

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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JANUARY

January 1 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**

Aruba welcomes the New Year with traditional music and an amazing island-wide display of fireworks. After the last flash of fireworks and the pop of the champagne cork, troupes of traveling musicians known as “Dande” brighten the New Year with song, bestowing blessings of goodwill and prosperity. Aruba’s joyous holiday atmosphere pervades varied events, from casual gatherings to grand-scale receptions at island resorts.

Jan - Mar **ARUBA 58TH CARNIVAL CELEBRATION**

Aruba’s biggest party of the year is a month-long celebration consisting of festive “jump-ups” (street parties), spectacular parades and creative contests. Music and dazzling costumes play a central role in events ranging from the Queen elections to the Grand Parades which wind their way down the streets of San Nicolas and Oranjestad to the delight of thousands of spectators. The Grand Parade in Oranjestad will take place on February 19, 2012.

January 7 **ARUBA'S TORCH PARADE**

First organized by the Tivoli Club, Aruba’s oldest social club, the Torch Parade is now the first official parade on the Aruba Carnival Foundation (SAC) schedule. The tradition continues with bright lights leading the way down the streets of the capital of Oranjestad. The parade begins at 8:00 p.m. and sets the pace for the festivities to come.

January 21 **CHILDREN'S CALYPSO & ROAD MARCH CONTEST**

The island’s talented kids ages (8–15) display their musical talent as they compete for the title of Queen of Calypso or Road March. The winning song will be featured in the upcoming jump-ups and kids’ parades. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 6:30 p.m.



January 25 **BETICO CROES DAY**

Aruba pays tribute to its greatest statesman on his birthday. The late Gilberto Francois “Betico” Croes helped Aruba obtain its “Status Aparte” (separate status) within the Dutch Kingdom. This official holiday features various sporting events and popular games throughout the island.

January 25 **BETICO CROES MEMORIAL 10K RUN & 5K FUN WALK**

Betico Croes’ hometown of Santa Cruz sponsors an amateur road race through hilly terrain. The circular route takes runners through residential neighborhoods and back to the main intersection of Santa Cruz. Avoiding the hotter hours of the day, the starting pistol sounds at 5:30 p.m. Open registration through IDEFRE Tel. (297)-582-4987 or Fax: (297)-583-6478 E-mail: idefre@aruba.gov.aw for additional information or registration.

January 27 **18TH MRS. CARNIVAL ELECTION**

A lighthearted look at Aruba carnival tradition presented by its most experienced participants, all vying for the satin sash of Mrs. Carnival. Highlights of the election include skits and joyful displays of carnival costumes and dance. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

January 28 **42TH GRAND FINAL TUMBA CONTEST**

Originally from Africa with a Caribbean influence, the tumba music played during the Carnival has the rhythm of the “tambu” which is a tambour with a 6/8 beat. This event features local bands and singers competing for the Tumba King or Queen title with their original musical compositions and lyrics. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

Jan 30-31 **PRE-FINAL CALYPSO & ROAD MARCH CONTEST**

Hundreds of talented locals compete for entry in the grand finals for King or Queen of Aruba’s Calypso and Road March. Venue: Joe Laveist Sport Park at 7:30 p.m.



FEBRUARY

February 3 37th CHILDREN'S & AND 48th YOUTH CARNIVAL QUEEN ELECTION

Carnival excitement builds as Aruba elects its first queens of the season. Contestants in the Children's Carnival Queen election are 6-9 years of age. Youth Carnival Queen contestants are aged 13-17. All demonstrate their carnival spirit through dance performances, speeches and carnival shows. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:00 p.m.

February 4 GRAND FINAL CALYPSO & ROAD MARCH CONTEST

Attracting over 10,000 spectators, one of the most exciting and popular local music festivals is the annual Calypso and Road March contest. This festival is your best bet for enjoying original music of the people, by the people and for the people. Original musical compositions and lyrics are presented with the social commentary of Calypso or the catchy beat of Road March, helping to define the carnival season. The most popular songs will be featured in the upcoming jump-ups and parades. Venue: Joe Laveist Ballpark at 7:30 p.m.

February 5 CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE IN SAN NICOLAS

Aruba's youngest carnival enthusiasts take center stage as the children parade down the streets of San Nicolas dressed in colorful costumes representing various themes. The parade starts at 2:00 p.m. in downtown San Nicolas.

February 10 58th CARNIVAL QUEEN ELECTION

Aruba elects one of its most important carnival representatives, the Aruba Carnival Queen. Young women between the ages of 17 and 25 representing districts, schools and social clubs compete for the honor of leading the Grand Parade. Marked by lavish production numbers, the election is judged by a panel of local and international judges. Venue: Aruba Entertainment Center at 7:30 p.m.

February 11 CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL PARADE IN NOORD

The district of Noord demonstrates its carnival spirit with the presentation of its own children's parade. Children representing elementary schools and social clubs participate in vibrant interpretations of different themes. This event starts at 1:00 p.m.

February 11 ARUBA'S TIVOLI LIGHTING PARADE

Aruba's favorite evening carnival parade is a visual treat. Thousands of tiny lights are incorporated into costumes, road pieces and floats, heightening the dramatic effect of an already stunning and creative display. Live bands accompany the various participating carnival groups. Held in downtown Oranjestad, the parade begins at 8:00 p.m.

February 12 CHILDREN'S GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE
IN ORANJESTAD

The biggest Children's parade includes all of the island's different Carnival groups to form Aruba's 33rd Grand Children Carnival parade. Hundreds of children enjoy the opportunity to show off their dancing skills and colorful costumes. Held in downtown Oranjestad, the event begins at 1:00 p.m.

February 16 LIGHTING PARADE SAN NICOLAS

Although not as extravagant as the Oranjestad version of the parade, the San Nicolas Lighting Parade is no less jubilant in its presentation of dance, music and carnival spirit. The parade starts at 8:00 p.m.

February 18 JOUVERT MORNING

An early morning open invitation to Aruba's largest "jump-up" is extended to carnival enthusiasts throughout the island. Popularly known as the "pajama party," thousands of people gather in San Nicolas to follow the various live music caravans down the city streets. Set the alarm clock! This exciting jump-up begins at 4 a.m. and continues until sunrise.

February 18 GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE IN SAN NICOLAS

This is a prelude to the Grand Carnival Parade. Local musicians create an exceptional ambiance in San Nicolas by playing their latest carnival hits to the delight of hundreds of marchers dressed in resplendent costumes. Beautifully decorated themed floats accompanied by their floor members dance and parade through the streets of San Nicolas until sunset. This parade starts at 1:00 p.m. in San Nicolas.

February 19 ARUBA'S 58th GRAND CARNIVAL PARADE

The largest carnival parade is the Grand Parade through Oranjestad, held on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. This parade is filled with unforgettable music, spectacular floats and original costumes decorated with colorful stones, sequins and feathers, creating a unique display. Aruba's main event starts at 12:00 noon in Oranjestad and continues into the evening hours.

February 20 CARNIVAL MONDAY

Official holiday.

The traditional horse parade through downtown Oranjestad begins at 4:00 p.m.

February 20 OLD MASK PARADE AND BURNING OF KING MOMITO

The end of the carnival season is first marked in San Nicolas with a parade ending in the symbolic burning of "King Momito." This event takes place from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m..

February 21 OLD MASK PARADE & BURNING OF KING MOMO

Carnival 58 comes to an official end on the eve of Ash Wednesday with the burning of "King Momo." This is preceded by a parade throughout the streets of Oranjestad. The parade starts at 8:00 p.m.

February 22 ASH WEDNESDAY

In 2013 and 2014, the Grand Parades will take place on Sunday, February 10 and Sunday, March 2 respectively. Contact the Aruba Carnival Foundation (Stichting Arubaanse Carnival or SAC) at Tel. (297) 582-4214 / Fax. (297) 588-2964 or visit www.carnaval.aruba.net for additional information.



MARCH-APRIL

March 18 NATIONAL ANTHEM AND FLAG DAY

A strong sense of pride is displayed each year as Arubans celebrate their “Status Aparte” and the Flag and Anthem Day. An impressive folkloric production marking the holiday is held each year on Plaza Betico Croes in Oranjestad. This official holiday also features many sporting events and games throughout the island for kids and adults.

March 18 26TH ARUBA INTERNATIONAL HALF MARATHON (21 K)

International competitors participate in Aruba’s longest road race covering the length of the island from San Nicolas to Oranjestad. The race begins at 5:00 a.m. Registration starts on March 5, 2012. Contact IDEFRE Tel. (297) 582-4987 or Fax: (297) 583-6478 E-mail: idefre@aruba.gov.aw for additional information or registration.



April 6 **GOOD FRIDAY**
Official holiday

April 8-9 **EASTER SUNDAY AND EASTER MONDAY**
Official holidays

April 16-27 **11th AHATA RECYCLED ART COMPETITION**
This public awareness campaign for adults and kids promotes the collection and re-use of old articles to create recycled art. Last day for registration April 5th. Contact AHATA at Tel. (297) 582-2607 / Fax (297) 582-4202 / E-mail vanessa@ahata.com. Exposition Venue will be Cas di Cultura

April 30 **52ND INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD RACE (10K)**
Aruba's most popular running race draws over 200 competitors from countries including Aruba, Venezuela, Colombia, Netherlands Antilles, USA and Holland. The 10K event starts at 5:30 p.m. on L.G. Smith Blvd. and ends at the Marriott parking lot. Entry forms will be issued in February. Contact Vanessa Tromp at Tel. (297) 593-5801 or E-mail arruwac@gmail.com for additional Information.

April 30 **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY**
An official government ceremony in honor of Queen Beatrix is followed by numerous sporting events and family-friendly celebrations. Sports competitions, kite flying contests and fun-filled activities are held at various sites including community centers.

MAY - JUNE

May 1

LABOR DAY
Official holiday

May 17

ASCENSION DAY
Official holiday



May 23-28

ARUBA SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2012

Held on Memorial Day holiday weekend, the Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival is a star-studded, two-night concert series that has featured such artists as Maze, Sean Paul, Chaka Khan, Wyclef Jean, India Arie, the Gap Band, Boyz 11 Men, Lauryn Hill, Nina Sky, Anthony Hamilton, Alicia Keys, Brian McKnight, Wayne Brady, Estelle, Jamie Fox, Etana, Robin Thicke, Common, Toni Braxton, MJ Blidge, Joe Thomas, Raheem DeVaughn, Jennifer Hudson, Christie Michele and Heads of State
Venue: adjacent Nikki Beach

Contact Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777

Fax (297) 583-7403 visit www.aruba.com

www.soulbeach.net for additional information.

June 22-28

ARUBA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2012 (AIFF)

During the Aruba International Film Festival, Aruba is host to a brilliant cinematic brigade including glamorous actors, producers and directors. This glittering event features glamorous red carpet premieres, screenings of an eclectic collection of international and Caribbean films, and lively conversations with stars. Past luminaries have included Richard Gere, Kim Cattrall, Jonathan Demme and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. AIFF not only brings visitors and press from around the world but also helps to develop and support local talent. Contact Tremendo Productions
Tel. (297) 586-7450 Fax (297) 586-7455 E-mail info@arubafilm.com
or visit www.aiff.aw www.arubafilm.com for additional information.



June 24 **DERA GAI (ST. JOHN'S DAY)**

Aruba's harvest festival is now a cultural celebration featuring traditional song and dance. The symbol of the rooster and bright yellow and red costumes are central to events held at various locations including community centers. Tel. (297) 582-2185 / www.gobierno.aw

June 23-24 **ARUBA BEACH TENNIS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Ingredients of this new game are fun, sun and playing tennis on the beach. The net is almost 6 ft. high and the court is volleyball-sized. Open for tennis fans. Held at Divi Winds Beach. Contact Sjoerd de Vries at Tel. (297) 593-6512 or Aruba Tennis (297) 583-7074/ Fax. (297) 588-4278 E-mail sjoerd@tennisaruba.com or visit www.arubabeachtennis.com for additional information.



JULY - AUGUST

July 1 27th ARUBA INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON

International competitors participate in a triathlon of a 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike race and a 10 km run. Beginners can test their endurance in the triathlon of a 750 m swim, 20 km bike and 5 km run. Beginning at Eagle Beach, the event is planned on a safe and closed circuit. More than 100 athletes are expected to participate in this event hosted by the Aruba Triathlon Association. For registration and information contact Eric Gomez at Tel. (297) 731-2454 / or E-mail arubatriathlon@hotmail.com.

July 3-9 26th ARUBA HI-WINDS

Aruba's trade winds provide the perfect conditions for the largest amateur windsurfing event in the Caribbean. Exciting windsurfing and kite boarding competitions in various categories are held off the beaches at the Fisherman's Huts at Hadicurari. There are five days of non-stop entertainment, beach parties, events and activities as over 100 international windsurfers hit the waters of Palm Beach. Contact Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777 Fax (297) 583-7403 / or visit www.aruba.com or www.aruba-hiwinds.org for additional information.

July 7-8 19th ANNUAL ARUBA REEF CARE PROJECT

A clean-up of the island's most popular beaches, dive and snorkel sites helps raise awareness for a clean marine environment. With over 800 participants including local residents and visitors from around the world, it is the island's largest volunteer environmental initiative. Contact Tel. (297) 740-0797 / E-mail castroperez@gmail.com for additional information.



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Aug.10-12 ARUBA REMBRANDT REGATTA 2012

Organized by Café Rembrandt, this sailing event features fun, action and competitions among yachts, catamarans, sunfish and windsurfing during the day, and music, parties and dinner at night. Crews from different countries try their skill in such events as the “Around Aruba Race” for cruising and racing yachts. Contact the Organizing Committee at rembrandtregatta@live.com or call (297) 565-6887 for registration and additional information.

Aug. 24-26 18th ARUBA INTERNATIONAL PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT

Professional and amateur golfers team up in a two-day, 36-hole tournament featuring gifts, prizes and special events.

Contact Tierra Del Sol at Tel. (297) 586-7800 / Fax (297) 586-4970 or E-mail adam.williamson@tierradelsol.com. More information can also be obtained through Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777 Fax (297) 583-7403 or E-mail a.boekhoudt@aruba.com



SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1-8 COPA ARUBA VETERAN SOCCER

3rd Annual veteran soccer games to take place at Compleho Deportivo Frans Figaroa between Brazil, Aruba and USA. Contact Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777 / Fax (297) 583-7403 or E-mail a.boekhoudt@aruba.com for more information.

September 2 33RD TURIBANA TO SANTA CRUZ 10K RACE

This open road race starts at 5:30 a.m. at Panaderia del Campo in Noord and finishes at the Betico Croes Sports Complex (Compleho Deportivo Betico Croes) in Santa Cruz. Registration begins on August 20, 2012.

Contact IDEFRE Tel. (297) 582-4987 or Fax (297) 583-6478
E-mail idefre@aruba.gov.aw for additional information or registration.

September ARUBA PIANO FESTIVAL

This enchanting and unforgettable classical experience features some of the world's most acclaimed musicians. This festival is probably the most important annual chamber music event in the Caribbean region.

Contact Mr. Armand Simon at Tel. (297) 737-6797

E-mail info@arubapianofestival.com

www.arubapianofestival.com for additional information



OCTOBER

October 5-6 6th CARIBBEAN SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL 2012

This annual outdoor festival promises an impressive line-up of local and international musicians at Cas di Cultura. Headliners from past festivals were Michel Camilo, Praful and Randal Corsen, Ploctoons, Moonbaker, Cubop City Band, Paoli Mejias, David Sandborn, Izaline Calister, Isaac Delgado. Contact the Entertainment Group NV at Tel. (297) 588-0211 Fax (297) 583-8606 / E-mail info@caribbeanseajazz.com www.caribbeanseajazz.com for additional information. Venue: Cas di Cultura / website www.casdicultura.com

October 14 28th FIRE PREVENTION 10K & 5K RUN

This 10K race open to all runners follows a circular route, beginning and ending at the Fire House in Tanki Flip. The race begins at 4:00 p.m. Registration begins on September 24, 2012. Contact IDEFRE Tel. (297)-582-4987 / Fax (297)-583-6478 E-mail: idefre@aruba.gov.aw for additional information or registration.

October 26-28 THE RETURN OF MONSTER TRUCKS 2012

Organized by the Brute Racing Organization, this thrilling event features six Monster Trucks, a Motorcycle Extreme Show and an Extreme Competition with Canon Lady and much more. Venue: Don Elias Mansur Ballpark. Contact Jeff Lopez at info@ingenuityaruba.com or Ven Eman at ven.aruba@gmail.com for additional information.



NOVEMBER

November ARUBA IN STYLE (FASHION WEEK) AIS

This annual international fashion and lifestyle event caters to the trade as well as a high-end consumer market. Dazzling runway shows, celebrity cocktail parties, networking opportunities, styling sessions and insider collection-reveals featuring foremost international designers attract international press and discerning fashionistas.

Contact Aruba Tourism Authority at Tel. (297) 582-3777

Fax (297) 583-7403 or visit www.aruba.com

www.arubainstyle.com for additional information.

November 10 11TH NATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP

This national clean-up day concentrates on areas near and along the coast. Contact AHATA at Tel. (297) 582-2607 / Fax (297) 582-4202 or E-mail vanessa@ahata.com for more information.

Nov.15-19 ARUBA BEACH TENNIS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aruba is among the first to host an international tournament in the new sport of beach tennis. International beach tennis pro's take part but most of the participants are amateurs. Competitions will be held at Moomba Beach. Contact Sjoerd de Vries at (297) Tel. 593-6512 or Aruba Tennis (297) 583-7074 / Fax (297) 588-4278

E-mail sjoerd@tennisaruba.com or visit

www.arubabeachtennis.com for additional information.



DECEMBER

December 5 SAINT NICOLAS DAY

Aruba's children line Oranjestad harbor for the ceremonious arrival of "Sinterklaas" (Saint Nicolas) dressed in bishop's robes and accompanied his "Zwarte Pieten" (helpers). For days before Sinterklaas' birthday on December 5, children leave out their shoes and treats for his white horse in anticipation of his nighttime visit and gifts. Sinterklaas and his helpers appear at many daytime events throughout the island.

December 25 CHRISTMAS Official holiday

December 26 BOXING DAY Official holiday

December 27 DANDE FESTIVAL

In Aruba's biggest traditional musical event, over 50 singers accompanied by typical musical groups present their original composition and lyrics as well as the traditional Dande. A Dande group is a troupe of traveling musicians brightening the New Year with a song bestowing blessings, goodwill and prosperity. Venue: TBA at 8:00 p.m.

WEEKLY EVENTS

BONBINI FESTIVAL: Bonbini means “Welcome!” in Papiamentu, and this weekly folkloric music and dance festival is the perfect introduction to the warmth and hospitality of Aruba’s people. The BonBini Festival takes place in downtown Oranjestad every Tuesday at 6:30 pm in the outdoor courtyard of Fort Zoutman, Aruba’s oldest building. Catch the flavor of the island, its history people, music and cuisine during this entertaining evening held every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

CARUBBIAN: The Carubbian Festival takes place in San Nicolas every Thursday night from 6:00 p. m. – 10 p.m., showcasing the multicultural charms of Aruba’s “Sunrise City”. The center of activities is a stage area in which the audience can relax and enjoy some delicious Aruban and Caribbean food and a parade of local entertainers. Closed to traffic, the main street is a pedestrian mall filled with colorful booths selling food, handicrafts and logo souvenirs with fun activities for the whole family. Packages including round trip transportation are sold at hotels.

Disclaimer:

This Calendar of Events has been produced by the Aruba Tourism Authority to provide general information about events and activities taking place in Aruba during 2012. This information is subject to change without any notice. All efforts have been made to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information of each event. Aruba Tourism Authority is not liable for any possible errors, omissions or cancellations.

Visit Aruba’s official website www.aruba.com for the latest updates on festivals, events and conferences, or contact any of the following offices or representatives of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

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