. Pass it on to Frederieke in time. There is an additional charge of Nafl 100 per cleaning.

We do our utmost to maintain all accommodations as well and hygienically as possible. If there is a complaint, please let us know, do not wait until the departure day or later.

Cockroaches

The cockroaches on Curacao are not the same as, for example, in Europe (there they appear in case of pollution, here it is an insect that is just there). Let Frederieke or Jeroen know if you see them in the accommodation, and we will provide a spray can.

Complaints

If you have a complaint, or if there is something else: let us know! We are happy to help. Everything can be discussed!

Countertop

To avoid insects: do not leave (dirty) dishes and do not leave water on the countertop. Let washed dishes dry in the drying rack.

Doctor

Close by, in Tera Cora, you will find a Medical Center with a pharmacy and a general practitioner.

The general practitioner can be reached via +599 9 864-8700.

Ask Frederieke for the timetable on weekends and during public holidays.

Dog Bobbi

Bobbi is the dog of the Lodges. She is sweet and does not harm anybody. She can be a bit shy at times, but if you want to be friends, she is one for life. Please do not feed her.

Electricity

Electricity is expensive on Curacao. Therefore, do not leave the lights on unnecessarily and turn off the air conditioning and the fan when you leave. Please also turn off the outdoor lighting on the veranda when you go to sleep.

Excursions

If you need help booking excursions, for example a day at Klein Curacao or swimming with dolphins, please let us know. Frederieke is happy to help you.

Gas stations

At every gas station you pay before you refuel. You pay at the booth and pass on the pump number. You can pay with cash, at most petrol stations you can also pay with debit/credit card. The yellow hose is gasoline, the black one is diesel.

Sometimes you get help with refueling. A tip is customary.

The nearest gas station is at Tera Cora. Further towards Westpunt is the last one at Barber.

There is also one towards Willemstad at the first roundabout on the right and then on your left. This one is nearest one to the airport.

(Hot) water

The water pipes on Curacao often run above ground. As a result, cold water from the tap is often lukewarm, especially in the afternoon.

You can drink the water from the tap.

Inventory

Further on you will find an inventory list. Please report immediately incase something breaks.

Laundry

Do you have clothes that need to be washed? We are happy to do that for you.

For this, Nafl 65 per wash will be charged.

Library

In the outdoor kitchen you will find a small library. The books are available to everyone. If you take a book home with you, please be so kind to leave another book for it.

Mail

There is a mailbox at Centrum Supermarket. Stamps are for sale at Samson (Jan Noorduinweg) and at Van der Tweel Supermarket. The nearest post office is in Otrabanda.

Mosquitoes

Because there is generally a nice breeze at Jan Kok Lodges, there are not many mosquitoes.

In case you are bothered by mosquitoes, at the supermarkets and the Botica you can buy products with DEET and some more skin-friendly products. Calendriel is great to use against itching (in the pink jar), you can get it at the Botica.

Outdoor kitchen

In front of the studios is the outdoor kitchen, which is for the guests staying in the studios. After you used the kitchen, please make sure to leave it tidy, do your dishes and please change a full garbage bag. In that way other studio guests can enjoy the kitchen as well.

Parking

Parking at Jan Kok Lodges is possible in the parking lot in the back. Make sure car windows are closed in case of possible rain. Also lock the car.

Never leave the remote of the fence in the car!

Do not park in the area behind the second fence or in front of the Garden Bungalow or in front of the Garden Apartment.

In front of Jan Kok Lodges are also 2 parking spaces. Cars rented at Jan Kok Lodges may not be parked here for long.

Parking in Willemstad

On Curacao, parking is free, except in Willemstad and at the airport.

In the paid parking areas, the rules are strict, in case of violation you quickly get a ticket or a wheel clamp.

In the paid parking areas in Willemstad, there are parking meters. The parking spaces are numbered and you enter this number when you pay for the ticket.

DO NOT leave anything in the car, not even for a few minutes. Unfortunately, car burglaries occur.

Pharmacy (Botica)

The nearest pharmacy is in Tera Cora. Closed on Sundays.

Ask Frederieke about the timetable on weekends and public holidays.

Power

The studios have 220 Volt sockets. The apartments have both 110 and 220 Volt sockets.

Sometimes there is a general power failure. In the event of a power failure, disconnect phones/computers/iPads from the power outlet. When the evening starts, we will provide lamps. Within a few hours, the electricity is usually remedied.

Purchase consumables

For the first use is available in your accommodation:

toilet paper, dish soap, dishwashing sponge, matches and a garbage bag.

Further supplies must be purchased yourself.

Questions

If you have any questions, you can always contact Jeroen or Frederieke. Most of the time one of us is somewhere around the Lodges.

If you do not find us, you can ring the bell at the fence of our house.

Please respect our privacy and wait until we open the door. Please do not walk through yourself.

Via WhatsApp we can be reached on +599 9 513 9249.

Restaurants

Curacao has many restaurants. In all price ranges and with dishes from all over the world. Caribbean cuisine is exotic, colorful, and very diverse. The dishes are inspired by African, Indian, and Creole cuisine. Some specialties of the island are stews with beef, kadushi (cactus soup) and fresh fish.

Well-known are the sneks along the side of the road, where you eat tasty snacks.

Route planner

Maps.me can be used offline and is a recommended route planner for Curacao.

Scorpions

There are light brownish and black scorpions. The light-colored ones are the most common ones and are harmless. A sting hurts viciously though. Put vinegar on it and take a paracetamol (not aspirin). When you have an allergic reaction, it is advisable to go to the pharmacy (botica) or doctor.

Black scorpions are rare but more toxic. When you have been stung by a black scorpion, the advice is to go to a doctor.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in the apartments, studios and rental cars. Of course, it is possible on the (private) veranda.

Supermarkets

Check online for current opening hours.

Carrefour <https://www.facebook.com/carrefourmarketcuracao>

Centrum Piscadera <https://www.facebook.com/CentrumPiscadera>

Van der Tweel Zeelandia <https://www.facebook.com/VandenTweelZeelandia>

Supermarkets along the Road to Westpunt

Here are several local supermarkets. Less suitable to buy meat, vegetables, and bread.

Baker, Tera Cora

Cheap fresh bread, small soft rolls and local sweets.

Swimming pool

The swimming pool is accessible 24/7. Needless to say, taking into account other guests in terms of noise etc. Please do not bring glassware to the pool.

And for our guests with children: please do not throw stones in the pool.

Telephone number Lodges

+ 599 9 513 9249 (phone and WhatsApp Frederieke)

Toilet/blockage

Do not put too much toilet paper in the toilet to avoid blockages.

Do not flush wipes, paper towels through the toilet. This gives blockages!!

Towels

Do not leave damp towels all together on the floor. If you have a lot of used towels, hand them for clean ones.

Towels are changed once a week during the weekly cleaning of the accommodation.

Traffic

Overtaking on the right is allowed. It is customary to continue driving on your own track.

The seat belt is mandatory.

The official maximum speed is 60 KM/h.

When it rains or has rained, the roads are slippery.

Ventilate

To keep everything fresh, it is advisable to air the apartment or studio regularly. Windows and doors open and let the wind blow through.

Vermin

Keep pests out by not leaving food scraps. It is best to store food in the refrigerator. Also put sugar, coffee, and muesli etc. in an airtight jar or store in the refrigerator. Wash dishes right away and put a full garbage bag in the container as soon as possible.

Do you see a wasp's nest? Let us know, and we will remove it. Also, if you have ants or other pests, please let us know.

Waste

At the front of Jan Kok Lodges you will find the waste containers. Please make waste as small as possible and put food residues in a closed plastic bag. To avoid pests, bring your waste to the containers each day and avoid having full waste bags in your accommodation.

Each Tuesday the waste is collected and on that day the containers are along the road. Also on this day, please put the waste in the containers and do not leave it in or near the wooden conversion.

To date, Curacao does not recycle, so paper and bottles can be stored in the containers as well.

When you have used the BBQ please also throw away the ashes.

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available throughout Jan Kok Lodges.

The password is: jankokw!f!

inventory list and replacement costs

When something breaks, please report this immediately.

Please do not wait until the moment before departure. We take care of replacement or repair.

Behind the product is the replacement price, which can be charged.

Glassware	Nafł 10
Cub	Nafł 10
Breakfast plate	Nafł 10
Diner plate	Nafł 15
Bowl	Nafł 15
Pan large	Nafł 50
Pan small	Nafł 45
Frying pan	Nafł 50
Cutlery	Nafł 10
Knife	Nafł 10 tot 25
Clock	Nafł 75
Coffeemaker	Nafł 175
Coffeepot	Nafł 50 (incase suitable model is not available, coffeemaker will be charged)
BBQ	Nafł 250
Electric kettle	Nafł 175
Kettle	Nafł 40
Coolbox	Nafł 150
Microwave (or part)	Nafł 100 tot 700 (not available in all accommodations)
Ashtray	Nafł 40
Vase	Nafł 50 tot 150
Candle holder	Nafł 50 tot 100
Insect screen for window	Nafł 100 tot 200
Sofa or part of it	Nafł 200 tot 500
Outdoor lamp (also glass)	Nafł 150 tot 200
Lamp inside	Nafł 40 tot 150
TV	Nafł 400 tot 1700 (not available in all accommodations)
Bluetooth Radio	Nafł 500 (not available in all accommodations)
Loss of apartment/studio key	Nafł 25 tot 100
Loss of car key	Nafł 1500
Car key broken (water damage)	Nafł 1500
Loss of safe key	Nafł 700

Damage safe	Nafi 700
Damage window	Nafi 200 tot 500
Remote control loss/damage(TV/Radio, Ven/Airco)	Nafi 250
Remote control gate loss/damage	Nafi 600

activitites

Discover Curacao and enjoy nature, good food, swim in the azure blue sea, or just take the time for yourself. Everything is possible!

On the following pages you will find a small selection of our recommendations. Too much to do during one holiday. So, coming back, it is a very good idea!

beaches

The most beautiful beaches can be found on the southwest side of the island (where Jan Kok Lodges is located). Here the beaches have a sheltered location and crystal-clear water where you can swim and snorkel. The northeast side of Curacao consists largely of rocks. You can't swim here. At some beaches, entrance and / or parking fee is requested. Or you pay for a sunbed. At most beaches it is no problem to bring your own food and drinks, but at others this is not allowed. Most beaches close at 6.30 PM.

Below a selection of the many beaches that Curacao has to offer.

Porto Marie

- You pay for beach access or a sunbed
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurant
- Massage
- Diving school

Porto Marie is located on a private estate on the west coast and from Jan Kok Lodges it is about a 7-minute drive. The white sandy beach and turquoise sea make Porto Marie a true paradise for sun lovers, snorkelers, and divers. There are comfortable sunbeds and umbrellas so you can spend a whole day here. The special double coral reef is accessible from the shore. There is a nice beach bar for food and drinks. Porto Marie has its own diving school where you can register for diving courses and rent diving equipment.

Daaibooibai

- You pay for a sunbed
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Simple beach bar
- Diving school

A back-to-basic beach located about 5 minutes drive from Jan Kok Lodges. It is a beautiful bay with a white beach, turquoise sea and shady spots. For a small fee you can rent sunbeds. Daaibooibai is also very suitable for snorkeling and diving. On the left and right side of the bay you can enjoy a beautiful coral wall, all kinds of tropical fish, moray eels, turtles, rays and much more. The beach bar sells drinks and food (simple). On the east side is a narrow path that leads along the coastline to a hill.

Cas Abao

- You pay for beach access
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurant
- Diving school
- Massage

With a beautiful white sandy beach, the clear turquoise sea and the swaying palm trees, Cas Abao is high on the list of most beautiful beaches in the world. Here you can snorkel and dive and there is a beautiful colorful reef. The beach has umbrellas, a bar/restaurant, watersport activities, showers and a dive shop.

Karakter and Koraal Beach

- No costs for beach access
- No parking costs
- Bring identification for access to Coral Estate
- Own consumptions not allowed
- Restaurant
- Diving school
- Beauty salon (8 the Experience)

The beach at Karakter and Koraal Beach Bar is located on Coral Estate, a residential area towards Daaibooibaa and you are there within 10 minutes drive from Jan Kok Lodges.

When you walk from the parking lot towards the beach you first pass a bread / pizza place where you can have breakfast or lunch. Then you come to Koraal, also with restaurant, a swimming pool and sunbeds. When you walk further down you arrive to Karakter, here is the beach and a restaurant.

You do not walk very easily into the sea, instead there is a staircase, or use a stone step. The beach is open until late at night.

Grote Knip

- You pay for a sunbed
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Simple beach bar

Grote Knip is located near Westpunt, it is about a 20-minute drive from Jan Kok Lodges. The beach is also referred to as Playa Kenepa Grandi and is popular with the locals. You can swim and sunbathe while enjoying the beautiful surroundings and the sea.

If you want to snorkel or dive, then the reef is accessible from the beach but it is a long way to swim. Closer to the beach you can also snorkel at the rocks on both sides of the beach. From the parking lot you have a great view. On the beach is a snack bar where you can go for a snack and a drink, but keep in mind it is not always open.

The smaller beach Kleine Knip is located on the left side of Grote Knip, a small, cute bay, but without many amenities.

Kokomo

- You pay for a sunbed
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurant
- Massage
- Diving school

Kokomo is about 10 to 15 minutes drive from Jan Kok Lodges. A sheltered beach with restaurant and dive school. Drive to Kokomo towards Willemstad, it is not recommended to follow the shortest route offered by your planner (an unpaved dirt road opposite Kunuku Aqua resort - very bad road). Kokomo's restaurant is also open for dinner, so a great place if you want to stay on the beach a bit longer.

Blue Bay

- You pay for beach access or a sunbed
- No parking costs
- Bring identification for access to BlueBay
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurant
- Diving school

Blue Bay beach is about 15-minutes drive from Jan Kok Lodges. The wide sandy beach is very suitable for children. There is a bar and a restaurant which are also open in the evening.

Playa Kalki

- No costs for beach bed or access
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurant
- Diving school

Just below resort Kura Hulanda Lodge lies this small beach between the limestone rocks. Playa Kalki is one of the most beautiful snorkeling and diving sites on the island. In the crystal clear water you can see mushroom-shaped coral formations which you will not find anywhere else. The number of fish species here is also very varied and colorful. There is a small (simple) restaurant where you can drink and eat something.

Just before Playa Kalki is Playa Forti where people often jump from the cliff.

Playa Piska

A small bay next to Playa Kalki where you will always spot turtles. The beach is mainly used by fisherman and therefore it is not such a clean place. Tip: go early, then it is often still quiet.

Playa Lagun

- No costs for beach bed or access
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurant
- Diving school

This beach is popular with the locals. It is a wonderful snorkeling and diving location. In front of the beach, next to the diving school is a restaurant, great for lunch.

Mambo en Jan Thiel

- You pay for beach access and a sunbed
- No parking costs
- Own consumptions allowed
- Restaurants
- Diving schools
- Shops

Towards the southeast, past Willemstad, you will find the commercial beaches of Mambo and Jan Thiel. Just before Mambo you will find Moodbeach and Cabana and at Mambo itself the Mambo boulevard with shops.

Jan Thiel is a bit further away, past the Caracas Bay. There is a small promenade with shops and on the beach you will find Zest, Papagayo, Zanzibar and Kokos.

plantation houses

The country houses of Curacao, built in the 18th and 19th century, are mainly former plantation houses. At that time there were about a hundred small plantations on the island. The names are still in use, like Pannekoek, Dokterstuin, Kenepa, Brievengat and so on.

The centerpiece of each plantation was the mansion where the master and his house slaves lived. Situated around the mansion were the warehouses and the slave huts. The slaves worked on the land or in salt extraction.

The plantation houses were usually built on a hill, so that the surrounding land and the neighboring country houses were in sight. The houses were built of coral and often decorated with brick details.

A surprisingly large number of these colonial houses have endured the years. About 55 of them still exist, in varying condition, spread over Curacao.

Below please find our selection for the most beautiful country houses which you can visit.

Plantation House Jan Kok

The oldest plantation house of Curacao, Jan Kok, is located next to Jan Kok Lodges.

The mansion was built in 1840 to replace the one built in the early 18th century. The central part has a gable roof and there are several adjacent buildings. The old slave clock still hangs on the southern terrace. The mansion is named after the 18th-century slave master Jan Kok.

From the terrace you look out over the salt pans of St. Marie Bay, where flamingo colonies color the landscape. The plantation, which is 345 hectares in size, was under construction a salt plantation, although there were also cultivated crops to be found and cattle breeding was done. Around 1860 there were still 100 slaves working here.

You can visit the plantation house every day, except on Mondays. Today, the plantation houses the gallery of Nena Sanchez, a well-known local artist. Her colorful works are for sale and for many a beautiful memory of Curacao. Nena Sanchez passed away a few years ago. Her sister can often be found at Jan Kok.

Plantation House Ascension

In the past year there has been a fire at the plantation house and as a result unfortunately the mansion itself is not open and most activities do not take place at this moment.

A guided tour on the plantation to Boka Ascencion is given each Thursday morning. To participate, please register in advance via www.landhuisascencion-curacao.com.

The Ascension plantation was founded in 1672. The plantation is located on the territory of a former Indian village. The high position of the unique colonial mansion not only served to make optimal use of the northeast wind but also had a strategic importance. The neighboring colonial houses were within sight, which was important when dangers arose.

Due to the fire, until further notice, this will not take place for the time being: Every first Sunday of the month there is an Open House at Landhuis Ascencion (from 10:00 to 14:00). At 10:00 a.m. an ecumenical church service will start in the chapel, presided over by the pastor or chaplain of Naval Base Parera. At 11:30 a.m. a guided tour of the mansion starts.

There is a market where local artists and hobbyists exhibit and offer for sale self-made works of art and souvenirs. You can also enjoy a live performance by a local music band while enjoying a tasty snack and a cool drink. Admission is free.)

Plantation House Knip (Kenepa)

Plantation House Knip (Kenepa) is named after the fruit of the Kenepa tree. The house dates from the beginning of the 18th century. Once it was one of the most prosperous plantations on the island. Products were divi-divi seed pots and sheep's wool. The colonial house is an important monument in the history of Curacao.

Here it happened, on August 17, 1795, that a number of slaves, led by Tula, refused to work on the plantation. The rebellious slaves went to Santa Cruz and encountered a police force that had been summoned. The growing number of slaves, at that time more than 1000, was overwhelmed and the leaders were sentenced to death.

Tula is still an important historical figure, even for the current inhabitants of Curacao. In 1875 there were still 175 slave huts and five stone buildings at Landhuis Kenepa that housed 390 people. The house was restored in 1985. It forms a rectangle and the wide galleries on the spacious terraces are intended to keep the house cool. It now houses a museum and an exhibition of antique furniture.

Landhuis Chobolobo

The Chobolobo estate was built in the early 19th century. The country house is located in the center of a 10-hectare land. The history of the estate is rather vague, but most likely the mansion never had any other function than to serve as a residence for wealthy merchants. It is located close to Schottegat, in the northeast of Punda. Shortly after the Spaniards discovered Curacao in 1499, they made a start with the agricultural development of the island. One of the plants they brought from overseas was the so-called 'Valencia Orange'. However, the different climate and soil conditions turned this juicy fruit into a bitter, almost inedible product. In short, the project failed and the descendants of these bad oranges grew lonely in nature. Even the usually not so picky goats left them alone. Only centuries later, someone discovered that the skin of these fruits contains an essential oil, with an extremely pleasant smell.

Since 1946 Chobolobo has housed the distillery Senior Co, which produces the famous Blue Curacao. Various tours are organized that give a good impression of both the interior and exterior of the country house and of course there is extensive information about the distillation process of the Blue Curacao Liqueur. The country house now also has a restaurant where we can drink and eat something. <https://www.chobolobo.com/nl/home>

Plantation House Daniel

Plantation House Daniel was founded around 1650. History tells that it was built by a washed-up drowning man who set foot there on St. Daniel's Day. But according to others, the plantation is named after Daniel Ellis, an Englishman who worked for the Dutch West India Company, and who built the plantation house in the first half of the 18th century. It is one of the oldest, still existing plantation houses in Curacao. The plantation is located on the road to Westpunt. Agriculture and cattle breeding have never had much success on the plantation. In the 19th century, the property was offered for auction several times. In the 20th century the plantation was abandoned and in 1950 the country house had fallen into ruin. In 1997 it was refurbished and turned into a restaurant.

Plantation House Dokterstuijn

This plantation house, restored in 1996, is located almost opposite of Ascension on the road to Westpunt. Plantation Dokterstuijn was already in use in the 17th century. The house probably dates from the 18th century. In the second half of the 19th century, it was owned by the government, which leased small parts of the land to former slaves. In this way, the government hoped to stimulate agriculture. Now there is an authentic creole restaurant (recommended, only open for lunch).

Willemstad

The capital of Curacao can be reached from Jan Kok Lodges in about 20 minutes.

The easiest way to park is at the Renaissance hotel/Starbucks. Opposite of the Starbucks is a parking lot, but if you turn left right behind the Starbucks (under the barrier), further on there is a (free) parking garage. From here you walk via the Rifford and the Handelskade into the city.

The traces of the colonial past are still clearly present in Willemstad. The many monumental buildings show that Willemstad has been an important trading city. Since 1997, the historic city centre is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

There are nice walking excursions being organized in Willemstad. Besides learning about history and passing by historic buildings, you will also get to know the creativity of the population which is visible throughout the city. Beautiful murals can be admired in so many places! The excursions are being organized by Dushi Walks Curacao, <https://www.facebook.com/DushiWalksCuracao>

Willemstad consists of several neighborhoods. Otrabanda, Punda, Pietermaai and Scharloo are all worth a visit.

Due to the absence of tourists and especially due to the fact that the cruise boats no longer visited Curacao during the Corona crisis, many shops and restaurants are closed. Fortunately, many of the businesses are now getting back on track and the city is slowly getting back its liveliness.

On Sundays, the shops in the city are closed.

Otrabanda

Otrabanda literally means 'the other side'. The district is located on the other side of the St. Anna Bay. The Otrabanda district was developed in the 18th century. The main shopping street in Otrabanda is the Breedestraat. Kurá Hulanda is one of the most successful restoration works of Otrabanda: much of Otrabanda's slum was transformed into a renovated historic district. This resulted in a wonderful example of Dutch colonial architecture in the Caribbean. Here too, the Corona crisis has left its mark. Kurá Hulanda's hotel has recently been sold and will hopefully be reopened soon.

Renaissance Mall and Riffort

The Riffort was originally built in the 19th century to protect the island from an invasion by pirates and other enemies. This part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site with its historical and artistic atmosphere now houses shops and restaurants.

It is a short walk from the pontoon bridge and next to the Mega Pier, where the cruise boats dock when they visit Curacao.

Punda

Punda is traditionally the most important shopping area of Willemstad. Protected by the Waterfort and Fort Amsterdam, built in 1648, the Dutch focused on their favorite activity: international trade. Schottegat harbour was bustling with activity at the time. Along the coast of Punda, numerous department stores arose. Narrow streets were laid out beyond the boulevard and made the houses and shops accessible.

In Punda you will find the Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere. In the Jewish Cultural Museum, a little further away you can learn more about the history and culture of the Jewish community on the island.

Pietermaai and Scharloo

Around the Waagat, the suburbs Pietermaai and Scharloo arose at the end of 1800. Especially the rich businessmen had beautiful, detached houses built on the water here. In the last century, many buildings fell into disrepair, but now the mostly classicist buildings are being fully restored again.

In contrast to the expensive houses are the small workers' houses in the working-class districts of Fleur de Marie, Sint Jago and Berg Altena north of Scharloo.

Pietermaai is really nice nowadays, there are restaurants and nice pubs.

Fort Nassau

The Fort was built in the early 1800s and was then called Fort Republic. During the occupation of Curacao by the British, from 1807-1816, the British renamed it Fort George. After the Netherlands had taken possession of the island again, the fort was renamed to the Royal Family and has since been called Fort Oranje Nassau. In 1958, the building became a restaurant.

nature

The nature of Curacao is rugged and has a rich biodiversity. The flatter (and often drier) east side (Bandariba) differs from the west side of the island (Bandabou, where Jan Kok Lodges is located), where it is much hillier and often much greener.

Christoffel park

The largest and most varied park on Curacao with beautiful nature and many colorful birds and the special white-tailed deer, which only occur on Curacao.

There are several hiking trails ranging from a quiet hike to the more challenging climb to the top of the Christoffel mountain (recommended to do this only early in the morning – in the warm months it is often not allowed to start later than 10 or 11 AM).

The park organizes special activities, including safaris, deer spotting, animal presentations, cave excursions, guided tours and many occasional activities, such as full moon walks and sunrise safaris.

In addition to the natural wealth, the park also offers a lot in terms of culture and history. Plantation house and museum Savonet was one of the first plantations on the island and still has one of the most complete plantation complexes, including the mansion, storage rooms, dams, springs and much more.

Note: When you go to the Christoffel park with your own (rental) car, be aware of the steep slopes. It is not always wise to drive this route yourself!

In all cases, we recommend the organized tours instead of going with your own car.

Check <https://www.christoffelpark.org/> for all possibilities, opening hours and entrance fees.

Salt pans of Jan Kok

The salt pans of Jan Kok are a beautiful nature reserve where you can walk and cycle. There are often flamingos, and the walk leads all the way to the sea. A new bridge recently has been placed over which you can cross the salt pans and walk back towards St Willibrordus (duration about 2-3 hours). It is advisable to start the walk in the early morning hours. Make sure to wear profile shoes because of the smooth muddy surface.

Ostrich Farm

At Santa Catharina, on the east side of Curacao, you will find the Ostrich Farm. During the safari tour you will learn everything about ostriches, there is a restaurant and a playground. Nice outing, especially for the children. Check <https://curacaoostrichfarm.com> for all information.

Aloe Vera plantation

Also on the east side of the island is the Aloe Vera plantation. The aloe vera plant that grows on Curacao has been used for centuries to keep the body healthy. The plantation is freely accessible and there is a shop where the products of Curaloe are being sold. A film is shown about the production process. The shop also sells coffee, soda and something tasty and you sit idyllically in the shade under a large tree.

<https://www.curaloe.com>.

Hato caves

The Hato caves were formed millions of years ago under the surface of the water. In the Ice Age the water dropped and this was the beginning of the island of Curacao. The Hato caves have an area of 4,900 m² and are home to limestone formations, romantic pools, a waterfall and a famous statue of Maria. There is also a colony of rare long-nosed bats living in the cave. More information, opening hours and entrance can be found at <https://curacaohatocaves.com/>.

Hofi Pastor

Hofi Pastor can be found along the road towards Westpunt, next to the church of Barber. The two hiking routes are available at the entrance of the Hofi and each take about half an hour.

Walking between the old trees you imagine yourself in fairytale forest. There is a picnic area under the old mango trees where you can enjoy the wonderful and cool surroundings. You will find many birds, butterflies, iguanas, rabbits and many more animals. Not to be missed is the giant Kapok tree which is known as the oldest tree of Curacao.

From 1200, the Caiquetios Indians chose Hofi Pastor as a holy place. Around the time of slavery, the park was used as a fruit orchard. Check <https://www.hofipastor.org/hulphofi.htm> for current opening hours and entrance.

Shete Boka

Area with more than 10 beautiful boka's (sea inlets) where three species of turtles breed. The park starts at Boka Tabla where large waves crash powerfully against an underground cave. The hike offers on the top, on the limestone terrace, a beautiful view of the north coast.

<https://www.shetebokapark.org/>.

museums

Savonet museum

Located in the middle of the Christoffel Park, the largest nature reserve on the island and located in the former plantation house of the Savonet Plantation. The museum offers a glimpse of the lives of the area's former inhabitants, from the first Arowak Indians who came to the island nearly 4,000 years ago to today's modern times.

Modern audiovisual concepts, historical objects, faces of the descendants of the former slaves, photographic material, fully restored antiques and much more allow the museum to tell a diverse story of interdependence between man and nature, between the history of culture and nature. <https://www.christoffelpark.org/savonet-museum>

Curacao museum

The Curacao museum is located in Otrabanda. The colonial-style building exudes the authentic atmosphere from the first sight. You will learn about the geographical history of Curacao and there are works of the Indians from the time before Columbus. Furthermore, maps and cartographic representations of America and the Caribbean, professions that the Afro-Curacaoans practiced after the abolition of slavery, their faith and way of life, a traditional plantation kitchen, antique mahogany furniture (18th and 19th centuries) and paintings by local and international artists. <https://hetcuracaosch.museum/en/>

Kura Hulanda museum

The forced relocation of Africans from Africa to the Americas in the Caribbean by Europeans from the 17th to the 19th centuries permanently changed the face of the world. The Kura Hulanda museum is located near the center of Willemstad on the harbor, exactly where Dutch entrepreneurs once traded and shipped enslaved Africans together with other commercial goods. This museum shows the Transatlantic Slave Trade in its entirety from the capture of the slaves in Africa, through shipping to resettlement in the New World. The museum depicts how the African, together with his cultural heritage, have influenced Curacao and the societies of the Caribbean to this day. <http://www.kurahulanda.com/museumx>

Maritime museum

The strategic location and natural harbor of Curacao allowed the island to grow into an important trading center from its early history. The interior of the Maritime museum embraces both centuries-old history and modern design, in a historic 17th-century building that has been restored to its former glory. The museum is housed in a mansion, built in 1729 at the Waagat cove just above the floating market. The exhibits include antique miniatures, 17th-century ship models and maps, some of which date back in age to 1500.

<http://www.curacaomaritime.com/>

Mikve Israel Emanuel Synagogue en Jewish museum

This is the oldest synagogue still in use in the Western Hemisphere. In 1970, the Jewish Museum was established right next to the synagogue. Interesting and unusual objects are exhibited that illustrate the culture and history of the Jewish community. Many of these objects are still used by the synagogue.

Tula museum

Located in the country house Kenepa (Knip) tells you about the African / Curacao heritage.

on the water

Klein Curacao

A day to Klein Curacao is a must during your holiday. The uninhabited island is about 2 hours by boat from Curacao and has even whiter sandy beaches and here the sea is even a bit bluer. There are several boats that will take you to Klein Curacao.

We recommend the Mermaid and are happy to make your reservation (also for other providers).

Diving

Several diving schools are located close to Jan Kok Lodges. They offer intro dives, you can get a diving permit and rent supplies. We recommend the diving school on the beach of Porto Marie,

<https://www.portomarisports.com/> and the one next to restaurant De Buurvrouw <https://www.relaxed-guided-dives.com/>.

Snorkling

Snorkel sets can be rented at Porto Marie and can be bought at <https://www.relaxed-guided-dives.com/>.

Captain Goodlife

Captain Goodlife runs a water taxi at Playa Santa Cruz under the name Let's Go Watersports. He takes you to the sheltered places that are only accessible by boat and where you can dive or snorkel. Among others: the Blue Room, Playa Pretu, Lover's Beach and the Mushroom Forest. www.captaingoodlife.nl.

Dolphin Academy

The main goal of the academy is the care and sincere interaction between humans and dolphins. You will experience the dolphins in their natural habitat. Meet, swim or dive with a dolphins in their natural lagoon or on the open sea. Ask Frederieke for more information, we are happy to make your reservation.

<https://www.dolphin-academy.com>.

Windsurfing Curacao

Windsurfing Curacao is located at the Caracasbaai, where, if you are advanced, you can rent a board or, if you are eager to learn, you can follow classes. Multi-day courses, also for children, are also possible.

<https://windsurfingcuracao.com>

Sup Curacao

Supping or paddleboarding is easy to learn and the guided tours will lead you via the mangroves of the Spanish water and you will learn about the ins and outs of this nature reserve. A nice (afternoon) trip.

<https://supcuracao.com/>

wellness

8 The Experience

On Coral Estate, next to Koraal, so close to Jan Kok Lodges. Sauna, massage, hair salon (with a view over the sea), manicure and pedicure with Aveda products. Recommended to make a reservation.

<https://8curacao.com/>

Integra Natural

This zero-waste store can be found in shopping mall Sambil. All products are organic and vegan: skin & body care, soy soap, soy candles and tea.

The Space Curacao

For a yoga class, massages, bodywork and much more we can recommend The Space

www.thespacecuracao.com.

food and drinks

RECOMMENDED ON BANDABOU

De Buurvrouw, local and international dishes, easy menu

<https://www.facebook.com/DeBuurvrouwCuracao/>

Bali Grote Berg, Indonesian, Thai and Surinamese

<https://www.facebook.com/baligroteberg>

E Lanternu, very tasty

<https://www.facebook.com/ELanternu>

Landhuis Daniel, local and Indonesian dishes

<https://www.facebook.com/CuracaoLandhuisDaniel>

Karakter en Koraal, more upscale, great menu, on or on the beach

<https://www.facebook.com/karaktercuracao>

Williwood, local dishes, village pub

<https://www.facebook.com/Williwood.experience>

Cactus Café, local dishes

<https://www.facebook.com/CactusCafeCuracao>

Sol Food, simple menu, the view over the bay is breathtaking

<https://www.facebook.com/Sol-Food-at-Sunshine-Getaway-Curacao>

Dokterstuin, only for lunch, local dishes in historic plantation house

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Landhuis%20Dokterstuin>

De Visserij, catch of the day

<https://www.facebook.com/piscaderanoreservations/>

Restaurant Playa Forti, fresh fish, beautiful view

Sopi, just before the roundabout towards Willemstad there is a soup cart on your right. Recommended!

RECOMMENDED DIRECTION WILLEMSTAD AND BEYOND

Plasa Bieu, authentic local food, lunch only, right in the center of Willemstad

Kome, local soul food with an international twist

<https://www.komecuracao.com/>

Number 10, breakfast and lunch, closed during weekends

<https://numbertencuracao.com/>

Ochenta Cocktail bar, cocktail bar in Pietermaai

Hofi Cas Cora, farm to table concept, eatery and marketplace

<https://www.hoficascora.com/home/>

Serafina, small, romantic Italian restaurant, limited menu with fresh dishes

<https://www.serafinacuracao.com/>

Restaurant 020, culinary hotspot of the owners of 212 in Amsterdam

<https://restaurant-020.com/>

BKLYN, popular in Pietermaai, cocktails and appetizers <https://www.bklyn.cw/>

Truki Pan, spread over Curacao you find food trucks with mainly lomito and chicken dishes

Rozendaals, international and local menu

<https://www.rozendaels.com/>

more great tips

For even more great tips: follow us on Instagram (see also the Insta guides) and Facebook. And check our blogs on www.jankok-lodges.com.