

THE VILLAGES SCUBA CLUB RETURNS TO BONAIRE!

**Dates of trip:
Sept. 9 - 16, 2023. SEVEN NIGHTS.**

**Join us on this fabulous ALL INCLUSIVE trip starting at only
\$1352.00 pp/double occupancy! (Air travel not included.)**



Our accommodations: Van Der Valk Plaza Beach Resort.



Bonaire is one of the Caribbean's famous ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao). It is the most famous for its shore diving and pristine reefs. Among many other wonderful underwater creatures, Bonaire is famous for its seahorses (though there are no guarantees of seeing one).

LAND PACKAGE INCLUDES (too good to be true but it is):

7 nights in your selected accommodation (see below).

Buffet style breakfast, lunch, and dinner (with live cooking stations). One full restaurant and two beachside bars.

Unlimited amounts of soft drinks, juices, brewed coffee, tea, beer, house wine, premium drink cocktails.

SIX-DAYS, 2-TANKS MORNING BOAT DIVING (you must be certified).

Unlimited shore diving, except for day of arrival and departure (you must be certified). You can shore dive from the sandy beach located on the premises.

Tanks, weights & weight belts.

FREE Nitrox upgrade (you must be certified).

Activities at the resort other than diving include: snorkeling, kayaking, beach volleyball, beach tennis, paddle boarding, and an on-site casino.

Beach chairs & pool towels.

Round trip airport transfers.

All Government taxes.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

All rooms include air-conditioning, a balcony or patio, satellite and national television, WiFi, a hot water boiler for tea or coffee (instant), mini refrigerators, a hair dryer, a private bath and shower, and a safe deposit box. Price options for scuba divers (NON-DIVERS CAN DEDUCT \$345.00):

Option 1: Jr. Suite Laguna (Harbor view) (closer to the dive shop) (2 queen

beds):

SINGLE: \$1964.00 pp

DOUBLE: \$1352.00 pp

Option 2: Jr. Suite Pool Side (closer to the dive shop) (2 queen beds):

SINGLE: \$2076 pp

DOUBLE: \$1408.00 pp

Option 3: Grand Suite Laguna (Harbor view) (closer to the restaurant) (King or 2 queen beds):

SINGLE: \$2188.00 pp

DOUBLE: \$1464.00 pp

Option 4: Grand Suite Ocean View (closer to the restaurant) (King or 2 queen beds):

SINGLE: \$2328.00 pp

DOUBLE: \$1534.00 pp

NOTE: Participants must find their own roommates. I will help, but the final decision is up to you.

NOTE: TRIPLE person room rates will be slightly less.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE LAND PACKAGE:

Air travel. United, Delta and American Air are options. We like to fly as a group (wait for me to book); and we'll take a group van to the airport if enough people are interested (about \$80 round trip). But, you are not obligated to fly with the group. I will still arrange your transport from the airport to the resort.

Valet Diving: For \$120.00 the shop will take care of all your gear. Once you bring it to the boat on day 1, you won't need to touch it again until you leave!

Afternoon Boat diving add-on package:

5 days, 1-tank: \$120.00.

5-days, 2-tanks for \$240.00.

NOTE: Must be paid in advance to get this rate. Otherwise, it'll cost you twice as much (see below).

Non-package boat dives (approximate):

1-tank: \$54.00 2-tank: \$70.00

NOTE: Boat dives include an underwater Dive Master guide. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that you follow the Dive Master.

Tips for boat personnel. Please be generous.

Tips for restaurant and housekeeping. Please be generous.

Car or truck. The tour desk can help you handle rental. It's approximately \$50/day. Gas is not included. **NOTE:** You don't really need a car/truck. There is great shore and boat diving right at the Resort. But, some people are "born to explore" the outer reaches of the island.

A Marine Park Tag must be purchased online at stinapa.bonairenaturefee.org (\$45.00/divers; \$25.00/snorkelers).

Visitor Entry Tax must be paid online at www.bonaireisland.com a few days prior to arrival (USD \$75).

Dive gear (except tanks, weights and weight belts). You can rent dive gear. Ask me about rates.

Travel insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED).

MISCELLANEOUS:

There is a large open locker room at the Toucan Dive Shop where you can store your equipment and hang your wetsuit/skins. It stays locked and is accessible with your room key card.

Visit the beautiful pool and outside bar!

The resort does not have a coin laundry. For a fee, housekeeping will launder items. Charges are based on the item.

Bonaire accepts US dollars, Visa, MasterCard and AmEx.

Bonaire has the same time zone as we do.

YOU DON'T NEED SPECIAL ELECTRICAL ADAPTERS. Your charging devices will work in your room outlets.

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS DUE:

\$200.00 deposit due from each participant **NOW** to reserve your spot (**refundable based on the Cancellation Policy below**). **Final** payment is due on or before July 5, 2022.

Make checks payable to Joanne Sargent, and mail to 1732 Meadowlark Ave., The Villages, FL 32162. Be sure to specify which suite option you're choosing, if

you prefer first or second floor, whether you want to include any ad-ons (valet diving or afternoon boat diving), whether you don't want the boat diving package included because you only want to do shore diving, and if anyone in your room is a non-diver. NOTE: THE BOATS WILL FILL UP FAST, SO GET YOUR DEPOSIT IN EARLY TO RESERVE A POSITION. IF THE BOATS ARE FULL, EXCELLENT SHORE DIVING IS YOUR OPTION, AND I WILL ADJUST THE PACKAGE PRICE ACCORDINGLY.

Joanne's Contact info:
Divadiver305@icloud.com
(cell) 305-989-7789

CANCELLATION POLICY

No penalty for rooms canceled outside of 60 days prior.

60 – 31 days prior to arrival = 25% of total cost.

30 – 7 days prior to arrival = 50% of total cost.

6 – 1 days prior to arrival = 75% of total cost.

Within 24 hours of arrival = 100% non-refundable.

No shows are non-refundable.

No refunds for un-used portion of package.

Any cancellations within the 60 days must be done directly through the resort, not the Trip Leader.

FUN FACTS ABOUT BONAIRE

The island of Bonaire was discovered in 1499 and has an area of 114 sq. mi. It is located less than 100 miles north of South America. Bonaire lies outside the hurricane belt and is populated by 22,000 people who are living in peace and harmony.

Bonaire's National bird, the Caribbean Flamingo, nests every year (only one egg) in the protected sanctuary, which is an island in the middle of the Saltworks at the Southern part of Bonaire; above which is a no-fly zone for airplanes, drones, etc.!

Bonaire has been creating sea salt for more than four centuries and began exporting the salt to the Netherlands in 1636. Nowadays, Bonaire is producing more than 500,000 tons per year by evaporating seawater by wind and sun. Organisms that can survive in extreme salinity are the "Halophiles" algae, also called "salt lovers". One of these Halophiles is the Dunaliella, and they are also the ones who are coloring the crystallizers beautiful pink!