



STINAPA INFORMATION

CAVES ON BONAIRE

Bonaire has a very unique landscape. While driving south on EEG Boulevard, you will see on one side of the road the turquoise and deep blue Caribbean Sea and on the other side the bright pink salt basins of Cargill. The water is close by on each side and when there are high waves, it washes right over the road. The shimmering salt mounds, the windmills of Cargill and the antennae of Trans World Radio shape the horizon to the flat south. North of town, Bonaire becomes more 'mountainous', with Seru Largo and the Brandaris Hill as the high points. That variety in landscape makes Bonaire attractive both to inhabitants and visitors. Really spectacular are the rock formations along the 'tourist road' between Hato and Gotomeer. They remind us of the history of millions of years ago. When ice ages – during which almost all waters were frozen- alternated with warmer periods. During these warmer periods the sea level rose due to the melting of the ice. At certain times the water level was 15 meters higher than it is now. The sea would pound the rocky coastline with huge waves and formed bays and inlets. The worn out rocks show how deep the water would penetrate. You can still see the force of the sea on the east side of the island where the water pounds into the bocas with relentless power. Millions of years ago it was no different, except that the ocean surface was much higher. While the salty seawater shaped the coastline, the fresh rainwater formed the surface of the island. Rainwater ground out hills, valleys and flat pieces in the rocky landscape. Many islands in the world have developed this way. But what differentiates Bonaire from the rest of the Caribbean islands is that simultaneously a ring of coral started growing around the island. All over the island you can find caves. They remind us of the prehistoric times and the way Bonaire was formed. Approximately 200 caves are known, but only four that are accessible to tourists. Those caves can be visited under the guidance of specially trained individuals. They know their way around in the maze of corridors where you can easily get lost, slip or hit your head on the many protrusions of the rock wall. All other caves are closed to exploration. Those are the domain of the bats. Those are nocturnal mammals that fly in and out while we sleep and go hunt for food like flower nectar and mosquitoes. They normally are only disturbed by a lone goat or donkey looking for some pools of water while they sleep in their dark abode.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Boneiru