

## The Visitor Center is...

...located at the Washington Slagbaai National Park entrance, it is an excellent opportunity to combine recreational and educational activities. Here you will find something for everyone regardless of age and the level of adventure you seek. The possibilities include:

- The museum, with indoor and outdoor exhibits
- Hiking trails, with interpretation signs
- The library, with a selection of interesting books
- The gift shop, where local art, books and beverages are available for purchase
- The terrace, a perfect place to sit in the shade and enjoy a cool drink.
- Entrance is free of charge

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS:

### 1. History of Bonaire

Learn about the most important events of Bonaire's history since the first human presence on the island around 3000 years ago. A time line compares Bonaire's history with the rest of the world. The objects displayed, as well as the images, help you place yourself back in the time of the events.

### 2. From Plantation to National Park

Meet the people who took the first steps in the Netherlands Antilles toward nature conservation. Bonaire, despite being the "little sister" of the ABC islands, has led the way in environmental protection since the early sixties and has become an example for the world.



## STINAPA Bonaire is...

... the non-profit foundation that manages the Bonaire National Marine Park and the Washington Slagbaai National Park for the island government of Bonaire. It is dedicated to the conservation of Bonaire's natural and historical heritage through the sustainable use of its resources.



### • Bonaire National Marine Park

The marine park extends from the high water mark to the 60m. (200ft.) depth contour, encompassing the entire coast of Bonaire including Klein Bonaire and Lac. This is an area of about 2,700 hectares and includes the coral reef, sea grass, and mangroves. As an International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) demonstration site, it is a model of its kind in the Caribbean, protecting and caring for the marine environment while maximizing safe levels for recreation and commercial use. It maintains more than 100 public moorings, conducts scientific research, provides information to users, monitors human and natural impact and enforces the park's laws and regulations.

### • Washington Slagbaai National Park

The terrestrial park is a 5,643 hectares nature sanctuary located in the northwest part of the island. It is a safe habitat for the



### 3. Terrestrial Flora & Fauna

View the real "natives" of Bonaire and learn in detail about their characteristics. Bonaire has quite a few endemic species for such a small island. Examples of these can be found in the museum. Important information is available regarding the island ecosystem and how it is affected by the introduction of species which are not native to Bonaire.

### 4. Life on the Plantations

Discover how life was lived on Bonaire after slavery was abolished and before tourism was developed. The homes, the food, the celebrations, the music and other aspects of the true Bonairean life are shown in this exhibit.

terrestrial endemic and endangered species of Bonaire. Parrots, flamingos, parakeets, iguanas and many other species of birds and reptiles can be found in this reserve. The beaches inside the park are an important nesting ground for all four species of sea turtles found in the Caribbean. Originally inhabited by native South Americans, and comprised of two of the largest plantations on the island during colonial period, the park is rich in historical and cultural heritage. The Visitor Center at the park's entrance, with its museum and hiking trails, offers an enjoyable learning experience.

### • Nature and Environment Education

Bonaire's economy is highly dependent on the sustainable use of its natural resources. Information and education for the local population is essential in order to gain support for conservation policies and practices. STINAPA has developed both education and information programs for this reason. Aimed at reaching all levels of the community, these programs share the purposes of: increasing awareness and involvement; creating a positive attitude towards environmental protection; and informing the people of Bonaire about the role they play in protecting their environment. Each year more than 1,500 school children participate in our education programs. Over the last twelve years the "Turtuganan di Boneiru", a youth snorkel program, has provided over 1,800 children the opportunity to experience the beauty of Bonaire's ocean waters and to understand the importance of the conservation of our Marine Park. We inform and educate the visitors of the Parks in order to increase awareness and motivate them to respect our rules & regulations. This is done through various leaflets, brochures, posters, banners, signs and our website.

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STINAPA BONAIRE IS A MEMBER OF THE DUTCH CARIBBEAN NATURE ALLIANCE

### 5. Geology of Bonaire

Did you know Bonaire did not exist when the dinosaurs walked the planet, or even when they disappeared forever? This and other facts about the volcanic origins of Bonaire and its geological formations can be learned in this exhibit.

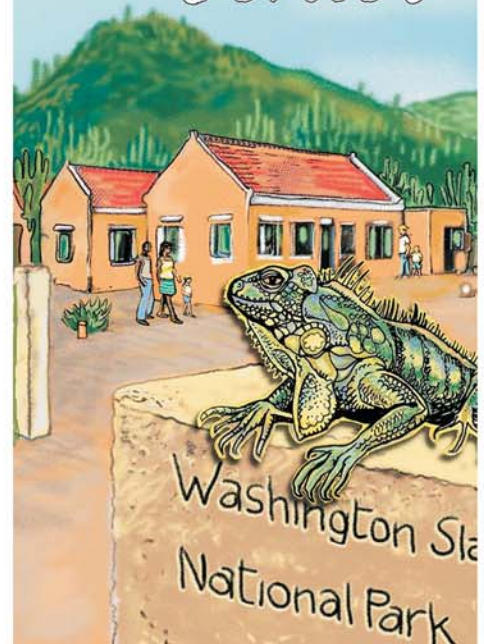
### 6. Archaeology in Bonaire

Find out about the Bonairean past and how it was discovered through this interesting and mysterious science. Fascinating ancient objects are displayed and Indian rock paintings are interpreted for your enjoyment.

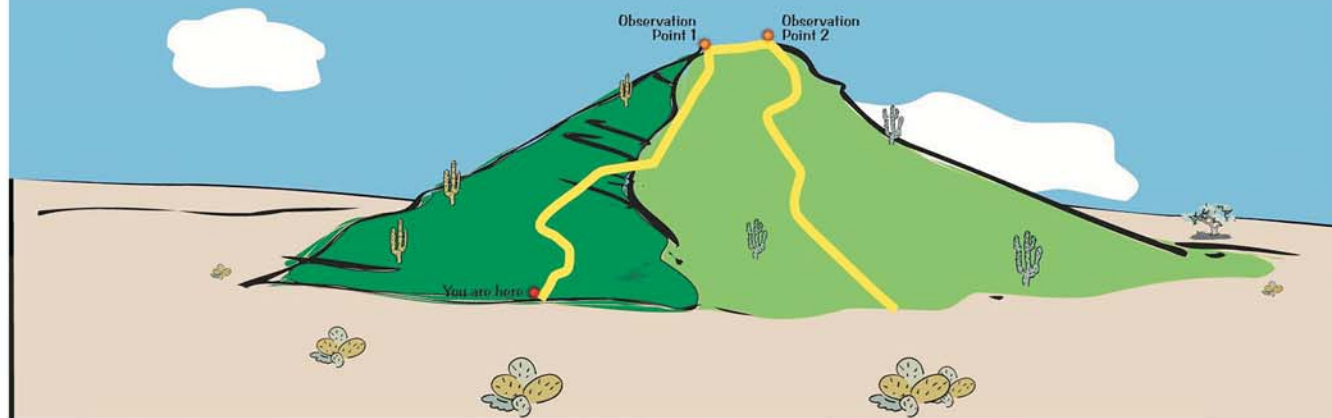


## Washington Slagbaai National Park

# Visitor Center

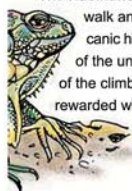


# Kasikunda Climbing Trail



## Hiking Trails

The **Kasikunda Climbing Trail** is approximately a one hour walk and quite a challenging climb to the top of a volcanic hill. It has a considerable level of difficulty because of the unevenness of the terrain and also the steepness of the climb. Meeting this challenge however, will be rewarded with the best view of North Bonaire. It's possible to see all the way from the Malmok to the Spelonk lighthouse. We recommend you to bring hiking shoes, sunscreen and a hat.



The **Lagadishi Walking Trail** is approximately a two hour walk on a limestone plateau that provides you with a complete view of Bonaire's windward scenery. Historic sites, a blowhole, a true oceanic beach, vegetation unique to arid climates, sand dunes, salt pans, mangroves and flamingos are some of the components of this trail.

## Library

Find information about the flora, fauna, geology and history of Bonaire. Also diving and the other park and Bonaire related topics.

## Gift shop

Income from the shop is used for the support of nature conservation. Books, local art, exclusively designed T-shirts, polo's, hats and baseball caps, are on display. We also sell drinks and snacks in our shop.

## Terrace

This is the perfect place to sit down and enjoy a drink after visiting the park. On weekends delicious local food is served.

## Sponsors

The Visitor Center has been realized due to the generosity of our sponsors and volunteers:



Linda & Jeff Goldman

