

Coral Reefs Ecology

Coral reefs are complex associations of living animals. Stony corals are the major reef builders, they look like brown/green colored rocks. The tiny animal, called a polyp, extracts calcium from seawater and deposits this beneath itself as a limestone skeleton. The polyps of one coral head are all linked together into one giant colony.

The limestone structures produced by stony corals provide a perfect home for myriads of tiny bottom dwelling animals as well as being a safe haven for the dazzling array of reef fish you see swimming above the reefs.

Coral reefs take millenniums to grow, seconds to destroy. Please keep hands, fins and anchors off.

Coral reefs are precious and delicate, their future depends on you. Look, enjoy and leave untouched.

Bonaire's Fringing Reef

Bonaire and Klein Bonaire are surrounded by one almost continuous fringing reef. A shallow and narrow terrace slopes down gently from the shoreline to a depth of 30 feet (10 m) and then drops, typically at an angle of 45 degrees, to depths of 130 feet (40 m). There are, of course, some variations to this general description, like vertical walls or double reef formations.



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.

• The Lionfish

The Indo Pacific Lionfish is an invasive species that has been introduced by accident into the Caribbean Basin and can do considerable harm to the native fish population. We have introduced the 'Lionfish Hunting Team' which are volunteers trained by the BNMP to remove these fish from the reefs. If you see a



Lionfish: mark the site and report location and depth to the BNMP "hotline" 9292 or 717 - 8444. Be careful, Lionfish are venomous. For more info; <http://www.bmp.org/lionfish.htm>

• 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

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



Recommendations to Divers

- Practise good buoyancy control. If you can't remember how to get neutrally buoyant, ask your dive guide or instructor to help you out.
- Secure all consoles in such a way that they cannot trail along or get caught.
- Do not wear gloves or kneepads when diving in the Bonaire National Marine Park.
- Do not handle, torment or feed marine species.
- Do not manipulate or move marine species from their natural habitat.
- Take only pictures and leave only bubbles.
- Diving East Coast recommended with local guide.



Dive Sites Bonaire

- 01- Boka Bartol
- 02- Playa Benge
- 03- Playa Funchi
- 04- Bisé Morto
- 05- Wayaká
- 06- Boka Slagbaai North
- 07- Nukove
- 08- Carel's Vision
- 09- Karpata
- 10- La Dania's Leap
- 11- Rappel
- 12- Bloodlet
- 13- Tolo
- 14- Country Garden
- 15- Bon Biní na Kas
- 16- 1000 steps
- 17- Weber's Joy
- 18- Jeff Davis Memorial
- 19- Kalli's Reef
- 20- Oil Slick Leap
- 21- Barkadera
- 22- Andrea II
- 23- Andrea I
- 24- Petries Pillar
- 25- Small Wall
- 26- Cliff
- 27- La Machaca
- 28- Reef Scientifico
- 29- Buddy's Reef
- 30- Bari's Reef
- 31- Front Porch
- 32- Something Special
- 33- Town Pier
- 34- Calabas Reef
- 35- 18th Palm
- 36- Windsock
- 37- Corporal Meiss
- 38- Bachelor's Beach
- 39- Chez Hines
- 40- Lighthouse Point
- 41- Punt Vierkant
- 42- The 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
- 51- Invisibles
- 52- Tori's Reef
- 53- Pink Beach
- 54- White Slave
- 55- Margate Bay
- 56- Red Beryl
- 57- Atlantis
- 58- Vista Blue
- 59- Sweet Dreams
- 60- Red Slave
- 61- Willemstoren Lighthouse
- 62- White Hole
- 63- Cai

Dive Sites Klein Bonaire

- A- No Name beach
- B- Ebo's Reef
- C- Jerry's Reef
- D- Just a Nice Dive
- E- Nearest Point
- F- Keepsake
- G- Bonaventure
- H- Monte's Divi
- I- Rock Pile
- J- Joanne's Sunchi
- K- Cap. Don's Reef
- L- South Bay
- M- Hands off
- N- Forest
- O- South West Corner
- P- Munk's haven
- Q- Twixt
- R- Sharon's Serenity
- S- Vallerie's Hill
- T- Mi Dushi
- U- Yellowman
- V- Carl's Hill
- W- Ebo's Special
- X- Leonora's Reef
- Y- Knife
- Z- Sampler

Park Information & Regulations

- Please pay the Nature Fee before using the Bonaire National Marine Park. Your contribution provides the funds to manage the parks and guarantees our lasting success in nature protection and conservation. You can pay the entrance fee at any dive school or activity center. Having paid the entrance fee you may enter the Washington Slagbaai National Park free of charge by showing the written receipt of purchase of your tag and a picture ID. (this can be your C-card, drivers's license etc.)
- A dive orientation from your dive operator is mandatory before you can dive in the Bonaire National Marine Park.
- Anchoring is forbidden in the Bonaire National Marine Park. Please use the mooring buoys provided.
- Spearfishing is prohibited. If you have a speargun, please

leave it at the Customs office.

- It is forbidden to remove anything alive or dead from the Bonaire National Marine Park.
- Make sure you do not damage the reefs in any way. Especially don't touch the corals and avoid sitting up the bottom.
- For more information on regulations check the brochures, our website or contact us.

Map Legend

- Roads
- Washington Slagbaai National Park boundaries
- Marine reserve
- Marine park