Your Buddies on Bonaire
Divers Paradise
Contact your favorite travel specialist

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Bonaire, Divers Paradise

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Bonaire is an island small in size but filled with dynamic opportunities for diving, eco–adventures, or simply enjoying the laidback slow pace, and tranquility that is a way of life here.

The island is located in the southern Caribbean, outside the hurricane belt close to Aruba and Curacao which are only respectively 86 and 30 miles (138 and 48 kilometers) away. Bonaire is just a 3 hour flight from Miami and approximately a nine hour flight from Europe.

On October 10th 2010 Bonaire ceased to be part of The Netherlands Antilles and became a municipality of The Netherlands, however the official local currency is the US Dollar.

The island’s strong ties with The Netherlands guarantee even more benefits to what the island already enjoys: good education, justice, and a stable financial structure that serves the wellbeing of both Bonaire’s population and its visitors.

Consistently rated as the top dive destination in the world and as a pioneer in preserving nature, Bonaire is indeed a dream for every diver. Over eighty dive sites, many of which are easily accessible by shore, truly make Bonaire the shore diving capital of the world. However this boomerang-shaped island, 24 miles (39 kilometers) long by 3–5 miles (5–8 kilometers) wide, also offers a variety of activities for those who do not dive.

The eastern mangroves, the “nursery of the reef”, is best discovered by kayak, while on the western part of the island, several caves are open for guided tours to explore this unknown and mystical side of Bonaire. Lac Bay in the south has near perfect windsurfing conditions, making the area ideal for beginners and advanced windsurfers alike, whereas the hilly landscape in the north is every mountain bikers dream. Klein Bonaire, a small deserted island a mile off Bonaire’s coast, is well known for its turtle hatching area and beaches.

The clear waters are ideal for snorkeling and sunbathing. Diving, kayaking, caving, snorkeling, mountain biking, wind- or kite-surfing, bird watching, hiking, or just relaxing and re-energizing from the real world’s stress: you name it and you will find it on Bonaire.

Constant trade winds from the east ensure a pleasant breeze over the 112-square mile (290 square kilometers) island. Although influenced by a dry climate, Bonaire has three distinctive land types. The central region is semiarid, while the southern region is flat and wide open with a unique mangrove system and salt pans.
The northern part is more green and hilly. With a height of 714 feet (218 meters), Brandaris is Bonaire’s highest point. An average annual rainfall of 22 inches (56 cm), an almost constant water temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius), and a slightly higher air temperature of 82 degrees Fahrenheit (28 degrees Celsius), makes Bonaire a pleasant environment in which to vacation.

Bonaire’s population is a rich mixture of several cultures and dates back to around 1000 AD, the era of the Arawak Indians, when the Caiquetios sailed across from what is now Venezuela. Traces of their culture still can be found on various archaeological sites. Slaves were brought from Africa in the early 1600s. Historical landmarks from this dark period in history are still visible on the island. Most eye-catching and impressive are, of course, the slave huts on the southern tip of the island. Although defined by diversity, Bonaire’s rich culture is heavily influenced by African elements. Songs and dances of the slaves, created to deal with their inhumane treatment, are kept alive by the people of Bonaire. African styles have been creatively mixed with cultural influences of the island’s occupants, such as the Spaniards and the Dutch. Friendly and warm are the best ways to describe the people behind the bright smiles for which Bonaireans are so famous.

While Dutch and Papiamentu are the official languages, English is widely spoken by most people on the island.

Renting a car is highly recommended as there is no formal public transportation system on the island. Taxis are available at the airport or can be arranged by your hotel.

On Bonaire’s main street, Kaya Grandi, you won’t find busy and overcrowded shops retailing the traditional gadgets and souvenirs you encounter when visiting other main Caribbean tourist destinations. The selection of goods offered are like Bonaire itself: diverse and surprising. We have some shops that offer high quality jewelry while others carry arts and crafts from our local artisans.

For many years, Bonaire’s government has played a leading role in preserving and protecting the nature on the island, both below and above the water. Most significant and well known, of course, is the Bonaire National Marine Park, initiated over thirty years ago at a time when marine parks were unknown.
There are too many highlights and landmarks to list them all in this brochure, but to give you a peek into Bonaire’s rich and diverse natural, cultural and historical treasures here are some tips to assist you on your discovery through Bonaire.

**Goto Lake**

Flamingos are probably Bonaire’s best known trademark. One spot where you almost always have a “flamingo guarantee” is the Goto Lake.

**Salt pan mountains**

Various salt pans shape the landscaping in the wide, flat, open southern region. From a distance they look like snowy mountains, truly amazing and surprising scenery in the tropics.

**Kralendijk**

Driving all the way along the west coast, you will see this small, but lively town that nowadays is the commercial center of the island. Stroll over to Kaya Grandi and visit the various souvenir shops, taste a chilled beer on a terrace, and finish the day with a delicious meal in one of Bonaire’s superb restaurants.
Bonaire, diver’s paradise

With **over 80 marked dive sites** you will find that the type of dive you encounter in the south will be distinct from the type of dive you encounter in the north, or at Klein Bonaire, for that matter.

At Bonaire’s southern dive sites, you’ll enter the water and find a long, shallow, gently sloping shelf. In some areas such as at “The Lake” and “Invisibles” you will encounter a double reef system, where the 2nd reef is much older geologically. In the shallows, large soft coral gorgonians are common, and in the extreme southern sites, encounters with pelagic are possible.

When one looks at Bonaire’s northern geography, it is much hillier, this will follow through to the underwater terrain. On the northern sites, you’ll find everything from a short terrace gently dropping—off at a 45° angle to an exciting sheer wall drop covered in coral outcroppings and sponges waiting to be explored. Here you’ll see large colonies of star and brain corals.

On the small uninhabited island of Klein Bonaire you will discover a bit of everything and due to its popularity among nesting turtles you can expect to see quite a few during your dives & snorkels here.

**From North to South to Klein Bonaire, it’s truly a divers dream come true.**

### Just a Taste of our Dive Sites

#### Buddy’s Reef

An easy entrance just off of the dock at **Buddy Dive** or walk down the stairs. Follow the rope line straight to the reef which drops off at 36 ft (11m). The topography is a steeply sloping reef ending with a sandy bottom at 105 ft (32m). The reef has a wide variety of hard coral and large sponges. If you look closely you will find frogfish among the crevices and sponges hiding out. Expect a large variety of fish; French angelfish, parrotfish, chubs, silversides, groupers, and more.

Large tarpon hang out here and are especially active at night. At 46 ft (14m) a small wreck, called “La Machaca” lies encrusted with life so there is a lot to see in and around the wreck.

*Currently there is a coral nursery located in the sandy area before the drop-off sponsored by Buddy Dive Resort and the Coral Restoration Foundation.*

#### Oil Slick Leap

Located by Caribbean Club Bonaire in the north, the entrance and exit are easy & exciting!

Take a giant leaping-stride off the low cliff wall to enter the water - it is at least 5m deep at its shallowest during low tide making it the most fun way to enter. You may also use the ladder & small platform that was built by Caribbean Club to enter as well as exit. The reef is marked by a buoy that is a quick kick away (about an 8m swim). Descend to the mooring at 10m and you will find the drop-off (bottom here at 24m) soon after which is covered in hard coral formations with patches of soft coral in-between. Look out for rays in the sandy patches and a diverse fish population living in the reef here with the occasional turtle passing through for a snack on the reef.

#### Sara’s Smile

Just step right off the dock at Belmar Oceanfront Apartments and swim out to the house reef.

The reef here has an interesting topography with “hills” covered in hard and soft coral – a great place to spot the unexpected. We have seen everything from turtles and rays to dolphins and even a whale shark here! Due to its location just outside the bay of Kralendijk a lot of animals are traveling through on their way out into the blue.

#### Sampler

Located at the north of Klein Bonaire and only accessible by boat, this dive site truly offers a “sample” of just about everything! The drop-off bottoms out at around 100ft (30m) and the reef is covered in hard and soft coral as well as healthy sponges. Loggerhead, green and hawksbill turtles, octopus, squid and during the night, lobsters will accompany you during your dive.
Bonaire's Dive Sites
World-Class Diving

Dive Sites Klein Bonaire
A. No Name
B. Ebo's Reef
C. Ebo's Special
D. Just A Nice Dive
E. Nearest Point
F. Keepake
G. Ronaventure
H. Monte's Dist Tree
I. Rock Pile
J. Joanne's Sunchi
K. Captain Don's Reef
L. South Bay
M. Hands Off
N. Forest
O. Southwest Corner
P. Funk's Haven
Q. Sharon's Serenity
R. Ti. Duabi
S. Johanna's Revenge
T. Yellow Man
U. Mi Dushi
V. Sharon's Serenity
W. Ebo's Special
X. Leonora's Reef
Y. Knife
Z. Sampler

Dive Sites Bonaire
1. Boka Bartol
2. Playa Benge
3. Playa Funchi
4. Boka Morro
5. Wayaka
6. Boka Slagbaai
7. Nukove (Doiblet)
8. Gare's Vision
9. Karpata
10. La Dania's Leap
11. Rappel
12. Bloodylot
13. Of Blue (Boka di Tolo)
14. Country Garden
15. Bon Bin Na Kas
16. 1000 Steps
17. Weber's Joy (Witch's Hut)
18. Jeff Davis Memorial
19. Kali's Reef
20. Oil Sticke Leap
21. Barakader
22. Andrea II
23. Andrea I
24. Petrie's Pillar
25. Small Wall
26. Clift
27. Las Machaca
28. Reef Scientifico
29. Buddy's Reef
30. Bari Reef
31. Front Porch
32. Something Special
33. Town Pier
34. Calabas Reef
35. Eighteenth Palm
36. Windsock
37. Corporal Mesas (North Belnem)
38. Bachelor's Beach
39. Ghost Hires
40. Lighthouse Point
41. Front Porch\n42. Tree Lake
43. Hilma Hooker
44. Angel City
45. Alice in Wonderland
46. Aquarius
47. Larry's Lair
48. Jeannie's Glory
49. Salt Pier
50. Salt City (Bakayre)
51. Invisibles
52. Tori's Reef
53. Pink Beach (Kabarey)
54. White Slave
55. Margate Bay
56. Red Beryll
57. Atlantis
58. Vinta Blue
59. Sweet Dreams
60. Red Slave (Pelche)
61. Willemstom Lighthouse
62. White Hole
63. Cai

Bonaire, diver's paradise

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Divers, snorkelers, adventurers, and leisure travelers alike will feel equally at home at Buddy Dive.

Complete with two restaurants: Ingridiënts & Blennies, two swimming pools, a Kids Activities and Activity Center, and our own fleet of pick-up trucks, Buddy Dive Resort is the place to be while enjoying your vacation on Bonaire.

At Buddy Dive, we are known for our casual atmosphere, personable staff, spacious accommodations, and a dive operation that keeps the needs and wishes of its guests in mind.

Our guest services include 24 hour front office staff and security on the premises - ensuring you receive the assistance you need at any time.

Our 72 studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments offer the comfort and privacy you desire. All of our apartments have fully equipped kitchens complete with microwave, and refrigerator, while the living rooms are comfortably furnished with cable TV, phones, and fan. You will have direct access to your own private balcony or porch with an astonishing view over the crystal blue ocean or lush tropical gardens.

The bedrooms have twin, or twin-converted to king beds, air-conditioning, a safety deposit box (free-of-charge) and a spacious closet. Each and every bedroom has its own bathroom with toilet and comfortable shower.

An American breakfast buffet awaits you in our Breakfast Restaurant overlooking the ocean and Klein Bonaire.

Lunch is served at Blennies on the beach, with a selection of salads, sandwiches, burgers and daily specials. It is the perfect time to catch all the activity happening on the dive dock below you.

Make a sunset stop at the bar overlooking Klein Bonaire and meet your new (dive) friends to start planning your dinner in either Ingridiënts Restaurant or Blennies Restaurant. International dishes and local music guarantee the food and fun which you’ve been searching for!

The Dive Shop
Bonaire’s best dive operation

Indeed Buddy’s Dive Shop keeps the needs and wishes of divers in mind with comfortable boats, a complete rental and retail center, exceptional staff, and a unique “Drive Thru” with a two-lane air/Nitrox fill station.

Buddy Dive Resort is a member of DAN (Divers Alert Network), as well as a PADI 5-Star Career Development Center, and a Universal Referral Center.
No matter which apartment you choose, you’re never more than a few steps away from our popular and lively house reef which is perfect for diving and snorkeling, day or night.

Buddy Dive Resort: Home of the Drive & Dive package

Buddy Dive Resort has the convenience of its own rental car fleet with over 70 pick-up trucks and vans. When booking our Drive & Dive package, you have everything you need: accommodation, unlimited shore diving, 6 boat dives (optional), free & unlimited air or nitrox, daily buffet breakfast, transfers from/to the airport, and a rental car. Our non-diving guests can exchange the diving for a variety of activities. No more waiting in long lines at the airport! Once you get off the plane, you will be welcomed by our friendly staff.

Transportation is waiting to bring you to the resort. Attend the dive orientation and make your first dive or relax a bit, unpack and once you are all set, come to the front desk to pick up your car.

Fun, friendly, and convenient are just a few words that come to mind to describe Bonaire’s premium dive resort.

Buddy Dive Resort, home of the ORIGINAL “Drive Thru”:
A full service drive through tank exchange & gear rinse/storage

Back in the 80’s guests affectionately called it “McAir” – and with good reason. The introduction of a Drive Thru put Buddy Dive on the map as the easiest, fastest, most convenient place for divers to get their AIR or NITROX “fix”.

In the shore diving capital of the world where surface intervals are carefully calculated for repetitive diving ALL DAY and into the NIGHT, Buddy’s invention of the Drive Thru has been key, keeping our guests stocked with full tanks so they can DIVE, DIVE, DIVE!

Don’t miss our weekly:
Manager’s Rum Punch Party

BBQ
LIVE MUSIC
RUM PUNCH
Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire has long been recognized for its professionalism and quality of service. At Buddy Dive Academy we share our knowledge and secrets with divers who want to become PADI Professional Diving Instructors.

Buddy Dive Academy offers an extensive spectrum of courses, from kids courses like PADI Bubble Maker all the way up to the IDC course, and continuing education for our instructor candidates, like specialty instructor training after the IDC, and TEC Courses at the instructor level.

The Instructor Development Course at Buddy Dive Academy offers the best environment to become a PADI professional. We have the perfect combination of the most important aspects that will guarantee your success on your IDC and future career as a PADI instructor.

The dive operation and instructional staff have earned an industry-wide reputation for excellence that enables us to guarantee you 100% success on your Instructor Examination.

Workshops and instructional scenarios during your IDC will prepare you for real life as a working PADI professional.

Our Instructor Development programs are 3 days longer than the standard 8 day IDC. This allows our program to be more comprehensive and relaxed than the majority of Instructor Development Courses in the region. Your IDC at Buddy includes a free Preparation Course and we also offer the online option (e-Learning) for candidates who have time limitations.

Contact us for more information about all the courses we offer, prices, our IDC course dates, or anything else.

www.buddydive.com/academy
1-866-GO-BUDDY (Toll Free US/Canada only)
+599 717 5080 ext. 525
coursedirector@buddydive.com

“Diving with Buddy is Rockstar Cool”
Guest from Texas, USA.

“Got our AOW, Nitrox, and Fish I.D. certification at Buddy’s, their instructors were first rate”
Guest from Washington D.C. USA.
As a parent considering Bonaire as a potential island to visit, you couldn’t wish for a better place for your children: safe, quiet, shallow water, nice beaches like Donkey beach, Sorobon, or Lac Cai, and lots of fun activities to do.

At all our resorts we offer extensive and well organized kids’ programs for all ages, including a babysitting service for the little ones, and a yearly Kids Sea Camp is organized by Family Dive Adventures. Our Dive Shop & Activity Center can set-up all the excursions, trips, and tours you would like to do, but we also have a fully staffed kids club where your children are taken care of while you are doing that morning or afternoon, boat dive with your spouse, strolling through Kralendijk’s shopping center, or just relaxing on the porch.

Buddy’s Ranger Kids Club is a full morning program where we mix education with fun. We’ll teach the young ones to snorkel or use SASY equipment, do fish and coral-ID, paint driftwood, and have a surprise trip at the end of the program.

For those kids that are ready and eager to take up the sport of scuba diving, we have the PADI Seal program.

PADI has developed a unique program for kids from the age of 8 to 10 with the goal of letting them discover scuba diving in a safe and natural environment. Our dive operation has specially trained instructors.

Our restaurant, Blennies, caters to the young ones with delicious meals especially for them.

Contact us for more information
www.buddydive.com/kids
Bonaire may be best known as a top dive destination, but that just skims the surface of the water sports that are gaining more and more attention on this peaceful and relaxing Dutch Caribbean island. Bonaire’s best-kept secret? Lac Bay. It’s over 3 square miles (8 square kilometers) of tropical blue water providing near-perfect windsurfing conditions, ideal for beginners and advanced windsurfers alike.

A favorite of water sports enthusiasts, Lac Bay is blessed with an average water and wind temperature of 82 degrees Fahrenheit (28 degrees Celsius), steady onshore winds between 15 and 25 knots that are practically guaranteed and sheltered, shallow waters. All these key ingredients make Lac Bay one of the Caribbean’s best windsurfing spots. Beginners can practice in the waist deep, gin-clear water, while advanced windsurfers can look for the excitement that comes with bump and jump chop. For the advanced sailor, there is an upwind beach near Lac Cai offering top-notch windsurfing in the waves. The half-mile long strand of fine, sugary sand makes the beach area one of the most popular sun and fun spots on any given day.

Wind, sun and Caribbean blue it doesn’t get much better than this. Book our “Surf Away” package and make the most of your windsurfing vacation on Bonaire with a special rate.

Bonaire is also a paradise for kiteboarders. Year-round trade winds and the great constant water temperature makes the choice an easy one. There is a designated spot on Bonaire’s west coast in the south that is ideal for kiteboarding: Atlantis Beach. Both experienced and beginner kite boarders will feel at home on Bonaire since two kite boarding schools with internationally certified instructors can teach this exciting sport to those who are ready to ride the wind. Our Dive Shop and Activities center can arrange your courses for you and if you would like to make a vacation of it choose our “Kite Away” package & learn with the pros.
Bonaire’s Premier Dive Operation: Buddy Dive

Buddy Dive Watersports can be found at multiple locations on the island, servicing guests on our resorts, guests staying at private rental homes and those who visit Bonaire for a day by cruise.

Buddy Dive combines the best of both worlds; the extensive knowledge, resources and facilities of Bonaire’s top dive operation, while providing divers personal attention from the friendly dive staff that will become the familiar faces guests are greeted by on their next visit.

All three of our resorts offer an on-premises dive shop that is managed by dedicated staff on-site. All members of the Buddy Dive family are a PADI 5-star resort, Universal Referral dive center, as well as a DAN business member.

The PADI 5-star Career Development Center is located on the premises of Buddy Dive Resort together with the famous Drive-Thru air and Nitrox fill station. Those who would like to begin scuba diving or continue their dive education can visit our PADI 5-star Academy, where experienced dive instructors are ready to assist you to improve your skills and knowledge.

Buddy Dive has the reputation of keeping the needs of divers in mind, making it easy, comfortable, and convenient for them. That’s why you will find a dive (retail) shop, gear room, classroom and rental room at all our resorts. Bonaire’s beautiful reefs are only a ‘giant stride away’ from your room, making it convenient for you to enjoy ultimate diving freedom.

Buddy Dive’s Fleet

Buddy Dive’s fleet consists of 6 convenient dive boats. All boats facilitate everything that is needed for a successful dive; dive platform, rinse tanks, dry storage, camera tanks & tables.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dive boat</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Facilitates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dive Buddy</td>
<td>Custom made motor cat</td>
<td>24 divers on a 3-tank dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Buddy</td>
<td>30’ Newton</td>
<td>12 divers on a 2-tank dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any Buddy</td>
<td>30’ Island Hopper</td>
<td>14 divers on a 2 tank dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reef Buddy</td>
<td>Newton 36’</td>
<td>24 divers on a 2-tank dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Buddy</td>
<td>Newton 36’</td>
<td>24 divers on a 2-tank dive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Buddy</td>
<td>Newton 36’</td>
<td>14 divers on a 2-tank dive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intimate, Independent & Inspirational

These are words that go hand-in-hand with this place of tranquility that combines the conveniences of home with a relaxing atmosphere. Each of the 22 apartments is uniquely and stylishly decorated, detailed with individual Caribbean touches.

Spacious & comfortable oceanfront apartments, set amid lush tropical gardens at the ocean’s edge, free wifi & service with a personal touch: these are a few of the amenities that make Belmar Oceanfront Apartments, a PADI 5-Star resort with its own full-service Buddy Dive Shop, a very special place.

Everyone is invited to escape their hectic daily life and enjoy the sun on the swimming/dive docks or at the oceanfront Magna swimming pool with its amazing panorama view. This is truly the ultimate way to relax.

Lac Bay’s windsurfing area, Kralendijk’s downtown shopping area, restaurants and several dive sites are just a minutes’ drive away. The office is staffed throughout the day, whereas outside of office hours, our on-premises security can provide assistance.
Spacious apartments feature one, two or three bedrooms with one or two bathrooms, fully equipped kitchens and large living areas. Every one of the balconies/porches provides a fantastic ocean view.

All bedrooms are air-conditioned while the living room and porches have ceiling fans. Every kitchen has a full-sized U.S. refrigerator with ice-maker, Nespresso coffee machine and includes a dishwasher as well. The well-equipped kitchens make preparing & enjoying meals together fun. The privacy you enjoy while having the stunning view of the Caribbean Sea in front of you is spectacular!

Buddy Dive at Belmar is a PADI 5-Star and Universal Referral Dive Center, conveniently located on the premises. We offer multi-lingual instruction from basic Open Water courses to divemaster and many dive specialties, all conducted by our friendly dedicated PADI trained dive team. Due to its small scale set-up, you will feel like you have your own private dive instructor. Belmar’s dive staff specializes in guided shore dives, night dives and UV dives. Tanks, guest lockers and rinse tanks are located only steps away from the parking lot or dive dock. The small and cozy retail shop, located in the dive center, carries dive and snorkel gear, t-shirts, sandals, locally made souvenirs, and many other popular items.
Whether you are looking to tie the knot in a naturally romantic setting or celebrating an important day, Bonaire has the perfect setting!

Bonaire is the perfect hide-away for couples and romantics. With the beautiful turquoise blue waters, the beaches of Klein Bonaire, the nature in Washington Slagbaai National Park, the colorful Salt Pans and Lac Cai, Bonaire offers something for everyone and is therefore the perfect setting for a wedding!

The day begins as you cruise together in a small boat along our scenic waterfront towards Town Hall, or one of the beautiful outside locations where the official wedding can take place. Get married with your feet in the sand and afterwards, celebrate with champagne and cake under the palms on the beach with the turquoise sea as your background: a perfect place for pictures to capture the moment.

Let us take care of this special day. Not only will we help you with all the paperwork and formalities, we also help you with finding the best location, decorations, food, hair & make-up and anything else you might need.

The options for getting married on Bonaire are endless.

Follow with lunch for two on the nearby uninhabited island of Klein Bonaire, where the day is yours to enjoy a barefoot romantic stroll on the beach or to bathe in the gentle surf. Share cocktails together or with friends as you watch a perfect sunset before enjoying an intimate dinner with the calming sound of the sea below, and you have the perfect setting for your wedding and honeymoon.
Looking for a special wedding experience? Surprise your guests with an underwater wedding ceremony at Buddy Dive's house reef. Complete with wedding arch, the ceremony starts with the bride entering the reef. The celebrant leads the ceremony up to the big question and after the "I do's" it's time to exchange the rings.

The underwater ceremony is not a legally binding marriage and must always be combined with an official ceremony on Bonaire.

At Caribbean Club Bonaire we have a real Wedding Village that caters to wedding couples and their friends and family or just the newlyweds alone. The wedding couple can enjoy a romantic honeymoon villa with private Jacuzzi overlooking the Caribbean Sea. In the same section of the resort, other two-bedroom villas with ocean views are nearby for close family and friends.

We offer a variety of wedding and vow renewal packages. All can be customized to your needs and wishes. Contact us for more information.

Whether you're getting married, renewing vows or going on your honeymoon, you want something special. Let us arrange the details that will make this important day an unforgettable one. As we say: "Everything is possible, only miracles take a bit longer to arrange."

Just imagine your dream island wedding
Bonaire is well known for its underwater wonders. Once on Bonaire, you will discover that our island has a diverse and rich nature above the waterline as well. From a topside point-of-view, the island can be roughly divided into three regions with their own distinct vegetation and landscape.

Bonaire was formed millions of years ago in different stages. Changes in sea level have left up to four stranded terraces above the present main sea level and one terrace below. In the South you will find the salt pans and mangrove forests - this area is wide, flat, and open. Besides the impressive and important mangrove trees, vegetation is limited here because of the influence of salt and wind.

On the other hand, the large salt pans are a favorite spot of the flamingos. The most interesting area of the region is, without a doubt, Lac Bay. Being part of the biggest lagoon in the Dutch Caribbean, it covers over 1730 acres (700 hectares) and has a water surface of over 3 square miles (8 square kilometers). It is bordered by a barrier reef and, although it is a highly protected area, there are many activities which you may enjoy, from birding to kayaking through the mangroves, scuba diving outside the coral dam, or windsurfing. Strict rules and regulations ensure that this unique wetland with its fragile ecosystem stays preserved for future generations. Endangered species like the green turtle, queen conch and mangrove tree all get the chance to survive the often so devastating influence of humans.
The central region of the island is semi arid and dominated by cacti and the Divi-Divi tree. For the real explorer, there are many natural beauties to discover. The area south of Washikemba is a breeding place for the wild terns while the feral donkeys give the area its own unique feel. 

Rooi Lamoenchti, a former plantation, is certainly worth a visit. A bit more up north there is a trail that takes you along the eastern coastline of Bonaire and brings you to several caves and Indian inscriptions. The caves are populated by bats that play an important role in the ecosystem on Bonaire.

The major portion of the northern region of the island is made up of the Washington-Slagbaai National Park. Originally a plantation, the park was sold to the government for a symbolic amount under the condition that it would become a nature reserve. The landscaping is more hilly and rich in vegetation than the other parts of the island. The size of this natural habitat, home to many flora and fauna species, is over 19 square miles (5,000 hectares), and it is blessed with a wide variety of eco-systems. From sand dunes to mangroves, and from beach areas to salinas and dry forest, the park has many beautiful attributes to discover.

A vacation to Bonaire is not complete without a half or full-day trip to this exceptional national park. There are almost 200 species of birds, including the flamingo, the lora and, although you might not encounter and see abundant tall coconut palm trees, Bonaire boasts over 300 flora species. The datu, kadushi, Divi-Divi tree, mangrove trees, and the prickly pear are probably the ones you will notice the most. Other above-water fauna include the hermit crabs, iguanas, lizards, and, of course, the donkeys and herds of goats that roam the island.
Located north of Kralendijk at the foot of Bonaire’s hills and just steps away from the most pristine dive sites, you’ll find Caribbean Club Bonaire. This friendly 39-unit resort combines affordable accommodations with full resort facilities, a restaurant, bar, two swimming pools, an on-premises dive shop/activity center, along with front office and security services.

The rooms: Affordable convenience in a peaceful setting.

A wide range of room types make Caribbean Club Bonaire a unique resort. Guests may choose from basic studios to spacious villas overlooking the crystal blue waters of the Caribbean Sea or from a penthouse to comfortable one-bedroom cottages. All units have air-conditioned bedrooms, while the living rooms and porches feature ceiling fans. Kitchens in the one-bedroom cottages and studios are equipped with the utensils and equipment you need to prepare a good meal, while the kitchens in the two-bedroom cottages provide you with all the luxury you can wish. Cable TV and safes complement the convenience you need.
Local cuisine & hospitality, Caribbean atmosphere.

There is no other restaurant and bar on the island that epitomizes the local and truly Caribbean atmosphere like Caribbean Club Restaurant & Bar. Imagine a peaceful setting with a constant breeze where local and international cuisine are melted into one: the perfect place to relax and enjoy delicious meals or just have a drink. The weekly BBQ and weekly Krioyo Night are events you should not miss.

Diving and other nature adventures, top dive sites and hidden secrets of Bonaire.

In a unique setting and location, Buddy Dive at Caribbean Club offers a complete and wide range of services from air fills to a full retail shop, rinse tanks and shower facilities. Caribbean Club Bonaire offers dive packages unique on the island and even if you are not staying at Caribbean Club Bonaire, it is a must to visit this dive shop where you will be welcomed by an international staff of dive professionals speaking multiple languages.

Bonaire’s top dive sites are just a few minutes drive away and besides diving, Caribbean Club Bonaire is the perfect place to discover the many other eco-adventures Bonaire has to offer. Hiking, mountain biking, cave exploration, snorkeling, kayaking, and trips to the Washington Slagbaai National Park or the Goto Meer (Lake Goto) are just a few of the activities to explore while staying at Caribbean Club Bonaire.
**Caving**

Bonaire has many cave systems; some are dry and others have lakes and tunnels. We offer you the unique opportunity to explore these ancient wonders with their majestic stalactites and stalagmites. Out of over one hundred caves on Bonaire, a mere three of them are accessible for tourists and they may only be entered under the supervision of a certified guide. The caves play an important role in the island’s eco-system, with six species of bats inhabiting the caves. These flying mammals pollinate the island’s flowers and consume mosquitoes.

**Bird Watching**

Almost two hundred species of birds live on the island, and bird watching is gaining popularity. During a bird watching tour, you are not only discovering the diversity of Bonaire’s bird population, but at the same time, you’ll visit sites and locations you would otherwise never get to explore.

**Kayaking**

In addition to scuba diving, kayaking is one of the most popular activities on Bonaire and there are all sorts of places to discover. Take a guided kayak tour through the mangroves or to nearby Klein Bonaire. Combine the Klein Bonaire trip with a guided walk and exploration of the island or a snorkel along the island’s shallow terraces: a perfect place to spot turtles! Or go for a leisurely paddle and explore on your own as you tour the coastline.

**Snorkeling**

With over 75 different species of fish along the shallow reef terrace alone, snorkeling is a great activity for the entire family. Young or old, anyone who can swim and float can snorkel. Bonaire has some great snorkel sites. Several sites around Klein Bonaire are a “must” for snorkelers to discover and 1000 Steps and Karpata on the scenic route are also good snorkel spots. A drift snorkel from *Something Special to Buddy’s Reef* is an awesome adventure and a trip you’ll always remember. On Friday afternoons a snorkel boat departs from Buddy Dive to Klein Bonaire for a guided snorkel tour. Or combine snorkeling and kayaking in Bonaire’s mangrove forest and you will explore the “nursery” of the ocean. Among the highlights are three-inch long barracudas, upside down jellies, baby sergeant majors, and “dancing” flatworms. For those who want some instruction or guidance, the Activity Center can provide a private snorkel lesson or you may join a guided snorkel trip.

**Mountain Biking**

Miles and miles of trails have been mapped on Bonaire for mountain bikers. Literally around every hilltop there are different vistas to enjoy. With such a wide variety of routes from which to choose, we’re sure to be able to put together a tour that best suits your interest and fitness level. Although there is not much traffic on Bonaire to begin with, this sport really allows you to get away from it all.
In 2012 the Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) was invited to assist the local coral restoration group on Bonaire in the southern Caribbean. In early February of that year, the Bonaire Island Council granted a permit to the local group to allow work to begin on developing a nursery and restoration program on the main island of Bonaire and adjacent island of Klein Bonaire. Ken Nedimyer, CRF Board member, Denise Nedimyer, and the CRF staff traveled to Bonaire in April 2012 and began work on the Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire Project sponsored by Buddy Dive Resort.

In addition to working with local Bonaire authorities and dive professionals to identify specific sites for coral nurseries and reef out plantings, CRF together with the Bonaire National Marine Park and Buddy Dive Resort staff volunteers collected different genetic strains of staghorn (Acropora cervicornis) and elkhorn (Acropora palmata) coral. These specimens were used to populate coral growing “trees” in two coral nurseries. These corals are monitored and maintained by the local Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire, supported by Buddy Dive Resort and is forming the base nursery stock, fragmented every six months, to develop second and third generation corals in each genetic strain. Since June 2013, these new coral generations are regularly taken onto nearby degraded reefs, called coral restoration sites.

CRF’s goals in Bonaire are to assist the local government and local environmentalists to preserve the existing genetic diversity of staghorn and elkhorn corals, establish a nursery and restoration program designed to restore the shallow reefs, and to work with the community to identify and reduce land-based stressors, such as uncontrolled storm water runoff and poor sewage treatment practices.

The main production nursery is located off of Klein Bonaire, where there is limited public access and minimal disturbance for the growing corals. Another nursery is located on the main island of Bonaire, at Buddy’s Reef, north and south side. These nursery trees, placed at the drop-off depth of 6mt/20ft are not only used to produce corals but also to train Coral Restoration Divers. The Nursery at Buddy’s Reef is accessible to divers from the dock at Buddy Dive Resort. Join the Coral Restoration slide presentation at Buddy Dive Resort, become a Coral Restoration Diver and dive for a cause! You will learn all the coral restoration techniques, how to work in a nursery, fragmenting corals and transplanting them to the restoration sites.

Check out the Coral Restoration Foundation Bonaire website for updates on the growth progress at our coral gardens.

www.crfbonaire.org
Buddy Dive Tek opened its doors in 2007, with the mission to provide quality technical support and training to its customers and guests at Buddy Dive and on Bonaire.

In 2008, German Arango “Mr. G.” joined the dive team, bringing with him a passion for technical diving and the continued study and practice of it. With his help and the cooperation of the dive team, Buddy Dive Tek has become a very important component of the dive operation at Buddy Dive, and has built itself a reputation on Bonaire as the “Premier Technical Diving Facility” on the island. The Buddy Dive Tek team of instructors represent a wealth of technical knowledge and certifications from all fields of diving: GUE, NAUI, TDI and PADI. This guarantees a wide understanding of the technical diving community. The Buddy Dive Tek team stays active throughout the year by teaching, promoting, guiding and exploring the deep reefs, caves and wrecks of Bonaire.

Buddy Dive Tek has a fully operational tec support service, providing equipment and training for open circuit divers as well as closed circuit divers.

On top of all this; Buddy Dive Tek is the only technical diving facility in the Caribbean and South America that offers GUE classes via German Arango “Mr. G.”

### Blending Station

Our blending station is located at the Buddy Dive Drive Thru. With PADI and TDI certified blenders we are capable of delivering all types of O2 and TRIMIX blends you ask for. We also offer standard GUE gases; 21/35 – 18/45 – 15/55.

### CCR divers are welcome!

Buddy Dive Tek is a 100% rebreather friendly facility. We offer steel and aluminum cylinders for CCR, bail out tanks, SOFNOLIME, SOFNODIVE and ExtendAir. All of this is always on stock!

### Buddy Dive Tek Open Circuit

Diving doubles or Sidemount? No problem, we can provide the necessary equipment for these styles of diving; backplates with Harness, Wings, Regs, spools, DSMB’s, and more.

### Buddy Dive Tek Training

At Buddy Dive Tek we offer a large variety of technical diving courses. Try-out sessions for those who are not qualified yet and more advanced courses for those who want to extend their knowledge.

We can offer GUE, NAUI, TDI and PADI programs from student level all the way up to the instructor level. Courses can be taught in English, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian.

Bonaire, diver’s paradise / 24
Photography

The Digital Doctor makes imaging as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

The Digital Photo Center is conveniently located at the center of Buddy Dive’s waterfront area on the dock.

John Wall Buddy Dive’s own “Digital Doctor”

Underwater photo veteran with nearly 40 years teaching experience.

We have an extensive line of quality point and shoot digital cameras available for U/W photographers with extensive digital point & shoot experience considering an upgrade to their photo system. Photographers wanting to get the most out of their own U/W cameras may want to schedule a Digital Doctor session. The “Doc” will examine your camera, images and settings, then prepare a prescription with corrective settings specific to your camera. This popular service is an advantage in terms of time and money and enhances results.

The Digital Photo Center can film your family or group for a lasting memory on DVD or you can rent our video system and make your own movie. Be sure to check out our line of hand-crafted “Driftwood Art” souvenirs, CDs and DVDs.

Open daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Saturday till noon), the Photo Center offers digital U/W photo and video instruction at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.

We have a Digital Doctor session.

Bonaire, diver’s paradise / 25
Bonaire’s restaurants are a reflection of the island: diverse and surprising. For every budget, taste and expectation level, you will find your restaurant: international, exotic, local, or a quick bite. Let us know when you wish to dine and we’ll make a recommendation & reservation for you.

Caribbean Club Restaurant & Bar is situated in the middle of the resort’s beautiful garden and overlooks one of its swimming pools. The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and combines the international cuisine with local touches. On Sunday we organize the Managers Rum Punch Party with an all-you-can-eat BBQ afterwards and on Wednesday you can taste local food at our Krioyo Night.

Buddy Dive Resort is the home of Ingridiënts Restaurant. Sweeping ocean views and elegant Caribbean decor make this the perfect place to create your own special meal. Our food is based on the Mediterranean cuisine, combined with local products. Complete with a brick oven for homemade pizza, daily specials and an array of choices that you combine based on your own taste you can expect an unforgettable dining experience!

Visit Blennies, located at Buddy Dive Resort, to enjoy some of the best international dishes and freshly roasted rotisserie chicken on Bonaire in a casual environment with ocean views. Every Friday you’re invited to join us at our Managers Rum Punch Party, a lively event with popcorn and free rum and fruit punch from 5:30pm - 6:30pm and dance to the live island sounds of Moogie. Complete the evening by joining us for our famous All You Can Eat BBQ, featuring a hog roast and steak, fish, chicken and ribs accompanied by a variety of stews, salads, rice dishes, soup and of course, dessert! It is a feast you will not want to miss!
### Quick Facts

| Feature                                | Location/View     | On-premises dive shop | 24-hour tank availability | Boat dives from premises | Excursion desk | Kids club | Maid service | Security guard | Wireless internet | Car rental | Private parking | Telephone in rooms | In-room safes | Televisions in room | Audio center in room | Bathrooms | Airco in bedrooms | Fully equipped kitchens | Types of beds | Extra beds | Child beds/cribs | Voltage | Distance from airport | Distance from town |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Number of beds                        | All Ocean         | 22                    | 96                         | 1                         | 1                         | 1          | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Single/Double | Single/Double | Upon request | 110/220V/50Hz | 4 miles          | 3 miles             |
| Number of swimming pools              | Ocean/Garden      | 39                    | 108                        | 2                         | 2                         | 2          | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Single/Double | Single/Double | Upon request | 110/220V/50Hz | 1 mile          | 2 miles            |
| Number of restaurants                 | Ocean/Garden      | 2                     | 1                          | 1                         | 1                         | 1          | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Single/Double | Single/Double | Upon request | 110/220V/50Hz | 6 miles          | 5 miles            |
| Number of bars                        | Ocean/Garden      | 2                     | 1                          | 1                         | 1                         | 1          | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Every other day | Single/Double | Single/Double | Upon request | 110/220V/50Hz | 1 mile          | 2 miles            |

### Ingridiënts

**Reserve a table:** T: + 599 717 1684

Open Daily from 6 p.m. till 10 p.m. Kaya Geb. N. Debroet 85 - Kralendijk

ingridientsrestaurant.com

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**Bonaire, diver’s paradise** / 27
The Caribbean Sea has many different fish species. This overview shows you the fishes you will most likely meet when diving on Bonaire or Dominica.
The Caribbean Sea has many different fish species. This overview shows you the fishes you will most likely meet when diving on Bonaire or Dominica.
Your Buddies on Dominica
Dive into Nature®
Dominica, Dive into Nature

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Dominica
Fort Young Hotel
Victoria Street
Roseau, Dominica.
International Reservations:
+(599) 717 5080
US/Canada Reservations:
1-866-GO-BUDDY
dominica@buddydive.com
www.buddydivedominica.com

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Niels Noteboom, David M. Benz.
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Buddy Dive
Dominica
Mountainous and wild, undiscovered and untouched, stunningly beautiful, culturally proud, and always friendly. Surely, this is not an island in the Caribbean. Yet these words truly describe a place off the beaten track, a place that has to be experienced to be appreciated. This appreciation begins as your plane descends towards the airport and you realize that mere words alone cannot do it justice.

Dominica, The Nature Island. One of the region’s geographically youngest islands was forged from violent forces of nature and still boasts 9 volcanoes crowded into just 290 square miles / 750 square kilometers of land. The dramatic topography is dominated by these peaks, the highest reaching an impressive 4747 feet / 1445 meters. Mere numbers however, can never describe the drama of our densely forested slopes plunging seaward, sharp cliffs and ridges cascading into river-carved valleys, all cloaked in more shades of green than the imagination allows.

This could easily be called “Nature’s playground”. Waterfalls, pristine rivers, secret swimming pools, the world’s second largest boiling lake, wild uninhabited beaches, freshwater mountain lakes, mangrove swamps and natural hot pools all just waiting for you to discover.

The dramatic terrain has greatly influenced the history of this lesser known Caribbean gem. Because of the strength and determination of the Carib Indians, the British and French agreed to allow it to be neutral. However Dominica’s location between the two French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe ensured that the English and French would spend centuries battling over it, with England finally victorious. During this time the wild and untamed interior gave refuge to the many indigenous Kalinagos and to many escaped African slaves called Maroons. After achieving independence in 1978 the people of Dominica have maintained much of their cultural heritage from both their Kalinago and African roots.

The Creole heritage is best witnessed in the weeks before November 3rd, our day of Independence. An extravaganza of traditional dresses, foods and dancing is unequalled in the region and is supported by two of Dominica’s main musical events: Creole in the Park and The World Creole Music Festival.
How to get there?

There are no direct international flights to Dominica, but there are multiple routes via surrounding islands. Multiple airlines and ferries have daily service to and from Dominica.

Whether you come to Dominica for our outstanding diving and hiking, to participate in other adventurous activities like canyoning and ziplining or to immerse yourself in a natural environment filled with genuine friendly people, you will not leave disappointed.
Buddy Dive has long been recognized for its professionalism and quality of service.

We combine the best of both worlds: the extensive knowledge, resources, and facilities of Dominica’s top dive operation, Buddy Dive, while providing divers personal attention from the friendly dive staff that will become the familiar faces guests are greeted by on their next visit.

The dive operation consists of a fully stocked dive retail shop, teaching facilities, rental gear room, lockers, rinse tanks, and outdoor showers and are all located dockside making it more convenient for the guest to enjoy the boat dives and resort dives.

For those who would like to begin scuba diving or continue their dive education, there are experienced dive instructors ready to assist you to improve your skills and knowledge.

The fleet of Buddy Dive on Dominica departs multiple times a day to go to the different dive sites around the island. The boats can easily accommodate dive groups and crew on a 2-tank trip with a spacious deck, dry storage, dive deck, easy ladder access and a large rinse bucket.

The facilities on the dock make it convenient and comfortable for guests to do their check out dive or an exciting night dive on our house reef whenever they feel like it. Tanks are provided on the dock for the guests of Buddy Dive on Dominica.
By the time you have been driven across the island from the airport to the hotel you will already be stunned by the sheer rugged beauty of Dominica. These overwhelming sensations of The Nature Island are just a precursor to your introduction to the best half of Dominica: the underwater world.

The dramatic mountains you have traversed are mirrored in the topography of our underwater dive sites. Cliff faces plunge into the Caribbean Sea and descend straight down 1500 feet (460 meters), pinnacles rise up from the surrounding depths almost to the surface, and volcanic ridges slope off into deep blue water.

These dive sites are covered in thriving healthy coral reefs and schools of mid-water fish like chromis, creole wrasse and sergeant majors. Larger pelagic patrol the outer edges of the reefs and barracudas, turtles and sting rays frequently swim right through dive groups causing delightful photographic chaos.

Our reefs are made up of volcanic formations of ledges, crevices and swim-throughs. These formations give refuge to a myriad of small critters considered rare in other destinations. Seahorses and frogfish are common and almost guaranteed sightings for divers on a week-long package. Other rarer critters like batfish, flying gurnards, yellow head jawfish, upside-down jelly fish and flamingo tongue snails can be found if you carefully search the reefs.

Our reputation as the region’s most colorful diving is due to the profusion of sponge life and crinoids. First time divers in Dominica will be amazed by the variety of color, from yellow tube sponges, azure vase sponges, pink vase sponges, green finger sponges, lavender rope sponges to crinoids of every hue.

You might think that Dominica’s multitude of rivers and lush interior would lead to limited visibility, but once again Dominica defies logic. Due to our very deep waters close to shore and heavy sediments from our volcanic sands, our visibility averages over 80 feet (24 meters) year round. After heavy rains the sediments subside within hours and you can be back in the water enjoying good visibility.

Water temperatures vary from a high of 84 degrees Fahrenheit (29 degrees Celsius) from July through December to 76 degrees Fahrenheit (25 degrees Celsius) from January through June. The windy season is around April and this time of year a 3 mm wetsuit adds comfort to your dives. Our rainy season runs from summer (June) through late fall (November). Despite the possibility of tropical storms during these months, the weather is often dominated by flat calm seas, sunny skies and perfect diving conditions!

The reality is that there is no bad time of year for diving in Dominica. Good visibility, warm seas, excellent marine life along with uncrowded dive sites and excellent dive staff ensure that most divers simply cannot wait to come back.
Champagne Reef. South.

Perhaps Dominica’s best known dive site, Champagne Reef is another reflection of the sheer raw volcanic power simmering just out of sight. In shallow water, just 15 feet (5 meters), volcanic vents spew forth hot water and bubbles creating the effect of diving in a giant glass of Champagne. The surrounding reef is well known for critters like seahorses, frogfish, reef squid, and lobsters and also makes an excellent night dive. You will usually tour the Champagne reef first and then enjoy the bubbles during your safety stop. Look out for the resident reef squid and expect to see snorkelers over your head here!

A good dive for all skill levels.

Nose Reef. Central.

This sloping reef in the central part of the West coast is so named for three protruding ledges somewhat reminiscent of a nose. The deepest ledge sits at 120 feet (36 meters) and the shallowest at 40 feet (12 meters), but it is best at about 80 feet (24 meters) on top of the deeper nose. This ridge sticks out into the current and is therefore home to thriving sponges of every color and size. The sheer density of corals and sponges here makes it a favorite place for divers, as well as turtles and pelagic fish to hang out!

A good site for intermediate and advanced divers.

Scott’s Head Pinnacle. South.

Recently listed as one of the top dive sites worldwide by Scuba Travel in the UK, there are very few who would disagree with this assessment. If truth be told, most dive staff would dive here every day were it not for the sometimes challenging winds and currents. On those days when conditions are perfect, divers are in for a special treat. This pinnacle sits on the edge of the volcanic crater and you can actually swim through the crater wall into the interior. The wall is covered in gorgonians, giant barrel sponges, and whip corals, and it is often patrolled by pelagic like horse-eye jacks, barracudas, turtles, yellow tail snappers and ceros. The problem with Scott’s Head Pinnacle is knowing where to look!

This site is better for intermediate and advanced divers unless there are perfect conditions.

Just a sample of our dive sites
**Pole To Pole. North.**

Another unique dive site that is exactly as its name sounds - you swim from pole to pole under the Cabrits Cruise ship jetty! It is a special experience to dive under a large jetty and the poles are covered in all sorts of life, from seahorses to shrimps and crabs in and amongst the sponges. The bottom is also home to batfish, flying gurnards and garden eels. While this is a great dive, with a maximum 50 ft /15 m, it really comes alive at night.

Perfect for all levels of divers.

**Toucari Caves. North.**

Being one of the most Northern dive sites in Dominica, Toucari Caves is special because of its series of large to small swim-throughs. Starting in shallow water by large rocky formations, you descend along a wall and work your way back through caves and swimthorughs into shallow water. The wall is covered in sponge life, crinoids, and colorful encrusting sponges and the caves are populated with glassy sweepers and blackbar soldierfish.

A fantastically varied dive site that will please all levels of divers.

**Rina’s Hole. Central.**

This site is one of the island’s best ‘second dive’ sites with a maximum depth of 50 feet (15 meters). Rina’s Hole is a very unique site in that there is little evidence of deep water or drop-offs anywhere. Instead the flat area is dotted with islands of coral covered outcrops, one with a large swim-through that gives the site its name. Extremely beautiful and very different from other dive sites. Barracudas and rays are common here but most of your time is spent searching the small crevices for lobster, crabs and shrimps!

If there are no strong currents it is suitable for beginners.

**Critters**

Ask any professional guide or seasoned photographer what is the best way to find the small and fascinating little critters and they will all tell you the same thing: "The slower you go the more you will see!" This is especially true for Dominica where we have a full roster of bizarre creatures living hidden amongst our reefs.

Some of the most popular and requested critters are the usual suspects like seahorses and frogfish. Dominica has become well known as the place to find these well camouflaged and shy creatures, ask your guide to find you one and he well might ask you “what color”?

Our dive staff knows the reefs like the back of their hand, because this is where they play every day and they delight in showing off their knowledge! Many of our critters live in only one specific habitat or in symbiosis with one specific creature. You have to know this in order to find them.

Dominica is blessed with an assorted cast of characters on the reef and the skilled passionate dive staff to find them. So come on down and challenge them!
Explore Dominica

Dive into Nature Package

The Dive Into Nature package combines the beauty of both above and below water. The beautiful nature of Dominica will leave a long lasting impression. The excursions will take you and your fellow divers on guided tours across the island to the secluded parts of Dominica to enjoy what nature has to offer above water.

This package includes 5 days of 2-tank boat dives and 5 excursions of your choice.

The excursions last half a day and can be planned in the morning or in the afternoon, whenever you are not boat diving.
We have put together packages that combine the best of both worlds. If you had something else in mind or would like to receive further information, please contact us and we will make sure to create a package that matches your own ideas and preferences.
The hotel has 72 guest rooms and suites with an oceanfront restaurant and three bars. Our spa, gym, pool and yoga sessions ensure rest or exercise in the most idyllic of surroundings. And once you step outside our historic walls, Dominica’s many activities and attractions are on our doorstep, whether you are hiking in the forested hills that surround us, or snorkeling or diving in the warm Caribbean sea that laps at our feet.

From across the globe, travelers have stayed within our walls from the very beginning, all sharing the same breathtaking setting that guests at Dominica’s best known luxury hotel do today.
First built in 1699, the Fort Young has been at the heart of the island’s story for several hundred years.

The Rooms
Convenience and Comfort

All rooms are fully air-conditioned, have direct dial telephones, cable TV, mini fridges, coffee and tea stations, wifi, safety boxes, and feature a terrace or balcony offering the most dramatic sea and sunset views you can imagine. Rooms are equipped with 2 double beds or a king bed, all with their own bathroom.

Adventure Activities

Plan your adventure before you come or while here at our tour desk. Ideal for both divers and non divers, daily excursions range from trips to waterfalls and hikes to a magical morning snorkel on the reefs just outside the hotel. Of course we can also design tailored adventures and excursions just for you.
Food, Drinks and Fun

Start your day with an omelet or a classic Creole salt-fish from our breakfast buffet, washed down with freshly squeezed juices from locally grown fruits. Grab a quick lunch in the Bala’s Bar or linger longer at the Palisades restaurant and enjoy local Dominican cuisine.

At dinner time, the Palisades is transformed into a candlelit dining experience where one can savor international dishes with a twist of Creole.

The Warner’s Bar, which is located downstairs of the Palisades, is an ideal location for guests to enjoy a beautiful sunset while sipping cocktails. Warner’s is open Mondays for “Manager’s Cocktails”, Wednesdays for “Unwine” and Wednesday and Friday evenings for “Cocktails and Conversations”. All events start at 5:00 p.m. and end at 10:00 p.m.

Both the Palisades and Warner’s are also directly accessible from our private jetty, enabling guests to go straight from diving to drinking.

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Features & Facilities

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</tr>
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Dive centre, elevators, activities desk, 3 bars, duty free shops, dive packages, library, business centre, Wi-Fi in public areas, kids club, gym, massage centre.

Travel Time from Douglas-Charles Airport | 1 hr 15 Mins drive
Travel Time from Canefield Airport | 20 Mins drive
Distance from the Capital | 5 mins walk

Credit Card/Banking | Visa - MasterCard & AMEX
Currency Exchange | Yes - On site
(EC$2.67 To US$1.00)

Outdoor Pool | Yes (1) Infinity
Jacuzzi | Yes (2) outdoor
1 cold & 1 hot

International Reservations: +(599) 717 5080
dominica@buddydive.com
US/Canada Reservations: 1-866-GO-BUDDY
www.buddydiveDominica.com
Driving

Driving in Dominica is done on the left side of the road. Guests that want to rent a car need a valid driver’s license and must obtain a local permit. This permit can be purchased at the airports, car rental companies or at the Traffic Division office and is valid for 1 month. Taxis are available at the airports and can be found all over the island.

Language

The official language in Dominica is English. The second language that is spoken throughout Dominica is called Kwéyòl, a French based Creole that is a combination of French, African and Caribbean languages.

Park Fees

Dominica protects its nature and has national parks and forest reserves as well as marine reserves. Site passes for the parks can be purchased at the individual sites or at the national parks office. The marine park and park fees are included in most of our packages.

Currency

The Dominican currency is the East Caribbean Dollar, EC$, the exchange rate is US$ 1 = EC$ 2.67. The hotel and dive operation accept US$.

Electricity

Dominica uses 220 / 240 volts, 50 cycles, AC. A transformer, which can be provided may be needed for American appliances. Outlets are three prong European style, adapters may be needed.

Drinking Water

The water in Dominica is suitable for drinking. Bottled water is available at the bar and grocery stores.

Time Zone

Atlantic Standard Time (GMT-4).
**Snorkeling**

Our waters descend so quickly that you do not have to go very far from shore to find great and dramatic snorkeling sites. Champagne Reef is just yards from shore and finds you floating over a volcanic vent that shoots out hot water and millions of tiny bubbles. Other sites like L’Abym will have you drifting over an abyss that drops 1500ft right from shore! There are many other snorkeling sites all up and down the West Coast.

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**Bird Watching**

Dominica has recorded over 170 different species of birds and has 2 species of endemic parrots. Our Imperial Parrot is the largest of the world’s Amazona Parrots and along with the Jaco Parrot are two species found only here in Dominica. Even if you are a serious and experienced birder you will find something you have never seen before. Our rainforests and majestic mountains make your bird watching trip a truly rewarding experience.

**Canyoning**

Roaring water, remote canyons and hidden waterfalls are some of the best-kept secrets in Dominica. Strap on your harness and repel into the very heart of Dominica. Jump down into crystal clear pools, climb waterfalls and hike through the riverbeds. It’s a true adventure and brings out your inner explorer!

**Hiking**

You could visit Dominica for a month and barely begin to explore the many trails throughout the island. So pick the level of trail you feel comfortable with and get ready for some truly memorable hikes. Short hikes that lead to waterfalls are a great choice for afternoon excursions: Middleham Falls, Trafalgar Falls and Titou Gorge are excellent examples. For the hardcore hiker, put aside the entire day and set out to explore the world’s second largest Boiling Lake. Dominica is truly the only place in the Caribbean that is both a diver’s and a hiker’s paradise!
Dominica is such a rich island – both underwater and topside that it offers many excellent choices of non-diving activities. Whether you feel like tackling the toughest segments of the Waitukubuli National Trail or would prefer a long hot soak in a natural hot spa, we have something for everyone.

**Sightseeing**

There are so many sites to see on your visit, these are some of the highlights:

- Emerald Pool
- Kalinago Territory
- Indian River
- Fort Shirley and the Cabrits National Park
- Boiling Lake
- Titou Gorge
- Trafalgar Falls
- Middleham Falls
- Victoria Falls
- Sari Sari Falls
- Ravine Cyrique

**Kayaking**

All along the West Coast you can kayak beside a dramatic, wild and uninhabited coastline, while you explore secret beaches, snorkeling sites and paddle through fishing villages. Take a lunch and make a full day of it or just head out for a couple of secluded hours. You will not have to travel far to feel remote, but in truth you are never far from civilization.

**Turtle Watching**

Without a doubt one of the most unforgettable experiences in Dominica is the opportunity to see huge leatherback turtles laying their eggs in the sand. Between March and August leatherbacks, hawksbills and green turtles can be found either laying eggs or hatching. Ask the activities desk and be prepared to head out at night for the best chance to see turtles.
It is no idle boast when Dominica claims to be the Whale Watching Capital of the Caribbean.

With 22 species of cetaceans in our waters and a 95% chance of sightings, we have the highest diversity and success rate in the region. Twice a week fully equipped boats depart the dock to explore the deep waters just off-shore. It is these deep waters that make Dominica the best place to see our primary attraction, sperm whales.

Our resident population of approximately 30 sperm whales, made up of mothers and calves, ensures that sperm whales can be seen year round. The greatest number of whales is found from November through March when the bigger males come in to socialize. It is these regular family pods that have put Dominica firmly on the map as the best destination for you to see sperm whales.

Sperm whales are the most social of the great whales and form tight family bonds. These families are often seen socializing on the surface when babies, or young, are present. The extended family of aunts and sisters will babysit the young so mothers can descend to feed. Being mammals like us, sperm whales must come to the surface to breathe air. This rest period at the surface between dives is when you just may see the largest toothed carnivore on the planet.

Females average 50ft/15m and give birth every 4 to 8 years making them the slowest reproducing mammals on the planet. Males can reach up to 70 ft/21m in length and are independent of the family bonds after about 9 years of age, at which time they become global wanderers.

On any given day you might also spot Pygmy Sperm, Dwarf Sperm, Humpbacks, Pilots, False Killer and Melon-headed whales and also varying species of dolphins including Fraser, bottlenose, spinner and pantropical.

There is a good chance that your day will end with playful dolphins jumping alongside the boat and your enthusiastic whoops and clapping will only seem to encourage them to jump higher!
Carnival has stayed true to its traditions and is celebrated on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday usually in February or March. While it cannot compete in grandeur and size with its more famous competition it is a unique opportunity to experience Carnival up close and personal. Join in the fun and dance in the streets behind the huge music trucks, or sign up ahead of time and get your colorful themed outfits and join the costume parade.

Dive Fest in July is the longest running festival of its kind in the region, since 1994! Discounted diving lessons for locals, family activities such as snorkeling, treasure hunts, turtle watching and whale watching are mixed with concerts, traditional music and parties. The event culminates with the Kubuli Canoe Race where huge crowds come to watch corporate teams race traditional canoes in the bay. The day wraps up with a beach concert that runs until midnight and brings Dive Fest to a close.

If Jazz is more your thing, then don’t miss our Jazz N Creole event set in the historic Fort Shirley in late June. All week long a mixture of Creole and Jazz music at various locations leads up to the final Sunday at Fort Shirley in Cabrits National Park. With a diverse assortment of Jazz and Creole music, marked by the backdrop of Prince Rupert’s Bay and Morne Diablotins, this festival is not only a delight on the ears but also very pleasant for the eyes.

Dominica is host to many festivals throughout the year, many you can experience after your morning dives. Every Friday in October the streets are filled with people dressed in various forms of madras (traditional dress) as a build up to Creole Day on the last Friday in October. During this time Creole in the Park and The World Creole Music Festival bring crowds from all over to enjoy good music in a great culture.

World Creole Music Festival is three nights of pulsating rhythms with a mix of Creole, Reggae, Soca and the Dominica style of Bouyon Music. This is the islands biggest musical event so book your package early as it is a busy time of year.

So check the calendar before you book your trip to Dominica. Maybe one of these events will encourage you to spend a little time out of the water!
The Dominica we see today was greatly influenced by its varied inhabitants, from the native Kalinago and enslaved Africans, to the conflicting English and French settlers. Today, we see their influence throughout the island: in the names of people and places, the architecture, religion, spiritualism, food, music, development pattern, language, accents, and traditional dresses.

During the island’s colonial history, it swapped hands between the British and French a number of times before being ceded to the British until its independence in 1978. However, being the last island in the Caribbean to be colonized, the native Kalinago and escaped enslaved Africans were able to thrive here, greatly influencing the course of its history.

With the introduction of regional, and international influences Dominica is gradually becoming a more multicultural island, but in so many ways, many traditions remain. Traveling through settlements, it is easy to imagine times long past. There is a strong sense of community among the villages, and local family names are still strongly linked to the places they originated. Many of the road networks are expansions of long used trails. What was once cleared estate lands has long been taken over by the forest - giving the sense that many of these lands have never been touched.

Agriculture remains a strong part of Dominica’s culture. and it is not uncommon for someone to have an additional plot of land just to grow vegetables and fruit. It is not unusual to see someone on the side of the road carrying, and possibly waving a machete or cutlass, a vital tool still used today.

Divers will probably see the traditional single person rafts called pwi-pwis which were used in early years to fish off shore. The Kalinago custom to carve canoes out of giant Gomier trees can still be seen when visiting their territory. However, the colorful fisherman’s boats – which line the shores of villages – are a spectacle to behold and a reminder of how fishing traditions, that have been carried down for generations, have allowed the people to their families and communities.

Dominicans are hard working and friendly people who love and take pride in their country. A smile and greeting goes a long way and will always be returned tenfold.