

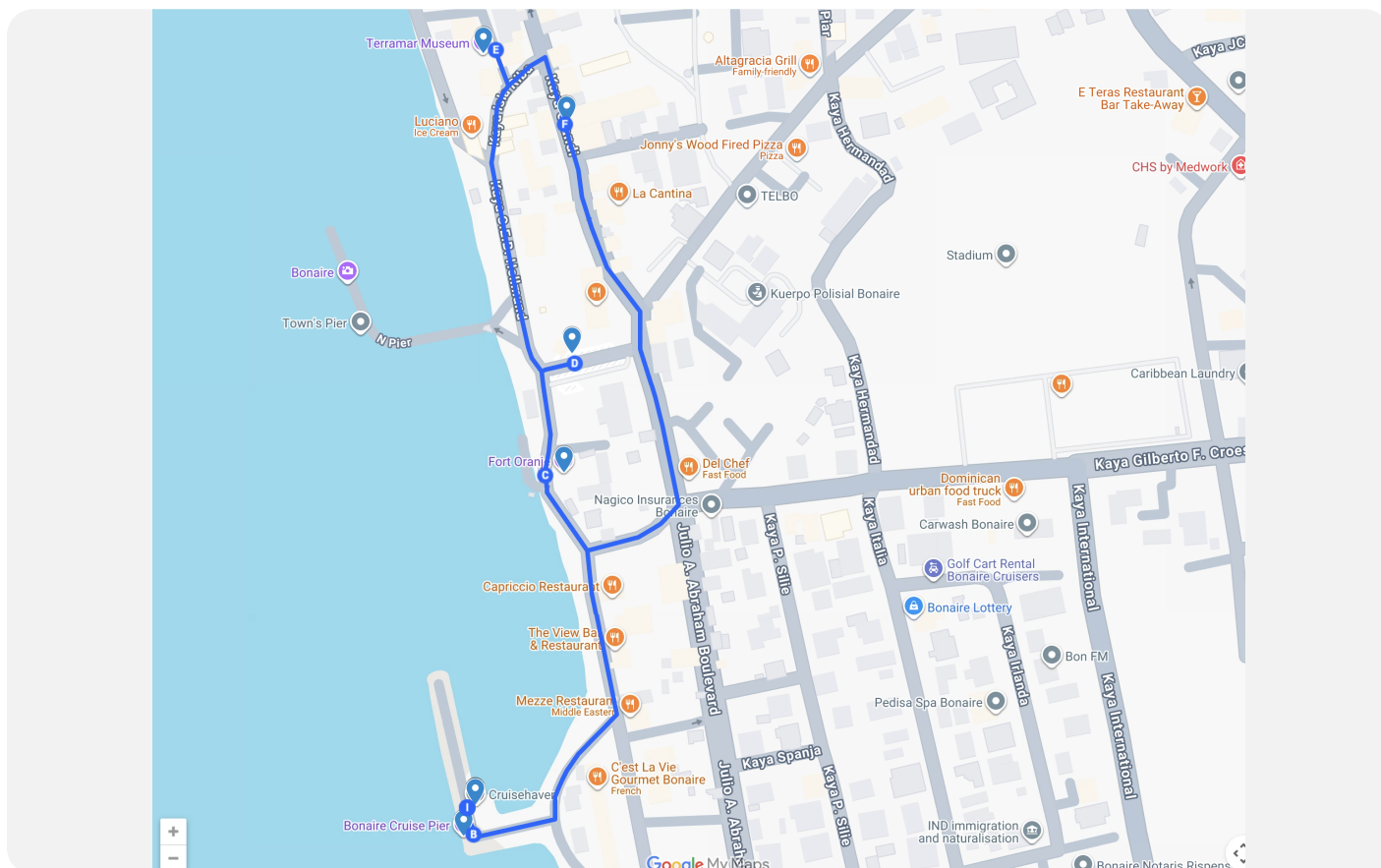


SCOTT'S CRUISES

Bonaire Walking Tour

A DIY port day on foot from the Kralendijk cruise pier

Bonaire is famous for diving and snorkeling, but the ship docks right in Kralendijk, and the little waterfront town is flat, colorful and one of the easiest in the Caribbean to explore on your own. This loop covers a 1639 fort, a park and market, a museum, the main shopping street, a waterfront lined with restaurants over clear water and a floating pier you can swim from. No excursion ticket required.



1 Cruise Pier, Port Shops and the Taxi Stand | 2 Fort Oranje | 3 Plaza Wilhelmina | 4 Terramar Museum | 5 Kaya Grandi | 6 The Waterfront Boulevard | 7 The Floating Pier | 8 The Little Beach by the Ship

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, through the port shops and left to the main street
9:15 AM	Stops 2 and 3: Fort Oranje and Plaza Wilhelmina
10:00 AM	Stop 4: Terramar Museum (weekdays only)
11:00 AM	Stop 5: Kaya Grandi and its side alleys
11:45 AM	Stop 6: Waterfront boulevard, with lunch
1:00 PM	Stop 7: The floating pier for a swim
2:15 PM	Stroll back along the boulevard
2:45 PM	Stop 8: The little beach by the ship



Scan for the live walking map on your phone

The Stops

1 Cruise Pier, Port Shops and the Taxi Stand

WHERE Right at the pier on the waterfront boulevard	FROM THE PORT Right at the gate
COST Free to browse	TIME 10 to 15 minutes

Bonaire's cruise pier is about as low key as it gets. You walk through a small port shopping area with jewelry, gifts and duty free, then out to the main street, where the taxi stand has a big sign and the tour sellers line up a few steps farther along. Turn left to start the walk.



2 Fort Oranje

WHERE On the waterfront boulevard, just across from the port	FROM STOP 1 A couple of minutes, turning left
COST Free	TIME 15 to 30 minutes

A small yellow fort built by the Dutch West India Company in 1639, right on the water. You can walk up and see the old cannons, and the lighthouse tower makes a great photo. It's modest, but it's free and takes just a few minutes.



3 Plaza Wilhelmina

WHERE Right next to Fort Oranje	FROM STOP 2 A minute or two on foot
COST Free	TIME 15 to 20 minutes

A small park and square beside the fort. On cruise days local merchants set up with crafts, souvenirs and sometimes food. Look for the World War II monument and the marker for Eleanor Roosevelt's 1944 visit.



4 Terramar Museum

WHERE Kaya J.N.E. Craane 24, on the boulevard near Plaza Wilhelmina	FROM STOP 3 A short walk along the boulevard
COST About \$10	TIME 45 minutes to 1.5 hours

The island's history museum, covering Bonaire and the wider Caribbean going back thousands of years, with an upstairs gallery on the era of slavery. Hours are weekdays only, listed as roughly 9 AM to 2 PM, so check before you count on it.



Photo credit: Terramar Museum

5 Kaya Grandi

WHERE One block inland, running parallel to the waterfront	FROM STOP 4 A short walk inland
COST Free to browse	TIME 30 to 45 minutes

Kralendijk's main shopping street, lined with boutiques, restaurants and brightly painted Dutch colonial buildings. It's flat, easy and great for photos. Duck down the little side alleys for courtyards, shops and murals.



6 The Waterfront Boulevard

WHERE Kaya J.N.E. Craane, the waterfront boulevard	FROM STOP 5 Head back down to the water
COST Free to walk	TIME 45 to 60 minutes, plus lunch

The best part of town. A flat, shady boulevard over a kilometer long with restaurants and bars right on and over the water and some of the clearest water in the Caribbean. Perfect for lunch. Karel's Beach Bar sits on the boulevard.



7

The Floating Pier

WHERE

Along the waterfront boulevard, about a 20 minute walk from the ship

COST

Free

FROM STOP 6

Keep strolling along the water

TIME

30 to 60 minutes if you swim



A free floating sea pool built into the waterfront, and the easiest way into the water without the rocky shoreline. It has a ramp down from the street and a ramp into the water, so it's accessible. Read the posted rules at the entrance.

8

The Little Beach by the Ship

WHERE

Just to the right of the port, past an ATM and the Frosty Flamingo

COST

Free

FROM STOP 7

Back along the boulevard to the port, then turn right

TIME

15 to 30 minutes



Finish where you started. Turn right out of the port and it's a very short walk to a small waterfront spot next to the ship where you can cool off or snorkel. There's no sand and no chairs, just a little pier, a shallow spot and some steps.

Before You Go

- ◆ **Know your all aboard time.** It's usually 30 minutes before departure. Bonaire calls often run into the evening, but build in a buffer for the walk back.
- ◆ **Check which pier you're at.** Ships dock at the North or South pier in Kralendijk, and there's no tender. Either way, the fort, the park and the waterfront are a short walk from the gate.
- ◆ **Expect a laid back port.** The tour sellers and taxi drivers are friendly and very low pressure.
- ◆ **Bring water, a hat and sunscreen.** It's hot and dry, and there isn't much shade along the waterfront.
- ◆ **Pay in U.S. dollars.** Bonaire uses the dollar, and cards are widely accepted. Carry a little cash for taxis and market stalls.
- ◆ **Pack water shoes if you plan to swim.** The water comes right up to the seawall in town and the shoreline is rocky with coral, so the floating pier is your easiest way in.
- ◆ **Check museum days.** The Terramar Museum keeps weekday hours, so if your call falls on a weekend, skip Stop 4.
- ◆ **This is a town day, not a beach day.** The good beaches are a taxi or water taxi ride away, and there's a beach list in this guide.

The Verdict

You don't need an excursion to enjoy Bonaire on your own. Kralendijk is flat, friendly and steps from the ship, and this loop costs almost nothing beyond lunch and a museum ticket. Walk the waterfront, learn a little history, jump in the water, and keep an eye on the clock, because the ship won't wait.

Pocket checklist

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|--|---|
| ☐ 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

Te Amo Beach	About 5 to 10 minutes by taxi, roughly 3 km
Bachelor's Beach	About 10 minutes by car, roughly 5 km southwest of town
Klein Bonaire	Water taxi, about 15 to 30 minutes each way, roughly \$25 round trip
Sorobon and Lac Bay	About 15 to 25 minutes by taxi
1000 Steps Beach	About 20 minutes by car, roughly 5.5 miles northwest

Bonaire's shoreline is mostly rock and coral rather than long sandy beaches, so water shoes are a good idea. The snorkeling is excellent right off the shore at many of these spots, but keep a close eye on the clock.