



SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN VOYAGER 10 DAY Dance cruise

BALLROOM, LATIN & swing DANCE CRUISE

December 7 – 17, 2019

PORTS OF CALL

ROUND TRIP FROM FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

<i>Princess Cays, Bahamas</i>	<i>St. Thomas, USVI</i>	<i>Dominica</i>	<i>Grenada</i>	<i>Bonaire, Netherlands</i>	<i>Curacao</i>
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Fort Lauderdale, Florida



According to the popular 1960 beach movie, Fort Lauderdale is "where the boys are." The city's reputation as America's Spring Break capital, however, has been replaced with the more favorable image of a prime family tourist destination, attracting more than 10 million visitors annually. The most popular beach resort in Florida is even more rightly famed as the "Yachting Capital of the World," with more than 40,000 registered crafts calling its waters home. The city also prides itself on being the "Venice of America" with more than 300 miles of navigable waterways. Fort Lauderdale boasts world-class theaters, museums, sightseeing, and shopping.

The city sits 24 miles north of Miami and is named after a series of forts built by the United States during the second Seminole War. The forts took their name from Major William Lauderdale, who was the commander of the detachment of soldiers who built the first fort. Look hard and you might find remnants of three of them today. More people seem to be interested in taking a water tour aboard the "Carrie B."

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- Everglades
The Florida Everglades are home to many endangered species, so airboat rides through the 'River of Grass' are the perfect way to view the wildlife.
- Flamingo Gardens & Wildlife Sanctuary
This ecologically-friendly estate, home to over a dozen flamingos, is set on 60 acres and showcases rare native and exotic plants. It also offers tram rides around their fun free-flight aviary.
- Intracoastal Waterway

With more than 300 miles of inland waterways that pass by five-star hotels and million-dollar estates, this unique stretch of water has become known as the "Venice of America."

- **Las Olas Boulevard**
The trendy Riverwalk district in downtown Fort Lauderdale features a host of fabulous art galleries, eclectic boutiques and busy sidewalk cafés - perfect for a stroll.
- **Sawgrass Mills**
One of the largest shopping centers in South Florida, Sawgrass Mills features more than 350 retail outlet and brand-name stores.

Popular Ft. Lauderdale beaches:

Fort Lauderdale Beach

The very definition of beach chic. Fort Lauderdale Beach is located just 2 miles from the Crowne Plaza and is the perfect start to your beach-bound vacation. Bring a book along for a relaxing read and a little people watching. If you get hungry, head over to Las Olas Boulevard for an incredible selection of Fort Lauderdale restaurants.

Dania Beach

Head to Dania if peace and quiet is your idea of paradise. Dania Beach tends to be less crowded than more popular beaches like Fort Lauderdale or Hollywood. As for activities, the options are wide open at Dania Beach. It's a smart choice for kayaking, swimming, picnicking and especially fishing. Anglers love the fishing pier at Dania Beach Ocean Park.

Deerfield Beach

Deerfield is an award-winning beach at the northern most edge of Greater Fort Lauderdale, and it's well worth seeking out. One unusual attraction is Ski Rixen, a "cable water ski" park. This low-octane and peaceful version of water-skiing is fully automated and safe for the whole family.

Lauderdale-by-the-Sea

So much more than a beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea is an experience that you won't want to miss. This half-mile stretch of coast features a charming "beach village" with old-fashioned coastal shops. Plus, the unique geography just off the coast makes this one of the few beaches in Fort Lauderdale to offer reef snorkeling.

Hollywood Beach

While the 2.5-mile beach is arguably one of South Florida's best, Hollywood Beach is even better known for the Boardwalk, a scenic foot-and-bike path dotted with locally owned shops and lively outdoor cafes. People watchers will love Hollywood Beach.

Or visit South Beach (see Miami below).

More Attractions

Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District

Known as a signature "sun and sand" destination, Fort Lauderdale also offers an array of exciting entertainment options year round with cultural offerings to suit taste, including world—class concerts, plays and musicals, art galleries, shopping, dancing and fine dinning. it is an international destination for those seeking sunshine with a cultural flair.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

This Center invites you to discover something new to love about the arts. Try theater, from tragedy to farce. Dance, from ballet to modern. Music, from classical to opera to pop. With performances year—round, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

Cinema Paradiso

Home to movies that make your heart pump, eyes water and mind stretch beyond the way normal movies would. Home to Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, Cinema Paradiso is located in a revitalized former church and offers a wide range of films and movies.

Fort Lauderdale Water Taxi

You haven't seen Fort Lauderdale until you've seen it from the Water Taxi. Enjoy a leisurely cruise along Fort Lauderdale's world famous waterways, which have earned the city the nickname, "The Venice of America".

Jungle Queen Riverboat

3 hour sightseeing cruise. Only cruise to go up the historic New River.— "The True Way to See Ft. Lauderdale— The Venice of America." World famous BBQ dinner cruise also available.

Laffing Matterz Comedy Club

A live, original, musical comedy revue spoofing current events— including politics, sports, celebrities and pop culture. The Laffing Matterz experience was and will continue to be unique in its next incarnation in that it precedes the theatrical comedy with a dinner experience that far exceeds our audiences expectations.

Bass Pro Shops

More than just a Fishing and Hunting store, Bass Pro Shops has other extensive departments like Camping, (that includes hiking, grilling and everything in between), our Gifts and Nature center (toys, hot sauces, wind chimes, music, etc.), Apparel and Footwear (with brand names like RedHead, Under Armour, Bob Timberlake and more), Marine (find electronics, boat accessories, GPS, etc.) Tracker Boats (fresh and salt water boats, big and small and even ATV's), Watersports (kayaks, rafts, snorkeling equipment, wake surfing boards, and all other fun water toys). The best part is that each department will come with a skilled and knowledgeable associate that will guide you thru your every need.

IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame

The International Game Fish Association is a not—for—profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.

International Swimming Hall of Fame

Dedicated to famous swimming champions such as the original 'Tarzan', Johnny Weismuller, along with the more recent Olympians Greg Louganis and Mark Spitz. Nearby is the magnificent Hall of Fame Aquatic Complex, one of the most advanced sports venues in the world.

Fort Lauderdale Antique Car Museum

The Museum contains 22 Packard automobiles from 1900 to the 1940's, along with a gallery dedicated to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt plus several special collections of automobile memorabilia.

Museum of Art

The Museum of Art has become well known for its exhibitions, which have ranged from Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs to American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell, and for its highly regarded Artist—in—Residence Program, which broadens the sphere of conversation about contemporary art in our community.

Galleria Mall

Fort Lauderdale's most popular destination for fabulous restaurants, sophisticated stores and world class service. The mall is anchored by three major department stores: Neiman Marcus, Macy's and Dillard's. Other famous retailers and specialty shops include Apple, Coach, Mayor's, Williams—Sonoma, Cole Haan, J.Crew and Pottery Barn.

Hard Rock Casino

Play hard at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino— Hollywood! With over 2,500 slots & games now open you'll have a true rock star experience.

The Village at Gulfstream Park

South Florida's newest outdoor shopping and entertainment destination, featuring a sizzling collection of fashion boutiques, home accessory shops, signature restaurants, outdoor cafes and nightclubs.

Jacaranda Country Club

Representing a consolidation of the best traditions of the game combined with the latest in golf course design, Jacaranda Golf Club embodies the best of both worlds for today's golf enthusiast. Impeccable conditions paired with private club atmosphere & service provides players an opportunity to "Experience the Difference" Jacaranda's new look brings to a South Florida visit. "It's a new course that still feels like home!"

Sun Life Stadium, Home of the Miami Dolphins

The stadium has hosted many marquee events including five Super Bowls, two World Series, four college football national championships, a NFL Pro Bowl and World Cup friendly matches. It has also hosted a variety of other internationally acclaimed entertainment events, including many concerts.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 86, average low 72

Miami, Florida

(It is 27 miles between the Fort Lauderdale and Miami airports.)

Miami International Airport is only 24 miles from the Fort Lauderdale International Airport. With a population of around 360,000, but almost 5 million in the entire urban area, Miami is Florida's most heavily populated city. It began to expand in 1896 when railway reached the city and Miami became a municipality. The pleasant climate and idyllic landscapes with numerous kilometers of beach propelled the city towards its first economic boom in the 1930s, although even greater development was to take place in the '50s.

The city is divided into distinct neighborhoods, some of which have separate and independent local governments, such as Miami Beach. Biscayne Boulevard is the main attraction in the area around the port and is flanked by large parks such as Bayfront Park and the Bicentennial Park; to the south of the port lies the financial district.

In downtown Miami, Flagler Street is where to head to do a bit of shopping in the department stores and clothes, electronics, sports and jewelry shops. In the Metro Dade Center you can visit the Museum of Southern Florida, the city's main library, and the Museum of Fine Arts, which holds temporary modern art exhibitions. Coconut Grove is Miami's oldest district and has become, over time, an exclusive and refined residential area.

Six kilometers to the east of Miami is Miami Beach, an island comprising a long, thin strip of sand connected to the mainland by a system of bridges. The southern end of Miami Beach is called South Beach and it is here that the city's recent rebirth began.

The Art Deco Historic District, built up in the 1920s and noted for its pastel, rose, lavender and turquoise color houses, has recently been restored and represents an excellent example of the urban restoration of modern architecture, attracting thousands of tourists each year. But Miami Beach also means the seafront and the famous

Ocean Drive that separates the beach from the infinite numbers of bars and restaurants. An never-ending parade of bizarre cars, roller-skaters, skateboarders, and super-accessorized Harley Davidsons ensure that visitors remain amused.

As with the rest of the culture in Florida, food and drink in Miami has a heavy Cuban and Caribbean influence: the fish and seafood caught in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico form the base of the most popular dishes.

Things to Do:

Miami Beach is one of Miami's most popular attractions. There, you'll see supermodels and celebrities side by side with octogenarians in pastel plaid. This diversity is one of the main attractions of this area. But the wide, sandy beaches and clean, warm water don't hurt.

Drive through Miami, discovering its rich history, then head out to the Everglades, the only subtropical preserve in North America. As you approach the park, a guide will tell you about the many birds and foliage found in the River of Grass. Then explore the Glades on a 40-minute airboat ride, and see an Indian village, alligator wrestling and even a wildlife show.

Marvel at the homes of the rich and famous while cruising the calm waters of Biscayne Bay on the Island Queen.

If you have extra days visit the Florida Keys!

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 86, average low 72

Princess Cays, Bahamas (Tender Port)



Join us at our exclusive port of call, Princess Cays, where you'll enjoy a private beach party on the island of Eleuthera in the Bahamas. One hundred miles long and only two miles wide, Eleuthera offers unspoiled beaches. Our private resort at Princess Cays is situated on more than 40 acres and features over a half-mile of white-sand shoreline, all at the southern tip of the island. The resort boasts outstanding amenities while carefully preserving this natural paradise. Take in the views from the observation tower. Enjoy a complimentary beach barbecue. Sip a cool drink or browse the shops and the local craft market. All of Princess Cays' facilities are linked by walkways. Recreational activities abound. Enjoy volleyball and a full range of water sports, or simply relax on the beach.

Note: Snorkel equipment, sea boards, floats, kayaks, paddle wheelers, the banana boat rides, aqua chairs, beach clamshells, bungalows, etc. can be pre-reserved. Please be advised that all tours and activities at Princess Cays, including equipment rentals and water sports, are sold on a NO-REFUND basis after closing time for cancellation. Please see the posted time on the Tour Order Forms onboard.

In ports where guests utilize tender boats to go ashore, Princess staff will make every effort to assist but are not allowed to individually physically lift more than 50 lbs. (22kg). Guests requiring physical assistance must travel with an able-bodied companion. With your safety and comfort in mind, the final decision to permit or prohibit passengers from going ashore will be made on each occasion by the ship's Captain. Island Activities
Hit the beach and clear waters with snorkeling gear or a floating mattress. Join a basketball game or the action around the volleyball court. Check out the seaboards, aqua bikes, Hobie Cat sailboats, Sunfish sailboats, paddle wheelers, waverunners, parasailing, Banana Boats or transparent hull kayaks at the water sports pier. Climb the Crow's Nest Tower for panoramic views, or shop for local handicrafts. Cabanas are available for daily rental.

Beach BBQ

Three bars and live music compliment lunch and the authentic Bahamian barbeque on the beach. Feast on hamburgers, chicken, bratwurst, salads, and fresh fruit. Water, tea and lemonade are available at the picnic area for no additional cost, and a full staff of drink servers is on hand to serve cocktails and soda.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **1 Rock Sound**

The town is known for its pristine beaches, sparkling blue water, spectacular views and colorful island buildings. Rock Sound is also famous for pirates, bats and a bottomless ocean hole.

- **2 Private & Sanctuary Bungalows**

Luxuriate shoreside in your own air-conditioned bungalow. Perfect for a romantic hideaway or family fun, each brightly colored bungalow is near the beach. A tram for transportation is provided to and from the bungalows.

- **3 Snorkeling**

Explore the underwater paradise hidden within the unspoiled waters of the Bahamas.

- **4 Outdoor Adventure**

Travel along scenic back roads of Eleuthera Island on a Dune Buggy Adventure down to a pink-sand beach. Or explore the walking trails, display gardens and native habitat of the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve.

- **5 Beach Clamshell**

Escape completely in your own private retreat - a "made-just-for-the-two-of-you" beach clamshell. Relax on the sandy shore and take in the island's natural beauty while lazing on your own comfortable beach chair.

- **6 Banana Boat Ride**

Climb onto the neon yellow banana boat and hang on! After the powerboat pulls away from shore at full throttle you'll find yourself suddenly zooming along the surface on a wet and wild thrill ride!

- **7 Fishing**

There are plenty of fish in the sea. Try your luck at surf fishing off a rocky shore of Princess Cays.

- **8 Water Sports Rental Activities**

Slather on the sunscreen and immerse yourself in any number of activities that take you in and out of the water. Enjoy a day with kayaking, windsurfing, snorkeling, paddle wheelers, floats, aqua chairs or a Hobie Wave.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 80, average low 63

St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands



Cathy's Notes re Ship Dock: Ship docks at Crown Bay. Google search says: Crown Bay which is about a 5 to 10 minute taxi ride to downtown Charlotte Amalie. Crown Bay features a recreated stone sugar mill in honor of the island's plantation era. Crown Bay Center businesses include jewelry, clothing and liquor stores. The Crown Bay Marina has a branch of Gourmet Gallery (and the ferry to Water Island leaves from there). You'll need to head downtown for serious shopping and dining. Adventurous types should be hesitant when wandering off the beaten path in Charlotte Amalie; crime can be an issue.)

The US Virgin Islands are America's paradise, offering an easygoing blend of island ways and American practicality. St. Thomas, capital of the island group, offers every imaginable sport: snorkeling, golfing, hiking, and sailing. Just a few miles away lay St. John and Virgin Islands National Park. Stunning mountain scenery, crystalline waters, and white-sand beaches with palms swaying in the breeze - the US Virgin Islands are truly a slice of paradise. The harbor is easily one of the Caribbean's most scenic. The United States purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$25 million in gold. St. Thomas has a reputation as a duty free-mecca for shopping.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **1 Mogens Bay**
One of the world's best beaches as selected by "National Geographic" magazine.
- **2 Blackbeard's Castle**
Blackbeard's Castle, a center for popular lore, can be reached by either walking up the "99 Steps" or via ship's tour.
- **3 Coral World**
This 4.5-acre marine park offers an underwater observatory with 360-degree views of fish and other sea creatures, and the opportunity to pet sharks and hand feed stingrays.
- **4 Mountain Top**
This totally rebuilt mecca on top of a mountain, features souvenir shopping and excellent views of St. Thomas and its neighboring islands. It is considered to be the birthplace of the banana daiquiri.
- **5 St. Peter Great House**
Nestled high in the peaks of St. Thomas, this scenic location was originally part of the 150-acre Plantation St. Peter. Today the Great House boasts classic West Indian architecture and 150 species of Caribbean plants and fruits.
- **6 St. John**

The smallest of the U.S. Virgin Islands is only a 30-minute ferry ride away. Two thirds of the island is a national park. Annaberg Sugar Plantation Ruins and Trunk Bay are two favorite sights.

- **7 Snorkeling & Diving**

The island's underwater world is beautifully unveiled to both snorkelers and divers, exhibiting sunken boat wrecks, breathtaking coral reefs and a colorful spectrum of marine life.

- **8 British Virgin Islands**

Virgin Gorda and Tortola are just two of several islands under British rule. Both are laid back and scenic with attractions like The Baths and swimming with the dolphins.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 86, average low 74

Dominica



Cathy's Notes re Ship Dock: Ship Docks at Woodbridge Bay. It is about a mile north of the City. Google search says: There's a large, secure area next to the cruise ship. The ONLY vehicles allowed inside this area are port vehicles and tour vehicles for the ship's shore excursions. If you are not on a ship's excursion, you walk to the security gate/building as shown by the dashed yellow lines on the map at left. It is a short distance on level surface and is easy to walk. You will pass an open warehouse where there are many stalls with vendors selling souvenirs. If you're on a private tour, the meeting point is just outside the security building. Tour guide was holding a sign with our name. If you are walking to Roseau, take Goodwill Road south along the shore and cross a bridge over the Roseau River. It's a 20-minute, one mile walk to the Roseau Farmers Market. There is not much to see until you get close to Roseau.

Lying between Guadeloupe and Martinique is the island of Dominica--an unspoiled Caribbean paradise. The vibrant, rich rainforest is home to rare birds, including Sisserou and Jacquot parrots. Streams tumble down mountain slopes and thread fertile valleys on their short route to the sea. Dominica is also home to the last Carib Indians. When Columbus made landfall on his second voyage of discovery, this fierce tribe managed to keep the explorer at bay. And while the island proved a lure for both British and French planters, Dominica somehow managed to escape the trammels of civilization. This former British possession, independent since 1978, today lures visitors from around the world with its unspoiled beauty. As the islanders fondly say, "Après Bondi, c'est la terre" (After God, it is the land). Tours may travel narrow, winding roads.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **1** Morne Trois Pitons National Park

The 17,000-acre Morne Trois Pitons National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is home to most of Dominica's above-water sights, with several crater lakes and waterfalls, including the Emerald Pool.

- **2** Emerald Pool

Just a short walk into the rainforest in the center of the island is Emerald Pool, a grotto featured in several movies and the site where many a tourist swim in its chilly waters.

- **3** Waterfalls

One of Dominica's scenic assets is its collection of beautiful waterfalls, including Trafalgar Falls, Hibiscus Falls and more in Morne Trois Pitons National Park.

- **4** Titou Gorge

Titou Gorge ("little throat" in Creole) is a small waterfall deep in a water filled gorge, flanked by rock walls that provide an intricate and breathtaking setting.

- **5** Rainforest Rivers

Surrounded by cliffs and rainforests on both sides, these rivers tend to be some of the largest and longest rivers in Dominica.

- **6 Botanical Gardens**

More like a large park, this 40-acre garden is located on the site of a former sugarcane field, housing endangered Sisserou and Jaco parrots in protective cages, along with many large trees, exotic flowers and tropical plants.

- **7 Soufriere/Scotts Head Marine Reserve**

A vast submerged volcanic crater, Soufriere/Scotts Head features spectacular dive sites, dramatic drop-offs and walls, active underwater fumaroles and expansive coral reefs.

- **8 Outdoor Adventure**

Dominica's diverse landscape offers a variety of outdoor adventures, from swimming in natural rock pools and soothing hot springs to braving a rainforest ropes course or tubing down a tropical river.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 88, average low 73

Grenada



Cathy's Notes re Ship Dock: Ship docks at the Melville Street Cruise Terminal, which exits through the Esplanade Shopping Mall and then out into downtown St. George's. Cruise Terminal is within walking distance of the major sights of St. George's, including the Grenada National Museum, Market Square and several pretty churches. The world-famous Grand Anse Beach is only a 10-minute cab ride away from the port.

Grenada is the Caribbean's "Isle of Spice" -- one of the world's major producers of nutmeg, mace, clove, cinnamon, and cocoa. Indeed, the fragrant aroma of spice seems to envelop the island's emerald hillsides, tropical forests, and sun-drenched beaches. Grenada is truly a feast for the senses. Americans, of course, may remember the island from the 1983 U.S. military intervention. Over two decades later, Grenada is again an ideal vacation spot. No building here may be built higher than a coconut palm. The majority of hotels are small and family owned. St. George's Harbor is a picture-perfect postcard of an idyllic Caribbean anchorage.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **1** Grand Etang National Park

This national park offers miles of trails and scenery. Hike the Lake Circle Trail that offers panoramic views of the lush green forest and the pristine waters of the extinct volcano's crater lake.

- **2** Fort Frederick

This smaller fort built by the British and perched atop Richmond Hill has a commanding vantage point that offers an amazing view of Grenada and its natural harbor.

- **3** Fort George

Once a location of strategic importance, the gorgeous views overlooking the harbor entrance are what make this fortification such a popular attraction today.

- **4** Annandale Falls

A picturesque and lush grotto, this waterfall cascades down 30 feet into a pool of water that's deep enough for a dip.

- **5** Spices of Grenada

Spice gardens and plantation tours are a Grenada must-do. Inhale the scent of cinnamon, cocoa and cloves at historic Dougaldston Spice Estate or visit Gouyave Nutmeg Station for its "Black Gold."

- **6** Grand Anse

This tourist town has resorts, restaurants, a thriving nightlife and a famed beach that is an idyllic crescent of sand shaded by coconut palms with a gentle turquoise surf.

- **7** Morne Rouge

Situated at the very end of Grand Anse, this beach is one of the best. The water is so clear, you'll be able to see down to your toes.

- **8** River Tubing

The thrill of riding the island rapids is easily satisfied at the Balthazar River. In an inflatable tube surrounded by rushing water and a tropical rainforest canopy, this Grenada adventure is always a splash.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 86, average low 74

Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands



Cathy's Notes re Ship Dock: Ship docks in downtown Kralendijk (Capital of Bonaire) Google search says: Shopping, dining, bar hopping and even snorkeling and diving are within walking distance of the dock. You will pass through Harborside Mall, a small open-air shopping center, to get from the pier to the street. There are public restrooms here, but they cost \$1 to use. Across from the pier is Wilhelmina Plaza. On cruise days it becomes the Bonaire Arts and Crafts Cruise Market with local artisans offering native foods, handmade wares, original art and clothing for sale. Cultural dance shows, concerts and other entertainment are held here during the day. It is an easy walk of just a few minutes to shops and restaurants along the Waterfront Promenade and Kaya Grandi, the main shopping street, one block inland.

Bonaire is without a doubt a "diver's paradise." Its license plates even state the same. But there is much more to this small Dutch country of 17,500 residents. "Bon Bini," as you will hear the friendly locals say, means "welcome to the island of Bonaire." Bonaire is located off the coast of Venezuela and has for years been known as a world-class diving and snorkeling destination. Diving and snorkeling are still the predominant activities, but today there is also a variety of other activities to enjoy such as kayaking, bird watching, and other eco-tours. Because of the hot and arid weather, Bonaire has been a major producer of sea salt. Do not miss the "white mountains" waiting to be shipped out and the salt flats where the salt is evaporated from the Caribbean Sea, which also happens to be home to another icon of Bonaire-the pink flamingo. Explore the Dutch architecture of the capital Kralendijk, enjoy the pristine coral reefs, or tour the scenic countryside. Whatever you decide to do in Bonaire, you are sure to have a fantastic time.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **1 Bonaire National Marine Park**

Bonaire's celebrated Marine Park protects the island's most-precious natural resource. Turtles, rays, and fish of every imaginable color abound in the pristine waters of the park.

- **2 North Tour**

The northern tour of the island takes you from Goto Meer, a flamingo favorite, to the scenic area of Dos Pos (Two Wells) and Bonaire's oldest village, Rincon, once home to slaves.

- **3 South Tour**

The southern tour unveils white hills of salt from the salt pans, former slave huts and the Willemstoren lighthouse marking the lower end of the island.

- **4 Rincon**

First settled by the Spanish, Rincon is Bonaire's oldest village. Today, the town boasts pastel cottages, friendly people and the highest goat population on the island.

- **5 Mangazina de Rei Cultural Park**

Immerse yourself in island culture at this living history museum where costumed guides will introduce you to replicas of early homes, artifacts, Caribbean music, traditional foods and handicrafts.

- **6** Goto Lake

Over 100 species feed in the shallows of this charming saltwater lake at sunset, a favorite among Bonaire's flamingo population.

- **7** Klein Bonaire

The protected waters of the Bonaire National Marine Park surround this uninhabited islet. Its clear water and healthy reefs make for outstanding snorkeling.

- **8** Lac Bay

This scenic area is part of a protected marine park. You can take the mangrove eco cruise (BON-610) or kayaking (BON-880) to get a closer look at this unique ecosystem.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 86, average low 78

Curacao



Cathy's Notes re Ship Dock: Docked in West Willemstad at Mega Pier. The downtown area is Punda and is a 15 minute walk from pier. Taxi from pier to downtown is about \$10. Google search says Willemstad is split into two main districts by the Santa Anna Bay, a deep but narrow channel; Punda is on the east side, and Otrobanda, where cruise ships dock, is to the west. Within walking distance of the Queen Emma Bridge, which connects the two sides of the city. Punda, the side opposite the cruise docks, features the main shopping and business areas.) It's an easy walk from the port to Willemstad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (just like the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal) that features sidewalk cafes, funky museums and shops, and neat architectural touches like gables and arches. Visitors to either terminal can take an easy stroll to the Queen Emma Bridge (known as the Swinging Old Lady by locals). This century-old pontoon bridge connects the two sides of the city and is a tourist attraction in its own right. It swings open (sometimes 30 times a day) to make way for ship traffic. If the bridge is open, you can take a free ride from one side to the other on a passenger ferry.

Historians still contend over which European adventurer first spied the largest island in the former Netherlands Antilles. Some historians claim the honor for Alonzo de Ojeda; other historians champion Amerigo Vespucci. Little does it matter; today's travelers are content to bask beneath sunny skies cooled by the trade winds. Lying some 40 miles off Venezuela, Curaçao boasts a landscape that is dramatic, stark, and volcanic. In contrast, Willemstad, the capital, seems a cozy Dutch haven with its neat row houses. And while those gabled and tiled roofs illustrate the island's heritage, the bright, pastel houses speak pure Caribbean. Islanders themselves reflect this same colorful contrast: over 50 different nationalities have come to call Curaçao their home.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- **1 Willemstad**

This charming capital city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Boasting a rich and diverse history and culture, its traditional Dutch architecture has been infused with the color and spirit of the Caribbean.

- **2 Fort Amsterdam**

A UNESCO World Heritage Site and the most important of the island's eight forts, it is now home to the Governor's Palace, a 1769 Dutch Reformed Church, and a cannonball forever embedded in the southwest wall.

- **3 Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge**

Constructed in 1888, and nicknamed the "Swinging Old Lady," this bridge swings open to allow ships to access the bay. Recently restored, it connects the Punda and Otrobanda districts.

- **4 National Park**

Curaçao's parks are unforgettable, from the diverse flora and fauna of Christoffel National Park, to the caverns and majestic sea cliffs of Boka Tabla.

- **5 Hato Caves**

Once a hiding place for escaped slaves, these historic caves formed out of limestone cliffs are still evolving. Tour the underground caverns and view massive stalactites and ancient cave drawings.

- **6** Ostrich Farm

Experience a unique opportunity to get up-close and personal with these fascinating birds. A safari truck takes you through the corrals where you can touch and feed these feathered friends.

- **7** Snorkeling

Descend into the tranquil Caribbean waters of Caracas Bay where the nearly 50-year-old Sunken Tugboat, a popular underwater treasure, and a variety of unusual crustaceans and colorful fish await.

Average Temperatures in December:

Average High 86, average low 76