

*Diving
Bonaire*



friends *Bonaire*



Bon Bini to Dive Friends Bonaire



Dive Friends Bonaire evolved out of mergers between Photo Tours Divers, Yellow Submarine, and Dive Inn. Dive Friends is devoted to bringing you the best diving and services that Bonaire has to offer.

Dive Friends Bonaire is a family-type dive school, as the personal touch is very important to us. We prefer "quality" instead of "quantity." If you have never spent some time with us, we invite you to stop by for a cup of coffee anytime at any location; we'd be delighted to show you around.

Even though we are a dive center, that doesn't mean there is not a lot to do for those who do not dive. Even though it is a dive center, we also call it a "snive center", a combination of the words "snorkel" and "dive."

With Yellow Submarine, Port Bonaire, Hamlet Oasis, and Dive Inn, Dive Friends Bonaire brings you four dive locations to make your shore or boat diving as easy as possible:



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- Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine, located at the beginning of the oceanfront boulevard.
- Dive Friends @ Port Bonaire, located in front of the airport.
- Dive Friends @ Hamlet Oasis, located north of Kralendijk.
- Dive Friends @ Dive Inn, located at the end of the oceanfront boulevard.

All Dive Friends facilities are located in such a way that you can drive your car right next to the supply of full tanks, so there's no need to carry them a long way.

Of course, all locations are fully equipped with excellent rental gear, should you require it. Professional videography and photographic services are also available in-house.



Since Dive Friends Bonaire is not owned by, or affiliated with, any one resort, we can recommend several partner properties that will fit any budget or accommodation need to complete your Bonaire vacation plans.



Boat and Shore Diving

Although Bonaire is well known for its easy shore dives, Dive Friends Bonaire also offers daily, two-tank boat dives to Klein Bonaire.



Klein Bonaire is the flat, small, uninhabited island off the central west coast of Bonaire that is a paradise for snorkelers and divers. Each day the boat will head out to visit two of the twenty-six marine park sites on this small island. Diving on Klein Bonaire

offers a great opportunity to see turtles, since this island is now a reserve and a sea turtle hatchery. Female sea turtles come ashore at Klein Bonaire to make their nests and lay eggs, before swimming hundreds of miles back to their home waters.

Bonaire is the shore-diving capital of the world, and it's as if this island was made just for diving. Steep walls, sloping drop-offs, exciting wrecks, and last, but not least, the double reef system will take your breath away. Since Dive Friends Bonaire has four locations on the island, your shore diving is even more convenient. You can pick up and exchange tanks at all four Dive Friends locations, so no matter where you are on the island, there's a Dive Friends location nearby.



The logo for Dive Friends Bonaire features a stylized yellow and green scuba tank above the text 'dive friends' in blue and green, with 'Bonaire' in a green script font below it.

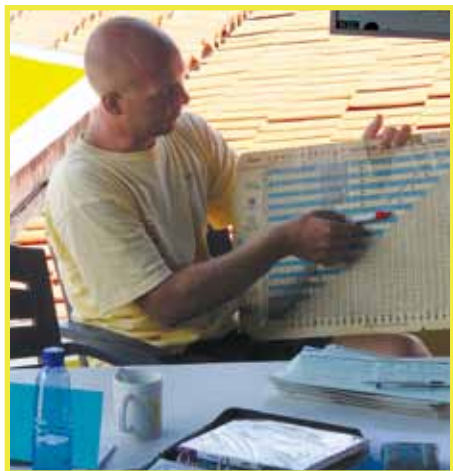
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Courses and Speciality Diving

Would you like to become a scuba diver? If you've never before tried diving, then come to Dive Friends and experience the underwater world!

Dive Friends Bonaire has two locations which are conveniently located in Kralendijk directly on the waterfront with an outdoor classroom. These locations, Dive Friends @ Yellow Sub and Dive Friends @ Dive Inn, offer perfect confined and open water training conditions right on our doorsteps, and this is why all courses at Dive Friends Bonaire can take place at these locations.



We teach the complete PADI curriculum in English, Dutch, or German from Open Water all the way through to Instructor. If you're not sure if you want to do the full Open Water course, or do not have enough time to complete it, then you may always do a Discover Scuba Dive, which is your first introduction into scuba diving.

Dive Friends Bonaire also offers PADI specialties, which provide indepth experience and knowledge about specific diving areas. The Nitrox specialty, which takes one day, is very popular. Additionally, we also offer other specialties such as Deep Diver, Full Facemask, Sidemount, Solo Diver, Wreck Diver, Underwater Navigator, and Search & Recovery. For a complete overview of all specialty courses, please visit our web site.



Guided Dives & East Coast Diving

Bonaire is known for the ease of its shore diving, but in some locations, it's best to have a guide. Our guided shore dive provides complete independence—no schedules, large groups, or time limits. Experience the freedom guided diving offers you.

The East Coast of Bonaire is the windward, and therefore rough, side of Bonaire. We always recommend people do this dive with a guide. You will enjoy seeing larger marine life, groups of turtles, eagle rays, stingrays, or tarpons. Please note this dive is recommended only for experienced divers.



Both Salt Pier and Town Pier require a local guide in the water with you at all times. On either of these pier dives, divers will appreciate the orange cup corals, colorful sponges, cleaner stations, angelfish, and other creatures that make these some of the world's most loved dive sites. Town Pier is normally experienced best at night, but can also be exciting as a day dive. Salt Pier is normally dove during the day.

Other sites and wrecks are available for guided dives—be sure to inquire via e-mail or when you are on Bonaire.





Activities for Kids

Dive Friends Bonaire believe that diving is an activity for the entire family, and we want to provide families with an opportunity for a shared adventure activity.

Dive Friends Bonaire has professional instructional staff to ensure sure your children will receive high-quality training, with safety being the highest priority. Dive Friends Bonaire follows PADI standards for teaching children to scuba dive, as well as noting limitations on dive certifications. Of course, our professional staff will do their utmost to make sure your entire family enjoys their first experience with diving.



There are a number of suitable programs available, developed just for kids, such as SASY, Bubblemaker, the Seal Team, or a Junior Open Water course.

From the age of five, your children may start exploring the underwater world. Start with a Supplied Air Snorkeling for Youth experiences (SASY), which allows those 5 and up to breathe

from a regulator and mini-tank at the surface while wearing a flotation device, which does not allow them to submerge.

For those of at least 8 years of age, the Bubblemaker or Seal Team program are ideal. The PADI Bubblemaker program is perfectly suited as either a stand-alone SCUBA experience, or as an introduction to diving for those children who look forward to getting certified.



About Bonaire

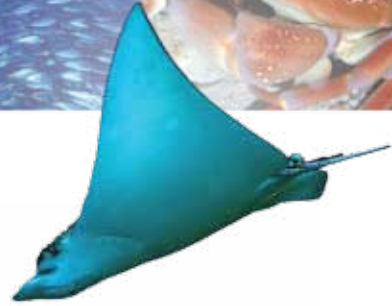
Bonaire is a small island located in the southern Caribbean and it is truly unique in the world. It's as if this tiny island was made just for diving and snorkeling, as, from virtually any place on the leeward coastline, you can enter the beautiful Caribbean Sea and dive! No other island in the Caribbean has so many unrestricted shore dive sites. Steep walls, sloping drop-offs, exciting wrecks and last, but not least, the double reef system, which will take your breath away.

Bonaire has the reputation of being laid back, very tranquil, and a paradise for divers. People have written many slogans and descriptions about Bonaire, such as "the best kept secret," "unforgettable, unhurried," and, of course, "divers' paradise." And the fact is that all these statements are true.

For over 20 years, Bonaire has maintained dedication to protecting its natural beauty and environment. The Bonairean people declared the waters around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, an underwater marine park. Everything between the high water mark and 200 feet deep is protected, and, therefore, may not be touched or taken from the environment.

Divers must pay a nature fee of USD \$25.00, valid for a calendar year, which also provides free access into Washington/Slagbaai National Park. (Other users of the Marine Park—windsurfers, snorkelers, cruisers—pay USD \$10.00.)





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www.dive-friends-bonaire.com

info@dive-friends-bonaire.com



Shopping on Bonaire



Dive Friends Bonaire offers three retail stores in Kralendijk, and, between them, they should provide whatever you may need during your dive vacation or the souvenirs you wish to bring home.

The Dive Retail Outlet on Kaya Grandi specializes in dive equipment, computers, and underwater cameras.

Divers Discount, also on Kaya Grandi just a few short steps away, can provide dive accessories, beachwear, and surf wear.

Dushi Shoes, nearby Divers Discount, has everything from flip flops to running shoes. Popular brand names in stock are Nike, Reef, Birkenstock, Crocs, and Havaianas.





Trendy and fashionable brands are found at both stores, including A&O, Sea Dive, Trident, Innovative Scuba, Bob The Fish, Reef, Body Glove, Cressi, Sherwood, ScubaPro, UK, Ikelite, Henderson, Akona, Neosport, Tusa, Stalhsac, Deep blue Gear, Suunto, Otterbox, Freestyle, Speedo, and many others.



Certainly with such a selection, there is no need to spend valuable vacation time locating a shop that carries the dive equipment or perfect souvenir you seek. Ask for directions to the shops at any Dive Friends facility. If you don't find it the Dive Retail Outlet, Dushi Shoes, or at Divers Discount, you probably won't find it on Bonaire!





Accommodations on Bonaire

Our accommodation partners can provide you with clean, comfortable lodging, and there's a property for every budget.



Bonaire Exclusief: These properties offer a wide variety of accommodations, with one-bedroom units through three-bedroom units, and they are fully equipped. All bedrooms have air-conditioning, and the bungalows have spacious, comfortable furnishing with

modern kitchens, roofed terrace, and outdoor furniture to enjoy Bonaire's cool breezes. A fresh-water pool is available for residents and guests. www.bonaireexclusief.nl

Coco Palm Garden: Coco Palm Garden & Casa Oleander are the ideal vacation rental for scuba divers, windsurfers, and snorkelers—for anyone who is looking for tranquillity and privacy away from large hotels. The accommodations are self-contained vacation homes (studios, apartments, villa) with fully equipped kitchens in the quiet residential area Belnem. All accommodations are decorated with local handicraft and are surrounded by tropical gardens. Each has its own private porch and garden space with hammock. www.cocopalmgarden.com



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Hamlet Oasis Bonaire: Hamlet Oasis is one of those hidden gems on Bonaire with twenty detached cottages set in a lush tropical garden—you'll certainly enjoy your privacy here. Each cottage consists of a studio or a one- or two-bedroom apartment, all with a covered terrace/porch. The cottages are fully furnished and equipped for your convenience, and there is a wireless Internet access point on premises. The Hamlet Oasis resort has a fresh-water pool surrounded by a deck with comfortable deck-chairs, and mature coconut palms make this a perfect place to relax in the shade. Dive Friends Bonaire is on-premises. www.hamletoasisbonaire.com



Happy Holiday Homes: You'll love bungalow vacationing! Similar to a cottage or duplex suite, each ground floor bungalow/apartment is spacious and uniquely designed, comfortably furnished, meticulously clean, and positioned so as to take advantage of Bonaire's

cool trade wind. Your private terrace or patio is in tune with the natural habitat and you may easily see native iguanas, donkeys, parakeets and chibichibi birds. Our comfortable, air-conditioned apartments are located in a quiet countryside neighborhood. The ocean side is close by, with two beaches within easy walking distance. There's lots of space: you'll never feel crowded, even if you have lots of gear to store. www.happyholidayhomes.com



Sand Dollar: This resort offers some of the most spacious and comfortable ocean view studio, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom accommodations on island. All units have air-conditioned bedrooms, full kitchens, dining and living areas. The roomy porches or balconies offer views of the ocean

and Bari Reef that beckon irresistibly to divers and snorkelers. There's a fresh water pool with pool bar, restaurant, sea side lounging areas, two tennis courts, ice cream parlor, convenience store/bakery, and day spa. The amenities and location of this reasonably-priced and well-managed property make it a popular repeat choice for couples, families and groups seeking value and relaxation. www.sanddollarbonaire.com

Tropicana & Bonaire Fun Apartments: These are two adjacent small and cozy resorts, centrally located in the north of Kralendijk, 100 yards from the shore and Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine. These budget accommodations, tastefully furnished and decorated, are surrounded by a lush tropical garden. Each apartment has a fully equipped kitchen, air-conditioning, private porch, and free wireless Internet.

www.tropicana-bonaire.com
www.bonairefun.com



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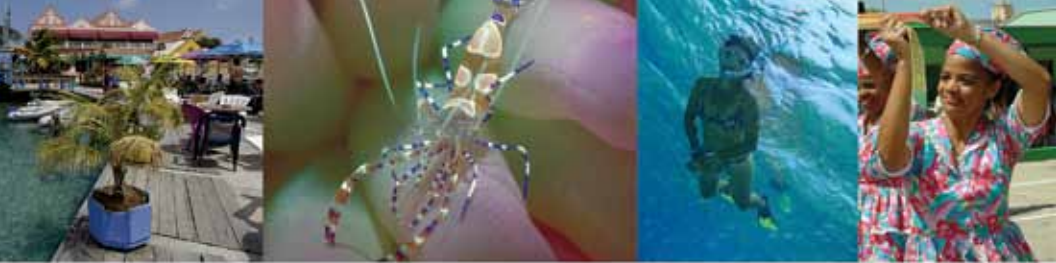


Yachtclub Apartments: Yachtclub Apartments is a small and cozy complex, with well equipped apartments, swimming pool, and a small open-air restaurant for breakfast and dinner. The complex is located near the marina and about 500 yards from Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine and the shoreline. The center of Kralendijk is only a half-mile from your apartment. www.yachtclubbonaire.com



Waterlands Village: Newly opened in August, 2008, here's a preview of Bonaire's newest resort: There are 24 lovely cottages inspired by Indonesian architecture, many of which are located right on the water. Tropical gardens, the surrounding beach, private docks, and a swimming pool with bar and surrounding sun decks complete the package. The resort is fully equipped for divers and is located close to dive and snorkel sites. www.waterlandsvillage.com





Giving Back to Bonaire—Underwater Cleanups

Dive Friends Bonaire organizes and sponsors the quarterly Bonaire Underwater Clean Up Dives, usually on the second Saturday of each new quarter.

On each Clean Up Dive, a different area of Bonaire's coastal reefs or beaches is selected and any trash which has not yet become part of the reef is collected. Quarterly cleanups provide the opportunity to focus on the removal of new trash rather than disturbing the flora and fauna that have taken up residence in older trash.

We invite and welcome any participants who want to combine vacationing with doing the right thing for Bonaire's reefs! The sponsors provide free air and beverages and main courses at the potluck BBQ afterwards, but do ask participants to bring a small side dish to share.



Photography by: Albert Bianculli, Susan M. Davis, Angela Eylander, Janneke Senden
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Kaya Playa Lechi #24
Kralendijk, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean
Phone/Fax: +599 717-2929
www.dive-friends-bonaire.com
info@dive-friends-bonaire.com