

# The Five-Fifteen

## BONAIRE EDITION

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**The Five-Fifteen: Bonaire Edition** brings you 15 no-fluff travel tips for the kind of trip that shifts your insides and floods your group chat with turtle pics. Split into three lists of five—what to bring, what to do, and what to know—it's part packing list, part permission slip, and part birthday present (I was born on 5/15, after all). For the offbeat, the overprepared, and the ones who want to arrive like they meant to be there. Because the wind won't warn you, the turtles won't wait, and the parrots? Well, they've got their own agenda.

### 5 Things to BRING

1. **Cash and printed proof of your paid STINAPA/Tourist Fee.** Paper is often preferred on the island.
2. **Reef-safe sunscreen and UV-protective swimwear.** Both you and the reef deserve protection.
3. **Towel clips.** The wind in Bonaire is epic enough to make it a windsurfing destination, so if your destination is the pool, you're going to need something to hold down your towel.
4. **Water shoes with hard bottoms.** The beaches are natural (they don't import soft sand) and the rocks and coral remains are unforgiving.
5. **An offline map.** Download it to your phone before you go exploring. Service on the island is sometimes unreliable for US phone plans.

### 5 Things to KNOW

1. **Get ready to fork over some entry fees.** For most, the visitor's tax is \$75, and to visit Bonaire's national parks, the STINAPA tag is \$40 annually. Fees support conservation efforts on the island.
2. **This island's vibe is eternally laid-back**—stash those designer duds for when you're strutting at a White Lotus resort.
3. **Parrots can be a real handful!** But it's their turf, so if a mated pair swoops down on you while you're chilling on your resort balcony, just graciously vacate, at least temporarily.
4. **The island has many free-roaming donkeys.** Watch for them on the roads and visit the sanctuary if you get a chance.
5. **Tip the roulette dealer at change-out.** Tip too often? They'll raise an eyebrow and switch the dealer—stat.

### 5 Things to DO

1. **Schedule a tour!** As a traveler, it's your duty to explore the island, and a tour will provide you with valuable insights. We also suggest visiting the Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, located near Rincon.
2. **Dive or snorkel 1000 Steps**—I'll never forget tumbling through the waves with sea turtles or the music of coral remains being tossed in the waves.
3. **Experience the thrill of a night dive**—the island is teeming with dive shops. Be sure to inquire about guided dives available during both day and night.
4. **Discover Bonaire's historical cave paintings** and experience the ocean's power at Boka Onima (just remember to secure your vehicle as you wander the site).
5. **Rent a vehicle** (preferably a truck with clearance to enter the Washington-Slagbaai National Park, and with plenty of room in the back for your wet, sandy gear) to truly explore.

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