

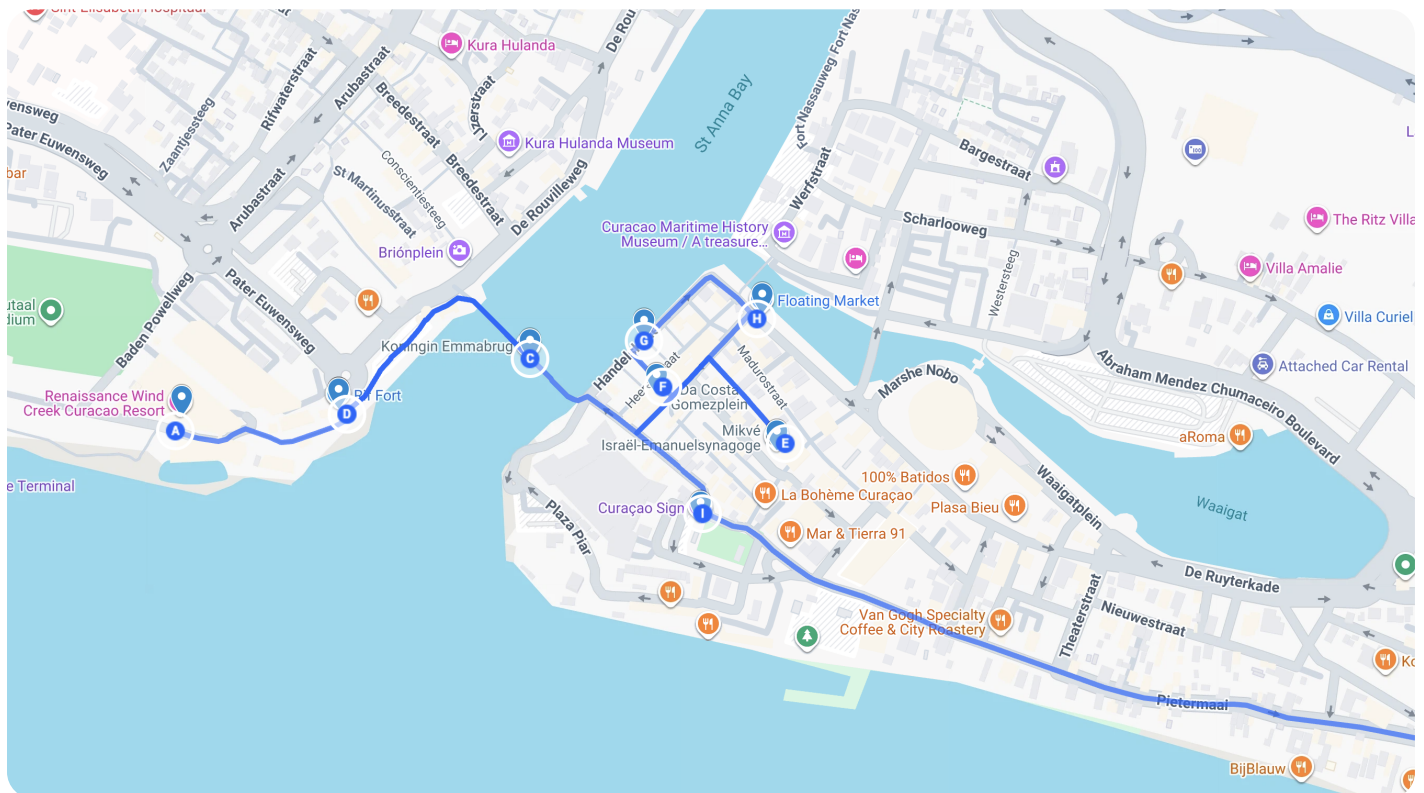


SCOTT'S CRUISES

Curaçao Walking Tour

A DIY port day on foot from the cruise pier

Willemstad is a UNESCO World Heritage city, and the best parts are an easy walk from the cruise pier. This loop takes you through a historic fort, across a floating bridge nicknamed the Swinging Old Lady, past the postcard waterfront and the Floating Market, and into a synagogue with a sand floor. No excursion ticket required. Expect heat, wind and a few pushy sellers.



1 Mega Pier Market and Terminal | **2** Rif Fort | **3** Queen Emma Bridge | **4** Fort Amsterdam | **5** Mikve Israel-Emanuel Synagogue | **6** Punda Shopping Streets | **7** Handelskade Waterfront | **8** Floating Market | **9** Curaçao and Dushi Signs | **10** Pietermaai District

Route map built in Google Maps. Pins are numbered to match the stops. Scan the QR code below for the live version.

Sample Schedule

Assumes you're off the ship around 9:00 AM. Some calls have an early all aboard, so adjust to yours.

9:00 AM	Off the ship and through the pier market
9:20 AM	Stops 1 and 2: the pier market and Rif Fort
10:00 AM	Stop 3: Queen Emma Bridge
10:30 AM	Stop 4: Fort Amsterdam
11:00 AM	Stop 5: Mikve Israel-Emanuel Synagogue
12:00 PM	Stop 6: Punda shopping streets, with lunch
1:15 PM	Stop 7: Handelskade waterfront
1:45 PM	Stop 8: Floating Market
2:30 PM	Stop 9: Curaçao and Dushi signs
3:00 PM	Stop 10: Pietermaai, if time allows
4:00 PM	Walk back over the bridge to the ship



Scan for the live walking map on
your phone

The Stops

1 Mega Pier Market and Terminal

WHERE Right off the ship at Mega Pier, Otrobanda side	FROM THE SHIP Right at the gangway
COST Free to browse	TIME 15 to 20 minutes

A little covered market with kiosks and a bar, plus the resort area with Wind Creek Casino and a 5 O'Clock Somewhere bar. Some taxi drivers and tour sellers get a bit aggressive.



2 Rif Fort

WHERE Next to Mega Pier, on the way into town	FROM STOP 1 A couple of minutes on foot
COST Free to walk through	TIME 20 to 30 minutes

A restored historic fort turned shopping and dining complex. You walk through it to get into town. Free WiFi, ATMs, restaurants, Delft ware and Diamonds International.



3 Queen Emma Bridge

WHERE Connects Otrobanda to Punda across St. Anna Bay	FROM STOP 2 Less than 5 minutes on foot
COST Free	TIME 15 to 30 minutes

Built in 1888, this floating pedestrian bridge swings open for ships. Locals call it the Swinging Old Lady. If it's open, a free water shuttle carries you across.



4 Fort Amsterdam

WHERE At the Punda end of the bridge, on Plasa Brion	FROM STOP 3 Right at the end of the bridge
COST Free to walk through	TIME 15 to 20 minutes

The old fort at the Punda end of the bridge is where the government sits today. It's also where the island's first church was built. A quick, atmospheric stop.



Photo credit: visit-curaçao.com

5 Mikve Israel-Emanuel Synagogue

WHERE Hanchi di Snoa, a few blocks from the bridge in Punda	FROM STOP 4 A few minutes on foot
COST About \$10 per person	TIME 30 to 45 minutes

Often called the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the Americas, with a sand floor in honor of early Sephardic Jewish settlers. Usually open weekdays only, so check your day.



Photo credit: snoa.com

6 Punda Shopping Streets

WHERE Heerenstraat and Breestraat, in the heart of Punda	FROM STOP 5 A few blocks on foot
COST Free to walk	TIME 45 to 60 minutes

Street after street of shops, restaurants and bars in colorful Dutch colonial buildings. Duck into side streets, and stop for lunch.



7 Handelskade Waterfront

WHERE Punda's waterfront along St. Anna Bay	FROM STOP 6 A couple of minutes toward the water
COST Free	TIME 20 to 30 minutes

The row of colorful Dutch buildings you see in every Curaçao travel brochure, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The best photos come from the bridge or the Otrobanda side.



8 Floating Market

WHERE Along Sha Caprileskade, on the Punda side	FROM STOP 7 A short walk along the water
COST Free to browse	TIME 20 to 30 minutes

Venezuelan boats docked along the canal sell fresh fruit and vegetables. The fish market is nearby, so don't say I didn't warn you. Don't take produce back on the ship.



9 Curaçao and Dushi Signs

WHERE Wilhelminaplein, in Punda	FROM STOP 8 A short walk
COST Free	TIME 10 to 15 minutes

The Curaçao sign is the photo everybody takes, with the Dushi sign right next to it. Dushi is a Papiamentu word meaning sweet or nice.



10 Pietermaai District

WHERE East of Punda, a few minutes past the signs	FROM STOP 9 About 10 minutes on foot
COST Free	TIME 30 to 60 minutes

An optional last stop: restored colorful mansions, street art, restaurants and bars. It's a bit of a walk, so only go if you have time.



Before You Go

- ◆ **Check which pier you're at.** Mega Pier, on the Otrobanda side, handles the larger ships and sits right by Rif Fort, and there's a 99% chance that's where you'll dock. If you're the 1%, Mathey Wharf, on St. Anna Bay, is mainly for smaller ships and a little closer to the bridge.
- ◆ **Know your all aboard time.** Some calls here have an early one, so keep an eye on the clock.
- ◆ **Watch the bridge.** The Queen Emma Bridge swings open for ships. If it's open, wait a few minutes or take the free water shuttle.
- ◆ **Bring a hat, water and sunscreen.** It's hot and windy, though the sea spray is nice.
- ◆ **Know the sellers.** Taxi drivers and tour sellers line the walk from the ship. A polite no thanks and a steady pace works.
- ◆ **Pay in dollars or guilders.** U.S. dollars and cards are widely accepted. The local currency is now the Caribbean guilder.
- ◆ **Don't bring produce back aboard.** Eat any fruit or vegetables you pick up before you get back to the ship, or you'll have to toss them before boarding.

The Verdict

Willemstad is one of the easiest and most photogenic ports to do on your own. You can walk from the ship through Rif Fort, over the bridge and into Punda, and wander for hours without booking a thing. Eat something local, snap the waterfront and keep an eye on the clock, because the bridge, the heat and the sellers all slow you down.

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.