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Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

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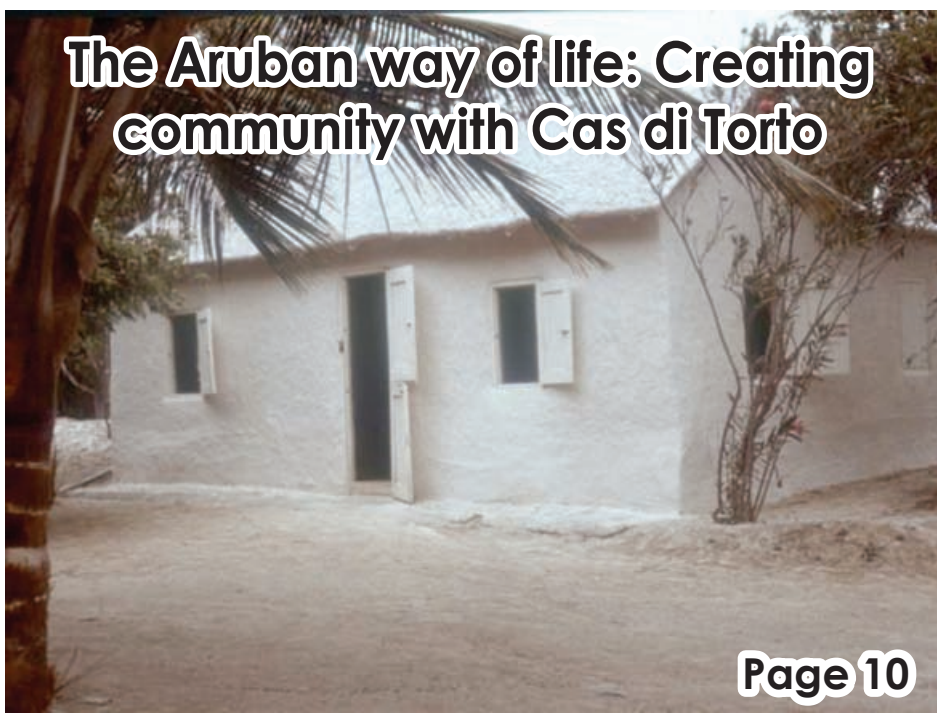
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Political activist Laura Loomer arrives for a campaign rally in the Mitchell Center at the University of South Alabama on October 02, 2026 in Mobile, Alabama.

MAGA influencers reel after midterm rout of Trump's Republicans

Washington, United States
For years, influencers with the "Make America Great Again" movement thrived alongside President Donald Trump. But after Democrats hammered candidates from Trump's Republican Party in last week's midterm elections, the content creators find themselves facing questions over their ideological and financial futures.
"I've been running on empty for too long," said conservative commentator Laura Loomer, a conspiracy theorist and confidante of Trump who announced last week she was taking a break from her podcast.
Samuel Woolley, a communication professor at the University of Pittsburgh, said post-midterm soul-searching would result in an inevitable "changing of the guard" among influencers espousing Trump's nationalist views.
"I would expect that many influencers who worked with MAGA are going through an introspective period in the same way that many conservatives are," Woolley told AFP.
Danielle Lee Tomson, a researcher at the University of Washington, said many prominent pro-Trump influencers were losing their appeal.
"A lot of these creators, like Laura Loomer or Mike Cernovich or even Jack Posobiec, they are now aging, they're older millennials," Tomson said, naming a few top influencers.
"They don't have the same kind of novelty as they once did," she added.
"Quite frankly, a lot of their message got boring."

- Underdogs -
Ring-wing commentators like Posobiec, Tim Pool and Benny Johnson built their online audiences on a fiercely anti-establishment message.
But over time, their closeness with the Trump administration lent them an institutional air, having taken part in news conferences alongside the president and flying on his jet.
The midterms also put a spotlight on the waning momentum of top MAGA-aligned movements, such as youth organization Turning Point USA, whose founder Charlie Kirk was shot dead last year.
Candidates backed by Turning Point were overwhelmingly defeated in last Tuesday's Democratic "blue tsunami."
Some pro-Trump influencers have opted to "reclaim that they're underdogs" after the midterms rout, Tomson said, and lash out at the Republican Party rather than Trump. Specifically, they have accused the party of alienating young, white, working-class, male MAGA supporters by pushing for war with Iran.
Others have cheered Stephen Miller's appointment to White House chief of staff.The combative Trump ultra-loyalist spearheaded the administration's staunch anti-immigration policies and is seen as a return to the MAGA movement's ideological roots.
Commentator Johnson called Miller's ascension "a complete game-changer" and a "great move."

- Who writes the check? -
Questions over money are also at the heart of the influencers' futures.
Some have thrived not only by monetizing content, but also by receiving payments often through opaque channels from political funding organizations and lobby groups, Woolley said.
As social media personalities rely increasingly on an image of authenticity, some are now touting their independence as a way to stand out.
"Loyalty has shifted from the agenda to whoever is writing the check," said Alex Bruesewitz, a media advisor often credited with helping Trump return to the White House.❑



A military honor guard stands at attention at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day in Arlington, Virginia, on November 11, 2026.

Kennedy family asks court to block Trump arch construction

Washington, United State
The family of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy asked a court on Tuesday to block construction of a massive triumphal arch ordered by Donald Trump, according to court documents.

The proposed arch which at 250 feet (76.2 meters) would be the largest structure of its kind in the world is one of several construction projects the U.S. president is pushing to put his personal stamp on Washington.
The Kennedy family said in documents filed Tuesday that the arch would block views of the former president and his relatives' gravesites, "destroying an essential element of the gravesites' design."

The family also said that its positioning would block a direct line of sight between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, "that was designed to represent the unification of the nation following the Civil War."
Notably, Robert F. Kennedy Jr, who currently serves as Trump's Health Secretary was not named as one of the nine plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

Former president John F. Kennedy, his wife Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and two of their children are buried at Arlington, a large military cemetery near Washington, as are his brothers Robert F. Kennedy and Edward M. Kennedy, both former senators. Ethel Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy's wife, is also buried there.

The imposing Kennedy memorial, at the top of the hill on which the cemetery sits, draws thousands of visitors each day. The site, where a flame burns continuously, is one of the cemetery's most visited sites, along with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
A U.S. judge in early November blocked construction of the arch on which work has yet to begin for two weeks to allow time to consider legal challenges to the project.
In late 2025, the Republican president also added his name to the Kennedy Center, a major Washington cultural institution named in honor of the Democratic president assassinated in 1963.
The arts venue bore the name "Donald J. Trump" on its facade for more than six months, until the new name was ruled illegal and removed.❑

Nvidia CEO affair revives push for tougher U.S. line on China

Washington, United States
The scandal engulfing Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang could have its biggest consequences in Washington, where China hawks are seizing on the affair to push a hard line that had been put on the back burner under President Donald Trump.

Huang, who co-founded Nvidia and turned it into the world's leading supplier of the processors that power artificial intelligence, admitted on Sunday to an affair with Alice Huang, a former executive at Singapore-based Megaspeed whom U.S. intelligence officials believe was working for Chinese intelligence.
Trump, who has relied on Huang as an adviser on AI, called him "an honorable guy" and said Huang told him he had no idea the woman was a spy.
Huang has spent years lobbying against curbs on sales of advanced AI chips to China, and Trump last year cleared Nvidia's H200 chips for export there over objections from hawks in both parties.
"China hawks in policy circles in Washington DC were quite frustrated with the decisions and really wanted to see a more aggressive approach around export controls to China," said Aalok Mehta of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.



The logo of data center company Megaspeed International is pictured at its office in the Ocean Financial Centre in Singapore on November 10, 2026.

"They will now see some fruits of their efforts."
Many in Washington see the United States as locked in a Cold War-style race with China for technological and military dominance, and these hawks have bristled at Trump not conforming to that.
"What we are heading into is one of the most serious investigative efforts in a substantial period," said Kurt Campbell, a former U.S. deputy secretary of state and co-founder of consultancy The Asia Group.
Lawmakers will want to know when the government learned of the alleged links, whether the president was warned and whether the contacts shaped his China policy, Campbell said.
The New York Times has reported that Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed the allegations to Trump in May, but the president chose not to act.
Nvidia committed $25 million to Trump's White House ballroom among the largest donations months after securing his approval to resume chip sales to China, The Washington Post reported. Nvidia has said the gift was independent of its business interests.
Three Republican House committee chairs have asked Huang to attend a closed-door briefing on November 18 about his dealings with Alice Huang and Nvidia's safeguards against espionage.

- Not 'invincible' -
Kyle Chan, a fellow at the Brookings Institution's John Thornton China Center, said Republicans long feared crossing Trump.
But with the party having lost control of Congress and Trump "no longer this seemingly invincible political brand," some may feel freer to break with him, Chan told AFP.
That could revive the AI Overwatch Act, a bipartisan bill that would let Congress review and block licenses to export advanced AI chips to China and other adversaries.

The revelations have given hawks "new enthusiasm" to push through the stalled annual defense authorization bill with export control measures attached, said Emily Benson, head of strategy at Minerva Technology Futures.
The key question is Trump, she said, who holds a veto that only two-thirds majorities in both chambers can override.❑

U.S. judge rejects BBC bid to dismiss Trump defamation suit

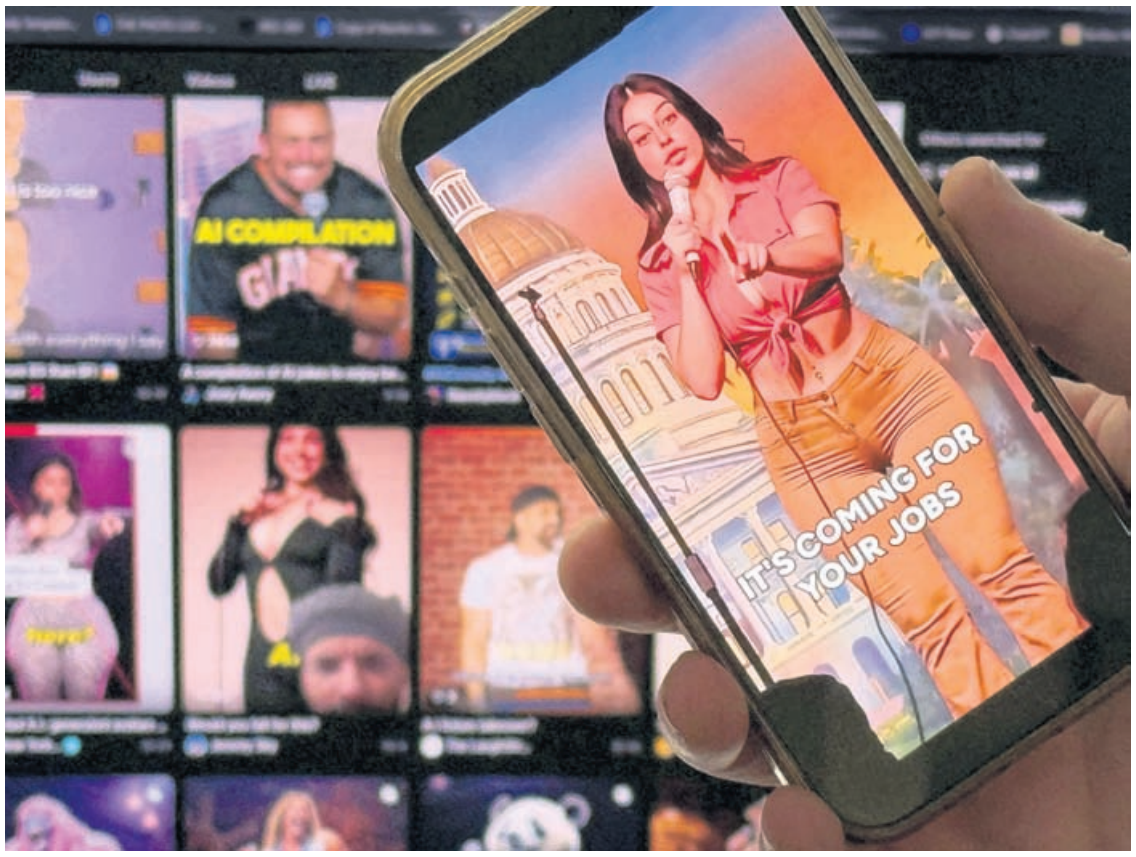
Washington, United States
A federal judge has allowed US President Donald Trump's multibillion-dollar defamation suit against the BBC to proceed, rejecting a bid by the British broadcaster to dismiss the case.
Trump has accused the BBC of deceptively editing a documentary to make it seem as if he was inciting violence when he told supporters to march on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021.
He has sought at least $5 billion each for one claim of defamation and a separate claim under a Florida consumer protection law.
US District Judge Jeffrey T. Kuntz on Tuesday rejected the BBC's bid to dismiss the defamation suit, but tossed the Florida protection law claim.
A spokesperson for the BBC said in a brief statement that the broadcaster was "surprised by this decision" but respected the court's authority.
"We remain confident in our position and will continue to respond through the proper legal process," the statement added.
Trump, in a Truth Social post, hailed the judge's ruling as "A Huge Victory."
"We will continue fighting against, and defeating, all of those who try to deceive the American People!" he added.

The BBC documentary at issue spliced together two separate sections of Trump's speech on January 6, 2021, making it appear that he had explicitly urged supporters to attack the U.S. Capitol.
While the broadcaster has apologized for the incident, which prompted the resignation of multiple senior executives, it has denied causing Trump any real injury. In a 40-page ruling, Kuntz wrote: "Whether President Trump can prove these claims and establish he sustained damages at summary judgment or trial is left for another day."
He added: "Given the time disparity between the two statements, the distance itself tends toward a plausible inference that BBC knew or should have known that the segment they were creating would not and could not have been a truthful statement.
"This was not trimming around the edges but creating something different than what was stated in the speech."
Last month, Trump faced a setback in the case when a magistrate judge ordered him to give a deposition by December 11, after the BBC claimed he was dodging their efforts to get sworn testimony.
Trump risks sanctions if he fails to attend the deposition by then, including the potential dismissal of his lawsuit, the court said.❑


President Donald Trump and U.S. Vice President JD Vance participate in a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of Veterans Day at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 2025 in Arlington, Virginia.

Not funny: U.S. comedians say 'sexualized' AI personas steal jokes

Washington, United States
The punchline landed just as Julia Jasunas intended except the American comedian was not the one delivering it.
A curvy, blonde AI persona on social media was ripping off a joke about kissing a roommate that Jasunas spent years refining, adding her to a growing chorus of stand-up comedians who say artificial intelligence is enabling the theft of their intellectual labor.
The trend is part of what experts call a mass-scale creative heist facing artists from painters to musicians as AI extracts from their work without compensation or attribution, leaving them with little recourse.
The account that lifted from Jasunas's routine, "Aylen Skye," was one of several sexualized, AI-generated personalities on Instagram and TikTok that AFP found were poaching jokes from real-life comedians.
It was unclear who was behind the accounts, some of which sought to drive traffic to subscription-based services known to host pornography.
But the AI plagiarists harvesting her jokes have left Jasunas, a Los Angeles-based artist, pleading with Silicon Valley tech giants to intervene.



This photo illustration taken on November 10, 2026, shows phone displaying an Instagram video featuring AI-generated comedian "Tiffany Sloane," whom California-based comedian George Brett Olson has accused of stealing his jokes, in front of a screen displaying TikTok videos from various users.

"This is a huge issue that's only going to keep getting worse," Jasunas told AFP, adding that the experience felt "violating."
"Any kind of social media platform has the technology and has the power and the money to put into more stringent regulations on AI," she said. "I think that they have a duty to do that."
Meta, the owner of Instagram, did not immediately offer a comment.
A TikTok spokesperson pointed AFP to its community guidelines, which prohibits creators from sharing content that violate another user's intellectual property rights.
"There used to be a tacit agreement among comedians that 'we don't steal other comedian's jokes,' and that was sort of enforced within the group," Michael Smith, a professor of information technology at Carnegie Mellon University, told AFP.
"Now it's become difficult to enforce in the presence of large language models scraping up all the world's information."

- 'Sexual thing' -
Smith said the AI-driven pages threaten livelihoods, siphoning clicks and cash from artists who use social media to build an audience and land gigs.
"What happens if we cut out that early part of the career ladder?" he said. "How many great comedians will we lose out on?"
The "Aylen Skye" account that hijacked Jasunas's routine amassed over 230,000 Instagram followers and a Meta verified checkmark before it was removed.
On TikTok, where the account still exists, the video recycling Jasunas's joke is one of dozens like it that have garnered tens of thousands of views.
The page links to the platform Fanvue, an OnlyFans competitor filled with adult content from AI models.
"That upset me," Jasunas said. "You're funnelling my intellectual property into some sexual thing for profit, and that grossed me out."
Jasunas was not alone.
New York-based comedian Olivia Carter has stopped sharing new material on social media, partly because she fears AI bots will regurgitate her sets, spoiling them for live audiences.
One copycat AI video stole her joke about asking out a personal trainer a bit she once delivered on popular TV host Jimmy Fallon's show. "All the comments were like, 'Oh, you're hot,' and like they thought she was a real person," Carter told AFP.
"That's actually what made me the most upset and uncomfortable."

- 'Pornification' -
"It's a very sexualized version of a woman," Carter said. "Comedy shouldn't be about that."
George Brett Olson, another California comedian, called the trend "demoralizing to artists" and blasted "the pornification of women." One bodacious, OnlyFans-linked avatar "Tiffany Sloane," with over 370,000 followers lifted not just his joke, but every element of his performance.❑

Stacy Keach, electrifying actor of stage and screen, dead at 85

Washington, United States
Stacy Keach, the prolific and acclaimed American tough-guy actor who thrived in theatre, film and television, and whose roles ranged from Hamlet to detective Mike Hammer, has died, his wife said Wednesday. He was 85.



Stacy Keach attends the Los Angeles Premiere of "Taking Care" hosted by Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen at Harmony Gold Preview House on April 16, 2025 in Los Angeles, California.

Malgosia Tomassi confirmed the news in a statement to Hollywood publication "Variety," saying her husband died Tuesday "after a long and difficult battle with a serious heart condition and heart failure." The versatile and prolific Keach was a force of nature when he burst onto Broadway in the mid-1960s, winning praise as one of America's greatest Shakespearean actors and earning a Tony Award nomination for his role in "Indians."
His silver screen debut in "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" kicked off a six-decade career that spanned more than 100 movies. In "Fat City," the unsentimental 1972 film directed by John Huston and co-starring Jeff Bridges, Keach earned critical praise for his gritty portrayal of a washed up boxer, and it established him as one of Hollywood's most serious actors.

He also delivered top-tier performances as Doc Holliday in "Doc" from 1971, "The New Centurions" and "The Long Riders."
Keach was widely celebrated for his role as the seen-it-all private eye in the hit TV series "The New Mike Hammer," based on the gruff noir detective in the pulp novels of Mickey Spillane, whom Keach revered and eventually befriended.❑



This photograph shows a pile of shredded plastic waste in the stockage area of a recycling facility in Kucukdikili neighbourhood of Adana, southern Turkey on October 29, 2026.

Turkish province despairs at being Europe's plastic dump

Adana, Turkey

At first glance, the canal near which Ibrahim Yildiz grazes his sheep in the southern Adana province appears idyllic, framed by rows of clementine trees until the mountains of plastic shavings come into view.

"It's been like this for a decade. Around here, we call it the 'canal of filth'. My animals no longer produce milk," sighed the 65-year-old shepherd.

As the leading destination for plastic waste from the European Union, with 510,000 tons imported in 2025, alongside another 140,000 tons from Britain, Turkey has become "Europe's dumping ground", environmental campaigners say as Turkey hosts the UN COP31 climate conference in Antalya.

Valued at 94 million euros ($105 million) in 2025 by the European Commission, this trade is polluting both the Mediterranean and the Turkish agricultural landscape largely through non-recyclable plastics.

Abandoned in nature or burned in the open air, the waste is transformed into mountains of filthy plastic shavings.

Poorly shredded, the remains often reveal their origins: a plastic pack of French ham, an empty crisp bag from Austria, a used sachet of tomato sauce from Britain.

Nearly 60 percent of this waste is transported to Adana, where around 170 recycling companies are located in the heart of this fertile farmland that produces more than a third of Turkey's citrus fruits.

'We do not import waste' -

According to marine biologist Sedat Gundogdu of the Microplastics Research Group (GRM), the particles are carried by rivers and floods from Adana to the Mediterranean, where they could be seen building up along the Turkish coast this summer.

"We measured microplastic concentrations in the Mediterranean up to 65 times higher than levels previously seen. Up to 93 percent come from waste shredded at recycling centers," he told AFP.

"It's an ecological disaster because it's permanent. Once it reaches the sea, the entire Mediterranean is polluted."

But Environment Minister Murat Kurum denied rubbish was being imported, instead saying what did come in was recyclable matter in a form that could be used as a raw material.

"We absolutely do not allow waste imports. What does come in? Ground granule material which is used as raw material in production," he told journalists on October 23.

Where illegal waste imports had been identified in Adana, "we have closed down the businesses we identified and we have imposed penalties," he said.

But Gundogdu said fines and inspections were not enough.

"We need to end the waste trade once and for all, it's a new form of colonialism," he said.

"Only nine percent of plastics are recyclable. Trying to recycle a material designed to be thrown away is expensive. That's why Europe sends them to other countries. In this case, recycling is an illusion."

- 'Europe's waste is poisoning us' -

In Kucukdikili, a deprived suburb of Adana, residents say enough is enough, accusing the recycling firms of routinely burning waste in the open air which they portray as the result of accidental fires.

Nearly 200 fires are recorded every year at recycling plants across Turkey, a GRM count shows.

"Adana is not Europe's dumping ground!" protesters chanted at a demonstration in August.❑



Russia's President Vladimir Putin (L) and Madagascar's President Michael Randrianirina (R) arrive for their talks on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa summit in Moscow on October 30, 2026.

U.S. does not want Russia using Sahel model in Madagascar: Africom

Johannesburg, South Africa

The U.S. does not want Russia repeating in Madagascar the same strategy used in the Sahel, where Moscow has been backing military-led governments, the deputy head of U.S. Africa Command said Tuesday.

Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, all ruled by military juntas, have distanced themselves from former colonial ruler France and moved towards Russia, which has supported their fight against jihadists.

Lieutenant General John Brennan's comments came as Madagascar's junta also deepens ties with Moscow, which has supplied the Indian Ocean island with weapons and instructors from Africa Corps, its paramilitary force.

"What we are concerned with is the model that Russia has used in the Sahel, and how they want to proliferate that elsewhere across the continent," Brennan told reporters during an online briefing.

"Madagascar sits in a location that is extremely important, as is Mozambique, and we don't want to see those models be applied in those two locations."

Brennan highlighted the strategic value of the Mozambique Channel, the shipping route between those two countries, calling it vital to international trade.

The waterway has become more important as the Middle East war forces shipping through different routes.

U.S. partners are "free to partner with whom they wish", but Brennan warned they should understand "the risks associated with that".

According to the U.S. general, Russia's approach has been "largely ineffective" in the Sahel and east Africa and could further destabilize the region if replicated elsewhere.

Moscow's "real motives" were to "control their natural resources, predate on their population, and then infringe on their sovereignty", he added.

Madagascar has drawn closer to Russia since Colonel Michael Randrianirina seized power a year ago.

Two months later, he received a delivery of Russian drones, assault rifles and handguns.

In one of his first official visits, the Malagasy leader travelled to Moscow on a plane chartered by Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin.❑

The Azeri woman and her dog clearing mines after conflict

Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli, Azerbaijan

On Azerbaijan's former front line, Afsana Bayramova and her sniffer dog Rocky were searching for the buried explosives preventing displaced families from returning to abandoned villages, emptied through decades of conflict with Armenia.

The land in and around Karabakh a breakaway region that was for years run by pro-Armenian separatists is some of the world's most heavily contaminated with landmines, according to Azerbaijan.

The war between the neighbors that erupted at the end of the Soviet Union forced hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis from their homes as Armenia seized the area.

Three decades later, Azerbaijan retook Karabakh and seven surrounding regions in wars and offensives between 2020 and 2023, causing more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians to flee.

Now, at Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli, a former frontline settlement in Azerbaijan's Fuzuli district, little remains beyond a sign bearing its name.

Tank trenches cut through the plain, and a battered concrete bunker overlooks the minefield.

Rocky signals possible finds by sniffing insistently, wagging his tail, then sitting and staring at one spot, Bayramova explained.



Afsana Bayramova, a deminer with Azerbaijan's mine action agency ANAMA, attends an interview with AFP with her sniffer dog Rocky, a Belgian Malinois born in 2023 and brought from Croatia, as they search for explosives at Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli, a former front line settlement in Azerbaijan's Fuzuli district, on October 23, 2026.

"We treat every signal as a mine," she told AFP.

Bayramova is one of only a handful of women sappers in a traditionally male-dominated profession.

Her companion Rocky is a Belgian Malinois born in 2023 and brought from Croatia.

- 'Heavily contaminated' -

Bayramova's family comes from Zangilan, a district Azerbaijan retook during a 44-day war with Armenia in 2020.

"I didn't want to stand aside," she said, explaining why she became a deminer.

"I also wanted to make my contribution to our country."

Jabir Samadov, an operations manager with Azerbaijan's mine action agency ANAMA, said teams had cleared more than 309,000 hectares (763,000 acres) since 2020, neutralising about 69,000 mines and nearly 200,000 unexploded munitions.

Mine blasts have killed 73 people and wounded 370 since the 2020 war, according to Azerbaijani authorities.

Ashaghi Abdurrahmanli is "heavily contaminated", Samadov said.

Mines along former Armenian defensive positions and unexploded munitions from Azerbaijani bombardment litter the area.

Before heading into the minefields each morning, dogs must find sample explosives in a test area. Those that fail the task are kept back.

In the field, handlers use long leads to let the dogs explore. When a suspected explosive is detected, a second dog checks the approach before a deminer investigates.

For the dogs, the reward is a ball but only after confirmation of a positive find.

"Rewarding false indications could encourage dogs to repeat them," Huseynov said.

The dogs' work is hampered by the hot, dry summers of Azerbaijan's lowlands, where temperatures can exceed 40C.

Bayramova said the animals contend with heat from both the sun and the ground beneath their paws.

Illness and injuries to paws can keep dogs from the field.

Those that retire are often adopted by their handlers.

- 'Mistake would mean death' -

Some of those affected by landmines now volunteer to help clean up the area.

Asif Ahmadov, who fled the area in 1992, survived the war but lost his brother and a leg four days after the fighting ended.

"We had grazed our flocks there since childhood, so we knew these places very well," he said.

One day in 2020, Ahmadov recalled turning back, then hearing an explosion.❑

India to build mega-museum with world's 'largest display area'

New Delhi, India

India's cabinet approved on Wednesday a mega-museum showcasing the country's history and civilization, which the government said will cost around $340 million and have the largest display area in the world.

First announced in 2023, the project received approval as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government renewed its emphasis on the country's pre-colonial cultural identity.

The museum's name, Yuge Yugeen Bharat, translates roughly as "India through the ages" and invokes the country's ancient Sanskrit name, Bharat.

It will occupy former civil service offices in New Delhi, known as North and South Blocks, which were designed by British architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker in the 1920s.



This photograph taken on October 11, 2026 shows the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue dedicated to Indian independence leader Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel along the Narmada river at Kevadiya on the outskirts of Vadodara, Gujarat.

In a statement, the cabinet said the museum will be "spread over a proposed built-up area of approximately 178,509 square meters".

"Benchmarked against major international museums, Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum is going to be the museum (with) the largest display area in the world," it added.

India's cabinet said the Yuge Yugeen Bharat is "envisaged as a landmark civilizational museum showcasing the continuity, diversity and richness of Bharat's (India's) civilizational heritage".

The first gallery is expected to open to the public by the end of 2027, with project completion scheduled for financial year 2030-31.

Modi came to national power in May 2014, and has since taken multiple steps to glorify the country's heritage and culture.

His government built the world's tallest statue, a 182-metre (597-foot) monument to Vallabhbhai Patel, for his role in bringing princely states into India.

Modi also backed the revamp of New Delhi's historic administrative district in his second term and moved lawmakers to a new parliament building in 2023.❑

Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba







ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses. Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you want to try a new experience!
With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri
Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4×4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4×4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi
Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi
Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari
Here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok
If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities.❑

Aruba to me

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Experience a unique taste of Belgium in Aruba only at L'Avenue!



(Oranjestad)—Nuzzled up in a cozy nook of The Cove Mall in the sun-kissed paradise of Palm Beach, L'Avenue takes you on a journey to experience the true flavors of Belgium. Offering a selection of traditional Belgian and French cuisine, this bistro brings the old into the new against a backdrop of laid-back luxury.

L'Avenue invites you to experience the best of what Belgium has to offer. Under warm light and stylish décor, travelers, food lover and beers connoisseurs are united at L'Avenue for great food, excellent service and classic Belgian beers.

You may even get to chat with one of the owners, Heidi, whose devout attentiveness to her guests highlights the inviting hospitality that L'Avenue prides itself with. Hailing from Bruges in Belgium, Heidi dedicated many years in the local restaurant business. In Aruba, she was inspired to offer food lovers on the island something completely new. With that goal in mind, Heidi opened L'Avenue where guests can delight in simple yet unique flavors of the Belgian palate.

At L'Avenue, every dish tells a story—one of tradition, seasonality, and bold yet balanced flavors. From crispy croquettes to steaming pots of fresh mussels flown in weekly and their Crêpe Suzette (a favorite among guests) the menu offers something both comforting and surprising.

Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches with a healthy selection of bread options if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, lunch also includes their famous ribs with beer sauce, schnitzel, chicken, fish, and even rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience!

But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 5 pm to 7 pm and offers guests a stunning 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of $37 per guest, complemented with a selection of their finest wine.

The best on the strip

L'Avenue is more than just a place to eat—it's a culinary destination. Located in the restaurant hub of Cove Mall, L'Avenue stands out among the rest for its high-quality, one-of-a-kind yet affordable menu. Thoughtfully curated so you can enjoy the true Belgium experience, L'Avenue selection of delicious items can be accompanied by a wide selection of Belgium beers—most of which you won't find anywhere else on the island!

The warm and inviting atmosphere balances European elegance with island ease, making it one of the most talked about dining sports in Aruba. To add to your unique experience, L'Avenue hosts live background music every Monday from 6:30 pm to 9 pm.

So, whether you're looking for a casual lunch, a romantic dinner, or a celebratory evening with friends, L'Avenue delivers a dining experience that's as memorable as it is delicious.

Come discover Belgium's best…right here at L'Avenue.

L'Avenue is open for lunch Wednesday through Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. Their Early Bird Special starts at 5 pm to 7 pm. Their dinner menu is available from 5 pm to 10 pm. ❑

For more information or to book a reservation,
visit www.lavenuearuba.com or
call (+297) 6996400.

Blackstone Beach or "Indjec"



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach—or known locally as "Indjec" or "Boca Indjec" almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family!❑



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 visiting 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!❑





ARUBA TODAY

Planning on visiting Aruba? Make sure you have your ED card!

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to any country, it's important to make sure you have the right documents with you. For Aruba, one document that always seems to confuse people is the ED card. Scammers have taken advantage of the confusion, with dozen of fake and identical website overcharging visitors. To avoid this happening to you, here's a brief guide on how to obtain the ED card the right way: What website to use and how much it actually costs.



The Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. The ED Card has been in a requirement for visitors for decades and in 2020 it was digitalized. In 2024, the government of Aruba implemented a sustainability fee for all visitors of the island, which include a $20 contribution for the improvement, updating and maintenance of the local waste water plant.

First things first, make sure you have the right website. The official website for the ED card is www.edcardaruba.aw. It is important to note that there are NO alternatives for this website; this website is the ONLY way you can obtain an official ED card. Other website that may look similar are not official and may possibly be a scam. Be careful not to fall for the trap!

Next up, make sure you have the right information with you when you apply for an ED card. You should have on hand:

1. A valid passport
2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)

We mentioned a $20 contribution mandatory for every visitor. Keep in mind that this is a YEARLY fee; so if you plan on visiting Aruba more than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

We should clarify that the ED card is not a substitute for a visa. Visitors who need a visa for Aruba must apply for both a visa and an online ED card. You can also start applying for the ED card 6 days before your flight.

If you extend your trip, you don't have to reapply for or edit your ED card. However, you must reapply if you missed your flight and/ or your flight got canceled and your traveling to the island on another flight.

For more info, visit the official website for ED card of contact the immigration office of Aruba at (+297) 523 7404 or email them at info@dga.aw❑

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal



plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses looks like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century.❑

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw



Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.



The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded they kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.❑

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



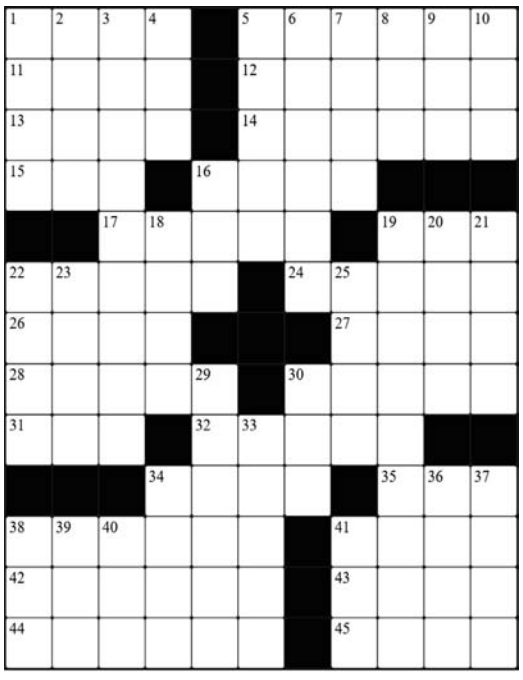
Tuesday's answer

ACROSS

1. Quick jab
5. Chicken
11. Not at home
12. "The Taming of the Shrew" role
13. Singer Seeger
14. Tolerated
15. Sturdy wood
16. Formerly owned
17. Raring to go
19. Soho saloon
22. Castle light
24. Shorthand pro
26. Thor's father
27. Singer Redding
28. Musical sounds
30. Third planet
31. Bonanza stuff
32. Brahma believer
34. Cape Town currency
35. Greek X
38. Preparing to fire
41. Debt reminder
42. "The Taming of the Shrew" role
43. Staff member
44. Bothers
45. Frost work

DOWN

1. Reading aids
2. Blockheads
3. Old arcade muncher
4. Busy mo. for CPAs
5. Italian sendoff
6. Caterer's pot
7. Little cap
8. Car part
9. More profound
11. British party
14. Tiny photos in spy movies
19. Make sport of
20. Blueprint data
24. "Don't bother"
25. Does the hair just so
26. Tire type
27. Source of answers
29. Japanese robe
30. Posture
33. Down source
35. Fishing poles
38. Cardinal color
39. Scoundrel



AXYDLBAAXR
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.

11-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

CJOD BGD BLDDH WYBSC BGDSL CDIODH EICC JEE, BGDY DYTJWLIKD BGDF BJ BLR IKISY YDUB RDIL.

— TGIZ HWKK

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE AUTUMN ROAD, THE MELLOW WIND THAT SOOTHES THE DARKENING SHIRES. AND LAUGHTER, AND INN-FIRES. — RUPERT BROOKE

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.



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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/12

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★ 11/10

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AI sharpens hurricane forecasts, but humans still call the shots

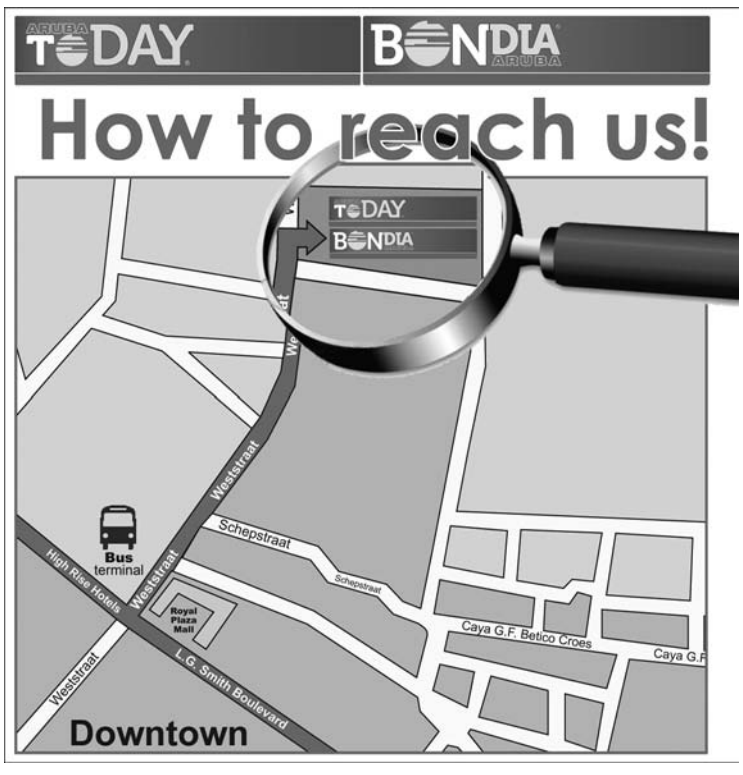
Washington, United States
AI is often criticized for the energy its data centers consume, which is driving more fossil fuel use and contributing to climate change.
But it is also helping meteorologists make markedly more accurate forecasts, including for hurricanes, which are notoriously complex to predict and pose a growing threat in a warming world.
The U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) began using Google DeepMind's AI model last year and is working with the company on developing its successor.
The work has come to the fore this year as an intense El Nino weather pattern led to a record number of hurricanes in the Pacific, and Hurricane Isaias struck the southeastern United States last month as a major storm.
Ferran Alet, a DeepMind research scientist who leads its cyclone work, explained that Google doesn't have a hurricane-specific model rather it is the same model used for everyday weather, pushed to its limits.
"We see extreme weather as almost like something we should strive for because it's the most challenging thing for us and then everything will follow," he told AFP.

Prior to AI, the NHC used several kinds of models to forecast tropical cyclones.
"Dynamical" models use supercomputers to solve the equations of fluid motion and thermodynamics that govern the atmosphere.
Statistical models rely on historical relationships between storm behavior and variables such as location and date, and hybrids combine physics and statistics.
AI models, on the other hand, learn from large datasets, like statistical models, but on a vastly bigger scale and with the ability to pick up far more complicated patterns.



Monitors display hurricane models during a news conference at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, Florida, on May 30, 2025.

- More lead time, higher precision -
A DeepMind paper published in Nature in August found the model gave forecasters on average an extra day's worth of predictive accuracy, with three-day forecasts as good as what earlier models could provide for only the next two days.
For Isaias, DeepMind's model recognized it could become a tropical cyclone a full week before it formed.
The model can also generate 1,000 possible scenarios for each cyclone and forecast rainfall alongside the storm's track and intensity, meaning the path it will follow and how strong it will get.
"NHC began using AI models in operations in late June of 2025 and the Google Deep Mind model was added to some of NHC's track and intensity consensus aids in 2026," Dan Brown, NHC Operations Division Chief told AFP.
The NHC also uses AI models from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and the National Weather Service, and has an agreement with Google to work on developing its models.
"During Isaias, the AI models performed quite well for track," said Brown, adding that "AI models appear to be good at quickly predicting shifts in complex steering patterns."❑



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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@ArubaTodayNews

HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

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

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780
San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

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Quantum could solve AI energy drain, says tech founder

Sydney, Australia

Quantum computers could curb the vast energy demands of artificial intelligence data centres with their ability to run complex calculations, one of the tech's pioneers told AFP.

Australian startup Diraq is conducting the first field test worldwide putting a small quantum computer based on a silicon chip in a commercial data centre in Sydney.

Gigawatt-scale energy demand from large data centres warehouse-like buildings full of servers used to train or run AI tools -- requires new power plants or increases pressure on electrical grids, sparking community backlash.

But, according to Diraq founder Andrew Dzurak, quantum computing is making the leap out of university labs and will be ready to lift the burden in data centres within five years.

"One of the reasons the next generations of AI are looking to consume so much power is that a whole class of the problems they are solving are problems that really are much better suited to quantum calculations," he told AFP.



Founder of Australian startup company Diraq, Andrew Dzurak, poses for a photograph standing in front of a housing for a quantum computer and quantum chip cooling system at a data centre located in Sydney on November 9, 2026.

Quantum computers harness the power of quantum mechanics laws that govern how physics operates at atomic and sub-atomic scales to process information in ways traditional computers cannot.

They usually require extremely cold cryogenic temperatures.

But Diraq's model, a self-contained system, draws less than 20 kilowatts of power as it runs alongside a computer humming at room temperature in the data centre.

Potential uses beyond powering AI include rapidly and energy-efficiently calculating the "behaviour of molecules that could be used in pharmaceuticals, or much lighter batteries or the chemical industry", Dzurak said.

Using quantum for drug trials could boost success by 10 percent and reduce the cost of bringing a new medicine to market by a third, if it runs for under $100 million per year, the company estimates.

"It will only happen if we can build quantum computers that are cost-effective," Dzurak said.

- Australia's Silicon Valley -

Diraq is among six global companies at the third stage of the U.S Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) quantum benchmarking initiative which will test if any quantum computer can solve real problems at a cost that delivers value by 2033.

Another Australian startup, PsiQuantum, is also on the DARPA list and backed by a Au$1 billion Australian government investment to build a different model of quantum computer in Queensland state. Construction started in June.

The country is experiencing a Silicon Valley moment in quantum, said Dzurak.

Australian physicist Michelle Simmons' startup Silicon Quantum Computing was named by Time magazine as having one of the best inventions of 2026, a quantum-enhanced AI chip.

Australia has been a global leader in quantum science for decades, partly because of investment in startups emerging from universities, said President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering Cathy Foley.

"Australia has more than 50 quantum-related businesses operating here," she told AFP.

But "commercialisation is certainly one of our biggest challenges", she said.

"Australia is very good at making discoveries, but turning them into successful businesses requires much more than great science."

The Australian government has made quantum a priority through its AUKUS defence technology partnership with Britain and the United States, Foley said.

AUKUS has reduced the security barriers for sharing quantum technology between the countries, which has been "essential" for Diraq to work across Australia and its offices in the larger US market, said Dzurak.

Diraq's computer installed in Equinix's Sydney data centre has eight quantum bits, or qubits, on a silicon chip. This will be gradually upgraded to 150,000 qubits by 2029.❑

Many AI companies will adopt advertising: Criteo CEO

Lisbon, Portugal

Many AI platforms will end up eventually adopting advertising, the chief executive of the online advertising agency Criteo told AFP Tuesday, as investors are focused on whether the technology will ever be profitable.

"I believe that a lot of AI platforms will find their way to advertising models over time," said the group's chief executive Michael Komasinski on the sidelines of the Web Summit in Lisbon.

"Advertising is the most scalable business model in the world. It has paid for most of the large platforms that we all use and enjoy today, whether it's Google, Meta, Snapchat.

"The ad formats will continue to become more interesting, more innovative, and certainly more native to that conversational experience," he added.

Pressure to boost revenue to cover its colossal spending pushed OpenAI to begin testing advertising in ChatGPT in February in the United States for free and low-cost tier subscriptions.

It has subsequently begun to progressively roll out ads worldwide, in cooperation with Criteo.

OpenAI's rival Anthropic, which is set to imminently go public with a stock listing, has said it doesn't plan to integrate advertising in its AI tools due to data protection concerns as well as to protect the interests of its users.



Criteo CEO Michael Komasinski poses for a photo at the Web Summit at Parque das Nacoes in Lisbon, on November 10, 2026.

Microsoft has used ads in its public version of Copilot AI since 2023.

Perplexity has experimented with ads in the United States since 2024.

Google is considering integrating ads in Gemini.

Developing AI models and rolling them out requires massive investments.

The rally in AI-related stocks that has buoyed markets this year was testament to investor confidence, but both equity and bond investors have recently grown more wary as inflation and high interest rates are making the endeavour even more expensive.

Criteo works with OpenAI in 89 countries to develop advertising campaigns on AI chatbots.❑



Spain's players attend a training session on the eve of their UEFA Nations League group stage football match against the Czech Republic at Fortuna Arena in Prague, Czech Republic on November 11, 2026.

The secrets driving unstoppable Spain's football dominance

Madrid, Spain
Spain aim to extend their 43-match unbeaten run this week in the Nations League, with the playing philosophy that propelled them to World Cup glory this summer the product of years of work at every level of the game.

Their approach combines a clearly defined playing style, early talent identification and a coaching structure designed to ensure players learn the same principles as they progress through the youth ranks.
"For us there is clearly a turning point in 2008, when (then Spain national team coach) Luis Aragones won the European Championship," David Gutierrez, director of the Spanish football federation's (RFEF) national school of coaches, told AFP on a visit to their Las Rozas base.
Aragones's Spain played in a new way. The coach believed that Spanish players could not compete with their rivals physically, but were better suited for a system based on "ball control, collective play, positional play and combinations".

"He gave us a line to follow," said Gutierrez, with Spain going on to win the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, inspired by technically gifted players like Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta.

This playing philosophy has endured, but in an open way to adapt to the evolution of football and the characteristics of new generations of players.
"In the end it's about evolving, in possession with high pressing, with transitions... evolving within modern football," said Aitor Karanka, the RFEF's technical director of development and the national team.
The result is a system in which the playing model takes precedence over individual names, with young players taught its principles from an early age.

"Both boys and girls, from a very young age, have that ability to start understanding the game," said Gutierrez.
Karanka, Jose Mourinho's assistant at Real Madrid between 2010-2013, who also coached English sides including Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest, believes this gives Spain an advantage.
"There are countries or nationalities where you really do have to explain much more to the player what you actually want, and the Spanish player, with three or four brushstrokes, already understands," he explained.

- Finding talent -
Identifying promising players early is a key part of the process, increasingly so as more youngsters are eligible to represent multiple countries.
A network of scouts and regional tournaments involving players as young as 12 helps the RFEF identify prospects, who are then monitored and tested in Spain's youth teams.

"The aim is to get it right as early as possible so we can start building cohesion in the group we believe is the strongest," said Manuel Fernandez, coordinator of Spain's youth national teams.
Communication with clubs is also important, with many of the fundamental principles shared even if individual teams have their own styles.
The RFEF has also established specific profiles for each position on the pitch.
"We've drawn up the characteristics of players in every position," said Javier Minano, director of the federation's talent and performance development department.❑



Jaylen Brown #7 of the Philadelphia 76ers guards Jayson Tatum #0 of the Boston Celtics in the first quarter at Xfinity Mobile Arena on November 10, 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Celtics beat Sixers 123-101 as Tatum outshines Brown

New York, United States
The Boston Celtics beat Philadelphia 123-101 to replace the 76ers at the top of the NBA Eastern Conference as Jayson Tatum outshone his former teammate Jaylen Brown in a much-hyped showdown Tuesday.
Brown's first regular season clash against the Celtics team he called home for a decade played out against reports of a beef with his 2024 NBA title-winning partner Tatum.
The two men have exchanged cryptic public barbs, apparently disagreeing over Tatum's knowledge of, or role in, Brown's shock trade to the Sixers.
Tatum greeted Brown moments before tip-off but was seemingly blanked, and the game began in feisty fashion, with a fired-up Brown making two steals but conceding two fouls in the opening minutes.
Brown was ultimately restricted to just 13 points on a frustrating night, against Tatum's 21.

"No game is bigger than the other, definitely in the regular season, you know it's one game," said Tatum.
"The hoopla is over, and now we get all ready for tomorrow."
The Celtics took an early lead as the Philadelphia crowd booed Tatum's every move.
As the game settled into its rhythm it was veteran Paul George, who went from Philadelphia to Boston as part of the Brown package, who dominated.

George racked up 36 points, including six three-pointers.
In the third quarter, Tatum soared above LeBron James for a driving dunk, but Philadelphia made it 79-79 on a monster Maxey three-pointer.
Boston regrouped and raced out of sight down the final stretch, with George paying credit to Tatum for soaking up the opposition's focus.
"Obviously JT demands so much attention. Playing off him has allowed me to get a lot of easy opportunities," he said.

Boston (9-2) moved top in the East with a fourth straight win, with Philadelphia now 9-3.
The Portland Trail Blazers ended Oklahoma City's four-game streak 123-103, despite Shai Gilgeous-Alexander's 26 points.
Portland erupted in the third quarter, led by Damian Lillard's 25 points and Deni Avdija's 24.
"We came out the second half trying to be more and more aggressive, and we just made shots," said Avdija.
"We have a young squad, aggressive, hungry... we're not scared of anybody," he added.❑

Gauff upset at WTA Finals, Pegula back on track

Los Angeles, United States Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova upset Coco Gauff to storm into the last four of the WTA Finals at Indian Wells on Tuesday as Jessica Pegula reignited her challenge with victory over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk.

Czech eighth seed Noskova took advantage of a shaky serving performance by Gauff to complete a 6-3, 6-3 victory in group one to book her place in the semi-finals.

Noskova broke Gauff's serve four times on her way to claiming the first set, and then grabbed the decisive break early in the second before sealing victory with her ninth ace of the match.



Coco Gauff of the United States plays against Linda Noskova of Czechia during day three of the FAGE WTA Finals at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California, on November 10, 2026.

"I'm very happy, obviously every win counts in this competition," Noskova said afterwards. "Coco is a big competitor so I had to be ready for everything that would come my way today. "You have to play to the very last point with Coco because she can always help herself out with her serve and fighting spirit. I felt like I played great to put some pressure on her," added Noskova, who defeated Ukraine's Kostyuk in her opening group match on Sunday.

The defeat leaves Gauff and Pegula vying for the last remaining semi-final berth from group one.

Pegula, beaten by Gauff in her opener Sunday, overcame a topsy-turvy second set to defeat Kostyuk 6-2, 7-5. Kostyuk is eliminated following Tuesday's defeat. "I feel like I'm playing well," Pegula said. "I felt my match against Coco was a super high-level match and that was a great match today.

"It's so tricky with her because you just don't know what's gonna come she will just step in and inject pace, she'll come and kamikaze the net, she goes for returns or her serve can get hot. That's what makes it difficult to play her."

The 32-year-old American had looked in complete control in the first set, breaking Kostyuk in the first and seventh games to take the opener 6-2.

A chaotic second set began with four consecutive service breaks before Kostyuk held for a 3-2 lead.

The Ukrainian then had a break point in the next game but was unable to take advantage as Pegula held for 3-3. The next four games went with serve but Pegula finally grabbed the decisive break in the 11th game. She converted her fourth break point to take a 6-5 lead before holding for the match, sealing victory when Kostyuk smacked a forehand long.❑

