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## **BONAIRE BRIEFS**

### **- Island News and Hotel Happenings -**

Kralendijk, Bonaire – (February 3, 2006) – The Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire offers something for everyone - families, divers, adventurers and sun seekers. Helping to make vacationing in Bonaire easy, relaxing and fun, here is some of the latest news from the Island.

### **All Around the Island**

**ABK BOARDSPORTS WINDSURFING CLINICS** – ABK Boardsports Teams will host five-day Lac Bay Windsurfing Clinics March 11-18, March 18-25, July 8-15 and July 29-August 5. Phone: 1-800-252-1070, Email: [info@sailboardvacations.com](mailto:info@sailboardvacations.com), Website: [www.sailboardvacations.com](http://www.sailboardvacations.com).

**BONAIRE DINING GUIDE** – The new edition of the Bonaire Dining Guide and Recipe book is now available at locations all around the island. This year, in addition to featured recipes, there are numerous coupons that visitors can clip to redeem at participating eateries and businesses.

**BONAIRE NATIONAL MARINE PARK (BNMP)** – The BNMP has launched a re-forestation of Klein Bonaire project, with the objective to have fruit plants that are native to Bonaire replanted on the island. Volunteer are needed for this project (email [info@stinapa.org](mailto:info@stinapa.org)). Reminder: All people using the waters around Bonaire must pay the BNMP fee - \$25 per year/\$10 per day for divers; \$10 per year/\$2 per day for all others using the waters. Tags, which also provide entrance to Washington-Slagbaai National Park for the year they are valid, are available at locations throughout the island.

**BONAIRE TOURS & VACATIONS** – Assuring maximum passenger comfort and enjoyment Bonaire Tour & Vacations has added new buses to its fleet. The new fleet includes an air-conditioned 12-seat Mercedes Sprinter mini bus and custom-designed Volkswagen touring buses. Phone: 011-599-717-8778, Email: [info@bonairetours.com](mailto:info@bonairetours.com), Website: [www.bonairetours.com](http://www.bonairetours.com).

**DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE** – Photo Tours Divers and Bonaire Yellow Submarine, both divisions of Dive Friends Bonaire were awarded Dive Operation of the Year for the second consecutive year by the Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association. Dive Friends Bonaire has four locations in Bonaire. Phone: 011-599-717-2929, Email: [info@dive-friends-bonaire.com](mailto:info@dive-friends-bonaire.com), Website: [www.dive-friends-bonaire.com](http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com).

**DONKEY SANCTUARY** – The Caribbean's first DonkeyCam has been launched at [www.donkeycam.com](http://www.donkeycam.com) thanks to a donation by Richard Mann of New Hampshire, through Support Bonaire, and additional funding and technical assistance from Caribbean WebCams. In March 2006 Donkey Sanctuary Bonaire will premiere a Donkey Paradise Safari Park, a drive-through safari-like experience. Website: [www.donkeysanctuary.org](http://www.donkeysanctuary.org).

**DUTCH ANTILLES EXPRESS (DAE)** – DAE’s new call center is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Phone: 011-599-717-0808, Fax: 011-599-717-0880, Email: [reservations@flydae.com](mailto:reservations@flydae.com)). The airline has also announced that soon people will be able to book flights online at [www.flydae.com](http://www.flydae.com). The airline’s new flight schedule includes multiple round-trip flights per day between Bonaire and Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten.

**MACHO SCOOTER RENTALS** – New Peugeot Viva City 50 cc and Ludix 50 cc scooters and mopeds are now available for rent. On island visit their office at Plaza Resort Bonaire. Phone: 011-599-717-2500, Email: [machoscooterrentals@yahoo.com](mailto:machoscooterrentals@yahoo.com).

**PLANTATION HOUSE** – Construction on a butterfly farm at the new Plantation House (Landhuis De Plantage) will begin in February 2006. The eco-project, which will feature a large greenhouse with plants, ponds with fish and butterflies, will be located on Kaminda Lac 101. The farm is expected to be open in June 2006 and is a member of the International Association of Butterfly Exhibitions. Email: [info@butterflyhouse.info](mailto:info@butterflyhouse.info), Website: [www.butterflyhouse.info](http://www.butterflyhouse.info).

**PAPIAMENTU PHRASEBOOK** – A new phrasebook for Papiamentu, the Creole spoken locally on Bonaire is now available. The book provides information on island road signs, words for foods, as well as the sentences that are commonly exchanged as part of day-to-day life. Information about the history and grammar of the language and the practices and beliefs of the people who live in Netherlands Antilles is also included. The book can be purchased for \$10 from a number of locations including the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) office on island.

**WASHINGTON-SLAGBAAI NATIONAL PARK** – A “Scientists House” has been added at the entrance to the Park. Ideal for researchers, the solar-powered house features two-bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, a roomy living and kitchen area with a big table where the researchers can do their work. With the addition of this building more scientists and/or students will be able to do research in the national parks.

**WANNADIVE BONAIRE** – Wannadive Bonaire has opened its fourth location at the Golden Reef Inn. The full service dive shop offers a large central dive locker, showers, rinse basins and multi-lingual PADI dive instruction. A rental and retail shop will be added soon. Phone: 011-599-717-8850, Email: [info@wannadive.com](mailto:info@wannadive.com), Website: [www.wannadive.com](http://www.wannadive.com).

### New Bonaire Websites

**BONAIRE VACATION RENTALS** – [www.bonairediving.org](http://www.bonairediving.org) provides information on Bonaire Vacation Rentals’ properties which include Coco Palm Garden/Casa Oleander, Ocean View Villas and Happy Holiday Homes, and Dive Friends Bonaire dive centers.

**DUTCH CARIBBEAN NATURE ALLIANCE** – [www.DCNAnature.org](http://www.DCNAnature.org) provides information on issues of biodiversity and conservation within the Dutch Caribbean and protected areas, habitats, ecosystems and endemic, endangered and vulnerable species, details of ongoing projects on conservation, management and capacity building, and the organization itself.

**KUNUKU WARAHAMA** – The horseback riding academy has launched a new website at [www.horsebackridingbonaire.com](http://www.horsebackridingbonaire.com) and now has more horses.

### Delectable Treats – Restaurant News

**ANTHONY’S EXTREME CUISINE** – With renowned chefs, Frank Goeloe and Anthony Anthony in the kitchen Anthony’s Extreme Cuisine offers a fusion of traditional Bonairean and

Caribbean cuisines. The restaurant is located at Kaya Prinses Marie #8 in Kralendijk and is open Monday to Friday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for lunch and Monday to Saturday 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for dinner. Phone: 011-599-717-4311.

**DEN LAMAN RESTAURANT** – Situated at the same oceanfront location where the former Den Laman had been, the new Den Laman features a state-of-the-art open kitchen and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner in a relaxed but elegant setting. Den Laman Condominiums is located above the restaurant. The restaurant is located at Kaya Gob. N Debrot 77. Phone: 011-599-717-4106, Email: [denlaman@mac.com](mailto:denlaman@mac.com).

**RESTAURANT MEZANI** – Restaurant Mezani, meaning dining room in Swahili, welcomes guests with a cozy atmosphere and international cuisine. The menu offers a great variety including a children's menu. Restaurant Mezani is situated on Kaya L.D. Gerharts in Kralendijk and is open from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (the kitchen is open until 10:00 p.m.). Phone: 011-599-717-8454.

### On the Hotel Scene

**BELMAR OCEANFRONT APARTMENTS** – Recent upgrades include the refurbishment and extension of the front office and dive shop. A cozy corner where guests can enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee/tea with a freshly baked croissant or muffin has been created and Wi Fi has been added. In the guestrooms, vanity cabinets in bathrooms have been replaced and new fabric curtains have been added in all bedrooms and living rooms. To celebrate these and other upgrades Belmar is offering a summer special – June, July and August 2006 every 7<sup>th</sup> night is free, a discount of nearly 15%. Phone: 1-888-655-0605, Email: [info@belmar-bonaire.com](mailto:info@belmar-bonaire.com), Website: [www.belmar-bonaire.com](http://www.belmar-bonaire.com).

**BLACK DURGON INN & SCUBA CENTER** – Specializing in bringing students or uneasy divers to a proficient comfort level, Black Durgon announces Special Personalized 2006 Package Weeks: \*Go-Pro Week (October 28-November 4): SSI Instructor, DiveCon/Dive Master, (Assistant Instructor) Course and Evaluations; Quality Time (June 17-24): Interact with your children; Bonaire Beginnings (August 26-September 2): Skill enhancement for divers and want-to-be-divers; Bonaire Beyond (December 9-16): Adventure diving away from the norm (east coast and wreck diving); Senior's Week (December 2-9); and Single's Week (September 23-30). Packages include accommodations, breakfast, lunch, five dinners, island tours, diving, snorkeling and more for \$699 per person based on double occupancy (\*Call for Go Pro pricing). Phone: 011-599-717-5736, Email: [bonaire@blackdurgon.com](mailto:bonaire@blackdurgon.com), Website: [www.blackdurgon.com](http://www.blackdurgon.com).

**BRUCE BOWKER'S CARIB INN** – Guests who have their own laptops can now enjoy getting email and catching up on the internet with the Inn's new free wireless internet access. Valid through November 2006 "Bruce's Special" includes seven nights in Pool Patio room, six days of unlimited shore diving (for boat dives add \$15 per trip) and taxes for just \$488.95 per person, based on double occupancy. Phone: 011-599-717-8819, Email: [info@caribinn.com](mailto:info@caribinn.com), Website: [www.caribinn.com](http://www.caribinn.com).

**BUDDY DIVE RESORT** – In September 2006 Buddy Dive Resort will for the third consecutive year welcome well known naturalists, marine biologists and authors Ned and Anna DeLoach. Throughout the month they will conduct seminars and lectures, and lead guided dives and mangrove snorkels. In celebration of their return to the resort, Buddy Dive is offering a Buddies Dive For Free, plus Free Unlimited Nitrox special (every second diver dives free and gets unlimited Nitrox). In September Drive & Dive packages start at \$547 per person based on six

people. Phone: 1-866-GO-BUDDY, Email: [reservations@buddydive.com](mailto:reservations@buddydive.com), Website: [www.buddydive.com](http://www.buddydive.com).

**DEN LAMAN CONDOMINIUMS** – This summer Den Laman is offering an Island Explorer Package in conjunction with Bonaire Dive & Adventure, its on-site dive and adventure center. As of April 15, 2006, seven-night packages including accommodations in a fully air-conditioned waterfront unit, seven days rental car, five adventures (activities include mangrove kayaking, nature tours, mountain biking, sea kayaking, island tours, cave exploration or land sailing, and are suitable for all ages and abilities) and government room tax begins as low as \$691 per person based on double occupancy. Call: 1-800-382-1094, Email: [denlaman@diveres.com](mailto:denlaman@diveres.com), Website: [www.denlaman.com](http://www.denlaman.com).

**DIVI FLAMINGO BEACH RESORT & CASINO** – In mid-January 2006 Divi Flamingo celebrated the opening of the Flamingo Balashi Beach Bar. The new bar is located right over the water next to the Calabas pier. It is open daily 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with happy hour from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. daily. The bar hosts a Managers Cocktail Party each Friday and Ladies Wine and Cheese Night each Tuesday. In January Divi Flamingo also welcomed its new General Manager, Sara Matera. Seven-night dive packages are priced from \$827 per person based on double occupancy. Phone: 1-800-367-3484, Website: [www.diviflamingo.com](http://www.diviflamingo.com).

**EDEN BEACH RESORT** – Eden Beach Resort announces new rooftop studio rooms with views and outside patio terrace seating. This property features a 400 foot white-sand beach, pool, restaurant and bar. Phone: 011-599-717-6720, Website: [www.edenbeach.com](http://www.edenbeach.com).

**HARBOUR VILLAGE BEACH CLUB** – Harbour Village's Free Diving Week will take place June 17-24, 2006. Packages from \$1,157 per person based on double occupancy including seven nights in a luxurious one- or two-bedroom Beachfront Suite, full American breakfast daily, six days of diving (one-tank boat dive per day), unlimited shore diving, use of tanks, weights and belts, unlimited use of the fitness center, tennis courts, kayaks and sailboats, round-trip airport transfers and free internet access. Email: [reservationsusa@harbourvillage.com](mailto:reservationsusa@harbourvillage.com), Website: [www.harbourvillage.com/freediving](http://www.harbourvillage.com/freediving).

**KONTIKI BEACH RESORT** – KonTiki Beach Resort's 2006 dive package includes seven days accommodations in a studio at KonTiki Beach Resort, seven days car rental (pick-up truck), six days unlimited air with Wannadive Bonaire and all taxes and service charges. The special package rate is \$444 per person based on double occupancy (Bookings code: KBR-D06) and the package is valid from June 1 to November 30, 2006. Phone: 011-599-717-5369, Email: [info@kontikibonaire.com](mailto:info@kontikibonaire.com), Website: [www.kontikibonaire.com](http://www.kontikibonaire.com).

**SAND DOLLAR CONDOMINIUM RESORT** – Sand Dollar Condominium owners, hotel staff and dive staff have joined forces to institute a pilot program dedicated to the production of artificial reefs. As part of this program with the Bonaire National Marine Park, Sand Dollar built and placed a total of twenty, 600 pound Reef Balls most of them into the water immediately in front of Sand Dollar and adjacent to Bari Reef in late January 2006. Website: <http://www.divesanddollar.com/reefballs.html>, Email: [usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com](mailto:usreservations@sanddollarbonaire.com), Phone: 1-800-288-4773.

**SUNRENTALS** – SunRentals has completed the renovation of all one-bedroom Bonaire Oceanfront Apartments. Apartments which were repainted feature new bathrooms and kitchens and restyled living rooms. 2006 rates including service charge and tourist tax from \$100 per unit,

per night. Kids up to 12 are free in room with parents. Phone: 1-866-464-1786, Email: [info@sunrentals.an](mailto:info@sunrentals.an), Website: [www.sunrentals.an](http://www.sunrentals.an).

**ZAMBEZI LODGE** – This year Zambezi Lodge, with authentic African styling of thatched roof, open dining hut, pool, full service dive shop and mini spa, will be built south of Kralendijk. The upscale, all-inclusive, boutique property and dive resort will feature 17 spacious guestrooms with four-poster beds, and every modern convenience. Guests will be able to take part in a Bonaire dine around program and the hotel will only be open to visitors over 16 years of age. Nick Davies, former manager of Harbour Village Beach Club and Captain Don's Habitat will manage the property. Phone: 011-599-717-2606, Email: [info@zambezilodge.com](mailto:info@zambezilodge.com), Website: [www.zambezilodge.com](http://www.zambezilodge.com).

Located eighty-six miles east of Aruba, the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire offers year-round sunshine, pristine coral formations and the most thriving fish population in the Caribbean. Ideal for adventurers, explorers and sun-worshippers alike, Bonaire offers myriad eco-adventure activities including world renowned scuba diving and snorkeling, windsurfing, mountain biking, kayaking, horseback riding, nature tours, hiking, bird watching, sailing and deep sea and bone fishing. And with a selection of accommodations ranging from full-service oceanfront resorts and condominiums to guesthouses and small inns, Bonaire has something for every lifestyle and budget. For more information on Bonaire, contact the Tourism Corporation Bonaire in the U.S. at 1-800-BONAIRE or visit Bonaire's official website at [www.InfoBonaire.com](http://www.InfoBonaire.com).

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