



STINAPA INFORMATION

CAVE EXPEDITION

One of the nicest sides of writing for the "NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES" campaign is that you learn things about your island that you would normally not find out quickly. Take the caves of Bonaire. While strolling around in the 'mondi' you might stumble upon a cave entrance. But going into one of those uninviting dark holes was not something I would fancy. But hey! If you are going to write articles about them you should know what caves are about! That's why I booked an excursion with one of the cave-guides. Putting on some sturdy shoes and bringing a bathing suit was part of the deal as the culmination of the expedition was a snorkel trip in a cave. Approximately 200 caves are known on the island, but only four are accessible for tourists. I know that in the Hato caves in Curacao there are rope lights and walking paths. That's why I was hoping to find at least some walking paths in the 'tourist caves' of Bonaire. That proved to be a miscalculation. To get into the cave you have to either carefully climb down an embankment or a ladder, or rappel down a 30 meter long rope. I opted to ignore the last possibility. Getting down should be within my powers, but how about getting back up? Once you are in the cave, you have to illuminate your way with a lantern, being careful not to slip and even more careful not to hit your head on the many protrusions coming at you from all sides. It may be obvious by now that such a trip is not suitable for everyone. When you are physically not very stable or suffer from claustrophobia, visiting a cave is not a good idea. But otherwise a cave trip under the care of a good guide is definitely a wonderful experience. Once inside, you see the most awesome scenery: stalactites growing down from the ceiling and candle shaped stalagmites growing up. These protrusions grow ever so slowly from the calcium that is suspended in water trickling through the ceiling of the roof. It is a process that takes centuries. The highlight of the trip was the snorkeling part. It is a unique experience carefully because of all the protrusions around you. You swim through an underground system of corridors. The water is fresh and miniscule (blind) shrimp swim around you. Bats are suspended from the ceiling, and it is dead quiet. You can just imagine being in a totally different world. Bonaire's nature is unique. Also underground.

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Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru