

HOW TO AVOID THE OTHER TOURISTS

See what makes Curacao special. Exquisite beaches, spectacular diving, stunning architecture, adventures for every interest - plus multicultural diversity, intriguing music, art and cuisine. Experience the best of Curacao and escape to the Caribbean's hidden treasure.

Curacao, or in Papiamentu (the local language) Kòrsou, is an island situated in the Southern Caribbean Sea, off the coast of Venezuela. The country of Curacao consists of the main island and the small, uninhabited island 'Klein Curacao' (Little Curacao). The origin of the word Curacao can be explained through different theories. One of the most likely explanations stems from the word "Corazon" (Heart), which is the word the Spanish used to describe the island at some point. This word got corrupted by famous Portuguese mapmakers through their own language into Curacau or Curacao. Today the island is locally known as "Dushi Kòrsou" (Sweet Curacao).

This guide is not just a summary of all the cafés, shops, beaches or bars one can find on the island. The places have been selected by us and locals from Curacao who have shown us their favorite places. These are both known and unknown places to tourists. We have selected the funniest, most beautiful, striking, exclusive or most ordinary restaurants, bars, beaches, cafés, shops, and arts & entertainment. Walking tours and driving tours have been mapped out which will make it easy for you to visit these amazing places.

So, get of your beach chair, leave your cocktail for a moment and start experiencing what the versatile Curacao has in store for you!

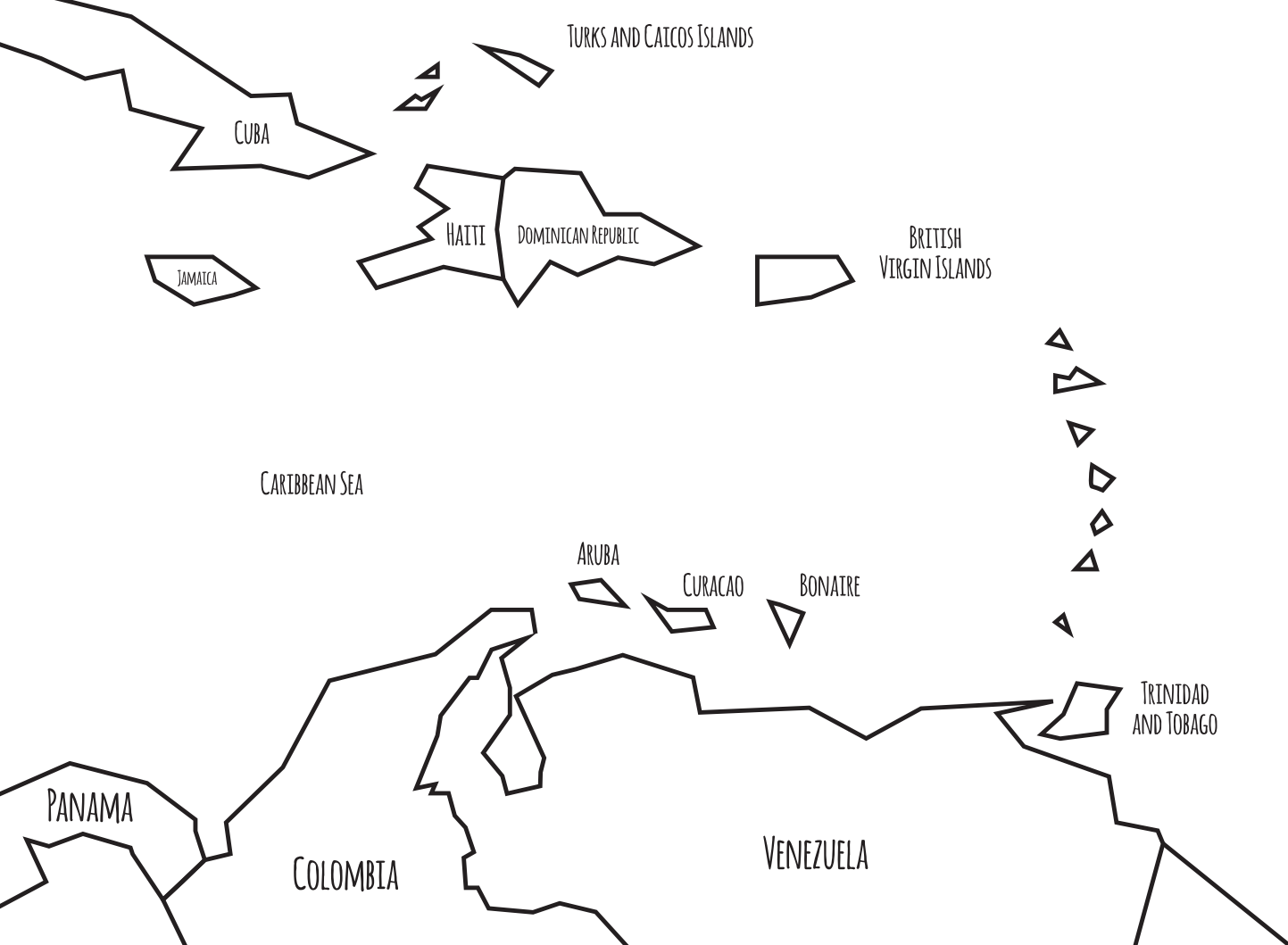
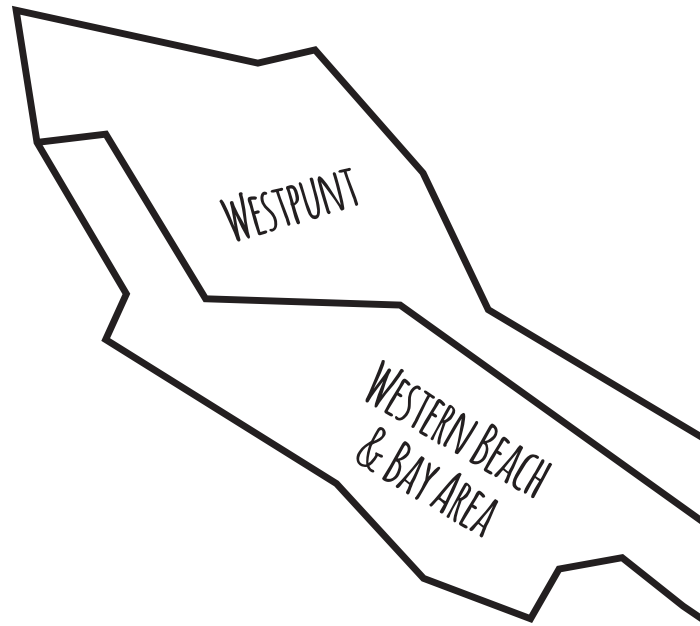
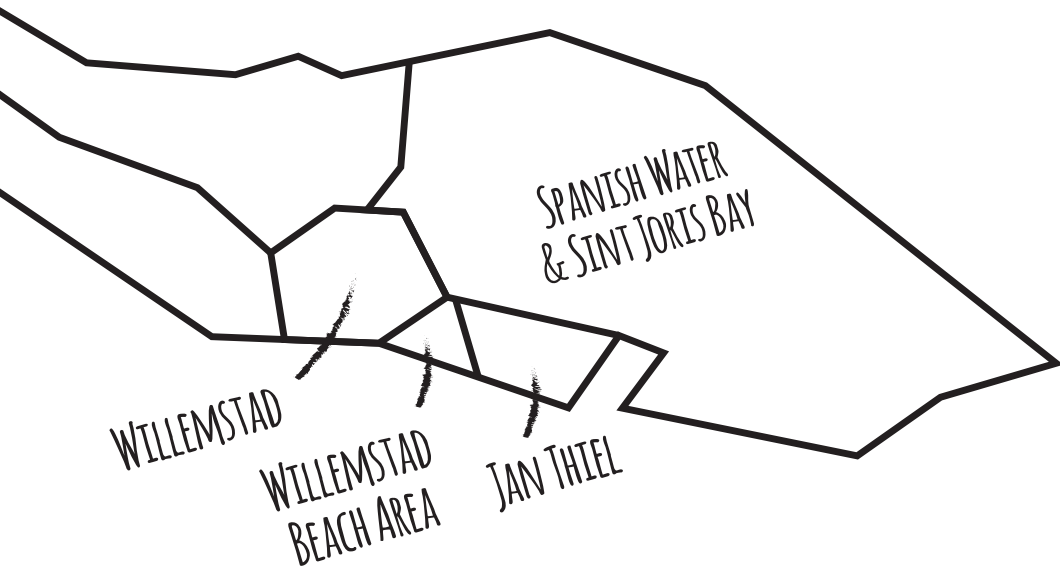


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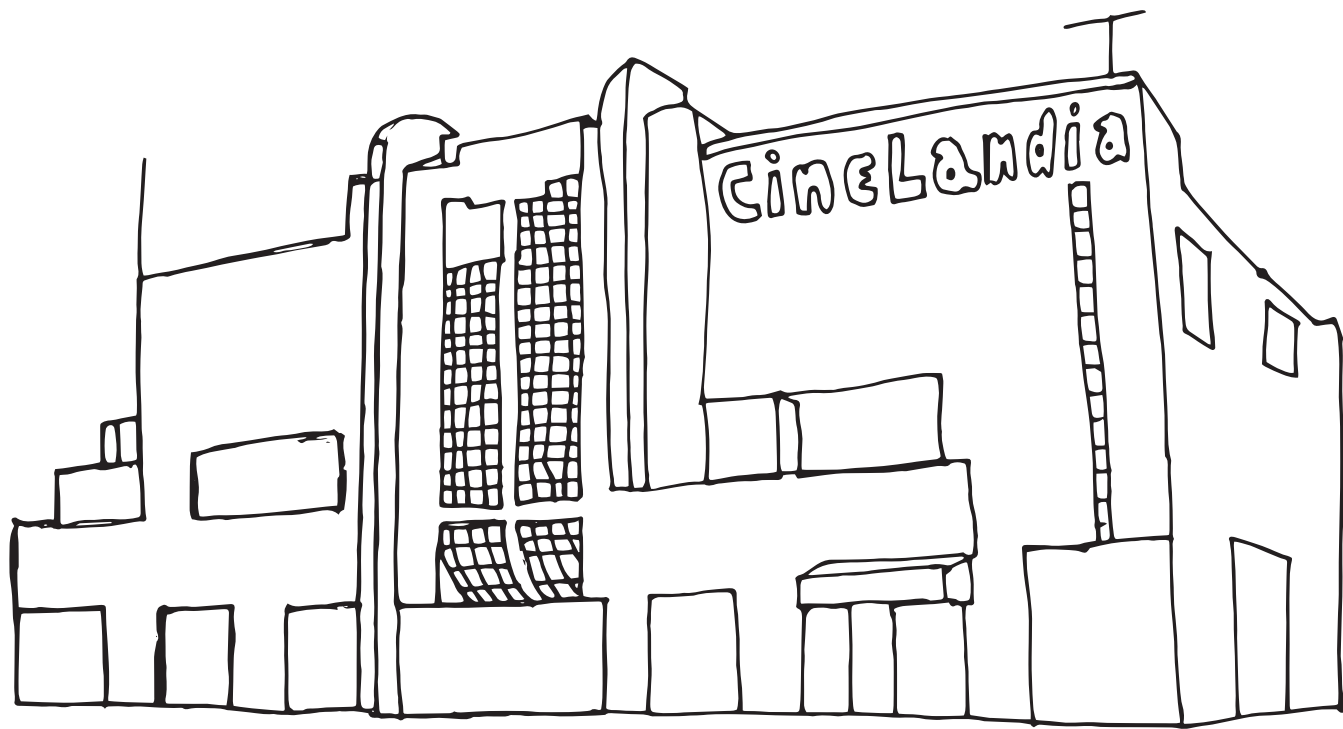
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CURACAO

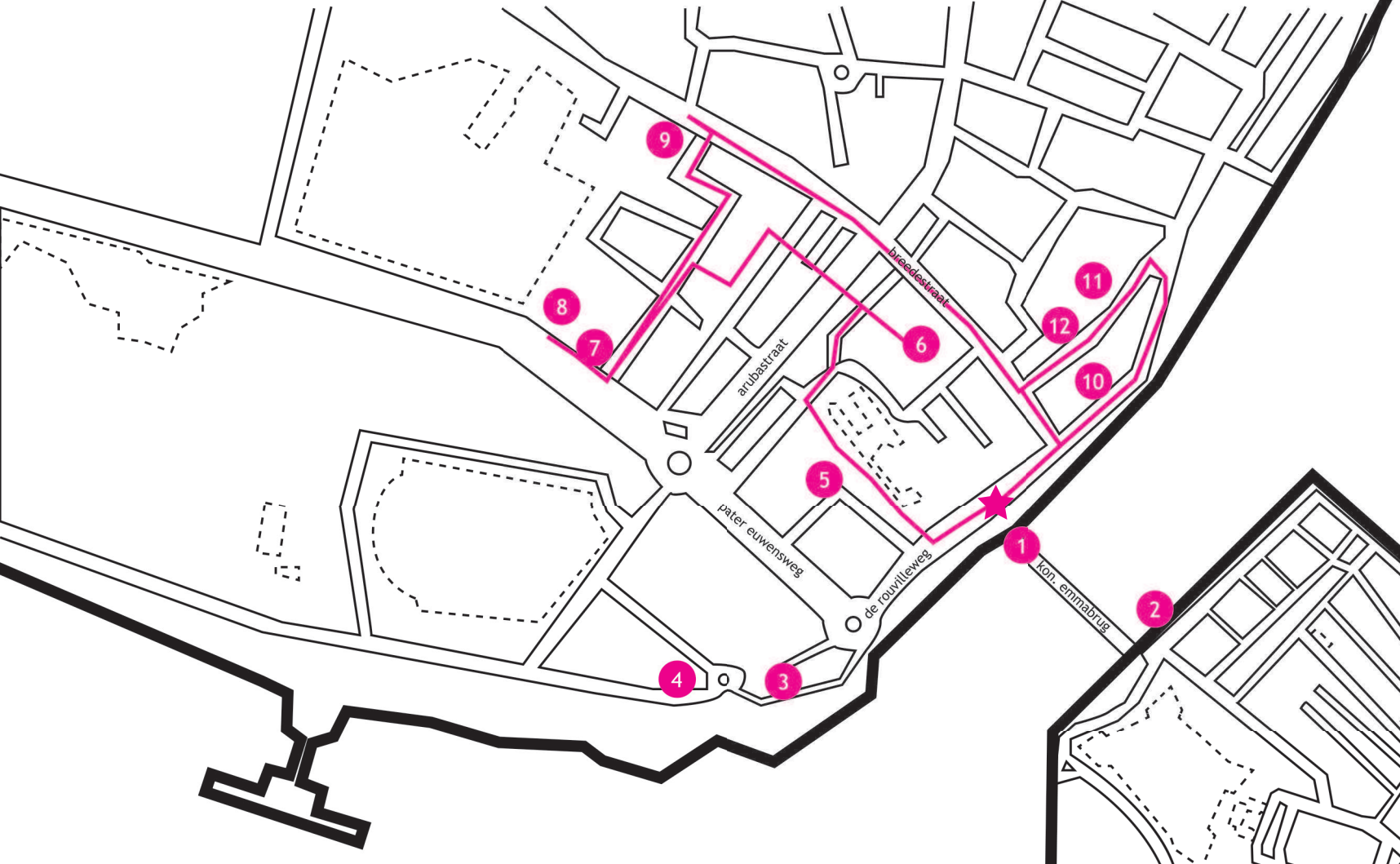




CINELANDIA



OTROBANDA



RIFFORT (3)

The Riffort, often referred to as Riffort, is a fortress on the corner of the district Otrobanda and the St. Anna Bay built in 1829. For years it served as a defense for Otrobanda. The last time it was used as such was during World War II. After the war the fort had no function for a long period of time. Only in 2002 it was converted into the Riffort Village: a combination of shops and restaurants within a unique setting. A few years later, the Renaissance Mall was added. This outdoor mall led to an expansion into more than fifty shops and restaurants. Many of the shops are high-end, which mainly targets cruise ship passengers arriving at the nearby cruise terminal. You can walk up the Fort walls and enjoy the amazing view of Punda.

RENAISSANCE MALL (4)

Renaissance Mall is home to the most luxurious brand names in Curacao. Brands like AD, Breitling, Mango, Montblanc, Tiffany & Co, Starbucks, Armani Exchange, Hilfiger Denim, Paul & Shark, Sunspecs and many more. The mall is on a short walking distance from the pontoon bridge, and next to the impressive Mega Pier on which amazing Cruise Ships dock when they visit Curacao.

MOLENPLEIN 12-19 (5)

This spacious and exceptional merchant's house was built in 1750, in the heyday of the Curacao baroque architectural style. Some dozens of meters to the North-West of this house stood 'de Vreede' the only grain mill the Otrobanda area has known. The purchase-agreement from 1746 says that the house built on this lot could not be higher than two floors and a roof. This was to make sure that the building would not reduce the wind to the grain mill. Until the middle of the 20th century this building was used as a residence. In 1980 the property was bought by Stichting Monumentenzorg Curacao which restored the building, now part of the protected UNESCO heritage of Otrobanda.

SANTA ANA CHURCH (6)

Founded in 1752, Otrobanda's Basilica Santa Ana was elevated to basilica and co-cathedral status by Pope Paul VI in 1975. The basilica also served as a pro-cathedral between 1843 and 1958.

VRIJMETSELAARSLÖGE (7)

In the course of 1831 a number of soldiers and civilians gathered with the aim to found a Masonic Lodge in Willemstad, in addition to the Vrijmetselaarslodges (Masonic Lodges) in the Netherlands. The installation of the Lodge “De Eensgezindheid” took place on May 11 1833 in the presence of representatives of the Lodges the “Vrij Geweten” from Breda, “L’ inseparable” from Bergen op Zoom and “La Flamboyant” from Dordrecht. Unfortunately, there is no mention of the place in Willemstad, where the installation took place.

YUBI KIRINDONGO (8)

Kirindongo was born in Curacao and arrived in Europe in 1965. He came to Europe as a stowaway on a freighter. In Germany, his artistic talent was discovered by the author Hubert Fichte. He then worked as a nurse and as a boxer. He has been in prison, married, and returned to Curacao again in 1976. Kirindongo began as a painter, and participated in an exhibition in 1973 in The Hague. His work was called promising. Back in Curacao, he then made works of discarded bumpers and other waste.

NETTO BAR (9)

Netto Bar, which is situated across the building of Landsloterij in the Breedestraat 143 in Otrobanda, was opened on 18 December 1954. The initial idea was to open it on 15 December which was a national holiday, but due to some remodeling of the interior Netto wanted to have finished, the opening was delayed with 3 days. In the approximately 60 years of existence the bar has always kept its characteristics - these are: a place with a good collection of drinks of all sorts, a place where all customers are treated cordially and correct. And additionally the bar has always remained a quiet and decent place where people from all social backgrounds meet, talk and enjoy good music and among other things, enjoy the famous Ròm Bèrdè. The coziness is, among other things, created by the unique tiles of the previous century. Its tables and chairs beckon passers-by to come in and sit down for a while. The walls have turned into a unique gallery of impressive pictures of the conserved monuments of Curacao which have put Curacao on the World Heritage List. Watching the pictures will enable you to enjoy and remember those glorious moments of the city center. You will be enchanted by the beautiful pictures of the Dutch Royal Family in general, but also by the picture of His Royal Highness Willem Alexander which was taken when he visited Netto Bar in 1999. Once you have visited Netto Bar you will return to this unique bar and experience its magic once again.

TUGBOAT

