

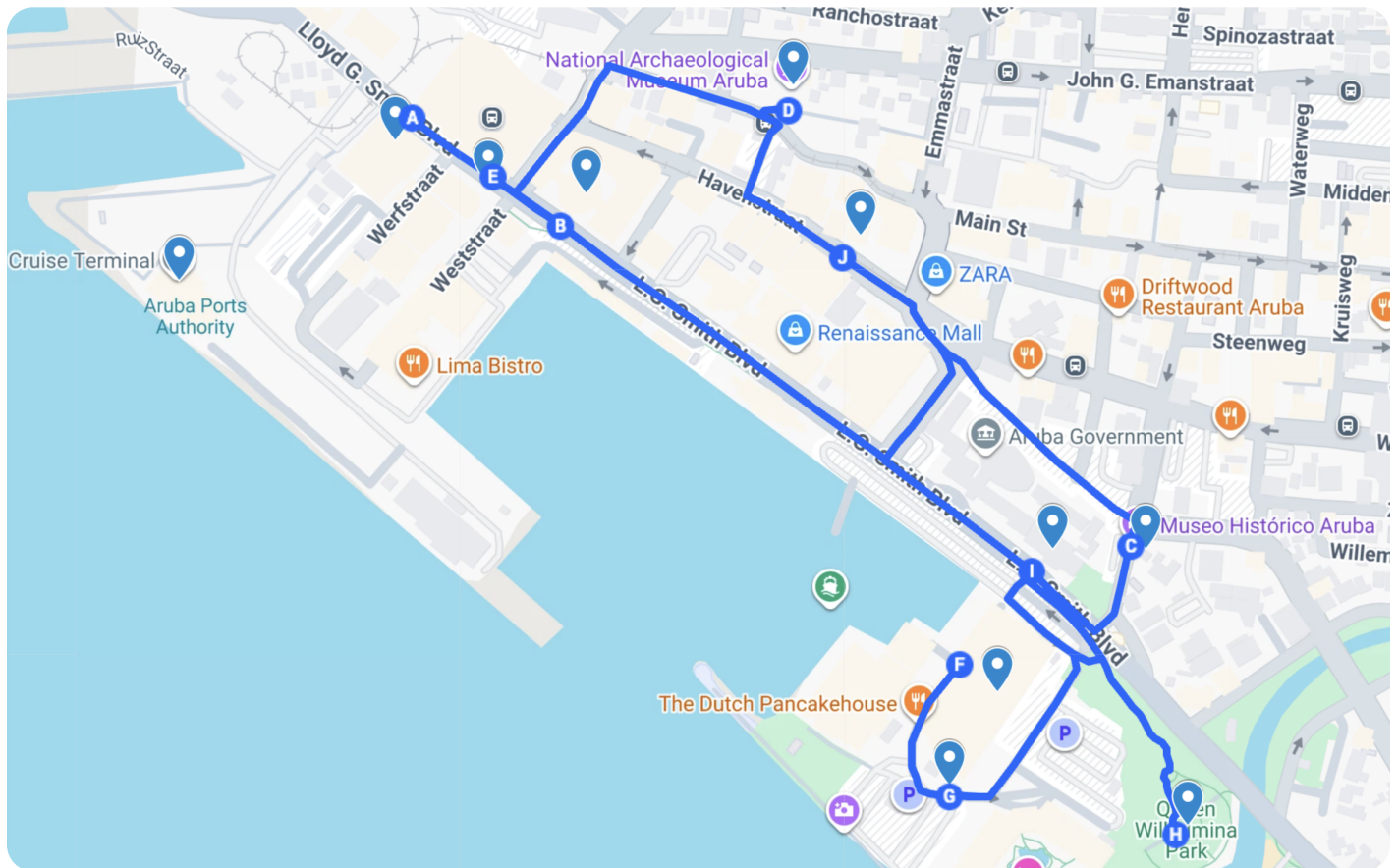


SCOTT'S CRUISES

Aruba Walking Tour

A DIY port day on foot from the cruise terminal

Aruba is famous for its beaches, but the cruise terminal sits right in downtown Oranjestad, and the town is flat, walkable and easy to do on your own. This loop covers port merchants, Dutch colonial architecture, a historic fort, a free museum, Main Street, the marina and a park, with no excursion ticket required. It's hot and windy, so bring a hat and water.



1 Port Market and Merchants | 2 L.G. Smith Boulevard and Royal Plaza Mall | 3 Fort Zoutman and Willem III Tower | 4 National Archaeological Museum | 5 Main Street and the Blue Horses | 6 Renaissance Marketplace and Marina | 7 The I Love Aruba Sign | 8 Princess Wilhelmina Park | 9 Parliament Building and the Protestant Church | 10 Havenstraat and Schelpstraat Shops

Route map built in Google Maps. Scan the QR code for the live, zoomable version.

Sample Schedule

Assumes you're off the ship around 9:00 AM. Adjust everything to your own all aboard time.

9:00 AM	Off the ship and through the merchants
9:15 AM	Stops 1 and 2: the port market and Royal Plaza Mall
10:00 AM	Stop 3: Fort Zoutman and the Historical Museum
11:00 AM	Stop 4: National Archaeological Museum
11:30 AM	Stop 5: Main Street and the blue horses
12:30 PM	Stop 6: Renaissance Marketplace, with lunch
1:30 PM	Stop 8: Princess Wilhelmina Park
2:00 PM	Stop 9: Parliament Building and the Protestant Church
2:45 PM	Stop 10: Havenstraat and Schelpstraat shops, then back to the ship



Scan for the live walking map on your phone

The Stops

1 Port Market and Merchants

WHERE Right outside the cruise terminal	FROM THE PORT Right at the gate
COST Free to browse	TIME 15 to 20 minutes

A strip of local vendors outside the terminal. Unlike some ports, the merchants here mostly leave you alone. There's a busy gas station up the road to the left for cheap snacks and water.



2 L.G. Smith Boulevard and Royal Plaza Mall

WHERE L.G. Smith Boulevard, just beyond the terminal	FROM STOP 1 A few minutes along the waterfront
COST Free	TIME 20 to 30 minutes

Head right along the waterfront past shops and restaurants. The big pink Royal Plaza Mall is hard to miss. The Wind Creek Casino and the Atlantis Submarine are across the street, and the Renaissance complex is just down the road.



3 Fort Zoutman and Willem III Tower

WHERE Fort Zoutman, in the heart of downtown	FROM STOP 2 About 10 minutes on foot
COST Museum about \$5	TIME 45 to 60 minutes

Aruba's oldest surviving building dates to the late 1790s, with the Historical Museum inside. The Willem III Tower, a lighthouse from 1868, has been closed for restoration, with a reopening now expected in November or December 2026.



Photo credit: aruba.com

4 National Archaeological Museum

WHERE A short walk from Fort Zoutman, in the Ecury family home	FROM STOP 3 A short walk
COST Free	TIME 30 to 45 minutes

A free museum in a historic family home, with the story of local hero Boy Ecury. It's usually open weekdays, closed weekends, so check what day your call falls on.



Photo credit: manaruba.org

5 Main Street and the Blue Horses

WHERE Main Street (Caya G.F. Betico Croes), downtown Oranjestad	FROM STOP 4 A few blocks on foot
COST Free to walk	TIME 45 to 60 minutes

Not to be confused with L.G. Smith Boulevard. This is downtown's main shopping street, with jewelry, souvenirs, Delft Blue pottery and aloe products. Look for the life size blue ceramic horses around town.



Photo credit: aruba.com

6 Renaissance Marketplace and Marina

WHERE On the marina, along L.G. Smith Boulevard	FROM STOP 5 About 10 minutes toward the marina
COST Free	TIME 45 to 60 minutes, plus lunch

The nearest Starbucks to the ship, plus restaurants, casinos, a movie theater and a 5 O'Clock Somewhere bar. It's a high end mall, so skip it for souvenirs. Friday nights bring an arts and crafts fair.



7 The I Love Aruba Sign

WHERE Near the port entrance across from the gas station, or at the Renaissance Marketplace	FROM STOP 6 A couple of minutes on foot
COST Free	TIME 10 minutes

Most of the time you'll find it by turning left out of the port, across from the gas station. For holidays and events it moves along L.G. Smith Boulevard or to the Renaissance Marketplace.



8 Princess Wilhelmina Park

WHERE Along L.G. Smith Boulevard, past the marina	FROM STOP 7 A short walk
COST Free	TIME 15 to 20 minutes

A quiet green waterfront park with palm trees, gardens and a statue of Queen Wilhelmina. A good place to sit in the shade and cool down.



9 Parliament Building and the Protestant Church

WHERE Downtown, near Fort Zoutman	FROM STOP 8 About 10 minutes back toward downtown
COST Free to see from outside	TIME 15 to 20 minutes

Two more downtown landmarks on the free trolley loop. The Parliament Building and the Protestant Church are good examples of the Dutch colonial look that runs through Oranjestad.



10 Havenstraat and Schelpstraat Shops

WHERE Side streets just off Main Street	FROM STOP 9 A few blocks on foot
COST Free to browse	TIME 30 to 45 minutes

Boutiques, local shops and cafes on the side streets off Main Street, an easy last browse before you head back to the port.



Before You Go

- ◆ **Know your all aboard time.** It's usually 30 minutes before departure. Aruba calls can run late into the evening, but build in a buffer anyway.
- ◆ **Expect the merchant gauntlet.** Local vendors and tour sellers line the walk out of the port, but unlike some ports, the merchants here pretty much leave you alone and aren't high pressure at all.
- ◆ **Try the free trolley, but don't count on it.** It loops between the terminal and Main Street, usually 10 AM to 5 PM, not on Sundays, and some days it doesn't run at all.
- ◆ **Bring a hat, water and sunscreen.** It's hot, sunny, always very windy, and there's not much shade.
- ◆ **Pay in U.S. dollars.** Aruba's own currency is the florin, but dollars and cards are accepted almost everywhere.
- ◆ **Check museum days.** The museums here close on Sundays, and the archaeological museum is closed on weekends too.
- ◆ **This is a town day, not a beach day.** Most of the good beaches are a taxi or bus ride away. See the list below.

The Verdict

You don't need an excursion to enjoy Aruba on your own. Oranjestad is flat, easy and steps from the ship, and this loop costs almost nothing beyond a cold drink and a museum ticket. Browse the shops, learn a little history, and keep an eye on the clock, because the ship won't wait.

Pocket checklist

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Ship ID and all aboard time | ☐ A little cash for tickets and snacks |
| ☐ Water and sunscreen | ☐ Camera and a fully charged phone |
| ☐ Comfortable walking shoes | ☐ Phone charged, map saved offline |



Take the live map with you

Scan the code to open the interactive walking route on your phone, then save it offline in Google Maps before you leave the ship. Cell service in port can be spotty and roaming charges add up fast.

Beaches Near the Port

Governor's Beach	Right next to Wilhelmina Park, a short walk
Surfside Beach	About a 15 minute walk, or a taxi for roughly \$8 to \$11
Druif Beach	About 5 minutes by car
Manchebo Beach	About 10 minutes by car
Eagle Beach	About 10 to 15 minutes, taxi roughly \$10 to \$15
Palm Beach	A bit past Eagle Beach, roughly 20 minutes
Arashi Beach	About 20 minutes by car, taxi roughly \$26
Baby Beach	About 45 minutes, taxi roughly \$47
Flamingo Beach	Short boat ride from Renaissance Beach

The Arubus runs to any beach for about \$5 round trip, and the L10A stops at Eagle, Palm, Malmok and Arashi about every 20 minutes. The bus depot is across from the Love Aruba store, and the ticket booth is cash only and closes at 1:30 PM, so buy your ticket early.