



Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

<b>SUNDAY:</b> MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>MONDAY:</b> ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>TUESDAY:</b> JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>THURSDAY:</b> MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>FRIDAY:</b> MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	<b>SATURDAY:</b> RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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# U.S. order cutting access to Anthropic's AI models sparks criticism

**New York, United States**

The U.S. government's order for Anthropic to withdraw its most powerful artificial intelligence models has sparked a wave of criticism from both advocates and opponents of AI regulation. On Friday evening, the San Francisco-based company announced that the US Department of Commerce had ordered it to suspend Mythos 5 and Fable 5 for "national security" reasons, without providing further details.

Unlike Mythos 5, which was unrestricted and available only to a small number of partners, Fable 5 was heavily protected to prevent any major misuse, particularly for cyberattacks or the development of chemical and biological weapons.

But Anthropic said an orga-



This photograph shows a figurine in front of the logo of the U.S. artificial intelligence safety and research company Anthropic during a photo session in Paris on February 13, 2026.

nization -- whose identity it didn't disclose -- reported

tion that it had found a way to bypass safeguards designed to prevent Fable 5 from being used for a cyberattack.

Anthropic described the loophole discovered by this third party -- identified by several media outlets as Amazon -- as "narrow" and said the software vulnerabilities it exposed were "minor." The directive applied only to access by foreign nationals, but Anthropic said it was unable to distinguish among users based on nationality and was therefore forced to take its models offline. A government's outright ban on an advanced AI model developed by a domestic company is unprecedented. China blocks access to the most capable Western AI models and imposes restrictions on major domestic AI companies, but those restrictions are generally built into the models before they are released.

**- An 'impulsive' decision -** Entrepreneur Martin Varsavsky said the implications of the order are "enormous." Any startup "making frontier models is at the mercy of the government," he commented on X. "Therefore, the order doesn't just punish Anthropic. It changes the rules for the entire industry." Researcher Gary Marcus said he saw the United States and China battling to

a "tie" in the AI race -- until Friday's government announcement.

"It didn't occur to me the Trump administration could trip the US efforts from behind," Marcus said. "But it just did."

Some observers argue that Anthropic bears considerable responsibility for its predicament after it had warned for years about the risks associated with the most advanced AI models. On Wednesday, Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei once again called for policymakers to "activate a slow and rickety policy apparatus to deal with risks and opportunities that are going to compound surprisingly quickly from here."

Several of President Trump's supporters who, until only a few weeks ago, strongly opposed AI regulation -- much like the Trump administration itself -- have attempted to defend the directive.

Among them are influential investor Marc Andreessen and former White House AI adviser David Sacks.

Others, however, including former Trump AI adviser Dean Ball, accused them of intellectual dishonesty, noting that they had fiercely criticized regulatory efforts under former president Joe Biden.

The pro-regulation group Americans for Responsible Innovation argued that decisions of this magnitude should not be made "impulsively" or be subject to "political favoritism."

Anthropic is currently at odds with the Trump administration, which has terminated all of its government contracts with the company.

Many observers agree that AI has entered a new era requiring greater government involvement, but they strongly objected to the manner in which the action is carried out.

"In a functioning administration, nobody would have ever been blindsided by an action like this," said Ben Murphy of the Institute for Progress, a think tank focused on emerging technologies. □

Paseo Herencia

## WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS

# 8PM

<b>MON</b>	<b>LATIN DANCE SHOW</b> <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>CULTURAL DANCE SHOW</b> <i>By Youth in Action</i>
<b>THU</b>	<b>ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE</b> <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>VIOLIN SHOW</b> <i>By Angela Flores</i>

### WATERSHOWS

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**7:30**

**8:30**

**9:30**

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## U.S.-Iran peace deal announced with 'permanent' end to military action

### Washington, United States

The United States and Iran agreed a peace deal and an "immediate and permanent" end to military operations on all fronts including Lebanon, mediator Pakistan said, signaling the apparent end to more than three months of war in Middle East.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif posted on X that a peace deal "has been REACHED" and an official signing ceremony will be held on June 19 in Switzerland.

"The Deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete," U.S. President Donald Trump swiftly confirmed with his own statement on Sunday, as he marked his 80th birthday.

"I hereby fully authorize the toll free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and, simultaneously herewith, authorize the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade. Ships of the World, start your engines. Let the oil flow!"

Soon after, Iran said that the newly announced agreement with the United States put an "immediate end" to the countries' war.

"A permanent and immediate end to the war has been declared on all fronts, including Lebanon," Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said in televised comments in Iran.

Just hours earlier, Tehran had vowed to retaliate



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks before signing a proclamation in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, on June 11, 2026.

against a strike by Israel against Iranian ally Hezbollah in the suburbs of Beirut which threatened to push back an agreement.

But later in the day, Pakistan's Sharif made the announcement that a deal had been struck, thanking the US and Iran "for finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict."

"Both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon," Sharif wrote, adding thanks to leaders of Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey for their support in the mediation effort.

### - Israeli strike -

It was a rollercoaster Sunday, with Trump in the morning angrily blaming Israel for delaying its signing with the airstrike on Beirut, which he said had delayed the agreement.

In an expletive-laden phone interview with US news outlet Axios, Trump had fumed about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying: "I was so pissed off. I let him know." The last time Israel hit the Beirut suburbs, it sparked one of the strongest jolts yet to a ceasefire that has largely held since April, with Iran firing off a retaliatory missile barrage and Israel responding with strikes.

Tehran has long demanded that any agreement to halt the war must include the parallel conflict in Lebanon, where Israel has been pursuing a campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah.

The war began in late February, with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran, which retaliated with attacks on Israel and U.S. allies in the region, and by virtually blocking ship traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil and natural gas supplies. The U.S. retaliated to that by blockading ship traffic to Iranian ports.

Trump said Sunday the strait would open after the ceremony in Switzerland.

### - Economic impact -

The blockade of the strait has had a worldwide economic impact, from inflated gas prices that have fueled inflation in the US and many other countries and congested supply chains for goods like fertilizer key to food production in areas far beyond the Middle East. "What we're going to be able to do is drive down the cost of energy, not just now but for the long term, and create a real engine of prosperity in the Middle East," U.S. Vice President JD Vance told Fox News after the agreement was announced.

He said that he planned to attend the signing of a peace deal, which was slated to take place in Geneva, and that it was possible Trump could also come.

"I certainly plan to be there, but it's possible the president himself could be there," Vance said.

### - Sticking points -

The content of the agreement, which follows weeks of fraught negotiations and periodic threats from Trump of fresh hostilities unless Iran reached a deal -- remained unclear.

The warring parties have released conflicting information about the contents of the deal, as each seeks to show it emerged from the war with the upper hand. □

## 'Bookless bookstore': audio-only book shop opens in New York

### New York, United States

Audiobook giant Audible opened what it billed as the first "bookless bookstore" in New York on Friday as industry statistics show more American consumers embracing the format.

There is no rustle of pages or stacks of best-selling novels at the pop-up store opened by the Amazon subsidiary on the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

"This is a physical place entirely dedicated to bringing audio storytelling to life," Audible CEO Bob Carrigan said during a press tour of the "Audible Story House" on Thursday.

It was a slightly "wild idea" which "took quite a bit of imagination," Carrigan said, adding that the month-long pop-up aims to "bring audiobooks to life in this environment where you can browse, you can connect with people."

According to the Audio Publishers Association (APA), audiobook sales reached \$2.22 billion in the United States in 2024, nearly doubling over the past five years.

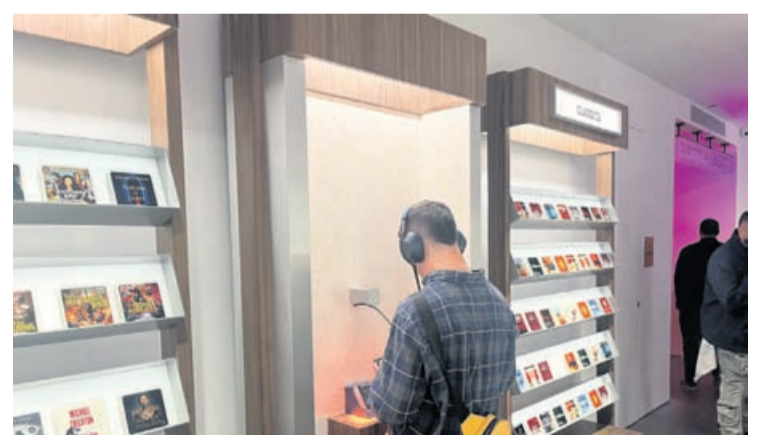
In the store, audiobook tablets called "story tiles" line the shelves, ready to be inserted into a player

for listening through headphones.

Each tile plays a short excerpt and the full title can be accessed on the Audible app.

The platform, which dominates the audiobook market, offers paid subscriptions, individual purchases and free access to some titles for Amazon account holders.

The venue also has a room lined with speakers for headphone-free listening, as well as a "Listening Bar" where "Story Tenders" will "guide attendees in finding the perfect audiobook for their tastes and interest,"



A customer shops at the Audible Story House in New York, on April 30, 2026. The pop-up store labeled as a "bookless bookstore" is dedicated to audiobooks.

according to the press release.

The space aims to reflect the fast-growing popular-

ity of the format as well as the "shift toward offline experiences and real-world connection." □

# New Mexico launches landmark stipend program for students experiencing homelessness

**SANTA FE, NM** — In a pioneering move to combat the growing crisis of student instability, New Mexico has officially launched the "Pathways to Graduation" initiative. The program provides a \$500 monthly stipend to high school students identified as experiencing homelessness, marking the first state-wide effort of its kind in the United States to use direct cash transfers as a tool for educational retention.

The program, which began its pilot phase this month, aims to remove the immediate financial barriers that often force vulnerable teenagers to choose between attending class and finding their next meal or a safe place to sleep. According to the New Mexico Public Education Department, there are currently over 10,000 students in the state who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

"We are asking these children to master algebra and history while they are worried about where they will park their car to sleep or if they can afford a coat for the winter," said State Senator Elena Rodriguez, a primary advocate for the bill. "This stipend isn't a gift; it is a floor.



It provides a tiny bit of solid ground so they can keep their eyes on their diplomas."

The stipend is distributed via pre-paid debit cards and comes with "no strings attached" regarding how the money is spent. However, to remain eligible, students must maintain a minimum attendance record and meet regularly with a school counselor or a designated program mentor. This structure is designed to keep students tethered to their school community while giving them the dignity to address their own most urgent needs.

Early data from similar, small-

er-scale pilots in cities like Vancouver and San Francisco suggests that when unhoused individuals receive direct cash, the majority of the funds are spent on essentials: food, transportation, clothing, and hygiene products.

For 17-year-old "Jordan," a high school junior in Albuquerque who asked to use a pseudonym for privacy, the first \$500 payment has already been transformative. Jordan has been bouncing between couches and a local youth shelter since last summer.

"Before the stipend, I was spending four hours a day just figuring out how to get

a bus pass or where to find a laundry mat I could afford," Jordan said. "Now, I can pay for a reliable phone plan to do my homework and keep a locker at a gym so I can shower before school. For the first time in a year, I'm not arriving at first period exhausted from just surviving the night."

Critics of the program have raised concerns about the lack of oversight on how the cash is used, suggesting that funds could be mismanaged. However, state officials argue that the administrative costs of "policing" every purchase would outweigh the benefits. They

point to the "Housing First" philosophy, which suggests that stability is the necessary precursor to any other form of success.

The "Pathways to Graduation" initiative is funded through a combination of state educational reserves and private philanthropic grants. If the first year proves successful in raising graduation rates among the participant group, the state legislature has indicated a willingness to make the program a permanent fixture of the New Mexico budget.

"Success for us looks like a student walking across that stage in a cap and gown," said Dr. Michelle Arviso, a district superintendent. "If \$500 a month is what it takes to ensure a child doesn't disappear from our rolls and into the cycle of chronic homelessness, it is the best investment this state can make."

As the school year progresses, educators across the country are watching New Mexico closely. If the program yields the expected results, it may serve as a blueprint for other states struggling to support their most at-risk students in an increasingly expensive world. □

## U.S. betting firm sponsorships spark election integrity fears



This photograph shows set up screens displaying the logo and home page of U.S. based prediction market platform Kalshi, in Saint-Mande, east of Paris, on April 29, 2026.

### Washington, United States

A U.S. mayoral race triggered a flood of misinformation from online influencers sponsored by betting companies -- exposing a new threat analysts warn

could undermine the integrity of future elections. Prediction market app Kalshi has asked at least two influencers paid to promote the site to delete X posts that spread base-

less claims of "cheating" and "stealing" in the Los Angeles mayoral election, according to U.S. media.

Another firm, Polymarket, told AFP "paid partnership" tags were removed from several other posts that similarly questioned the vote while promoting the company's betting odds.

The actions came as the unfounded posts raised alarm ahead of November's midterm elections -- in which President Donald Trump's Republican Party is seeking to maintain control of Congress -- followed by 2028's presidential race.

But an AFP review found more than half a dozen X posts casting doubt on California's results still car-

ried the sponsorship tags on Friday, suggesting they continued benefiting from the paid partnerships with either firm.

"The LA mayoral race foreshadows what's to come in American election cycles," Jess Rauchberg, an assistant professor at Seton Hall University, told AFP. "If 2016 was the 'social media election' and 2024 was the 'influencer election,' 2028 will be the 'prediction market election.'"

The sponsored posts added to a wave of misinformation about California's primary, largely from supporters of Trump, who has decried the mayoral race and other state contests as rigged.

Incumbent Democrat Karen Bass and progressive

challenger Nithya Raman advanced to the mayoral runoff, topping Trump-hyped candidate Spencer Pratt in one of several closely watched primaries in the state.

### - 'Profiting handsomely' -

In a statement to AFP, a Polymarket spokesman said company guidelines "explicitly prohibit affiliates from providing misleading or false information and we will continue to monitor and ensure compliance with our paid contributors." He did not say how many sponsorship tags had been removed but AFP's review found at least four posts were affected.

Kalshi did not respond to AFP's requests for comment. □

## Mideast war helps electric motorbikes boom in Africa

### Nairobi, Kenya

In Nairobi's congested streets, the almost imperceptible hum of electric motorbikes is increasingly replacing the roar of their petrol-powered counterparts.

The war in the Middle East, launched by the United States and Israel in February, has had the unlikely consequence of boosting green vehicles across Africa, especially in countries such as Kenya that are heavily dependent on fuel imports.

"Boda-bodas" -- the name given to motorbikes in Kenya -- are a vital part of the economy in the east African nation, used to transport everything from people to groceries to furniture. Wisly Onyaiti, riding his large black boda, says the savings from switching to electric have been huge -- roughly 2,000 shillings (\$15) a day cheaper than running a petrol bike, a significant sum in a country where many workers earn barely \$100 a month.

"Electric bikes are a game-changer," said Onyaiti, who works as a bike-taxi driver to fund his criminology and digital marketing studies. The savings have only increased since the start of the Mideast conflict, which has driven fuel prices up around 22 percent in Kenya.



**Mototaxi drivers, popularly known in East Africa as boda boda riders, chat while sitting on their electric motorbikes as they wait for customers amid a national fuel price crisis in Nairobi on May 21, 2026.**

Sales of electric motorbikes are booming as a result -- up around 40 percent in the last three months, according to the E-Mobility Association of Kenya.

Several e-motorbike companies are competing for the booming trade, including ArcRide, Ampersand and Roam.

But it's Spiro, an African startup, that currently dominates, with around 90 percent of sales in Kenya.

At Spiro's factory on the outskirts of Nairobi, workers assemble motorbikes with smooth efficiency. At full capacity, they can produce more than 400 a day.

Since coming to Kenya in September 2023, Spiro's sales have rocketed from 4,000 in 2024 to 14,000 the following year, and they are targeting 50,000 in 2026.

"Growth has been tremendous, quite exponential," said Raymond Kitunga, Spiro's number two.

The brand, which also has a presence in Uganda, Rwanda, Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Cameroon, estimates that around 100,000 of its two-wheelers are now on African roads. It wants to triple that by the end of the year.

Policy is helping: Rwanda

has banned traditional motorcycles in its capital, and Uganda is pushing for a rapid transition to electric two-wheelers.

Spiro says these two markets alone represent a potential 1.5 million customers.

### - Rapid transition -

The electric transition is much faster than in the West because motorbikes are primarily a commercial vehicle rather than a weekend luxury, said Hezbon Muse, Kenya director for Ampersand.

And in a developing economy with high fuel prices,

every little saving can make a huge difference.

The bikes are also relatively cheap -- around \$750 for starter models -- because they don't include the batteries, which are instead rented and exchanged at charging stations dotted around cities.

At an Ampersand station in Nairobi, the exchange takes barely two minutes. A fully charged battery has a range of about 80 kilometres (50 miles) and costs 265 shillings (\$2) -- roughly half what it would cost in petrol.

The war has increased costs for parts, most of which are from China. And with the dollar increasingly volatile, Chinese vendors now often want payment in yuan, said Joe Croft, founder of ArcRide.

"But all that is completely wiped out by the savings for bike users" now that petrol prices have surged as U.S. President Donald Trump continues the war, he said.

The surprising conclusion is that "Trump has made EVs (electric vehicles) a much more attractive market, while making sure that market is not conducted in dollars," Croft added.

In addition, Kenya's electricity is also 93-percent green-sourced (geothermal, hydroelectric, solar and wind) -- adding to the environmental benefits. □

## Newly minted trillionaire Musk under fire over Belfast riots



**SpaceX, Twitter and electric car maker Tesla CEO Elon Musk looks on as he speaks during his visit at the Vivatech technology startups and innovation fair at the Porte de Versailles exhibition center in Paris, on June 16, 2023.**

### Washington, United States

Elon Musk, newly crowned the world's first trillionaire,

faced renewed criticism Friday over anti-immigrant riots in Belfast after research-

ers said violent narratives he amplified on his platform X amassed millions of views. Clashes broke out in the Northern Irish capital after a brutal knife attack on Monday, with police charging a Sudanese national named Hadi Alodid with attempted murder.

Musk amplified calls for protest across Britain from anti-immigration activist Tommy Robinson and wrote to his 240 million followers on X: "Only by protesting REPEATEDLY and LOUDLY will there be any change."

He also boosted anti-immigration posts and messages from Rupert Lowe, leader of the fringe hard-right party

Restore Britain, extending his reach to millions of users on the platform.

Researchers from the non-profit tech watchdog Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) reported that the trio's posts about Belfast collectively garnered more than 115 million views across their accounts, with Musk accounting for 55 percent of the total.

"Musk's amplification has been instrumental," contributing 64 million views, CCDH said in a report.

"As the owner of X and its most followed user, Musk has unparalleled power to shape what people see on-

line. With that power comes responsibility for the content and conduct his platform promotes," said Imran Ahmed, CCDH's founder and chief executive.

"Yet our research shows that he used the Belfast tragedy to amplify anti-migrant narratives to millions of users, prompting endless calls for violence.

"While communities dealt with the consequences of brutality and disorder, no individual played a bigger role in spreading this content on X than Musk himself," Ahmed added.

X did not immediately respond to AFP's request for comment. □

## In ageing South Korea, AI dolls care for the elderly

### Yongin, South Korea

In her tiny apartment in South Korea, where she lives alone, 78-year-old Bang Chun-ja spends her days with a childlike AI-powered doll she says she prefers to people.

The doll greets Bang when she returns home, sings to her when she feels bored, reminds her not to skip meals or medication -- helping her maintain a routine -- and tells her it loves her.

Bang has limited contact with her grown-up daughter, and fell into severe depression after major back surgery, spending hours alone staring at the ceiling in pain.

After a difficult divorce and years of hard work as a hairdresser and single mother, Bang told AFP that "at this age, there is nothing harder than being hurt by people". But "when I'm with Hyodol, I never get hurt", she said, holding the cuddly doll with pigtails and a pink gingham dress, provided by her local municipality.

The doll "only makes me laugh", she added.

Bang is one of many South Koreans battling loneliness in a country where birth rates are among the world's lowest and almost half the population is 50 or older.

In 2024, South Korea recorded more than 3,920 "lonely deaths", people dying alone and remaining



This picture taken on April 29, 2026 shows Kim Young-bun, a South Korean elderly woman living alone, holding Hyodol, an AI-powered healthcare doll designed for elderly people, during an interview with AFP at her home in Yongin.

undiscovered for extended periods -- the highest since records began in 2017.

Around 42 percent of households in the Asian tech powerhouse are single-person, with social isolation affecting the country's vulnerable elderly in particular.

### - 'By my side' -

Authorities are providing AI care devices -- some designed to detect signs of lonely deaths -- to seniors living alone, including in districts of Seoul and in Yongin, south of the capital.

They also include a smiling

robot made by the company Wonderful Platform, and similar cute dolls from the firm Mr. Mind.

In the United States, a lamp-like AI device called ElliQ offers similar companionship and safety-monitoring services.

Hyodol, the startup behind the dolls of the same name, says around 14,500 are in use in South Korea, whether owned by individuals, rented out by governments or used in nursing homes.

Bang, in Yongin, said her daughter lives far away and has health issues of her

own, so "having Hyodol by my side is a huge help".

Developing the doll involved years of field research, said company head Kim Ji-hee.

Hyodol can converse using ChatGPT, but is also programmed with scripts based on Kim's real-life interviews.

People she met included a widow estranged from her adult children over financial woes, who stored piles of their belongings at their mother's home.

"She lived alone with four fridges and three washing machines," Kim, 49, told

AFP.

The interviews revealed the "pain of having no one to tell when something upsetting happens, and no one to share with when something joyful happens", Kim said.

### - Warmest welcome -

Hyodol has strict data security protocols, with voice recordings only used internally to train the doll's chatbot, Kim said.

Users give prior consent for certain health-related recordings, such as those related to sleep, mood, meals and pain levels, to be shared with their welfare workers.

Because many interviewees spoke fondly of parental or mentor figures, Hyodol was created as a grandchild-like companion designed to "love its users unconditionally," Kim said.

One of the earliest scripts she wrote was a greeting for users returning home, which she wanted to feel like the "warmest welcome in the whole wide world."

"Grandma, where have you been? I waited for you all day," it says. "Next time you go out, please take me with you!"

Made with soft, cushiony materials, the doll also makes spontaneous requests, asking users to pat its head, hold its hand or share snacks with it, although it cannot eat. □

## Bitter communion: Cuban priests ordered to ration mass wafers



George Payano, a friar of the Discalced Carmelites, celebrates Mass in the chapel of the Santa Teresa and San Jose Convent in the Vedado neighbourhood of Havana, on June 14, 2026.

### Havana, Cuba

To the never-ending list of scarcities in Cuba comes a new addition: communion for the Catholic faithful.

On Sunday, several priests told AFP that they had been ordered to ration the small wafers intended to symbolize the body of Jesus Christ during mass.

Communion wafer is made from a mix of flour and water pressed into flat discs that the priest places on worshippers' tongues during mass.

All that wafer consumed by Cuba's Catholics is made at a Carmelite monastery in

Havana, which like the rest of the city and country has been battling extended power cuts, made worse by a five-month-old US oil blockade.

In recent weeks, as Cuba's fuel supplies have begun to dry up, the outages have extended to over 24 hours at a stretch, causing misery for millions.

George Payano, a 35-year-old Dominican priest who officiated at a mass at Saint convent on Sunday, said the nuns sometimes had around two hours' electricity a day to work the communion wafer presses. "That means lower

production and as they (the nuns) told the priests and bishops you have to ration them a bit so that there are enough for all," he said.

While the 20 or so worshippers at his service did receive communion, they were preparing for leaner times ahead.

On exiting the church to find the power out again in the neighborhood, they vowed to keep the faith.

"People who don't receive communion can do so spiritually but let's hope it doesn't come to that," Mariela Shuman, a 70-year-old pensioner, told AFP. □

# Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest

of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which

are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute

walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area

and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center – it is free for all! □



## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain

that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"\*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the



quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on

top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a profes-

sional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □

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## Snakes of Aruba



**Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake *Crotalus unicolor*. This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.**

### Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting

trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in

which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number



of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

### Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted

insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

### Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. New-born Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly in white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. □



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## INFINI Unveils Caribbean Impression 15: A New Menu Experience



At INFINI, dining has always been about more than food. It is about storytelling, connection, and pushing the boundaries of Caribbean cuisine. With the introduction of Caribbean Impression 15, the restaurant presents a new tasting menu that reflects both the richness of the region and the creativity behind the kitchen.

This new menu is a refined journey through flavor, memory, and movement across the Caribbean. Each course is carefully composed to highlight bold ingredi-

ents, layered techniques, and unexpected pairings that elevate familiar tastes into something entirely new.

The experience begins with Brioche, a warm and aromatic introduction infused with curry, garlic, thyme, and honey. It is comforting yet complex, setting the stage for what follows.

Koli Koli brings a fresh and vibrant contrast. Hamachi is paired with honeydew melon, jalapeño, lemon, and sansho, creating a balance between sweetness, heat, and citrus brightness. It is a dish that feels light, precise, and full of energy.

With Jambo, the menu dives deeper into the flavors of the sea. Chilean seabass, octopus, mussels, and scallops come together with okra, cilantro, and Madam Jeanette, delivering a dish that is rich, layered, and unmistakably Caribbean in spirit.

A pause in the journey comes with Limpia Paladar, a palate cleanser designed to refresh and reset the senses before the next course. This is followed by Mojito, a refreshing and aromatic expression that plays on familiar notes in a refined



way.

The menu then moves into deeper, more indulgent territory with Stout Stew. Short ribs, local pastrami, and sirloin are slow cooked with stout, shiitake, maitake, and carrots, resulting in a dish that is rich, comforting, and full of depth. Sweetness arrives with Quesillo, a black garlic flan paired with pineapple, plantain, tamarind, and all spice. It is a bold and unexpected dessert that balances savory and sweet in a way that feels both nostalgic and modern.

The experience continues with a playful Bahama Mama cupcake, bringing a light and tropical finish, followed by Batata. This dish combines sweet potato, caviar, coconut, jerk spices, onion, and pineapple, offering a final savory note that is both surprising and memorable.

The journey closes with Limpia Man, a final refresh that leaves a lasting impression.

Caribbean Impression 15 is offered as a five course tasting experience, designed to flow seamlessly from one moment to the next. It reflects INFINI's commitment to showcasing the Caribbean in a way that is elevated, expressive, and deeply connected to place. Reservations are required. To reserve your table, call +297 699 3982 or send an email to reservations@infiniaruba.com.

This is not just a menu. It is a new chapter for INFINI, where each dish becomes part of a larger story told through flavor, creativity, and intention. □



## Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □





**(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.**

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors.

## CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors

From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the Tuna al Tamarindo, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind leche de tigre, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with tajín; and the Beef Stew Croquettes, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the Beef and Pork Brochetas, made with locally smoked bacon, Madam Jeannette peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfection and served with chimichurri espuma.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the Chilean Sea Bass, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and aji amarillo sauce, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, grilled paksoi and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the Duck and Rice, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and aji amarillo, finished with a pan fried egg and sarsa criolla.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The Caribbean Black Forest reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie

served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The Merengon Tropical delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.

Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new Sabor Experience, a limited time three course menu priced at \$79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome. □



## Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

**(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamentu above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that**

**can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.**

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamentu you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamentu means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamentu word for tourists.

### Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamentu—at least not official-

ly. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?" The word "con" in Papiamentu means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

### Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamentu is no different. Since Papiamentu is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

### Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atar-di", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

### Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

### Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamentu. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

### Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □



## Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theaters. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who



worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the

Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American

blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in

one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

**Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.**

## Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algamesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife



Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sa-

cred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people

can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where

Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

**Help FUDA with a last wishambulance for Aruba!**



**Donation: CMB#65550908**



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**CROSSWORD**

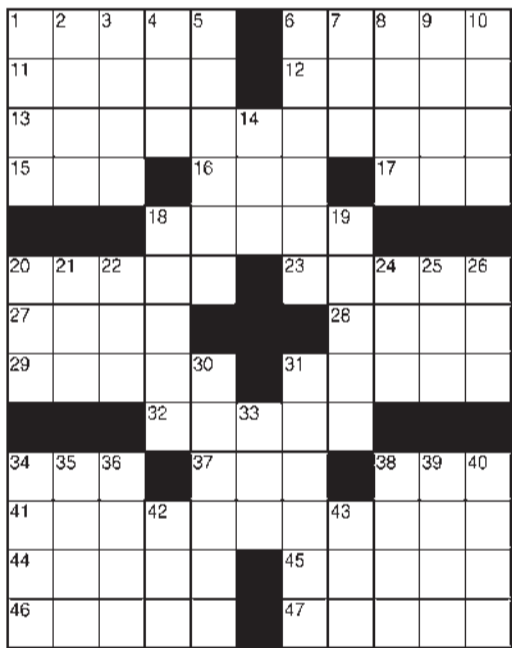
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Like some notebook paper
- 6 Taking to court
- 11 Dote on
- 12 Passion
- 13 Barbra Streisand hit
- 15 Compass dir.
- 16 Pen fill
- 17 Fall behind
- 18 Jeans material
- 20 Valentine's Day gift
- 23 Frisco player
- 27 Opera piece
- 28 Cairo's river
- 29 Polite chaps
- 31 Amorous archer
- 32 Corridors
- 34 Cash dispenser
- 37 Golf peg
- 38 Desire
- 41 Beyoncé hit
- 44 Microwave feature
- 45 Gives over
- 46 Stretches over
- 47 Valentine symbol

**DOWN**

- 1 Statutes
- 2 Wedding vows
- 3 Alaskan city
- 4 Memorable time
- 5 Disavows
- 6 Registered
- 7 Online address
- 8 Revered one
- 9 Flaring star
- 10 Golfer Norman
- 14 Tourist stop
- 18 Ominous tarot card
- 19 Less
- 20 Cloth scrap
- 21 Metal source
- 22 Lust, e.g.
- 24 Tiny taste
- 25 Yale rooster
- 26 Valentine color
- 30 Nymph chasers
- 31 Hold tightly
- 33 Floral garland
- 34 Play parts
- 35 Journey
- 36 Baby's call
- 38 Luke's teacher
- 39 At any time
- 40 Egg setting
- 42 Buddhism branch
- 43 Spike of film



2-14

A XYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-14

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

O B K K I Y P O W J R J P U O Q Z K  
T N V J I X R O Z Q , O Z I N Q Z K Y  
N Z Y J Z Y K Z O P P N W N Z B .

— R O K Y E M

**Cryptoquote:** TO LOVE AND BE LOVED IS TO FEEL THE SUN FROM BOTH SIDES.  
— DAVID VISCOTT

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

**Electrical power**

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Drinking water**



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the



store.

**Supermarket hours**

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

**Safety**

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

**JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE**

<b>02 TUE</b>	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B <b>CARNIVAL MAGIC</b> Arrival: 9:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C
<b>09 TUE</b>	<b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B <b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C <b>CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS</b> Arrival: 13:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: I
<b>16 TUE</b>	<b>ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B <b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C <b>SEVEN SEAS MARINER</b> Arrival: 10:00   Departure: 21:00   Berth: I
<b>17 WED</b>	<b>CARNIVAL VISTA</b> Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 16:00   Berth: C <b>ALLURE OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: I
<b>23 THU</b>	<b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B <b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
<b>30 TUE</b>	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B <b>CARNIVAL MAGIC</b> Arrival: 9:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C

**SUDOKU**

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

**King Classic Sudoku**

		9						8
				6		2		9
					4	3		6
8			2	3		6		
9	6	1		8	5	7	2	
2		4			1			
	9	5	7	2			6	
3		6		4		5		2
1		8			6	4	3	7

Difficulty: ★

6/15

**Answer to previous puzzle**

2	6	1	9	4	3	8	5	7
7	9	5	1	8	6	2	3	4
4	3	8	2	5	7	9	6	1
8	1	6	4	7	2	3	9	5
3	4	9	8	6	5	7	1	2
5	7	2	3	9	1	4	8	6
6	5	4	7	3	8	1	2	9
1	8	7	5	2	9	6	4	3
9	2	3	6	1	4	5	7	8

Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/14

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# U.S. gamers getting older as industry reports growth

## Washington, United States

Video games are having a moment in the United States -- but the players are getting older.

The average American video game player is now 37 years old -- up from 29 about two decades ago -- as the industry reports activity climbing back to their highest levels since the pandemic-era boom, a new report reveals.

The findings, from the Entertainment Software Association's annual Essential Facts report, challenge enduring stereotypes about who plays games while underscoring the industry's recovery from a post-pandemic slowdown.

"It mirrors in large part the demographics of the nation," ESA president and chief executive Stanley Pierre-Louis told AFP, noting that more than half of all players in the United States are now 35 or older.

The steadily rising average player age reflects both the aging of a generation that grew up with consoles and a wave of older adults who have since picked up the hobby.

The gender split also defies the stereotypical image of the young male gamer.

Men account for 53 percent of players and women 46 percent, with women actually outnumbering men among Baby Boomers, the ESA said.

Overall, 67 percent of Americans play video games for at least an hour a week -- a figure broad enough to encompass everything from blockbuster console titles to casual mobile games like Wordle.

Revenues -- totaling \$60.7 billion in 2025 -- have rebounded to their highest point since 2021, when pandemic lockdowns drove an outsized surge in both players and spending. After a pullback as restrictions lifted, the industry has returned to growth, Pierre-Louis said.

### - Self-regulation -

As lawmakers in the United States and Europe weigh tougher regulations on screen time, age verifica-



People play Mario Kart World during a launch event ahead of the midnight release of the Nintendo Switch 2 at the Nintendo New York store on June 4, 2025.

tion and in-game spending, Pierre-Louis argued the US gaming industry's track record of voluntary self-regulation sets it apart.

That voluntary framework, he said, has given the industry credibility with US lawmakers that social media platforms lack.

Those platforms, he noted, "traditionally didn't have the same level of parental tools that video games had" -- a gap that has fueled the regulatory backlash now engulfing companies such as Meta and TikTok.

"Safety is not a competitive issue in our industry -- it's one of collaboration," Pierre-Louis said.

"Being on the ecosystem and staying on the eco-

system means you feel like you're in a trusted environment."

### - 'Satisfaction' -

The ESA was founded in 1994 partly in response to congressional concern over violent content in games, and almost immediately established the Entertainment Software Rating Board, which assigns age ratings from E for Everyone to M for Mature for titles sold in North America. The system also flags details about online interactions and in-game purchases.

Major console platforms including Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo Switch now offer parental control tools that allow families to restrict what games children

can access, cap spending and limit screen time -- capabilities Pierre-Louis said have been refined over decades in direct response to parent and policymaker feedback.

The argument, however, faces increasing pushback in the United States. □



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## HEALTH



### DOCTOR ON DUTY

<b>Oranjestad Hospital</b> 7:00 pm/10:00pm Tel. 527 4000	<b>San Nicolas IMSAN</b> 24 HOURS Tel. 524 8833
----------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

<b>Oranjestad: Eagle</b> Tel. 587 9011	<b>San Nicolas: Centro Medico</b> Tel. 584 5794
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<b>Dental Clinic</b>	<b>587 9850</b>
<b>Blood Bank Aruba</b>	<b>587 0002</b>
<b>Urgent Care</b>	<b>586 0448</b>
<b>Walk-In Doctor's Clinic</b>	<b>588 0539</b>

### EMERGENCY

<b>Police</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Police Oranjestad</b>	<b>527 3140</b>
<b>Police Noord</b>	<b>527 3200</b>
<b>Police Sta. Cruz</b>	<b>527 2900</b>
<b>Police San Nicolas</b>	<b>584 5000</b>
<b>Police Tipline</b>	<b>11141</b>
<b>Ambulance</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Red Cross</b>	<b>582 2219</b>

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Germany hammer World Cup debutants Curacao after early score

## Houston, United States

Germany won their first opening match at a World Cup since lifting the trophy in 2014 as they eased to a 7-1 win against debutants Curacao in their opening Group E match in Houston on Sunday.

The Germans will face stiffer tests against group rivals Ecuador and Ivory Coast but the win against the tiny Caribbean nation puts them in a good position to progress to the knockout stages for the first time since 2014.

An early German goal by Felix Nmecha was cancelled out by a deflected strike from Livano Comenencia which had the Curacao fans, known as the Blue Wave, out of their seats in Houston.

However, Nico Schlotterbeck, Kai Havertz with a double, Jamal Musiala, Nathaniel Brown and Deniz Undav scored to put to bed any possibility of one of the greatest upsets in World Cup history.

"It is indescribable," said 22-year-old Brown of his first ever goal for his country. "To score in the first World Cup match, my family is there, then to celebrate



**Livano Comenencia #8 of Curacao celebrates with teammates after scoring the team's first goal during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group E match between Germany and Curacao at Houston Stadium on June 14, 2026 in Houston, Texas.**

with the guys -- simply incredible."

### - Germany on front foot -

Germany settled early, Nmecha scoring a beauty in the sixth minute, receiving the ball from Florian Wirtz and curling the ball round a Curacao defender and past goalkeeper Eloy Room.

The goal had coach Julian Nagelsmann letting out a huge roar.

Nmecha, who like Musiala played for England at junior

level before choosing Germany, went close minutes later with a rasping effort from outside the box.

German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, who at 40 is the oldest German player ever to appear at a World Cup and is playing in his fifth global tournament, had had little to do until Comenencia struck with a shot which took a deflection.

While Germany's senior citizen shook his head ruefully, the oldest coach to ever appear at the finals,

78-year-old Dick Advocaat, was up out of his seat arms raised.

The drinks break allowed the Germans to regroup.

"The goal we conceded was unnecessary, but that's part of it," said Brown. "I'm proud that we didn't let our heads drop."

Soon after the restart Schlotterbeck's header was brilliantly turned over the bar by Room.

The four-time world champions huffed and puffed

round the Curacao goal, but time and again desperate defending frustrated their Germans.

However, the Curacao defence cracked in the 38th minute when an unmarked Schlotterbeck headed home from a corner for his first goal for his country.

The Germans went into the break with a two-goal advantage as Havertz stroked home a penalty after Nmecha had been brought down by Riechedly Bazoer. Germany struck 69 seconds into the second half, Musiala running on to Joshua Kimmich's pass and scoring from a tight angle.

It should have been 5-1 just after the hour mark but Leroy Sane sent his effort wide with only Room to beat.

Where Sane came up short Brown did not as the full-back fired home just before the second hydration break.

Substitute Undav made it six with his seventh goal in his last seven international appearances.

Havertz rounded it off with his 24th goal for Germany to replicate the same scoreline as they famously recorded against hosts Brazil in the 2014 semi-finals. □

# Japan fight back in 2-2 Dutch thriller at World Cup



**Japan's midfielder #15 Daichi Kamada (2nd L) heads the ball and scores his team's second goal during the 2026 World Cup Group F football match between the Netherlands and Japan at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington on June 14, 2026.**

## Arlington, United States

Japan scored an 88th-minute equaliser as they twice fought back to rescue a 2-2 draw with the Netherlands in front of 69,285 in Texas on Sunday to open their World Cup campaigns.

A match that had bubbled away in the first period sparked into life in the second half.

Netherlands skipper Virgil van Dijk scored with a fine header, only for Keito Nakamura to quickly level, be-

fore winger Crysencio Summerville's delicious curled finish into the bottom corner just after the hour.

The Dutch looked like they would hold on, but Japan levelled at the death with Crystal Palace midfielder Daichi Kamada credited with the goal after a deflection.

Sweden face Tunisia in a competitive-looking Group F later Sunday.

Japan and the Netherlands are in North America missing key players through injury, but on paper this was still one of the more attractive fixtures in the group stage.

Both have been touted as dark horses capable of going far at the tournament -- the Dutch have been runners-up three times whereas Japan have never gone

beyond the last 16. The Netherlands made a confident start and nearly took the lead after three minutes, Donyell Malen allowed to swivel inside the box and forcing a smart save from Zion Suzuki.

The impressive air-conditioned arena is usually home to the Dallas Cowboys, and at the hydration break the NFL team's cheerleaders were shown on the massive screen hanging over the pitch performing one of their routines.

The stoppage seemed to help Ronald Koeman's side and Roma forward Malen again worked Suzuki with a header from a corner, then Cody Gakpo fired wildly over the bar.

Japan's fans, who had hardly stopped singing and

outnumbered the Dutch contingent, were briefly silenced.

The first real chance for Hajime Moriyasu's team came a few minutes before the break when a cross evaded the backtracking Summerville but Nakamura pulled his low effort wide.

The Dutch had looked most threatening in the air, so it was no surprise when Liverpool talisman Van Dijk rose to plant a well-placed header into the bottom corner after a pinpoint cross from club team-mate Ryan Gravenberch on 51 minutes.

The lead lasted just six minutes, Nakamura wriggling free and firing low past goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen, the ball taking a small deflection off Jan Paul van Hecke. □

# Hamilton 'rebuilt' his mind to earn first Ferrari triumph

## Montmeló, Spain

Lewis Hamilton said he needed to rebuild his mind to become able to clinch his first Grand Prix victory with Ferrari on Sunday in Barcelona.

The 41-year-old, who joined the Scuderia last season, won a race for the first time in nearly two years and was emotional after crossing the finish line at Montmelo. Hamilton said he had needed to shut out doubt and negativity to get back into contention to fight for the championship, in which he trails Mercedes' teenage sensation Kimi Antonelli by 41 points.

"The thing I know is to never second-guess yourself, never doubt yourself, you've got to continue to believe in yourself at the core," Hamilton told reporters.

"Those are the things that I've managed to re-implement into my mentality. And I've rebuilt my mind to this point, to get myself back to where I was.

"It's a great feeling... to stand on that podium." Hamilton said despite his struggles last season he did not lose his belief that joining Ferrari was the right move.

"I truly believed in my decision in joining Ferrari, I truly believe what this team could achieve, what we could achieve together," explained the British driver. "I know it started out with lots of excitement and then lots of doubt and lots of negativity that followed through the whole year.

"I really feel like my fans really rescued me last year. My family, also friends, stuck with me through it all." Hamilton said that for a while doubts were getting to him but he managed to brush them away.

"I'm sure there's moments where I allowed it to get to me and penetrate deeply," he said.

"But then I went through a sequence of unplugging from that 'Matrix', I mentioned a bit last year, and spent lots of time with family, lots of time with friends,



Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium after winning the Catalonia Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo, on the outskirts of Barcelona, on June 14, 2026.

training that I put in, was harder than I've ever experienced."

The record seven-time world champion, joint with Michael Schumacher, won his first race with Ferrari in Barcelona, just as the German did in 1996.

"I was at home on my couch watching that, with a plate on my lap eating a sandwich," said Hamilton.

"I was 12, just looking at that red car and thinking, 'I wonder what it's like to sit in that'... which I got to experience last year...

"But then being in that red suit, standing in first place, in front of that amazing crew... it was really amazing to witness and to see.

"I nearly passed out... my heart was exploding with joy." □

real people that know me that have never doubted

me and have stuck by me my whole life.

"I just went on the mission from Christmas Day, the



Palm Beach, Aruba

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## Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



**(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.**

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made



with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouth-watering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.



Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

### Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at [reservations@watersedgearuba.com](http://reservations@watersedgearuba.com). For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website [watersedgearuba.com](http://watersedgearuba.com)