



Aruba

Destination Guide

ARRIVING IN ARUBA

1) A week or two before your trip you can fill out your online immigration form—called the Embarkation-Debarcation or ED card—which is available at EDcardAruba.aw. Each passenger must complete a separate entry, including children. **NOTE:** If your itinerary changes or your flight is cancelled, you will need to resubmit your information before the new flight.

2) If you do not complete the ED card online, you will be given a paper form to fill out during the flight. Keep a pen, passports, and travel documents easily accessible from your seat. Use blue or black ink to COMPLETE and SIGN the form. Remember that the date format is Day/Month/Year.

3) After deplaning, you will first pass through the immigration area. Have your passport and completed forms in hand and answer any questions from the officer.

4) Go to the luggage carousel and claim all of your checked bags.

5) Bring your luggage to the customs area. Your bags may be x-rayed or selected for additional inspection.

LEAVING THE AIRPORT

After exiting the customs area, you have several transportation options:

PRE-BOOKED TRANSFERS – Follow the instructions in your travel documents to find your transportation company.

TAXI – Follow airport signs to the taxi dispatch area. (See “Getting Around” for more details.)

RENTAL CAR – Cross the street in front of the airport to get to the rental car offices. A few companies have off-site offices and signs indicate where to catch the shuttle.

CURRENCY

Aruba has its own currency called the Aruban florin, but US dollars are widely accepted around the island. Some shops may not accept \$50 or \$100 bills. Use caution when carrying or storing any amount of cash, and a credit card is often the safest bet.

CULTURE

LANGUAGE – Official languages are Dutch and Papiamentu, but most Arubans can also communicate in English.

TIPPING – Bars and restaurants may add a 10-15% service charge, which is shared by servers and kitchen staff, and you may choose to leave an additional amount if you wish. If a service charge is not included, tipping is appropriate at US standards. Housekeepers, luggage handlers, and tour guides may also be tipped at your discretion.

DRESS – Daytime dress is casual, with shirts and coverups recommended over swimwear while not at the pool or beach. Evening dress is still casual, although some restaurants prefer diners to avoid shorts, t-shirts, or flip flops. Jackets are rarely required for men, but a jacket or light sweater might be necessary in air conditioning or windy spots.

ELECTRICITY

Aruba uses similar plug shapes and voltage to the United States and Canada, so converters and adapters are not necessary. I recommend bringing a surge protector to protect your electronic devices.

STAYING HEALTHY

WATER – The island’s water is distilled at desalination plants and is safe to drink from the tap. Pack a refillable water bottle.

SUN – Being closer to the equator plus the reflection off the water and sand increases the sun’s intensity. Be careful because island breezes may distort your perception of exposure! Apply plenty of sunscreen in a higher SPF than normal, plus consider a hat, sunglasses, and protective lip balm.

BUGS – Aruba’s winds tend to keep many flying insects away, but there are exceptions. Play it safe by bringing bug spray and anti-itch cream. Keep your balcony door closed and do not leave food in your hotel room.

GETTING AROUND

TAXI – Taxis do not have meters, so rates are fixed by distance and destination. Verify the fare in advance. Minimum fares may apply, and prices may increase at night, on Sunday, or during a holiday.

PUBLIC BUS – Several public bus lines run along the main roads, including access to the main beaches. Your hotel staff or concierge should be able to provide more detail on fares and stop locations.

RENTAL CAR – Driving is on the right, although some traffic laws are different. (For example, right turns on red are prohibited.) Ask your rental company to review the regulations with you. Some sites off the main roads are better suited for a 4x4 vehicle.

TIMESHARE / VACATION CLUB

Offers of discounted tours, promotional items, or other “freebies” are likely connected with a timeshare or vacation club company. Their presentations may take up considerable time and can be high-pressure sales pitches. Firmly say no if you do not wish to be approached about this. If you do attend, **USE EXTREME CAUTION** before entering into a contractual agreement in a foreign country.

RETURN TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT

VERY IMPORTANT – You should plan to arrive at the airport a minimum of 3 hours before your flight departure time. The airport arrival process involves multiple steps and security screenings, including preclearance for US immigration and customs. The steps include:

- Airline Ticket Counter and Luggage Check
- Aruba Immigration
- Aruba Security Screening Checkpoint
- Duty-free Shopping*
- Retrieve Checked Luggage
- US Immigration and Customs
- Return Checked Luggage to Airline
- US/TSA Security Screening Checkpoint
- Gate Area*

**Be conscious of time spent in the first duty-free area, since more security screening is still required. Additional shops and restaurants are available in the gate area.*

PRE-BOOKED TRANSFERS – Confirm your pick-up time with the transfer company at least 24-48 hours before departure. Make sure you will arrive at the airport with plenty of time for the extended check-in procedures. Be in the hotel lobby at least 20 minutes before your pick-up time to complete your checkout.

RETURNING TO THE U.S.

1) Since you will pre-clear customs and immigration in Aruba, you will not need to do so after your arrival in the United States.

2) **DUTY FREE REMINDER FOR CONNECTING PASSENGERS:** Some airports require passengers with connecting flights to pass through a security checkpoint before proceeding to another terminal. If so, you may not be able to carry your liquid duty-free purchases with you. Check with your airline and Travel Specialist for details.