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Trump threatens 100% tariff on French wines over digital tax

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to set a 100 percent tariff on French wine and champagne unless Paris removes a digital services tax on technology firms, The New York Post reported Monday.

France imposed in 2019 a three percent levy on the revenues earned by technology firms including US giants like Facebook, Amazon, Apple and Google's parent Alphabet within the country's borders.

French President Emmanuel Macron is due to host Trump on Monday before the G7 summit gets underway at the spa resort of Evian on Lake Geneva.

"We will have a respectful but firm discussion," Macron told French television on Monday ahead of the meeting.

"Tariffs don't do anyone any good, especially tariffs between G7 countries," Macron said, calling for trade "stability".

In the Post interview, Trump said he had asked Macron "not to charge American companies".

"If they do, I have no choice but to charge a 100 percent tariff on all champagnes and all wines coming out of France," he was



France's President Emmanuel Macron (L) greets U.S. President Donald Trump during the G7 summit, in Evian, eastern France, on June 15, 2026.

quoted as saying.

"All he has to do is get rid of the sales tax, and he wouldn't have that kind of pressure," he said of Macron. Gabriel Picard, president of the French Federation of Wine and Spirits Exporters (FEVS), called for preserving a "balanced and constructive trade relationship between France and the United States in the interest of both econo-

mies." The dispute "concerns issues that fall outside our scope of action, even though our companies could directly suffer the consequences... This new threat is bad news for our highly export-orientated sector," Picard told AFP. The United States is the biggest importer of French wines and spirits, according to the FEVS, accounting for 21 percent of the overall export market last year.

French and European wines exported to the United States already face a 15 percent tariff, up from an earlier 10 percent. FEVS said exports of French wines and spirits to the United States slumped by 21 percent last year.

- Repeated threats -

According to the French customs agency, the United States imported 2.9 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) of

wines and spirits between May 2025 and April 2026, representing 18 percent of total exports.

That made it by far the biggest single market for French producers, ahead of the UK (11 percent) and Germany (six percent).

Champagne and cognac accounted for 40 percent of the export values, at around 600 million euros each.

Red wines from Bordeaux were next, at 220 million euros, followed by whites from Burgundy at 170 million euros.

But some French regions are especially dependent on the U.S. market.

Producers of Loire Valley whites send 45 percent of their exports to the United States and Beaujolais sends 30 percent, whereas just 16 percent of champagne exports go to the U.S. market. In January, Trump threatened 200 percent tariffs on French wine over France's intention to decline an invitation to join his "Board of Peace" aimed at resolving international conflicts.

Canada decided to scrap its digital services tax last year in order to salvage trade talks with the United States, following pressure from Trump. □

Trump to hold political rally on July 4 to mark U.S. 250th

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump announced plans Monday for a major "rally" in Washington on the July 4 Independence Day, further imposing his political brand on celebrations of America's 250th anniversary.

The announcement comes a day after the Republican billionaire staged a mixed martial arts fight on the White House lawn -- on what just happened to be his 80th birthday -- with military honor guards and Air Force flyovers.

Trump had previously posted that another event on June 24 would be the "Greatest Rally, EVER!... A Rally to end all Rallies!" and include performances by military bands and some of his favorite singers.

That event was put together after several musical artists pulled out of a 250th anniversary concert series in the US capital, with some citing the politicized nature of the event. But on Monday, Trump said the new July 4 event would be "the

most spectacular TRUMP RALLY of them all." The "TRIBUTE TO AMERICA" event would be held at the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial whose reflecting pool has recently been renovated under a multi-million dol-

lar project ordered by the president.

"Starting at 7 P.M. EST, this HUGE Celebration will honor our Country's People, Spirit, Strength, Resolve, and Triumphs," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "There will be incredible Flyovers and Airshows featuring our Top Military Pilots and Equipment, and I will deliver keynote remarks that you will not want to miss," he said.

The event will be capped by what Trump promised would be "the LARGEST FIREWORKS SHOW IN HISTORY."

Washington's iconic Mall hosts an annual large-scale fireworks display for July 4 but the event has traditionally been politics-free.

- Dueling groups -

In a separate post, Trump said the June 24 event was still proceeding, but instead hyped it as the "'kick off' of our summer long Celebration." He made no mention of a speech and did not refer to it as a rally. He said military bands would be performing "ONLY THE HITS THAT YOU KNOW AND LOVE!" while tenor Christopher Macchio and Lee Greenwood the singer of "God Bless the USA," a staple of Trump's political rallies would also be singing. "You will also bear witness to impressive Military flyovers featuring precision Fighter Jets and Stealth Bombers, which will be flown by our U.S. Military Pilots, who have proven to be the most Elite Pilots anywhere in the World," Trump wrote on Truth Social. □



U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are seen during UFC Freedom 250 at the White House on June 14, 2026 in Washington, DC.

Courts cracking down on error-strewn AI-assisted legal briefs

London, United Kingdom

When a U.S. judge found fabricated quotes in a lawyer's brief earlier this year, the attorney admitted he had used Claude, an artificial intelligence chatbot, to write the document.

That got him a fine and a mandatory course on how to use AI properly.

But this case was just one in a rising tide of AI "hallucinations" muddying the legal waters. Now some courts are trying to stem the tide by cracking down on the lawyers concerned.

It was judge Jerry Edwards Jr., of Louisiana district court, who sanctioned the lawyer in that recent US case last month. He found the AI-generated hallucinations while reviewing a motion to block evidence from being admitted in a personal injury case.

He caught seven quotes attributed to previous court rulings that either did not appear in the original decisions or had been misrepresented.

The hapless lawyer said a law clerk had caught other fabricated quotes in a first draft. Instead of learning from his mistake however, the attorney simply asked Claude to correct the errors -- then submitted the brief without reviewing it.

The attorney had believed the AI's output was accurate, said the court's May 18 memorandum order an-



Abortion-rights advocate David Velde, 57, speaks to a group of demonstrators in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2022 in Washington, DC. David Velde had a brief altercation and misunderstanding with demonstrators while trying to convey his solidarity with their feelings and emotions.

nouncing the sanctions.

"Ignorance of the risks of AI usage is no longer an excuse," the judge wrote, fining the lawyer \$1,000 and sending him on a three-hour course on AI-assisted legal practice.

But he at least granted part of the motion.

- Hundreds of cases -

AI-generated blunders do not necessarily destroy a lawyer's case, French lawyer Damien Charlotin told AFP.

"The lawyer's credibility is in tatters -- but there are cases where lawyers still win, despite the hallucinations,

because they were right on the merits," he explained.

But there are other issues. Judge Linda Kevins of New York State's Supreme Court warned in a January ruling that such blunders wasted the time and money of both the opposing party and the court.

In addition, she said, they were "potentially harming the reputation of judges and courts whose names are falsely invoked as authors of the bogus opinions". Charlotin has been compiling a database of court documents containing AI hallucinations since April 2023.

So far, he has 1,600 examples from 35 countries: from fabricated quotes and cases, to plagiarised arguments or references and out-of-date advice.

Since it is a crowd-sourced database it cannot count as the definitive list, but by far the most cases -- 1,116 of them -- come from the United States.

Next comes Canada, with 173 cases, Australia with 74, then Britain with 59.

- 'Do your job!' -

"In the legal field, AI is used for research, finding precedents, and sometimes generating text," said Charlotin.

Lawyers and litigants representing themselves who submitted documents containing AI hallucinations were most often using mainstream chatbots, particularly OpenAI's ChatGPT. The data suggests that specialized legal AI tools, used by many law firms, are more reliable -- but they are still not immune from hallucinations.

"AI thrives on recognizing patterns. And legal citations and arguments are always formatted in the same way, so it's easy for an AI to follow a template and generate fake ones," said Charlotin.

"Because no lawyer knows all past cases, when a chatbot outputs something that looks like a law citation, the only way to know it actually exists is to check it," he added.

But some lawyers are still not doing that, said judge Scott Schlegel, who serves on the American Bar Association's Task Force on Law and Artificial Intelligence. Too many attorneys still do not understand the technology's limits, he told AFP. Time pressures are compounding the problem, Charlotin's database shows. But that's no excuse, Schlegel told AFP in February.

"At this point, I just can't understand how we still have the issue. Just do your job and read the cases. Come on!"

Pentagon chief denies U.S. facing munitions stockpile shortage

Washington, United States

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth denied that the American military was facing a munitions stockpile shortage, saying on Sunday that it was a "manufactured story" peddled by the media.

Hegseth's comments came hours before the United States and Iran said they reached a deal to end the Middle East war on all fronts, including Lebanon, and to reopen the vital Strait of Hormuz.

Concerns over the Middle East war straining US weapons stockpiles deepened last month after Acting US Navy Secretary Hung Cao cited the conflict as a reason for

pausing arms sales to Taiwan. Hegseth dismissed the idea when asked on CBS News' Face the Nation if there was a crisis in munitions stockpiles. "That is a manufactured story that the media wants to peddle, and ultimately our stockpiles are great and they're only getting stronger," he said.

"We're building more than ever before. The Biden administration gave away hundreds of billions to Ukraine, and so President Trump had to refill, and he has, and we have, in real time."

At an April congressional hearing, Hegseth testified that it could take "months

and years" to replenish the stockpile, describing it as a "fast" time frame.

Hegseth said on Sunday that, in his testimony, he "speculated some munitions take more time than others" to refill.

The Pentagon said last month that the cost of the war with Iran had climbed to nearly \$29 billion.

Democrats and other critics of the war have questioned the Pentagon's calculations, suggesting the true cost -- including damage inflicted by Iran -- could be far higher. Democratic Senator Mark Kelly warned at the time that inventories of Tomahawk mis-



U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa (L), listen as national anthems are played during an honor cordon welcoming ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, DC on June 15, 2026.

siles, Patriot interceptors and other advanced weapons had been severely drawn down and could take years

to replenish. Hegseth responded that the concerns were "foolishly and unhelpfully overstated."

Musical therapy: Classical concerts in New York for dementia sufferers

New York, United States

In his early sixties, Rob Kaufman suffered a medical emergency that caused him to faint and hit his head on a wood floor, resulting in a traumatic brain injury.

He was put in a medically induced coma, his wife Ellen recounted to AFP, and was in intensive care for about a month. Nine weeks of extensive rehabilitation including speech therapy followed, and today he experiences significant short-term memory loss.

Music therapy proved invaluable in the rehab of the one-time studio musician who said he has played for the likes of Jimi Hendrix.

And today, the Kaufmans are regulars at a Manhattan concert program designed for individuals experiencing dementia symptoms.

The couple recently attended a 10th anniversary performance of the program that featured the Calidore String Quartet.

The musicians closed out the spring season to a packed house of some 100 people. One audience member closed her eyes and mimed conducting as the artists played Mozart, while another



Attendees participate in "Lincoln Center Moments", a first-of-its-kind performance-based program created specifically for people living with dementia and their caregivers at Lincoln Center, in New York, on June 3, 2026.

tapped her caregiver's arm as if there were piano keys. Lincoln Center, the famed arts complex on New York's Upper West Side, began the series "out of a need," said Miranda Hoffner, the institution's accessibility director. "We were hearing more and more from our subscribers at the Philharmonic and the Chamber Music Society that they weren't renewing their subscriptions because of dementia, as their family

members were impacted," she told AFP.

"That was an audience that has really supported us for, in some cases, decades," she continued.

"We felt a responsibility to fill that gap."

- Aging population -

Dementia is an umbrella term for debilitating symptoms that can result in memory loss and impair movement and daily life.

Alzheimer's disease accounts for the majority of cases, but a range of risk factors and conditions can trigger it.

According to the World Health Organization, as of 2021 some 57 million people had dementia globally, with about 10 million new cases each year. The condition is progressive, and there is no cure.

Cases are rising in part because the Boomer generation -- people born during the

post-World War II population surge -- have reached their senior years and generally are living longer than previous generations.

That means they're experiencing more of the chronic illnesses and health issues that can accompany old age.

Among them is dementia, said Emily Finkelstein, a geriatrics provider at the New York-Presbyterian medical center.

And especially in the United States with its expensive, sprawling healthcare system the broader social structures to care for this growing population of people with dementia is lacking, the doctor told AFP.

"It's a huge issue," she said. Finkelstein pointed to copious data supporting the value of art, music and dance therapy for people with cognitive impairment.

But in the US, such programs are localized and for many people difficult to access.

"We don't have a national health program. It's much more cumbersome to streamline these types of programs, even though we know they're beneficial," Finkelstein said. □

David Beckham gets Hollywood star as World Cup begins in U.S.

Los Angeles, United States

Football idol David Beckham joined the ranks of entertainment royalty on Friday when he was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, hours before the United States hosts its first game of the 2026 World Cup.

Film legend Tom Cruise was on hand to pay tribute to Beckham, who he said had changed the face of football in the United States.

Former Manchester United and England captain Beckham, 51, told a throng of fans on the sun-kissed boulevard it was a "truly incredible moment."

"I've always been a dreamer, but I could never have imagined that an honor like this would come to a working-class English soccer player like me," he

said. "How fitting then that I am here today as we prepare to celebrate the opening here in the US of the 2026 World Cup.

"It's a powerful moment to

recognize how the sport I love so much has grown in this country over the past three decades."

Beckham, who spent six seasons with LA Galaxy



English former footballer David Beckham poses at his newly unveiled Hollywood Walk of Fame star during a ceremony in Hollywood, California, on June 12, 2026.

from 2007, said he was deeply honored to be feted by a Hollywood film megastar.

"To stand here in front of my friend Tom Cruise, the greatest movie star of our time, is quite frankly mind-blowing," he said.

"You welcomed us to LA 20 years ago, and you have been a loyal friend and an inspiration to me ever since," he told the actor. The "Mission: Impossible" star said Beckham's tenure in Los Angeles had been a huge part of the growth of football on this side of the Atlantic.

Beckham's arrival "changed this sport in this country. People who had never watched football or soccer suddenly had a reason to.

"When David arrived, Ma-

lor League Soccer had 13 teams. Today, it has 30. That's the impact we're celebrating today: not just an extraordinary career, but a legacy that changed the trajectory of a sport."

Beckham's wife, Victoria, a former member of the Spice Girls and now a fashion designer and businesswoman, said football was booming in the United States.

"Soccer in America is entering one of the most exciting chapters in its history, which makes this incredible honor feel all the more timely," she said.

The United States, which hosted the World Cup for the first time in 1994, is co-hosting this year's tournament alongside Mexico and Canada. □

U.K. PM announces ban on social media for under-16s

London, United Kingdom
Children under 16 will be banned from using social media in the U.K., Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Monday, saying such platforms were making youngsters "unhappy".

Some children's charities welcomed the sweeping change, which is likely to trigger a major fight with US tech giants, but others warned it could make teenagers less safe online.

Starmer, likely to face a leadership challenge in the coming weeks, said social media sites were exposing children to content that is "dangerous" and "designed to be addictive".

The ban will "include platforms like Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X" but not messaging services such as WhatsApp, the government said.

Young people gave a mixed response.

"I think it's a good thing, to be honest, because I don't even remember what age I was when I got Instagram, but it was just way too early," student Connie Skitt, 19, told AFP in Buxton, central England.

"You're making friends with people you don't know. It's like, not that safe."

But 18-year-old tour guide Tom Warvell expressed con-



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer attends a press conference at Downing Street in central London on June 15, 2026, to announce government action to protect children online.

cerns that 16 was "a little bit high", arguing younger teens were "a better age to focus on".

"Times have changed so it is important for people to still be able to use it."

- Australian example -

Starmer said the upcoming ban was influenced by the experience of Australia, which in December became the first nation to ban people under 16 from social media.

The UK leader said he hoped to pass the regulation by late December and for the ban to come into force within months next

year.

He suggested that YouTube Kids, Lego Play and Google Classroom would not be prohibited.

Meanwhile, "harmful functions" on gaming services and live streaming platforms allowing strangers to contact children will be blocked.

The government said it would also consider overnight curfews and breaks in infinite scrolling for minors, and would announce more detail in July.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed the move on X, saying: "Social media giants operate

across borders. By standing together, we can do more to hold them accountable and keep children safe online."

Canada and France are among other countries considering similar bans, while Indonesia began enforcing its ban for users under 16 in March.

Britain's ban could anger U.S. President Donald Trump after the US embassy in London earlier this month came out against "broad social media bans".

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, who have campaigned globally on the issue with the duchess

claiming earlier this year she was "the most trolled person in the entire world" welcomed the U.K. move.

But in a statement they noted: "Lasting change requires safer platforms by design, meaningful accountability, and a commitment to putting children's wellbeing ahead of engagement and profit."

- 'Less safe' -

Starmer's announcement follows a government-led consultation where British teenagers trialed social media bans and time limits on apps.

It attracted about 116,000 contributions the second-largest response ever received under the consultation system.

More than four-fifths of responding parents said social media's risks outweighed the benefits for children, with 91 percent backing a minimum age of 16.

But Save The Children U.K. voiced concerns that a ban "pushes children into less regulated spaces, where they are less likely to seek help when something goes wrong".

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children insisted the policy must include "robust age checks on platforms" and "an effective enforcement regime". □

Austronesian boat sets sail on epic voyage from Taiwan to Philippines

Orchid Island, Taitung county, Taiwan

Battling huge waves, twenty Austronesian men in orange lifejackets set off on a hand-carved longboat into the western Pacific Ocean, destined for the home of their ancestral kin for the first time in 300 years.

The indigenous Tao people, native to the tiny Orchid Island 90 kilometers (56 miles) off Taiwan's southeast coast, have close cultural, linguistic and historic ties with the Philippines' Batanes islands and its Ivatan communities.

AFP journalists saw Tao crew members tying oars onto the "Golden Friendship" narrow watercraft and doing a test row on Sunday ahead of its 100-nautical-mile (about 185-kilometre) voyage to the neighboring Philippine archipelago.

Setting sail on Monday, participants said the odyssey across the Bashi Channel will trace an ancestral sea route to strengthen longstanding traditional ties between the two communities.

"I've always wanted to visit the place where my ancestors once went and see

what it's like there," oarsman Wu Hsi-lung told AFP.

"I feel that I carry the blood of this place and want to do something for my community," the 26-year-old stand-up paddleboarding coach said.

The tatala an intricately carved and hand-painted seafaring boat made from living trees was traditionally built to catch flying fish to feed families and communities on the 45-square-kilometre Orchid Island.

It was originally "a tool for survival", said Hsiao Chunsiang, a 50-year-old sound engineer and trip



Crew members test-row a traditional wooden canoe called Ovayan (Golden Friendship) off Orchid island (or Lanyu island), southeastern Taiwan on June 14, 2026, on the eve of its planned voyage to Philippines' Batanes Islands.

participant.

At a massive 12 meters (39 feet) long, the newly crafted Golden Friendship is an enlarged version of the tatala that can carry up to 20 people making it "the biggest we've ever

built", Hsiao said. Times have changed, and beyond cultural significance, the tatala has "evolved to meet the needs of tourism as well", he said becoming a cultural artifact used to attract visitors. □

Greek fishermen struggle to keep up with pufferfish invaders

Ierapetra, Greece

On his fishing boat moored in the Greek port of Ierapetra in southwestern Crete, Alexis Charlambakis pries open the mouth of a freshly-caught pufferfish to reveal two massive teeth on each jaw.

"If one of these bites you, it will take your finger clean off," the 43-year-old said. "They are the destruction of the sea. They leave nothing behind."

Proof of the damage is visible on a neighbouring boat deck: a ray, a common seabream and another fish netted that day lie half shredded.

Pufferfish, a warm-water invasive species, were first spotted in Greek waters some 20 years ago and are wreaking havoc with the country's fishing industry, a pillar of the nation's agricultural exports.

Off the coast of Crete, Greece's largest island, fishermen are seeing their catch dwindle because of the silver-cheeked *Lagocephalus sceleratus* menace, which typically measures between 40 and 60 cm.

"It's an omnivorous fish that eats everything it encounters," said 65-year-old fisherman Giannis Giankakis. "Nothing seems to bother



This photograph shows a yellow-spotted pufferfish (*Torquigener flavimaculosus*), which are considered to be even more toxic than the larger silver-cheeked pufferfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*), swimming in a tank at Cretaquarium Thalassokosmos in Heraklion, on the island of Crete, on June 2, 2026.

it, because it has no natural predators among other fish," he added.

- Southern invaders -

The pufferfish explosion in Greek waters is the latest example of how warming oceans are changing ecosystems and upturning their reliant economies.

Of the nearly 200 species of pufferfish living in the world's warm waters, three are currently found in the eastern Mediterranean

Sea. Scientists recorded them for the first time in Greece in June 2005, said Nota Peristeraki of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR). Present in the Red Sea and in the Indian and Pacific oceans, the silver-cheeked pufferfish entered the Mediterranean via the Suez Canal, according to Université Côte d'Azur, which records non-native Mediterranean species.

Originally located near Crete and the Dodecanese islands, it has since spread to other areas, Peristeraki said.

- 'We cannot survive' -

In addition to their powerful toxin that makes them deadly to eat, these members of the Tetraodontidae family have a beak-like mouth strong enough to bite through wood and metal.

They not only ravage the

fishermen's daily catch, but leave their nets in tatters too.

"If this wasn't my boat, I'd quit this profession for good," Charlambakis said. "The situation is dire...we cannot survive," he told AFP.

After five days at sea, Charlambakis said his nets become useless and difficult to repair.

"It took me two days to fix these nets. I took them out this morning, another 20 holes," he said.

Feasting on other fish, crustaceans and squid, pufferfish cause around 8,500 euros' (\$9,800) worth of damage and lost income per year to fishing boats, said Peristeraki, the HCMR marine biologist.

The predator also contains tetrodotoxin, "an extremely dangerous toxin if ingested," warns HCMR marine biologist Thekla Anastasiou. "It causes heart failure and stops the lungs from functioning," Anastasiou said.

- 'Worse every year' -

"It is imperative to reduce their population," Peristeraki said.

That's easier said than done, fishermen say.

"The job gets worse every year," said 53-year-old fisherman Kostis Zevelekakis. □

Robot weapons must not become 'licence for atrocity crimes': U.N.

Geneva, Switzerland

The United Nations rights chief on Monday called on countries to urgently regulate autonomous weapons systems to ensure they do

not unleash widespread atrocity crimes.

Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Volker Turk cautioned that the dangers

long warned about in connection with autonomous weapons were rapidly materialising.

"We are seeing a global shift in how war is waged," he said.

"The U.N. has warned for many years against the development of lethal autonomous weapons. This reality is now upon us."

He pointed to the rapidly escalating use of drones in warfare, "creating a new circle of hell" in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gaza, Israel, Lebanon and Myanmar.

In Ukraine, he highlighted how "relentless drone attacks have caused mass casualties and terrorised civilians".

And in Sudan, he said his office had documented

that drone strikes had killed more than 1,000 civilians between January and May this year, while long-range drones had also destroyed aid convoys and vital energy infrastructure.

And with the rapid advances in artificial intelligence, experts have increasingly been sounding the alarm that humans could lose control of such weapons.

The UN rights chief said "the prospect of billion-dollar, AI-enabled weapons, brought down by billion-dollar, AI-enabled defensive shields, exposes the horror, emptiness, and futility of war."

"Autonomous weapons cannot become a licence for atrocity crimes." □

Discussions have been running for a decade around a possible future treaty regulating the use of automated weapons, often referred to as killer robots. Countries are due to decide later this year whether to launch full-on treaty negotiations.

Turk called on the international community to act to rein in the danger.

"States urgently need to consider the moral and legal questions this raises," he said, also calling on them to "agree on a common approach that protects civilian lives, and recommit to diplomacy and mediation."

"They must update legal frameworks to require human control and ensure accountability." □



U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk (C) speaks during a press conference as part of his working visit to South Korea at the Seoul Global Center in Seoul on May 13, 2026.

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is 'placa'. Cents are called 'cen' (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontin-



ued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Tortuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with

a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

The word "florin" is supposedly named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba (BNA).



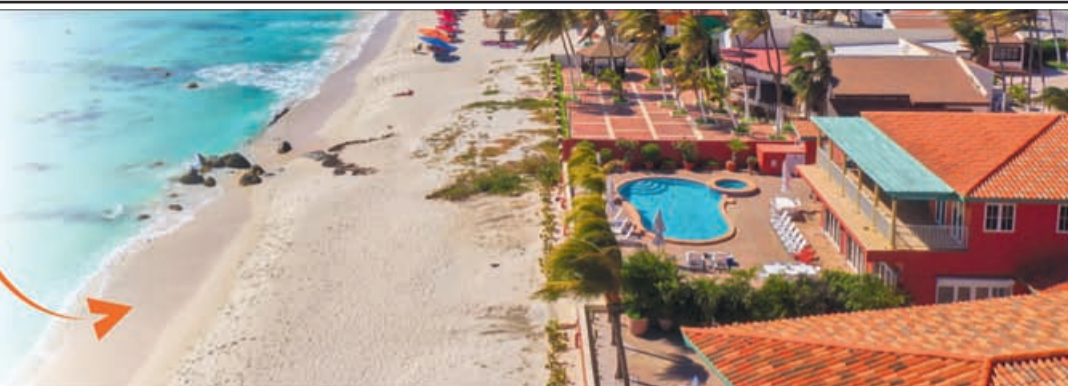
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Casago Aruba: Redefining Island Stays with Full-Service Property Management



Casago Aruba was born from a shared passion for elevating the island's tourism experience. Built on a strong foundation of service, hospitality, and a keen eye for quality, the Casago team—backed by over 16 years of experience in the vacation rental and hospitality industry—is on a mission to redefine what luxury and convenience look like for travelers visiting Aruba.

But Casago is more than just a vacation rental platform. It is a full-service property management company, offering seamless experiences for both guests and homeowners alike. While travelers benefit from handpicked accom-



modations and personalized service, homeowners gain a reliable partner dedicated to the care and performance of their property.

A Stay Tailored to You

Casago Aruba offers more than just stylish villas. Their curated portfolio includes a wide variety of condos, homes, and villas in different sizes to suit all types of travelers—from solo adventurers and couples to large families and groups. Every stay is backed by local expertise, with concierge support, 24/7 guest assistance, and an attention to detail that consistently exceeds expectations. Whether you're here to relax on world-famous beaches, explore Aruba's cultural gems, or discover hidden corners of the island, Casago Aruba ensures your getaway is as smooth as it is memorable.

A Partner for Homeowners

Behind the scenes, Casago offers a robust suite of property management services designed to help homeowners maximize rental income while minimizing stress. Services include:



- Promotion through Casago's professional booking platform and expert local marketing strategies
- Complete management of check-ins, guest communication, cleanings, landscaping, pool maintenance, and repairs
- Transparent maintenance reporting, real-time reservation tracking, and on-site security monitoring
- Full handling of tax filings for both local and state requirements
- Monthly property inspec-

tions and full utility bill management

- Strategic planning to help homeowners increase profitability and keep their properties in top condition

This full-service model ensures that every home is maintained to the highest standard while giving property owners full peace of mind.

Rooted in Community and Sustainability

What truly sets Casago Aruba apart is their commitment to the local community and to sustainable practices. The team works closely with local businesses and artisans, promotes eco-conscious travel, and supports initiatives that contribute positively to the island's environment and economy.

As one of the fastest-growing vacation rental and property management companies on the island, Casago Aruba continues to expand its footprint—welcoming more travelers, partnering with more homeowners, and raising the standard of hospitality in Aruba. □

Need a ride down town? Now you can check taxi rates from you phone!



(Oranjestad)—If you were planning on taking a trip downtown but want to check how much a taxi ride costs, do we have great news for you. Now you can plan your trip ahead on taxi.aw. With just a few clicks, you'll know exactly how much it costs to take you to your destination.

Although an official fare list already existed, the previous version was very outdated and created confusion among both drivers and customers. The lack of updates and easy access to the official fares contributed to situations where some taxi drivers charged arbitrary or excessive prices, particularly in tourist areas.

The fare is calculated based on the distance and number of kilometers

between different locations on the island. The digital system allows customers to use the same calculation to determine the official fare that the taxi driver must charge during a trip.

The website also incorporates different surcharges that officially form part of Aruba's taxi system. The system provides a range of different locations and zones to select. Be mindful that there are also conditions that apply to the rate of your trip, all of which are explicitly explained on the website's home page.

With an easy interface that's accessible to everyone, taxi.aw can make planning a trip easier, secure and reliable. □

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A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're out and about on the island and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Aruba is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Aruba.



Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in Mainstreet Oranjestad, check out the wooden swing on Plaza Daniel Leo. This is another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram.

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be careful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is

sure to pop!

Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves



crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!

"I LOVE ARUBA"

While you're in the area, check out the 'I LOVE ARUBA' sign is a great first stop for a quick shot with the family. This spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visit-

ing Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way! □

Fun facts about Terns

(Oranjestad)—Throughout the months of January to September, big groups of terns migrate to the island for breeding season. These terns are important seabirds, and their presence on Aruba is a unique phenomenon. Here are some fun facts about terns.

Why terns matter

Terns (Sternchi in Papiamentu) migrate annually to Aruba for breeding season. Our island, hosts 10 different species of terns which is crucial for global seabird conservation. 90%

of Caribbean population of Common Tern nest on Aruba, 25% of Global population of Cayenne Tern nest on Aruba and 25% of Caribbean population of Black Noddy nest on Aruba, making their conservation especially important.

Breeding season

The terns breed mainly along the north coast of Aruba as well as the San Nicolas Reef Islands (No-Go conservation zones). Baby Beach is a particularly special site for terns, since this is where they carry out their reproduc-



tion rituals. Referred to as a "discotheque" by Natasha Silva, the point of Baby Beach near the open water is where a large group of terns spends the season searching for their partner for life to reproduce. In Aruba, there are ten dif-

ferent species of terns, all of which breed at different times. The ten species of terns that migrate to the island include the Cayenne Tern; Cabot's Tern; Common Tern; Roseate Tern; Least Tern; Brown Noddy; Black Noddy; Sooty Tern;

Bridled Tern and the Royal Tern

Main threats to these seabirds are human proximity, kite-surfing, unleashed dogs, ATVs/UTVs, Jet Ski's and pollution.

How to protect them

Aruba Conservation Foundation advises everyone to keep their distance from these seabirds, do not visit the reefs, do not fly drones around nesting areas, keep your dogs on leashes, do not drive on the coastline and do not leave trash thrown about. "Nature has no boundaries and its protection is a shared responsibility." □

A quick snack for the road

Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour



lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the

pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □



(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious and spooky road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass and how it got its name dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-

like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about

his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass holds a lot of value to our culture of folkloric story-telling.

Source: visitaruba.com

A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Light house at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the car-

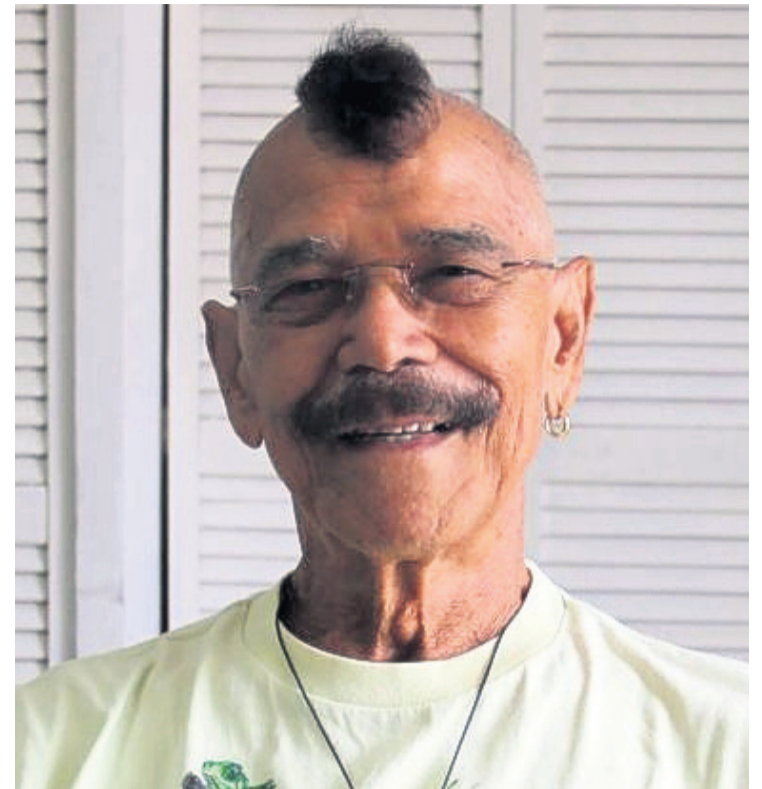
go, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was



also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while

it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



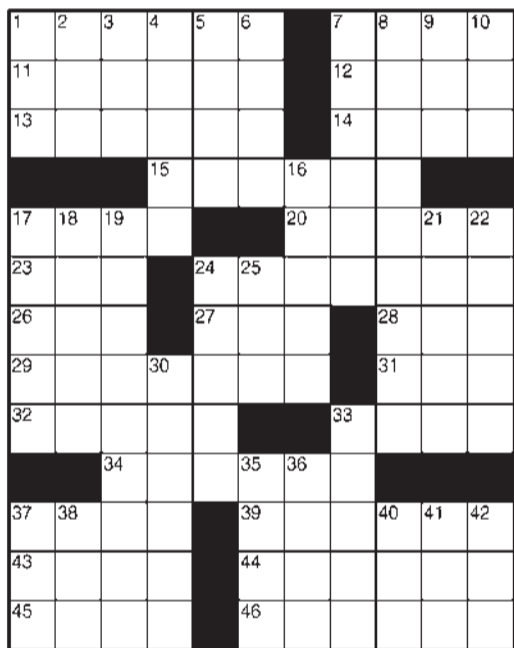
CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS** 44 Mars or
1 Entices Mercury
7 "Waterloo" group
11 Stressed type
12 Placed down
13 Venus's sister
14 Does something
15 En-dangered
17 Component
20 Revue segments
23 Thurman of film
24 "Brand New Key" singer
26 Snapshot
27 Wisdom bringer
28 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
29 Rorschach creation
31 Web address
32 River through Nantes
33 Relaxing resorts
34 Get snug
37 Border
39 Book checks
43 Praise
- DOWN** 1 "My country — of thee"
2 Summer in Paris
3 Spoil
4 Cloth fold
5 Color
6 Wound reminder
7 Denali setting
8 Computer safeguard
9 Particle
10 TV spots
16 Key



- 17 Eye opening
18 — acids
19 Amassing
21 Pageant
22 Hawks
24 Bulls and bucks
25 Swelled head
30 Kennel club
33 Car type
35 Lights-out music
36 Doozy
37 Quarter-back
38 Block up
40 Neither Dem. nor Rep.
41 Earl Grey, e.g.
42 Pig place



2-15

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.

2-15 CRYPTOQUOTE
ZSX XGS IQNSR EQUUP PJK

IGSUS XGS ZMFGX EQA AJX.

— CJGMX OQKRGMO
Cryptoquote: A GOOD TRAVELER HAS NO FIXED PLANS, AND IS NOT INTENT ON ARRIVING. — LAO TZU

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 occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

Difficulty: ★★

6/16

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

6/15

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Murdochs' Fox to acquire U.S. streaming giant Roku

New York, United States

Fox Corporation will acquire streaming platform provider Roku in a cash and stock deal worth \$22 billion, the companies announced Monday.

Fox executives said the transaction would give it "first-party data" and insight on Roku's more than 100 million global subscribers, an attribute Roku has parlayed into advertising revenue growth.

The deal deepens Fox's exposure to the hardware of the streaming business, diversifying away from the legacy cable broadcast universe where the media giant's mix of politically conservative news telecasts and blockbuster sports games have made it a dominant player.

"This is a defining moment for Fox, and a natural extension of the deliberate and focused strategy we have been executing for nearly a decade," said Fox Chief Executive Lachlan Murdoch.

"Today, we take the next step: bringing together the most valuable live content portfolio in video consumption with the preeminent streaming platform through which America watches it."

But shares of Fox sank more than 15 percent near mid-day Monday, a drop analysts said reflected concerns about the deal's dilutive impact on existing equity as well as strategic questions about the deal. Roku shareholders would receive cash and Fox stock under the deal valued at \$160 per share, a joint press release said, with the transaction expected to close in the first half of 2027.

Roku shares have traded between about \$90 and \$130 since late April.

- Operating system -

California-based Roku rose to prominence in the early days of streaming with its plug-in devices and is now a major player in smart TV operating systems, earning the vast majority of its revenue from advertising and other platform-related ser-



Roku products are displayed for sale at a Target store on June 15, 2026 in New York City.

vices.

It also has its own advertising-supported streaming channel, a competitor to Fox's Tubi.

Roku generated \$4.7 billion in revenue in 2025, with approximately \$88 million in profit.

Murdoch who was handed control of his father Rupert Murdoch's media empire in 2023 told analysts on a conference call that the current expectation is to keep Tubi and Roku as separate platforms.

While there is about a one-third overlap in the audience of Roku and Tubi, "they serve consumers and their viewers in different ways," Murdoch said.

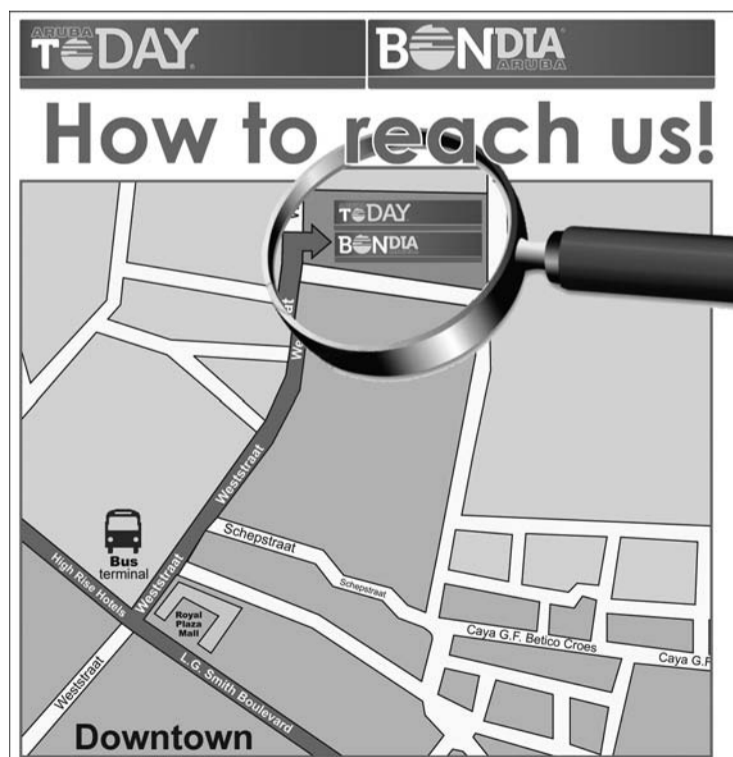
Streaming media analyst Dan Rayburn said the Roku infrastructure will bring Fox valuable intelligence on a large portion of viewers in terms of what people are watching, how they are watching and "what are they wanting to pay for?" he said.

Beyond that, Fox will also benefit from Roku's distribution system. Rayburn noted that Fox has not disclosed viewership figures at Fox One, suggesting limited reach thus far.

Emarketer analyst Ross Benes also saw logic in the deal.

"It remains to be seen how well the combination of a

digitally innovating streaming company will mesh with a media conglomerate rooted in legacy assets," Benes said. "But the strategy makes sense and it jibes with the continual consolidation that's occurring in streaming." □



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OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
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EMERGENCY

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Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
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Police San Nicolas	584 5000
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

AI robot cleaners leave the lab for China's living rooms

Beijing, China

Beijing cleaner Lin Meiqiong found her work a little easier the day she was paired with an unlikely new colleague a tall, wheeled robot with AI-powered tidying skills.

The 56-year-old and her white-and-silver partner, fitted with cameras and two mechanical claws, are part of a new human-robot cleaning service offered by Chinese household help platform 58.com.

It's a baby step towards a future espoused by tech evangelists in which robots increasingly take over manual labour from humans though at the moment, such services are largely a data-gathering exercise for companies and a novelty for curious customers.

"It's definitely different," Lin told AFP in between cleaning the kitchen and wiping down windows.

"I used to have to do everything myself," she said. "It's reduced the workload a bit."

The cleaning service, a collaboration between 58.com and Chinese robotics company X Square, costs 149 yuan (\$22) for three hours and is available in Beijing and tech hub Shenzhen.

Helped into the apartment by an X Square engineer, the AI-operated Quanta X1



This picture taken on May 21, 2026 shows an X Square Robot carrying a bottle to a rubbish bin as a housekeeper cleans the floor at a customer's home in Beijing.

Pro robot uses its cameras to identify areas it could spruce up.

As Lin scrubbed the floor on her knees, it picked up rubbish and folded clothes strewn across a sofa.

Grasping a pair of dark grey trousers, it raised its upper body to stretch the fabric taut, before laying it flat and arranging it into neat halves.

The process took several minutes and resembled a child learning to fold clothes for the first time.

Future iterations of the robot will respond to voice commands and even be

able to chat, said the engineer, Hu Bowen.

- 'Better than a lab' -

Around 200 households have booked the service since it was rolled out in March.

Tan Pei, who works in advertising and booked the robot to clean her Beijing flat, said she had chosen the service because she was interested to "see what it could do".

"Even though it's not that perfect, there are still parts of it that surprised me," such as folding a pair of trousers "quite well", she said.

China's robots have

wowed audiences with fluid dancing and set-piece martial arts displays on-stage, but their application and performance in real-life settings remains limited. For companies like X Square, the logic of launching an imperfect service lies in data collection for so-called embodied artificial intelligence.

Unlike large language models trained on vast quantities of internet content, robots lack comparable real-world datasets.

"We don't have a robot internet yet," Christoforos Mavrogiannis from the

University of Michigan told AFP.

"It is much more informative to put the robot out there and study what happens than staying forever in the lab."

X Square engineer Hu said he sends his robots to work in a "completely unfamiliar environment".

"That is very challenging, but this unfamiliar data is also very helpful for the robot's growth."

As investment into embodied AI booms, similar trials in China include robots directing traffic in cities like Hangzhou or working on factory floors.

On the domestic help front, firm GigaAI also plans to deploy 100 humanoid robots into households in central Wuhan this autumn for free home-service trials. Investors have poured more than 57.7 billion yuan (\$8.5 billion) into China's embodied AI industry so far this year, already soaring past the total for last year as a whole, according to business database ITjuzi.

- 'Very elementary stage' - But a myriad of hurdles stand in the way of widespread deployment.

As the Quanta X1 Pro's clothes folding demonstrated, robots still can't match human dexterity. □

EU tech chief says Europe 'not a security risk' after U.S. AI order

Brussels, Belgium

Europe does not pose a "security risk" to the United States, EU tech chief Henna Virkkunen said Monday

after Anthropic cut access to two powerful AI models to comply with a US national security order.

"Europe represents an economic opportunity, not a security risk. We are and will remain a trusted partner," the commissioner for tech sovereignty, security and democracy said on social media.

"This is why we need to cooperate on emerging, powerful AI models. This is a shared global challenge," Virkkunen said.

San Francisco-based Anthropic said Friday that the US Department of Commerce had ordered it to suspend its Mythos 5 and Fable 5 models for "national security" reasons.

The commission said at the weekend that it was assessing the practical consequences for European users, while also warning that "contingency measures" to address the risks of advanced AI models "should not be discriminatory against partners".

Virkkunen said the U.S. dispute "underlines the need for Europe's technological sovereignty", urging the "swift adoption" of a package of measures aimed at reducing EU dependence on American and Asian technology.

The measures presented earlier this month include

moves to favour European companies in the most sensitive public contracts for cloud computing and AI.

They will become law only after the European Parliament and EU member states negotiate on the final texts.

There is a growing consensus in Europe that it must be more sovereign and provide more of its technological needs, rather than relying on foreign firms.

The EU says companies outside the bloc provide over 80 percent of its digital products, services, infrastructure and intellectual property. □



EU Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy Henna Virkkunen addresses a statement about the EU digital age verification app in Brussels on April 15, 2026.

Broeders-Bol backed by coach to challenge the very best over 800m

Ostrava, Czech Republic

Femke Broeders-Bol will make her outdoor 800m debut at Tuesday's Golden Spike in the Czech city of Ostrava, her coach Laurent Meuwly backing the former hurdler to mix it with the best over two laps. Broeders-Bol may only be 26 but she has packed a lot into her career thus far, winning two world gold medals over the 400m hurdles. It is a discipline in which she has shone on the elite Diamond League circuit, last year completing an incredible sixth campaign unbeaten.

Her exceptional finishing pace has also seen her claim multiple medals as the anchor leg in 4x400m relay teams, notably a gold in the mixed event in the Paris Olympics.

But the Dutch athlete opted to step away from the hurdles, which has been dominated on the Olympic scene by U.S. rival and world record holder Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone. Broeders-Bol, whose name change is due her marriage to Belgian pole vaulter Ben Broeders, ran her first 800m since 2017 in February, clocking a national record of 1min 59.07sec before withdrawing from the rest of the indoor season to nurse a foot injury.

Coach Meuwly is under no



Netherlands' athlete Femke Bol celebrates after winning the women's 800m final during the Athlelor indoor meeting at L'Anneau athletics hall in Metz on February 8, 2026.

illusion of his charge's capability.

"I think she'll surprise a lot of people in this first month of competition," Meuwly said. "There's a lot of excitement because it's been a long period without racing. We're looking forward to a new challenge."

He also hinted that the oldest world record in athletics the 1:53.28 for the outdoor 800m set by Jarmila Kratochvilova of the then-Czechoslovakia in 1983 could be under threat.

"I've always said that if Femke switched to the 800 meters, it was because I also felt that the 800-me-

tre world record was more within her reach than the 400m hurdles record," Meuwly said.

"It's a record that dates back a very long time, from an era when we know there were quite a few doping issues, so there's a bit of a myth surrounding this 800m record.

"But when we started considering making the switch, I was absolutely convinced that it was possible for women to run 1:52, or even faster."

- On-form Werro awaits -

There is a packed field awaiting in Ostrava, nota-

bly in the form of Switzerland's Audrey Werro.

Werro is fresh off establishing herself as the world's all-time number three after timing a sensational 1:53.98 to beat Britain's Olympic champion Keely Hodgkinson.

Given Broeders-Bol's impressive closing speed, Werro could well be pushed hard again towards a fast time.

Meuwly said Werro had been "improving very steadily over the past few years".

"She had a pacemaker, and then Hodgkinson acted as a luxury pace-

maker for her," he said of her recent blazing run in the Stockholm Diamond League that saw her take two seconds of her personal best.

"It won't always play out like that, everything had to be perfectly in place, but physically I'm not surprised she's capable of doing it."

Comparing the profiles of Broeders-Bol, Werro and Hodgkinson, Meuwly said all three were capable of being extremely fast over the opening 600 meters given that they were not necessarily endurance athletes.

Hodgkinson, he added, was the one with "better qualities of aerobic endurance, and would be the winner of the three over 1,500m".

"Femke is really an ex-sprinter, 22.60sec over 200m and 49sec over 400m, both indoors. So an athlete who is more explosive and quick for the 800m.

"Audrey is a bit in-between the two, but who has over the years managed to gain experience over 800m."

Other stand-out events at the Ostrava meet is American Olympic 100m champion Noah Lyles, also a four-time world 200m gold medallist, up against Australian teenager Gout Gout over the rarely-run 150m. □

Carolina beat Vegas to end 20-year wait for second Stanley Cup

Los Angeles, United States

The Carolina Hurricanes beat the Vegas Golden Knights 3-0 to capture the NHL's Stanley Cup on Sunday, ending a 20-year wait for their second crown.

Taylor Hall, Jackson Blake and Nikolaj Ehlers scored and goalie Brandon Bussi made 22 saves for Carolina, who completed a 4-2 series triumph in Las Vegas in the best-of-seven Stanley Cup Final, two decades after their 2006 victory.

With the end in sight in a series that saw multi-goal deficits erased in each of the first four games, the Hurricanes' suffocating defense gave the Golden Knights precious few op-

portunities.

Carolina seized the initiative as Hall scored at 3:47 of the first period, ripping a shot over the glove of Vegas goalie Carter Hart.

Carolina kept the pressure on and Hart had to make a diving save on a shot from Andrei Svechnikov after Hart was caught out of position behind the net late in a Hurricanes power play.

Hurricanes goalie Bussi kept it 1-0 through one period with a diving save of his own on a Vegas power play to end the period. Blake made it 2-0 at 13:31 of the second period when he fired in a shot off a feed

from Logan Stankoven.

Vegas went without a shot on goal for almost 19 minutes spanning the second and third periods and were unable to take advantage of a power play late in the third as Blake Eichel hit the crossbar.

Bussi stood firm as a desperate Vegas pressed late and Ehlers sealed the win with an empty-net goal in the waning minutes.

Carolina captain Jordan Staal, who piled up six goals in the first five games of the series, was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy as most valuable player of the playoffs.

The 37-year-old Staal be-

came the oldest player to win the award as he earned a second Stan-

ley Cup, 17 years after a championship run with the Pittsburgh Penguins. □




Jordan Martinook #48 of the Carolina Hurricanes hoists the Stanley Cup after the team's 3-0 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights in Game Six of the 2026 NHL Stanley Cup Final at T-Mobile Arena on June 14, 2026 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



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Toothless Spain held by Cape Verde on World Cup debut

Atlanta, United States

Spain's ghosts of recent World Cup horror shows reappeared in Atlanta as the European champions were held 0-0 by debutants Cape Verde in their opening game on Monday. Lamine Yamal was left on the bench as the Barcelona superstar is eased back to fitness after nearly two months out with a hamstring injury and even his appearance as a second-half substitute failed to break down Cape Verde's dogged defence. Since winning the World Cup for the first time in 2010, Spain have not won a knockout game and their inability to make dominance of possession count was reminiscent of their meek exits in 2018 and 2022.

"Reality has to sink in," said Spain boss Luis de la Fuente. "This is a World Cup. We know that some teams, on paper, they are not better than us and we thought that we were far better than them. But then it's a struggle to win."



Spain's forward #19 Lamine Yamal reacts during the 2026 World Cup Group H football match between Spain and Cape Verde at the Atlanta Stadium in Atlanta on June 15, 2026.

Blessed with what coach De la Fuente claimed is the best squad in the competition, Spain were considered among the pre-tournament favourites to go all the way and lift the World Cup on July 19. But the importance of Yamal and Nico Williams to their chances of success was underlined by a flat

performance.

Williams also had an injury-disrupted season at Athletic Bilbao and was not introduced until the 87th minute. Ranked 67 in the world, Cape Verde were making their debut on the global stage and did a nation of just over 500,000 people proud.

- Cape Verde dreams come true -

In stark contrast to the searing temperatures faced by some other sides, Atlanta's state-of-the-art air conditioned stadium meant there was no excuses for the slow tempo of Spain's build-up. Indeed the mid-half hydra-

tion break was met by boos with fans frustrated at the break in play despite the cool conditions.

It took until six minutes before half-time for Spain to seriously threaten.

Marc Cucurella, fresh for sealing his move from Chelsea to Real Madrid, sent over a teasing cross that Ferran Torres turned onto the crossbar and Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha got back on his feet to turn Mikel Oyarzabal's looping header over the bar.

Torres tested Vozinha again moments later before Aymeric Laporte's header from a corner was also clawed away by the Cape Verde number one just before half-time.

The break came at a good time for the Blue Sharks and they comfortably held out in the second period until Yamal's entrance after the second hydration break. Billed as one of the stars of the tournament, the 18-year-old's appearance instantly lifted the crowd and injected life into the pedestrian Spanish attack. □

Brazil's Splitter to become new NBA Bulls coach: reports

Chicago, United States

Tiago Splitter, who guided Portland into this year's NBA playoffs as an interim coach, will be hired as the new coach of the Chicago Bulls, according to multiple reports on Monday. The deal, reported by ESPN and The Athletic, would see Splitter leave a Trail Blazers team where he was the first coach with a winning record in his first Portland season since Maurice Cheeks in 2002.

The 41-year-old Brazilian, who became the first player from his homeland to win an NBA title with San Antonio in 2014, retired as

a player in 2018 due to a hip injury.

Splitter served as an assistant coach for four years at



Paris' Brazilian Head Coach Tiago Splitter looks on from the side of the court during the Euroleague basketball match between Paris Basketball and Crvena Zvezda Meridianbet Belgrade at the Adidas Arena in Paris, on October 4, 2024.

Brooklyn and another with Houston before becoming coach of Paris Basketball for the 2024-2025 campaign, guiding the squad to the French champion and French Cup before leaving to become an assistant with the Portland Trail Blazers.

When Portland head coach Chauncey Billups was arrested last October for alleged involvement in an illegal gambling scheme, he was placed on leave by the NBA and Splitter was elevated to interim head coach. Splitter directed the Blaz-

ers to a 42-40 record and a playoff berth before a first-round loss to NBA runner-up San Antonio.

Chicago went 31-51 last season under coach Billy Donovan and missed the playoffs for a fourth season in a row. Donovan stepped down as coach just after the season after going 226-256 in six campaigns with only one playoff appearance.

That sets the stage for Splitter to revamp the Bulls, who have not won a playoff series since 2015 and haven't taken the title since Michael Jordan's 1998 squad. □