



February 3-8, 2026

Journey with the J: CURACAO, CARIBBEAN



Curaçao is a small island nation located in the southern Caribbean Sea, just off the coast of Venezuela. It makes up the 'C' in the ABC Islands that consist of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, and is a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. With a population of around 160,000 people, Curaçao is a diverse and vibrant nation that is home to a mix of cultures, including Afro-Caribbean, Dutch, and Latin American. Curaçao is known for its picture-perfect beaches, crystal-clear waters, and vibrant coral reefs, making it a popular tropical destination for tourists and scuba divers. Beyond tourism, Curaçao's economy is driven by the oil refinery industry, financial services, and international trade. Although it may be small in size, Curaçao is big when it comes to history and culture. It's easy to see this reflected in its music, cuisine, and traditions. There is a mix of languages spoken on the island, and most locals grow up speaking all four: Papiamentu (the native tongue), Dutch, English, and Spanish. Curaçao is also known for its lively carnival

celebrations, which are a colorful and festive display of the island's culture and heritage. Curaçao is well worth a visit. Its dry climate and European influence make it a truly unique Caribbean destination.

Recommended Direct Flights from JFK to CUR: Jetblue (To be purchased on your own)

February 3, 2026 – Depart JFK at 8:30 am Arrive CUR at 2:18 pm

February 8, 2026 – Depart CUR at 3:30 pm Arrive JFK at 7:21 pm

Hotel:

Curacao Marriott Beach Resort



At the beachfront hotel in Curacao, the Dutch-meets-Caribbean fusion makes an unforgettable impression. Modern style rooted in European architecture starts at the open-air Great Room and is carried through each spacious guest room onto its own balcony. Located 15 minutes from the airport and five minutes from the floating Queen Emma bridge and colorful Handelskade in historic Willemstad, our Curacao Beach resort is conveniently located on the island.

The average daily high temperatures are around 85 degrees, and the average daily low temperatures are around 77 degrees. February is one of the driest months, with most days staying sunny. The sea temperature is a warm 80 degrees, ideal for swimming and water activities.



Daily Itinerary: (This is a preliminary schedule, and items are subject to change).

Day 1: Tuesday, Feb. 3: Check into hotel, relax

Dinner all together

Day 2: Wednesday, Feb 4:

Explore Willemstad

The second day is all about the city of Willemstad. You'll discover the iconic colorful streets of the largest city of Curaçao. Willemstad is often highlighted on postcards, and travel vlogs due to its eclectic blend of Dutch and Caribbean architectural influences, and cultural heritage. And what better way to learn about the city than a guided stroll along the art-adorned streets.

Willemstad is divided into two main districts: Punda and Otrobanda, which are connected by the Queen Emma Bridge, a unique style of pontoon bridge that swings open to allow ships to pass. Both districts have a lot of attractions and activities, from shopping and dining to museums and monuments. Here are some of the highlights we will see during your time in the city.

1. **Punda:** this is the oldest and most colorful district of Willemstad, where you will find many shops, cafes, and museums. We will walk around the streets and admire the buildings, such as the Fort Amsterdam, the Governor's Palace.

2. **Queen Emma Bridge:** also known as the “Swinging Old Lady,” is a pontoon bridge that connects Punda and Otrabanda. The bridge will swing open to allow large ships to pass through the bay. You can also enjoy the views of the city and the water from the bridge or take a photo with the giant letters that spell out “dushi” which means “sweet” or “lovely” in the local dialect - Papiamentu.
3. **Gouverneur De Rouville:** This is a charming restaurant located in a historic building that was once the residence of the governor of Curacao. Stop here for lunch and enjoy the view of the Queen Emma Bridge and the Handelskade, a waterfront strip that is lined with cafes, bars, and restaurants. The restaurant serves a variety of dishes, such as seafood, steak, and local specialties. This restaurant is ideal for sitting and slowly sipping on some cocktails while enjoying the scenery, as it has an amazing view of the city.
4. **Otrabanda:** this is the newer and more modern district of Willemstad, where you will find more shops, hotels, and museums. We will walk around the streets and see the buildings, such as the Rif Fort, a former military fort that now houses a shopping mall, and the Kura Hulanda Museum, which showcases the history and culture of the African diaspora in the Caribbean.

This tour offers a comprehensive and immersive experience of Curacao's vibrant culture and history through a guided walking tour of the Punda and Otrabanda districts. Led by knowledgeable local guides, visitors can explore the colorful Dutch architecture, murals, forts, street arts, markets, and even a rum distillery. The tour also provides opportunities to learn about local customs, making it a truly authentic and unforgettable experience.

Lunch together. Dinner on your own.

Day 3: Thursday, Feb 5: Boat Trip to Klein Curacao (8:30 am-5 pm)

We will take a day trip by boat to one of Curacao's most popular tourist destinations - Klein Curaçao. The island of Klein Curaçao is picturesque and uninhabited, making it a paradise for nature lovers. A day trip here really highlights the unforgettable blue waters of Curaçao. You'll see pristine white sand beaches, thriving coral reefs, and a small lighthouse. The island can only be reached by boat, but there's no better way to appreciate its beauty than from the water.

The boat ride takes around an hour and a half, and you can soak up the stunning ocean views and the island throughout the trip. Once you arrive, you can explore the lighthouse, swim, and snorkel. You can also visit a few shipwrecks that are scattered around the island.

Lunch and drinks will be provided, as well as snorkeling equipment, a guide and a crew. Bring sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses, as there is not much shade on the island.

Klein Curaçao is a perfect place to escape the crowds and enjoy the natural beauty of the Caribbean. You might also be lucky enough to spot some of the wildlife that inhabits the island, such as sea turtles, pelicans, and flamingos.

Day 4: Friday, Feb. 6:

Jewish Heritage Tour (4 - 4.5 hours)

The itinerary is:

- Beth Haim Bleinheim, cemetery from the mid-17th century (uneven walking surface).
- Beth Haim Berg Altera, cemetery from the late 19th century, still in use.
- Mikvé Israel Emanuel Museum & Curaçao Jewish Museum (Official ID is mandatory - roughly 45-60min needed here.)
- Drive through Scharloo, a former Jewish neighborhood with monuments.
- Chobolobo Curaçao Liqueur Distillery, Jewish owned (the famous Blue Curacao liqueur).
- Shaarei Tsedek Synagogue
- Mongui Maduro Museum & Library

We will drive and get off at the stops; there is not a lot of walking involved. Bring a hat/cap, as there is no shade in the cemeteries.

Lunch is on your own.

Shabbat Dinner: All together

Day 5: Saturday, Feb 7: Hato Caves, Ostrich Farm, Serena's Art & the Aloe Vera Plant



Breakfast at the hotel

Morning Excursion:

Visit the amazing Hato Caves, limestone caves inside a coral reef, go on a safari tour at the Ostrich farm, see some amazing Curacao artwork at Serena's ChiChi Factory and learn the secrets and medicinal powers of the Aloe Vera Plant. (4.5 hours)

Lunch on your own – Dinner all together.

Day 6: Sunday, Feb 8: Travel Day

Breakfast at the hotel

After a leisurely morning, we will depart the hotel approximately at 12:30 PM for the return.

You can choose to extend your stay or return home with the group.

Transfer to airport provided for those on recommended flights.

Essential Travel Documents:

Passport – This is obvious, but you won't make it far without a passport.

TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR PASSPORT!

Credit Cards – I use several travel credit cards that offer purchase protection, rewards, and no foreign transaction fees.

Debit Cards – We rely on the ATM when we arrive. Charles Schwab, Ally, and Capital One offer low or no foreign transaction fees.

Packing List - Casual clothing with comfortable footwear. The key to packing is clothes that can serve multiple purposes.

Feb. 3 – Travel Day /clothes on plane, beachwear and dinner outfit

Feb. 4 – Day outfit & Night outfit

Feb. 5 – Catamaran trip – bathing suit/cover up & Night outfit

Feb. 6 – Day outfit & Night outfit

Feb. 7 - Day outfit & Night outfit

Feb. 8 - Travel Day – comfortable clothing for plane, sneakers

Bathing Suits: Two (less is more)

T-shirts: A classic tee will never go out of style. Stick with solid colors like black, white, or grey. Keep it simple when it comes to tees. A favorite color is a light heather grey as it's easy to stain white.

Shoes: 1 pair sneakers (wear on plane), 1 pair sandals/flip flops for beach, 1 optional pair of evening shoes (sandal/slide. There are cobblestone streets in a lot of the towns and sneakers/sandals are acceptable everywhere). Comfort is key.

Toiletries:

Toothbrush/Small toothpaste

Sunblock

Any Medicine you may require (I always pack travel size Sudafed, DayQuil, Nyquil, Advil, Tylenol, Benadryl, Tums, Dramamine just in case)

Bring playing cards, travel backgammon, pickleball rackets or any other activity you may want to do.

Packing cubes help separate damp and dirty clothes from clean ones. It also makes unpacking easy by placing the cubes directly into the hotel closet/drawers.

Adapter for Phone/iPad/Laptop

ONCE YOU ARE PACKED – **Take a picture of your luggage** with any identifying tags, stickers. This is in case your luggage is missing/delayed, you will be able to show the airport staff what your bag looks like.

Tour Details: Curacao: Journey with the J: February 3-8, 2026

Fees:

\$3600 per person (\$500 supplement single room* \$500 supplement for non-member*)

Note: Please be aware that we do not provide roommate matching services. You must list the name of the person you plan to share the room with, and they must also submit their own application indicating the same preference.

Payment Schedule & Registration:

A \$1000 deposit is required by December 22, 2025, to reserve your place. The remaining balance of your trip fees are due by January 5, 2026. 60 days (December 5, 2025) before departure bookings are refundable less a \$150 administration fee (After December 5 trip is non-refundable).

Please do not book any non-refundable transportation until the tour has been confirmed.

A minimum number of participants are required to operate tour dates. If a minimum number has not been reached prior to tour departure and the tour is canceled, you will receive a FULL refund.

The fee for the trip includes the following:

- 5 nights' accommodation in centrally located four-star resort in Curacao
- 5 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Private airport transfers to and from Airport
- Private coach transportation as specified in the itinerary
- Private guided walking tours

Cost of trip does not include:

- Any meals not listed above, and all alcoholic beverages not included
- Roundtrip flights to and from Curacao (CUR)
- Anything else not listed above
- Trip Insurance (highly recommended)

Tour Activity Level

You'll be on the go each day on this tour. The group will travel to sites via private vehicles, or we'll be walking where you should expect uneven surfaces, stairs, and inclines.

Participants can expect to be standing or walking for 2 – 3 hours at a time while on excursions. All tour start and end times will be announced the night before. Participants are responsible for arriving to the meeting locations on time. Your tour will begin and end with the included airport transfers.

We strongly recommend purchasing Travel Insurance. [Travel Insurance - Compare and Buy Trip Insurance Online](#) - This site compares quotes from top rated companies like AIG and John Hancock as well as many others. You just plug in some basic info, price of trip, destination, date of trip, and your age & it emails you quotes from major insurance providers.