

ARUBA's heartland



More or less for the whole year the heat is between 27°/75° C. A constant warm temperature like of a never ending summer. Sure it can be too much and an air conditioning system might be desirable. But riding along the Aruban houses very seldom are people sitting in a tree's shadow or a couple of chairs. There have been great (historic) ideas on the island on natural built in air conditioning for the house and protection against mosquitos, so why stay mostly inside? Why a dryer if the laundry could hang outside in the sun? "Because of the rain season."? Or is it the sun bleaching it?



1. Outside in the garden



When a new house gets build the whole building ground gets cleaned out till its bones. Is there a need to start on a raised ground or is it just easier done like that? Why not keeping old trees for children? Even heated temples that kids cannot play outside cause there is no shadow for them. Also some parks I have seen used very little shadowing and people just came in the evening when the heat goes down. And what about Mango and Coconuts to eat? How about food gardens instead of the American Food chains? What happened to the Aruban garden?



2. In-between cultures

"How did it happen that there are almost only Chinese supermarkets on the island?" "Oh, they came on one point." Is there not any Aruban supermarket culture to take care of? How easy get cheaper on the islands accepted without any revolt? Is it straightforward hospitality or a new form of non-national behaviour of the inhabitants on this island?



Aruba likes to stretch into all directions with a "European mind", a bit of an "American life" and a "South American wing" the influence are from all over the world. So what is the Aruban? Is it a collection of cultures, here to stick either together, or a he passer by in a period of time on the island? And when you talk about education and what people can achieve in their lives, the level of education and career seem to be connected to their original connections to the "important" people of the island. You ask "How do you know?" If you are from a poor educated country, do you have some chance on Aruba to get into higher education? If you would have a learning disability what would be done for you?



The different cultures get well reflected in the language: Papiamentu. It is a mix of sounds and melodies. What is the most melodic sentence in Papiamentu? What would express the "heart" of the language best?

What are traditions of Aruba? The question caught answers of "the western Christmas tree and fireworks." Both seem to be brought by others to the island, or not? Funerals should be spectacular and the graveyard sure is remarkable. Are there events which are so specific to the island that it cannot be taken away of its year and life routine? What indicates Aruban behaviour?



Nature and trash



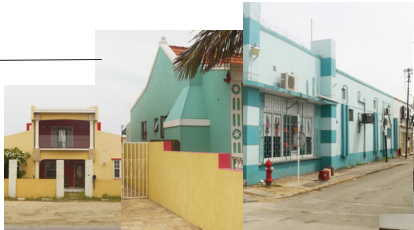
The nature on the island is unique and not to be found anywhere else on the world. The seldom birds, plants and the glorious rattlesnake is a good reason to protect it for the future. There is the Aruban hula as a good start and the first nature friendly area. General there is much trash all around the island - is there less can about nature? Perhaps the nature seems only so special to a visitor from outside or is there a reasonable gap between the Arubians and nature? The Indian origin talk about a close relationship between another, or is the origin of an Aruban to diffuse nowadays, that this cannot even be mentioned anymore?

I saw some artists working with recycled wheels, but does recycling exist or would it be possible to introduce "Mistral de la rue"? Are there any places where you can bring your sorted trash? What happens to the collected trash on the island?

4.



12. Colour copy paste



5.

Home and family

The best place for an Aruban seems to be his home. The all time favourite. I never have been home to a real Aruban house so I imagine it like the most wonderful cosiest. Something you never want to leave. A family has rightly more members here than back to Europe. Is family the centre point of every member's life? How far get the family stretched into other groups, like friends or work colleagues? The different family cultures appear to only interfere at school, the crosky store or at the jobs office, but in general the culture stay within their traditional known culture. Are men care to find? The most widespread seems to be the classic family set up and a life long bond of marriage and family members. Are there other constellations to be found on Aruba, like patchwork families or gay parents?



11. Missing public transport

The car is the golden key on the island. Without you can go now where. Existing public transport is rare and only during the day and at night you either go with are taxi or slowly after a drunken street companion. Most likely it is normal to drive home after a couple of drinks, especially on the all year long "Happy Hour Friday". If asking about that issue the answer once had been "The youngsters drive so fast when they are drunk, in old times we have driven slower". Even a policeman might have been seen sipping of his beer can. Being that much relaxed about "drunk and drive" is completely new to me so I was wondering if it occurred because of the missing public transport or is it a part of the culture, especially the "Happy Hour Friday"?



The number of accidents seems high for a small island and half of the cars have clear marks of bumping into each other. What is getting done about it or is a small rear-end collision accident not considered as an accident? For example I opened my car door and bumped into the neighbours car slightly. I was nearly shocked what to do now, but the lady just mused, "Oh nothing happened!" and smiled.