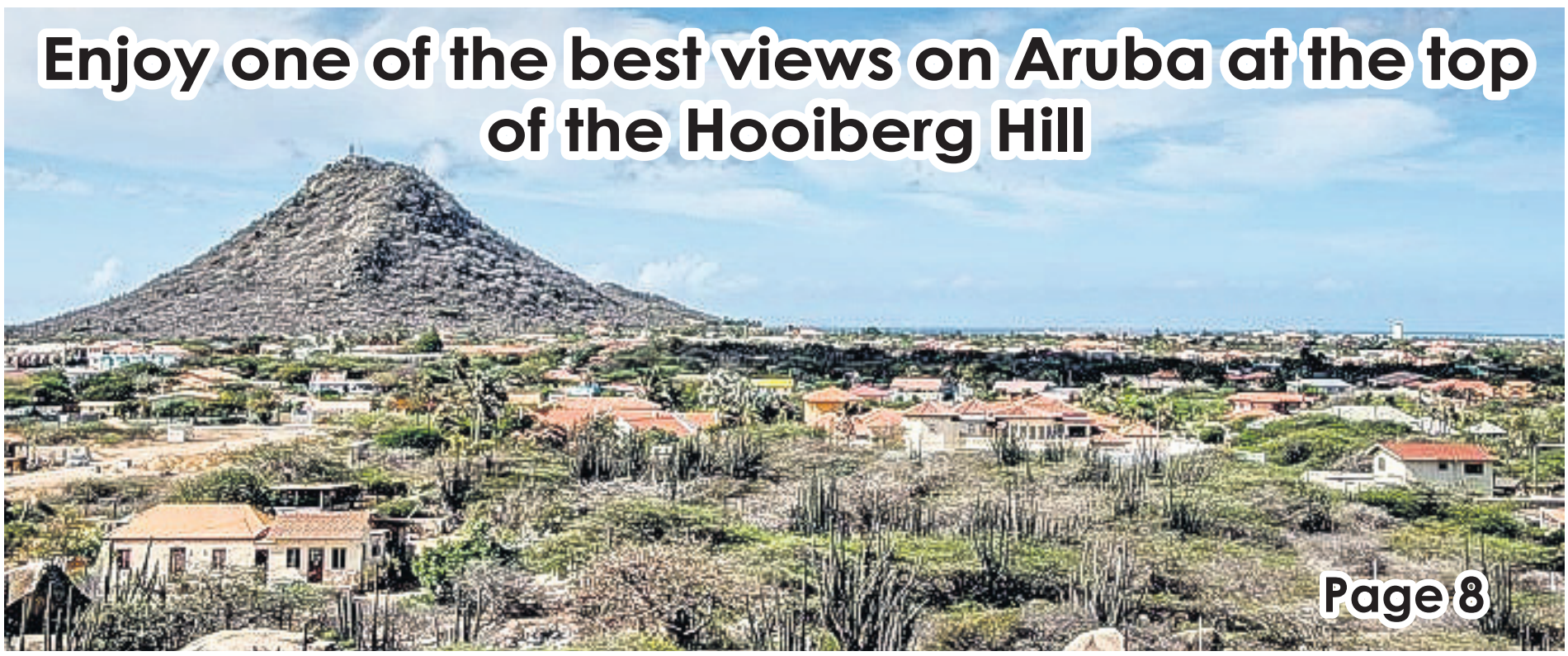
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Congress targets Nvidia as Republican China hawks challenge Trump

Washington, United States
Republicans in Congress are pressing for sweeping investigations into the Nvidia scandal, mounting a rare challenge to President Donald Trump as their hawkish stance on China puts them at odds with his support for the AI chip giant's reinstated chief executive.
The controversy has seen Republican China hawks break with Trump and join Democrats in demanding investigations into possible illegal chip exports to Beijing and the administration's ties to one of America's most valuable companies.
The return of Nvidia co-founder Jensen Huang on Monday, just 11 days after he resigned over extramarital affairs -- reportedly including a relationship with a suspected Chinese spy -- has intensified demands for answers and tougher controls on the sale of powerful artificial intelligence chips.
Trump personally intervened to secure Huang's reinstatement, telling CNBC: "I made the deal."
Nvidia's board said it had received input from senior US government officials and was confident Huang's reinstatement posed no national security risk, even though its own independent investigation remained unfinished.
Republican Senator John Curtis demanded to know who had provided those assurances and why the board had reversed its earlier decision not to reinstate Huang.



U.S. Senator Tom Cotton, Republican from Arkansas, listens as Gary Lawkowski testifies during a Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing on his nomination to be general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on November 18, 2026.

"Who in our government weighed in? What did they tell the board?" he wrote on X. "I'd like to know what changed."
Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Tom Cotton, another Republican, warned that Huang's reinstatement did not resolve the underlying concerns.
"Congress has much to investigate," he said.

- Congressional grilling -
Public criticism of Trump is rare among Senate Republicans, and the objections raised by at least six of them over Huang's reinstatement represent an unusually strong show of dissent. Most, however, have directed their criticism at Nvidia or questioned the administration's assurances rather than attacking the president personally.
Huang is already scheduled to face questioning behind closed doors on December 1 by three Republican-led House committees -- Foreign Affairs, Intelligence and the select committee on China.
The three committee chairmen said his reinstatement and Nvidia's "brief internal investigation" did not erase the national security questions facing the company.
Huang will also testify publicly before the Senate Banking Committee on December 3, while Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has agreed to appear before the committee on December 10, CBS News reported.
At the heart of the scandal are allegations that Nvidia's advanced chips were diverted to China through Megaspeed, a Singapore-based company formerly led by Alice Huang, whom US intelligence suspects of working for Beijing.
Reports have identified her as a woman with whom Jensen Huang had an affair, although he did not name her when acknowledging his infidelity.
Lutnick's Commerce Department faces scrutiny over its handling of Megaspeed, which had been under investigation over suspected violations of export restrictions.

- 'Sold out' -
Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said last week that several government agencies had supported blacklisting the company for months, but Commerce had delayed taking action.
The department finally added Megaspeed to its trade blacklist Monday, the day Huang returned to Nvidia.
Nebraska conservative Pete Ricketts said reinstatement did not absolve Huang of answering questions about national security and potentially unaccounted-for chips.
Other Senate Republicans have demanded fuller explanations of the company's activities and the administration's involvement.
The controversy is also strengthening calls for legislation to restrict access to cutting-edge American technology.
Cotton has promised to push ahead with bipartisan chip export-control legislation, while Senate Republican leader John Thune has pledged support for stronger restrictions.
Trump's own financial interests are also attracting scrutiny.
According to a Washington Post review of financial disclosures, his Nvidia holdings were valued at between $13 million and $62 million as of late August. The White House says independent managers make his investment decisions.❑

Judge sought protections for U.S. lawmaker ahead of home raid



Homeland Security Investigations police search the home of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) on October 12, 2026 in Washington, DC. According to reports, the search is part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

Washington, United States
A U.S. judge signed off on a search of the home of a Democratic lawmaker -- an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump -- only after receiving assurances that she would receive the privacy protections due a member of Congress, according to court documents.
The records, which were unsealed late Monday and were heavily redacted, did not shed any new light on why law enforcement carried out the October 12 search of Ilhan Omar's Washington residence.
The early morning search -- described by Trump's "border czar" Tom Homan as part of a longstanding probe -- was conducted by agents from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of U.S. immigration enforcement.
Omar denounced the search, which took place three weeks ahead of the November 3 midterm elections, as "an attempt to target political enemies and weaponize federal law enforcement."
Omar, who came to the United States as a child, the daughter of Somali immigrants, has not been charged with any crimes.
The 169 pages of court documents revealed a back and forth between Magistrate Judge Matthew Sharbaugh and Justice Department prosecutors over the conditions of the search warrant.

The Speech or Debate Clause of the U.S. Constitution provides legislative immunity to members of Congress and Sharbaugh, in authorizing the search warrant, sought assurances it was being respected.
"The government can still pursue criminal investigations against Members of Congress, and it can still secure and execute search warrants along the lines contemplated here," Sharbaugh said. ❑

California braces for triple flooding threat of huge tides, El Nino, warm oceans

Los Angeles, United States

Exceptionally high tides and El Nino-fueled weather were threatening the California coast with possibly extreme flooding during the busiest U.S. travel week of the year.

The San Francisco Bay Area is expected to get hit particularly hard with a one-two punch of inclement weather and monster tides, with forecasters warning that cascading seawater could deluge low-lying areas including the city's airport.

US authorities were meanwhile urging residents to reconsider travel plans for the Thanksgiving holiday.

San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie warned the situation was "extremely serious," and asked people to limit unnecessary travel.

The high tides were long-predicted: So-called king tides occur every year due to the gravitational pull and alignments of the Earth, Moon and Sun.

They will occur this week and again for periods in December and January.

This time around, the powerful tides -- in San Francisco, they are predicted to approach or even exceed the more than 40-year-old record of 8.66 feet (2.6 meters) -- are arriving on top of already record-warm ocean waters.

The ocean is hotter than usual -- and thus increasing in volume -- both due to human-caused climate change and this year's exceptionally strong El Nino weather pattern.



The ocean warming phenomenon in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific has already altered weather around the world, resulting in devastating droughts and wildfires.

Dial Hoang at the National Weather Service (NWS) told AFP the Bay Area could see up to nearly three feet of flooding when the tides peak Wednesday.

The U.S. agency said in its latest bulletin that dangerously large breaking waves up to 30 feet could hit along California's coast on Wednesday, with hazardous beach conditions persisting through Sunday.

"These conditions will coincide with King Tides and up to 1.6 ft of surge, bringing water and waves farther up the beach than normal," the NWS said.

- Just the beginning -

This year's tides are predicted to be at their highest levels since January 1983, Hoang said.

Those tides also coincided with vicious, El Nino-fueled storms -- and the impact was catastrophic.

"All hell broke loose," said Reinhard Flick, a coastal oceanographer at University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institution. "We had 13-foot waves offshore, the highest tides of the year, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage."

"It hit Northern California, Southern California, everybody."

It's not clear that this week's factors will bring such destruction upon the most populous US state, not least because storm preparedness and infrastructure have improved since the 1980s.

But even if the Bay Area storms end up light, dangers remain. Strong winds could fell trees, San Francisco Mayor Lurie warned and "low-lying streets along the waterfront can flood with little to no rain."

In Southern California -- where surf could hit 22 feet and peak tide was expected to reach 8.4 feet, the NWS said -- forecasters warned that sneaker waves could wash beachgoers out to sea, and surge into parking lots or roadways.

"Always keep an eye on the ocean," the NWS said. "Waves can run up much further than expected, do not assume dry spots are safe."

Storm systems as well as high tides have already triggered flooding in recent months in California, destroying property and leaving coastal communities feeling particularly vulnerable.

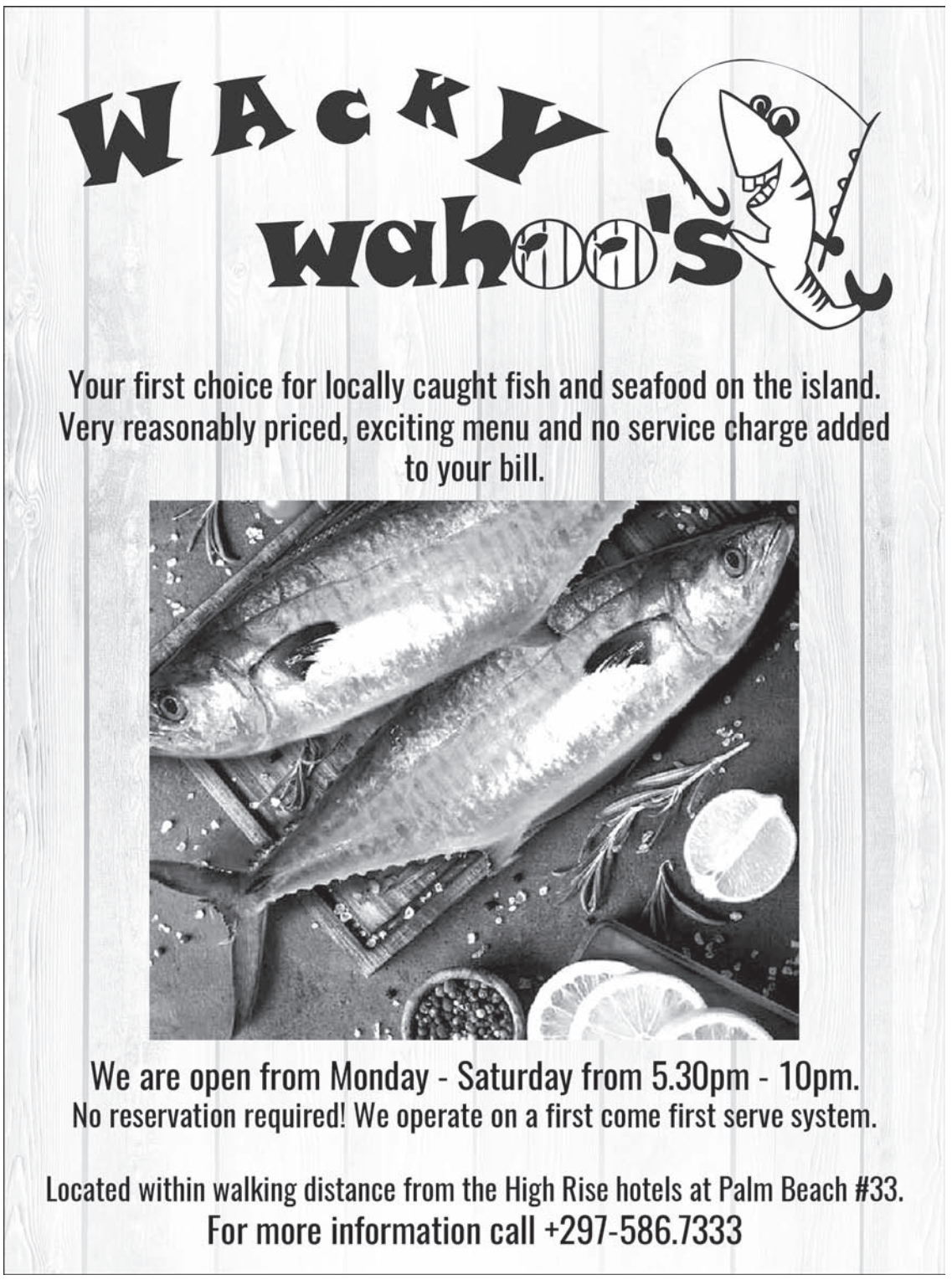
And this week's triple threat of high tides, El Nino and warmer ocean waters could be just the beginning of dramatic winter weather.

The next king tide cycles are expected to hit around Christmas and again January 21-22, and El Nino is forecast to continue strengthening through the end of the year.

"It could potentially be quite bad if we also have rainfall and high waves at the same time during any one of these big events, especially December and January, when rainfall generally increases on our coast," researcher Flick told AFP.❑



A worker stands next to a warehouse surrounded by tidal floodwater during a king tide in Mill Valley, in the San Francisco area, California, November 23, 2026.



‘Everest: The Other Side’ charts highs and lows of love and mountains

Los Angeles, United States
Oscar contender "Everest: The Other Side" begins as a paean to the grace and beauty of mountains, seen through the eyes of those who challenge themselves to conquer them.
But when one of the protagonists dies, the documentary becomes an examination of the pain of loss for people who feel a connection in the rarefied air of such environments that they cannot replicate anywhere else.

The latest film from Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin explores the limits of human endurance, as it chronicles the love story of Hilaree Nelson and Jim Morrison — two of America’s most accomplished skiers.
"I've always just been interested in making films about the human experience," Chin told AFP.

With protagonists who are drawn to such dangerous activities that occupy the liminal space between life and death, that gives filmmakers the chance to pose some of life's really big questions, said Chin.
"What really matters in the end, and how do you deal with loss? How do you fall in love? What what are you scared of? What risks are you willing to take, you know, to live a meaningful life or to live to become who you fully want to become?"



Jim Morrison and Jimmy Chin attend the Los Angeles ccreening of Walt Disney Studios' "Everest: The Other Side" at Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on October 30, 2026 in Los Angeles.

- Monumental feats -
Chin and Chai Vasarhelyi have carved out a niche for themselves with both narrative and documentary films that focus on daring athletes as they pull off monumental feats.
However, for the duo — who won an Oscar in 2019 for "Free Solo," a film about climber Alex Honnold — "Everest: The Other Side" represented a new order of magnitude.
Standing at 8,849 meters (29,032 feet) the world’s highest mountain also features in another production vying for attention this awards season: "Tenzing," which recounts the first ascent of Everest in 1953, completed via the mountain’s south face.
"Everest: The Other Side" focuses on Morrison, an acclaimed skier whose life was already marred by the tragic loss in a plane crash of his wife and two children.

He is trying to reach the summit via the mountain's north face, a feat few have accomplished, and to become the first person to ski back down it.

He intended to do it alongside Nelson, whom he became close to years after he was widowed. But in a tragic mishap, the 49-year-old mountaineer died in an avalanche while they are training.
"The film was originally conceived around Hilaree Nelson and Jim Morrison, and it was a story about their love and their common ambition to climb the direct north face of Everest and be the first people on Earth to ski down," said Chai Vasarhelyi.
"With Hilaree's death, it became a different type of examination of both the ambition behind such audacious pursuits as well as the real life costs associated with them."
Chai Vasarhelyi says the process of making the movie led her to reflect deeply on her own situation: she was previously married to Chin, who is involved in filming many of the high-risk situations, and the couple share two children.
"I never believed that Jimmy would die," she said, but "suddenly my professional ambitions were in direct conflict with my personal...interests."

Morrison said he was left almost incapable of going on in the wake of Nelson’s death.
"I was just stopped in my tracks, and I was completely broken and totally devastated," he told AFP.
His inflection point is also the moment that the film pivots.
"This whole endeavor became a journey through grief and through the loss of her and through the loss that I've had of my family.

"The idea of going back and trying to go to Everest and trying to achieve this goal became something that I wanted to do to honor Hilaree."
In this moment, "Everest: The Other Side" becomes quintessentially about the human experience, one that Morrison said can apply to us all.
"If you keep going and you do your best and you put one foot in front of another, you can achieve really extraordinary things."
"Everest: The Other Side" is playing in select U.S. cinemas.❑

France crowns world’s best egg mayonnaise


Chef of the Peninsula David Bizet (L), French chef Hugo Riboulet of the Groot La Tourte restaurant, Co-President of ASOM Sebastien Mayol (3rd R), Gwilherm de Cerval (R), Jury member Pascal Gloriant (2nd R) celebrates after winning the 8th edition of the World Championship of Egg Mayonnaise (Championnat du monde de l'oeuf mayonnaise), organised by the Association pour la Sauvegarde de l’Œuf Mayonnaise (Association for the Preservation of the Egg Mayonnaise - ASOM) in Saint-Ouen on November 23, 2026.

Saint-Ouen, France
Long disregarded as a bland, soggy mess, the humble French egg mayonnaise is making a comeback -- with gourmets awarding a special prize to a young chef's partly plant-based version.

The World Egg Mayonnaise Championship crowned Hugo Riboulet, co-founder of Paris restaurant Groot La Tourte, who beat the cream of the contenders at a ceremony near the French capital on Monday.
His dish featured confit egg yolk, with puffed spelt grains for texture and served on a jelly made from the tart juice of unripe grapes.
"I have a plant-based approach to cooking and I tried to recreate that, to think about it as a Michelin-starred dish," said Riboulet, 2023 winner of the Top Chef television competition.

"The idea is not to add fat on top of fat or to keep piling on animal protein."
The competition is organised by the Association for the Preservation of Egg Mayonnaise (ASOM), a bistro lobby group working to whisk the dish back onto menus.
For decades, it was associated with "undercooked eggs with bland industrial mayonnaise", said the event's organizer, Foulques de Penguilly.

But in recent years it has begun to appear in trendy restaurants in New York, California and Tokyo.

Now the award will have customers scrambling for reservations.
"Your bookings fill up right away," said last year's winner, Mathieu Renucci, the chef at Paris bistro Au Reve.
"You'll be serving that dish thousands of times."❑

India's Ayurveda retreats tap global wellness boom

Thrissur, India

India's traditional Ayurvedic treatments are drawing growing numbers of visitors to wellness retreats, where practitioners promise "holistic health", despite limited scientific evidence supporting their effectiveness.

Ayurveda, meaning "science of life", combines herbal treatments, poultices, dietary regimes, massage and yoga in an effort to restore what practitioners describe as the body's natural "balance".

"People are increasingly aware of the importance of looking after their health, not only when illness strikes, but also as a preventive measure," said Deepa Padinjappurath, an Ayurveda practitioner.

Padinjappurath, who completed a medical degree before undertaking a five-year course in Ayurveda, works with wellness group Rajah Ayurveda, which opened its first of four "holistic healing" retreats 30 years ago.

"We combine modern diagnostic methods with an Ayurvedic approach," said Padinjappurath.

"That involves examining the patient as a whole: listening to them, observing them, examining them physically and assessing their mental state."

The Rajah Ayurveda group is based in India's southwestern state of Kerala -- now a leading centre of the booming wellness tourism industry, which has emerged as a source of revenue and a means of projecting India's cultural influence abroad.



This photograph taken on October 15, 2026 shows Swiss national Mia Kreuzer receiving an ayurvedic treatment at Nattika Beach Ayurveda Resort in the Thrissur district of India's Kerala state.

India's government, led by Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi, presents the ancient Ayurveda system as a form of traditional healthcare, and it is overseen by a dedicated ministry also in charge of yoga and homeopathy.

With traditional remedies widely used across the globe, the World Health Organization (WHO) has set itself the goal of strengthening the scientific evidence for their effectiveness while ensuring patient safety and the existence of an appropriate regulatory framework.

Preeti Parekh, an Indian woman in her 50s based in Britain, said she felt "wonderfully well" after her 10-day retreat at the Nattika Beach Resort, which included a treatment in which warm oil is dripped onto the forehead.

"Before, I had felt close to burnout, and my body was telling me it was time to slow down," she said.

- 'Individualised treatment' -

Silvana Invernizzi, a Swiss woman, was undergoing a two-week retreat at the resort in Kerala for the eighth time.

She believes massages and a special diet have helped her "avoid serious health problems".

Practitioners say the treatments rebalance the three "doshas" -- the energies that, according to Ayurveda, govern the body's equilibrium.

"Ayurveda is a system of medicine based on individualized treatment," said practitioner Geetha Krishnan, head of research at the WHO's Global Traditional Medicine Centre, which opened in 2022 in India's western city of Jamnagar.

"It takes into account not only the individual, but also their environment, the seasons, the time of day and their diet," he added.

K.P. Hema, a medical doctor and Ayurveda practitioner who leads care at the Nattika resort, said visitors sought treatments ranging from detox to "rejuvenation", as well as help with conditions such as arthritis and psoriasis.

Most clients are women, spanning all age groups, the centre's general manager Ashok Sukumaran said.

Rajah Ayurveda's retreats cost around $1,000-$3,000 per week and follow an almost monastic daily routine. The day starts at dawn with herbal remedies and an hour of meditation before breakfast. Patients then undergo a series of treatments including poultices, then a simple lunch, and an afternoon yoga session.

- Natural 'pharmacy' -

Treatments are largely plant-based, applied in oils used in massages and other therapies.

Ayurveda commonly uses between 800 and 900 herbs and plants, although the number can be almost twice as high depending on regional traditions and practices.

"Your kitchen is your pharmacy," said Abil Kumar Vaidya, head of the Vaidyaratnam Ayurveda Museum in Thrissur in Kerala. "Food is your medicine."

Sukumaran, the resort manager, said the Covid-19 pandemic had changed attitudes to health and wellness, fuelling interest in Ayurveda.

And beyond Ayurveda, traditional remedies are common around the world: 90 percent of WHO member states report that a portion of their population -- from 40 to 90 percent -- makes use of them.❑

Five women killed each hour by relatives in 2025: U.N.

United Nations, United States

More than 47,000 women and girls, or around five per hour, were killed by relatives around the world in 2025, a figure broadly unchanged from previous years, according to a UN report published Tuesday.

The number of women and girls killed by an intimate partner or a family member has fluctuated between 45,000 and 51,000 over the past several years, according to estimates by U.N. Women and the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

Of the 78,000 women and girls who were victims of intentional homicide last year, around 60 percent were killed by an intimate partner or family member, the report said ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

The estimated 47,000 victims represent 129 women and girls killed every day. The figure was calculated using an analysis of statistics from 122 countries and territories.

While women accounted for 19 percent of homicide victims worldwide in 2025, 60 percent of them were killed in the private sphere. By contrast, 11 percent of male homicide victims were killed in such circumstances.

The U.N. stressed the "urgency of ensuring that the prevention of domestic violence addresses intimate relationships, as well as relationships in wider family structures."

No region was completely safe but Africa once again recorded the highest number of women and girls killed by intimate partners or family members, at 22,100.



Women stand behind chairs arranged with portraits and a red shawl during a demonstration in Izmir, Turkey on November 22, 2026.

Asia followed with 15,100 victims, ahead of the Americas with 7,400, Europe with 2,100 and Oceania with 300. ❑

Greece's data centre boom angers locals near Athens

Christoúpoli, Greece

As the sun sets in the semi-rural community of Spata near Athens, a group of pupils stretch on the sports pitch of Pierce College, one of Greece's top international schools.

The quiet setting will be very different in a few months' time, when a large data centre will start going up opposite the school grounds.

Two more data centers are already under construction in the broader area, putting the whole district on edge.

"We are not against technological development. What we ask is that it be done in harmony with our lives and property. Not in an anarchic way just because (data centers) are in vogue," Spata local Yiorgos Minardos told AFP in a meeting with other residents.

Minardos's home in the small nearby community of Christoupoli is less than 200 meters from another, 150-million-euro ($165-million) data centre under construction on behalf of Greece's Public Power Corporation (PPC), the main electricity provider, and Dubai real estate developer Damac.

Once covered in olive groves and vineyards, the broader Spata area, some 20 kilometers (12 miles) east of the capital, has already seen rapid development since the Athens airport relocated there in 2001.



This photograph shows the construction site of a Public Power Corporation (PPC) data center with a 12.5 MW capacity under development at Spata, near Athens on November 13, 2026.

- Data centre drive -

A raft of data centers nationwide is being energetically promoted by the conservative government of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

It says it wants to develop Greece into a major data and infrastructure hub for the southeastern Mediterranean and the wider region.

"We are working with dedication to ensure that Greece is equipped with the necessary infrastructure to consistently rank among the leading and pioneering countries in the economic transformations already taking place," the prime minister said last year.

Residents counter that state and regional officials have allowed the construction of industrial-scale facilities near their homes that are incompatible with the area's commercial zoning regulations.

Nearly 40 residents challenged the data centre permits in a 2025 complaint at the Council of State, Greece's top administrative court. The case is to be heard in February.

- 'Critical' data hub -

PPC has said that its 12.5 MW data centre "is poised to become a critical hub connecting Europe, Asia, and Africa, reinforcing Greece's position as a leader in IT capacity in Southeastern Europe".

Originally slated for completion this year, it is still a concrete husk.

A larger project built for Microsoft a few hundred meters away, 19.2 MW in capacity, is designed to "minimize energy consumption", according to its construction company Renco.

But confirming residents' concerns, Renco's construction partner Terna called the Microsoft centre an "industrial-type facility".

The third centre near Pierce College, jointly developed by the investment firm Pimco, will have a capacity of up to 80 MW.

Budgeted at 300 million euros, it is slated for completion in 2028, as is the Microsoft facility, worth some 100 million euros.

The government in March presented a study by consultancy PwC pointing to investor interest in developing data centre capacity of over 1 GW, more than 20 times the current level.

There are more than 35 investment requests, the study said, mostly in the greater Athens area.

- AI power demand -

In a question to parliament in October, former socialist prime minister George Papandreou warned the technology "can exert significant pressure on electrical grids, increase the cost of the required infrastructure, and pass part of that cost on to consumers".

The International Energy Agency has said data centre electricity demand in Europe is projected to increase by 70 percent by 2030.

Meta, Google, Microsoft and Amazon are all investing heavily to meet growing demand for their AI products and services.

But resistance to data centers is growing in Europe and elsewhere.

In the United States, local opposition blocked or delayed at least 75 such projects in the first quarter of 2026, according to the monitor Data Center Watch.❑

Gunmen take 25 hostage at Colombia supermarket



A Colombian police officer escorts the freed hostage after being held by gunmen at an Exito supermarket in Cartagena, Colombia on November 24, 2026.

Cartagena, Colombia

Gunmen held 25 people hostage in a supermarket in the Colombian tourist city of Cartagena on Tuesday, prompting a major security operation that saw snipers deployed and nearby streets sealed off.

The attackers appeared to have tried to rob an armored vehicle before fleeing into the supermarket, taking about 30 people hostage, authorities said.

Five hostages have since been released, all elderly women, according to Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella.

The standoff unfolded in Cartagena, a Caribbean port known for its picturesque colonial old town, beach resorts and cruise-ship tourism.

Authorities briefly suspended arriving flights as security forces responded, before later restoring operations.

De la Espriella said special forces had been deployed to the scene. City authorities said the navy and army were also involved in the response.

"This is going to turn out well for the hostages" said De la Espriella. "I'm not so sure it's going to turn out so well for the criminals."

"We are there dealing with the situation" De la Espriella added, ruling out the involvement of armed guerrilla or paramilitary groups.

"It's not that a terrorist group carried out a kidnapping -- no, these are criminals who were caught off guard, had no way out, and then kidnapped a group of people."

Images broadcast by Colombian media and shared widely on social media showed masked gunmen armed with rifles standing beside hostages who appeared to be kneeling on the floor inside the store.

Police snipers took up positions on nearby buildings overlooking the supermarket.

Several other officers crouched, weapons drawn at the entrance to the Exito supermarket, as the siege stretched into the afternoon.

Scores of people gathered behind police cordons to watch the crisis unfold.

Onlookers lined nearby roads and sidewalks, many filming on mobile phones as traffic was diverted around the shopping center.❑

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.❑



Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

How to make "pan bati"



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:
2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:
Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moister is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top!❑



Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.



located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day.❑

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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

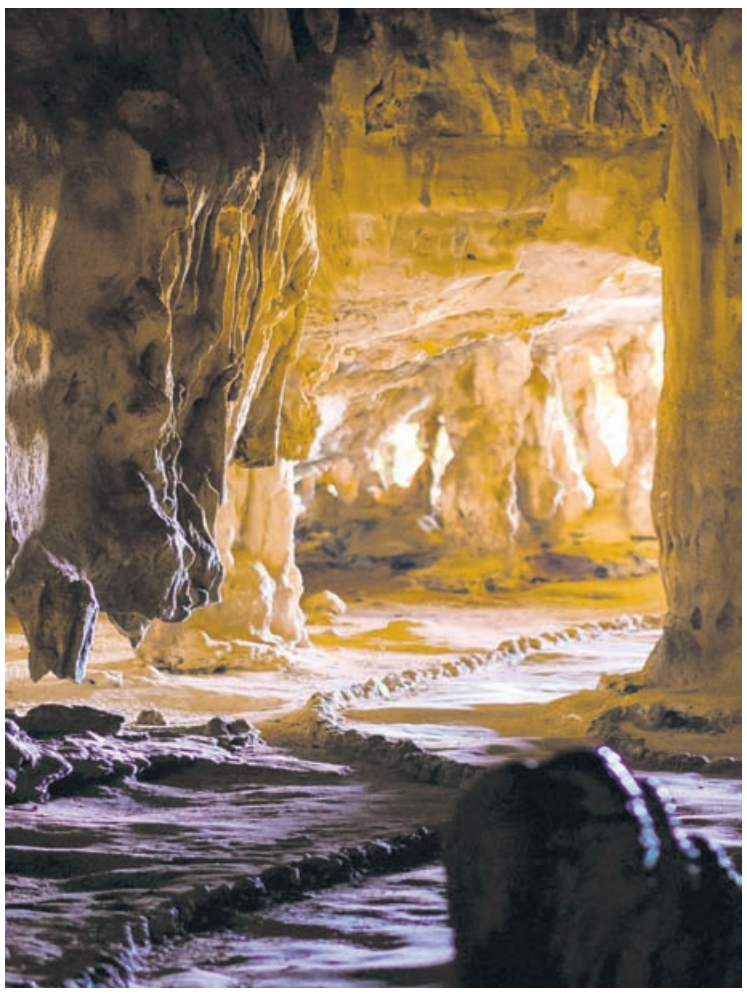
(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves.

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.



So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love bird found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

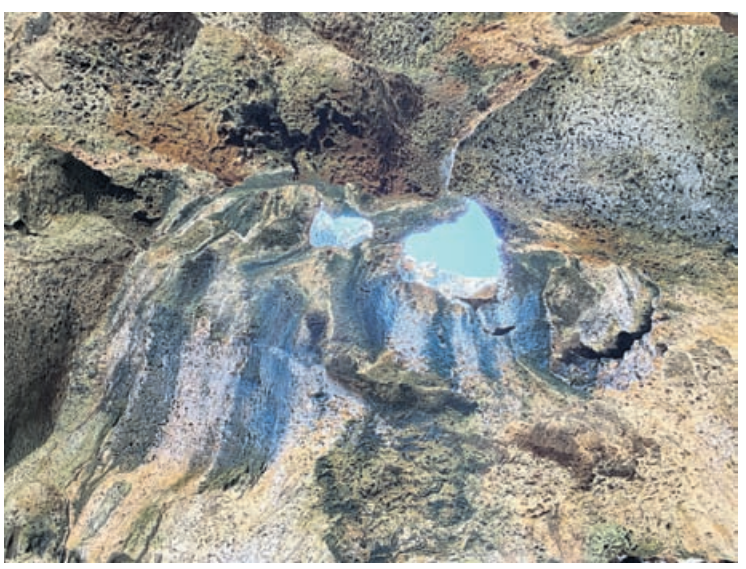


The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy. Take care to not disturb the bats' habitat. ❑



ARUBA TODAY

ISLAND INSIGHT



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCLXXIX - 379

The Future Is Ancient: Rediscovering Aruba's Wisdom in Building

Long before air conditioning, insulated windows and modern construction materials, Aruba's inhabitants had already discovered something contemporary architecture is only beginning to appreciate: a home should work with the climate, not against it.

Our ancestors understood the island's sun, trade winds, scarce rainfall and natural resources. Their homes were not designed around technological comfort but around environmental intelligence. Today, as climate change intensifies temperatures and energy demands increase, these traditional building practices deserve a second look. Perhaps the future of sustainable architecture in Aruba lies hidden in its past.

Among Aruba's traditional building techniques was a construction method known locally as torto, an amalgamation of traditional Caquetío indigenous dwellings and New World architectural influences. A similar technique was practiced in Venezuela's Paraguaná Peninsula during the 18th century, where it became known as bajareque. Learn more in our Episode 292: Earthy Homes, Lasting Charm, and Sustainable Living. Using materials readily available on the island, builders created homes from wooden posts, branches, earth, water and natural plant fibers. Wooden posts, placed approximately half a meter apart, formed the structural skeleton. Branches filled the spaces between them, creating a framework that was covered with a mixture of clay, water and fibers from dry corn stalks, grasses and other local vegetation.

Later, aloe vera juice was also applied to the clay mixture, providing additional strength and protection against the elements.

Even the roofs reflected an intimate understanding of local resources. Cactus wood supported the beams, while corn stalks and, subsequently, the wooden heart part of columnar cacti were used as lattice for roofing materials. Floors were made from clay mixed with lime or cow dung.

These were not simply inexpensive houses. They represented an intelligent response to the environmental conditions of an arid Caribbean island.

Traditional "cas di torto" generally included a kitchen, living room, terrace and bedroom. Families often lived together in relatively modest spaces, sleeping on mats on the floor.



Water conservation was essential. Rainwater collected from natural ponds was stored in wooden or metal barrels and in large clay containers inside the kitchen. Thick clay walls helped create a more stable indoor environment, offering protection against the island's heat.

Many of these houses were inhabited by less fortunate families until approximately 1925, after which the technique gradually disappeared as stone or cinder blocks construction became more common. Yet, the disappearance of this architecture should not mean the disappearance of its knowledge.

Could mud be part of Aruba's architectural future?

Today, progress is often associated with concrete, steel, glass and advanced cooling systems. However, these materials come with environmental costs, especially in hot climates.

Mud construction offers an alternative worth reconsidering. Its breathable nature helps regulate indoor humidity, while its thermal mass allows thick earthen walls to absorb heat during the day and release it at night, potentially reducing the need for air conditioning.

Imagine combining these traditional principles with modern engineering through rammed earth, adobe, reinforced structures, improved foundations and weather protection.

The goal is not to recreate the past, but to bring its wisdom into the future.

With proper attention to structural safety, moisture protection and Aruba's climate, earthen construction could become a sustainable architectural option that combines traditional knowledge with modern innovation.

The future may be rooted in our heritage

As Aruba faces rising temperatures, increasing energy consumption and the environmental pressures of development, perhaps one of the most important questions is not how much more technology we can introduce into our homes, but how much wisdom we have forgotten. Our ancestors built with what the island provided. They understood that architecture was more than shelter: it was a relationship between people, nature and place.

Rediscovering torto is therefore not an exercise in nostalgia. It is an invitation to imagine a more climate-conscious Aruba, where cultural identity and sustainable innovation become partners.

If you wish to explore in to the deeper roots of Aruba's identity, a visit to Etnia Nativa should be on your list. It is described as the Caribbean's only living museum of its kind, offers a fascinating opportunity to connect with the island's ancestral knowledge, contemporary native art, traditions and cultural heritage. A trendsetter since 1994, Etnia Nativa has also contributed to initiatives involving Arikok National Park, Archaeological Museum and many Artisan foundations.❑



For reservations and inquiries:
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etnianativa03@gmail.com

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!





(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen!❑

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.



The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation!❑

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

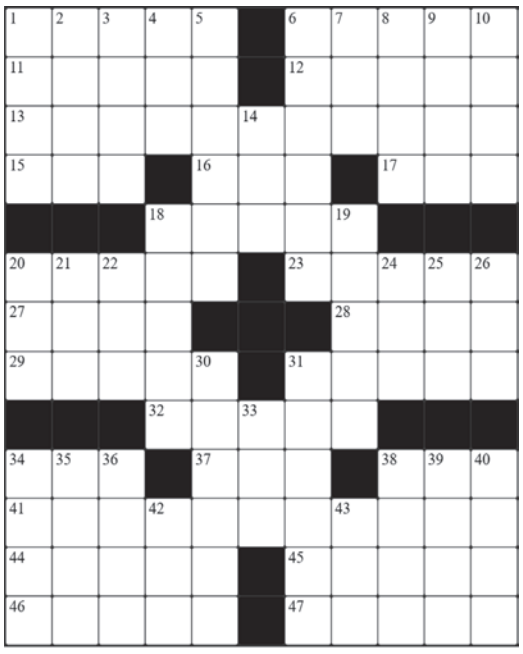
1. Hacienda houses
6. "Common Sense" writer
11. Ghana's capital
12. Opened, as a fastener
13. Store crime
15. Chop up
16. Pound sound
17. "My word!"
18. Business crime
20. One of the Brontës
23. Casual shirts
27. Texas city
28. Binary digit
29. Bring to bear
31. Handed over
32. Fiery crime
34. Lobed organ
37. Hoppy pint, for short
38. Barn sound
41. Property crime
44. Polite
45. Radio dial
46. Rashness
47. Good judgment

DOWN

1. Dinero
2. Massage target
3. Flat-bottomed boat
4. Artist Jean
5. Job ad number
6. Become proud
7. Crumb carrier
8. Hepcat's "Got it!"
9. Three squared
10. Advantage
14. SandL offering
18. Plant life
19. Eggs buy
20. Ram's mate
21. Upper limit
22. Drink cubes
24. Was a pioneer
25. Raw metal
26. Lawn makeup
30. Diamond feat
31. Glides
33. Sauna site
34. Make printing plates
35. Met song
36. Guns, as a motor
38. Wisc. neighbor
39. Some bills
40. Fairy tale monster
42. Remain unused
43. Take to court



Yesterday's answer



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.

11-24 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

ZVPYGOPYZ GJY ZPBIIYZG GJOCFZ GBAY WE GJY PVZG TVVP OC DVWT JYBTG.

— B.B. POICY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL BRIGHT AUTUMN DAY, WITH AIR LIKE CIDER AND A SKY SO BLUE YOU COULD DROWN IN IT. — DIANA GABALDON

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/25

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★ 11/24

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'Hopes of 250 million' for Pakistani on China space mission



Pakistan's astronaut Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, one of three crew members of China's Shenzhou-24 spacecraft, greets journalists during a press conference in Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in Jiuquan, China's northwest Gansu province on November 24, 2026.

Beijing, China

The first foreign astronaut on a Chinese space mission said on Tuesday that he will be carrying "the hopes of 250 million Pakistanis" when he blasts off from the Gobi Desert this week.

Beijing has poured billions into the Chinese space programme, whose prized Tiangong space station is stewarded by teams of three astronauts, typically rotated every six months.

The Shenzhou-24 mission is set to lift off at 8:18 am (0018 GMT) on Wednesday from the Jiuquan launch centre in northwest China, China Manned Space Agency spokesman Zhang Jingbo told a news conference.

Muhammad Zeeshan Ali, a Pakistan Air Force pilot and payload specialist, will be the first foreign astronaut to fly on a Chinese space mission and also the first non-Chinese to board the Tiangong space station.

"I carry the name of Pakistan on my shoulder, the hopes of 250 million Pakistanis," Ali told a separate news conference held later on Tuesday to introduce the crew.

"To every child who is watching while I'm in orbit, just look up at the sky and remember that I am up there with your dreams," he said in English, following other remarks in Urdu and Mandarin.

Ali will join a short orbital flight expected to last around five days before returning with the Shenzhou-23 spaceship, which docked at the Tiangong space station in May.

Pakistan's space agency said Ali would conduct experiments in orbit, including cultivating microalgae as a potential food and oxygen source for future space missions, and testing the effects of spaceflight on quinoa seeds.

- 'Iron brotherhood' -

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif hailed the mission as a testament to the "exceptional trust, mutual respect and enduring brotherhood" between the two countries.

"Pakistan-China friendship is surpassing the heights of the Himalayas, in its journey to outer space," he said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun told a regular briefing that "China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners". Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, who is in China for the launch, said the mission underscored the trust and "iron brotherhood" between the two countries.

China was excluded from the International Space Station in 2011 when the United States banned NASA from collaborating with Beijing.

This prompted the Asian giant to invest heavily in its own space activities, landing a probe on the far side of the Moon in 2019 and a rover on Mars in 2021.

China successfully landed a reusable rocket for the first time in July, according to its space agency, marking a major step in its space ambitions and in reducing launch costs.

- Back to Earth -

China is aiming to land astronauts on the Moon before 2030, a race in which the United States is also competing with its Artemis programme.

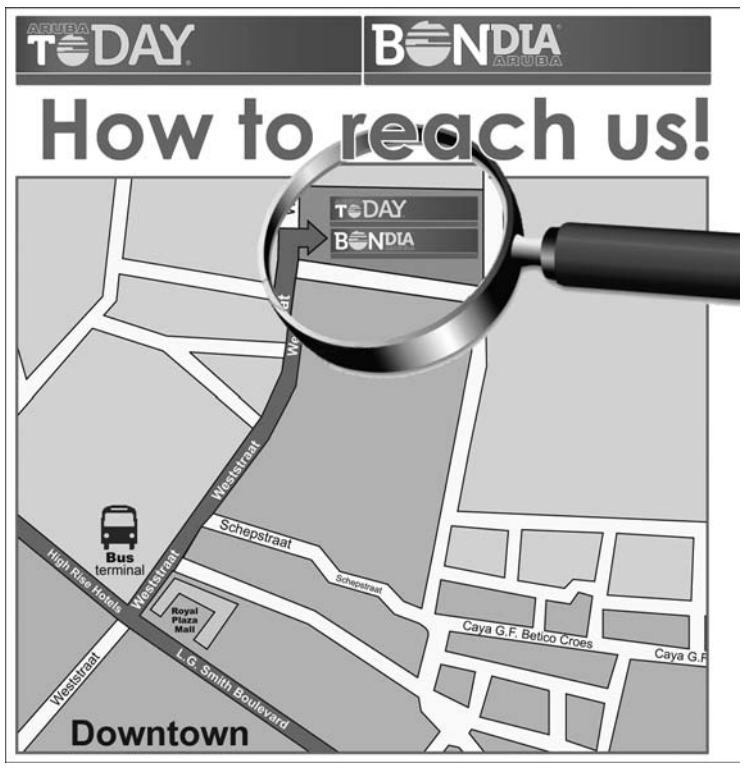
The crew currently aboard the Tiangong space station is headed by 40-year-old Zhu Yangzhu, Lai Ka-ying and Zhang Zhiyuan, also 40. Lai is Hong Kong's first astronaut and the only woman currently aboard.

After the new, all-male crew reaches the Tiangong, Pakistan's Ali will return to Earth alongside Lai and Zhang.

Zhu will remain on board to complete China's first full-year stay in space -- a key test of endurance critical for future lunar and potentially deep-space ambitions.

Zhu will be accompanied for the next six-month Tiangong rotation by 51-year-old space veteran Tang Hongbo and Wu Yi, in his late thirties and making his first voyage to space.

Ali is not the first Pakistani in space, with Monaco-based polar adventurer Namira Salim having flown on Virgin Galactic's Galactic 04 mission in October 2023.❑



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Child Abuse Prevention
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

From screens in class to smart glasses, Norway rethinks new technologies

Oslo, Norway

Three years ago, a schoolteacher in Norway was reprimanded for putting his pupils' iPads aside to return to pen and paper. Now, the whole country is rethinking its approach to new technologies.

After making laptops and screens ubiquitous in schools across the country, Norway is bringing back textbooks in a bid to reverse a sharp decline in pupils' reading and writing skills.

The desire to regain control over technology, rather than just accept the consequences that come with it, extends beyond the school environment in the tech-loving country.

"There is reason to believe that the introduction of screens in schools happened too quickly, before we had sufficient knowledge about their effects and about what constitutes good pedagogical use of digital devices," Norway's Digitalisation Minister Torgeir Micaelsen told AFP.

For nearly 20 years, Norway has been pushing computers and tablets in classrooms, a trend further reinforced during Covid.

Since 2023, primary schools in Oslo were even supposed to equip every pupil with a digital device.



A photo taken on November 15, 2023 at a school in Oslo shows a teacher (C) helping pupils using their laptops in a classroom.

Third grade teacher Pal Ludvig Finstad broke with the prevailing regulations one day, deciding to temporarily put tablets away in favour of paper and pencils to help his pupils who were struggling with reading and writing.

"My pedagogical assessment was that, at that point, the pupils needed a new approach, and that it was urgent," he told the newspaper Klassekampen in 2024.

He ended up getting a written warning from the school administration.

Ironically, Oslo municipality has just dropped its requirement for one device per pupil in primary schools, giving schools more leeway in choosing their teaching tools.

"The screen itself is not the problem. It's the way it's used, when the tool becomes more important than the content," primary school principal Silje Ween told AFP. "Just as a book is a useful and absolutely necessary tool, an iPad can be as well, but one does not exclude the other," she noted.

- 'Quick fixes' -

Norwegian authorities have, in turn, recommended regulating the use of mobile phones in schools and introducing artificial intelligence into the school curriculum only gradually.

The government is also seeking to enshrine access to printed textbooks in law.

A Norwegian commission on screen use in 2024 stressed that students generally understand long texts better if they read them on paper.

In the 2025 PISA survey -- an international survey which measures the skills of 15-year-olds -- Norwegian students scored below the OECD average in reading comprehension, mathematics and science, a first in all three areas at once since 2006.

The distraction caused by omnipresent screens has been mentioned as one possible explanation.

The backpedalling on new technologies, while very relative, also extends to other areas, for an array of reasons.

Norway announced plans in 2024 to restrict social media to protect its youths.

The government is expected to present a bill by the end of this year banning "harmful" platforms such as TikTok, Snapchat and the gaming platform Roblox for children under the age of 16.

Citing risks to privacy, the government also wants to temporarily ban the use of smart glasses, which are equipped with cameras, in some public places such as parks, beaches and schools.

"Not so long ago, we put the development of digital infrastructure on the same level as the invention of electricity. In our haste, we may have forgotten to regulate," suggested Christer Hyggen, a sociologist and researcher at OsloMet University.

"Political leaders have lagged behind and tried to solve complex problems with quick fixes," he said. ❑

Nvidia staff chant, holler and hug at Huang's triumphant return



This handout photo posted on the official X account of Nvidia on November 23, 2026, shows reinstated CEO of Nvidia Jensen Huang reacting to the ovation from employees upon his return to the company headqurters in Santa Clara, California.

Paris, France

Nvidia staff have given their returning boss Jensen Huang a rapturous welcome, chanting his name and crowding around as the AI pioneer told them: "I'm going to be a better CEO the second time around."

Huang resigned last week after revelations of extramarital affairs -- two reportedly with Nvidia staff who reported to him and one with a client who is suspected of being a Chinese spy aiming to get around US trade sanctions.

The firm's board had said last week that it had no plans to reinstate him, but US President Donald Trump later said he had personally intervened to get them to hire him back.

"I want to thank all of you," Huang -- forgoing one of his signature black leather jackets -- said in videos posted on social media Monday that AFP has not been able to verify.

"I'm terribly sorry for putting you through all of this. I've made some very terrible mistakes, and I'm going to work on coming back," he said.

One video shows a staff member rushing up to hug him, burying her head in his shoulder.

As the crowd chants "Jensen! Jensen! Jensen!", he continued: "Thank you all for the second chance. I'm going to be a better CEO the second time around."

Huang still faces an internal inquiry into his behaviour, and has also been summoned to appear before Congress next month in hearings and committees.

His company is also under investigation by regulators.

But after Trump's intervention, the effectiveness of those probes is now in question.

Nvidia, the central player in the AI economy, saw its share price crater after Huang left the company, throwing the rest of the industry into turmoil and prompting loud calls for his return from friends including Elon Musk.

The firm's share price rocketed more than 30 percent on Monday before falling back in pre-market deals on Tuesday.❑

Blazers snap Sixers streak, Thunder stumble

Los Angeles, United States
Deni Avdija scored 31 points as the Portland Trail Blazers snapped the Philadelphia 76ers' five-game winning streak with a dominant 128-111 road victory in the NBA on Monday.
The Eastern Conference-leading Sixers, who welcomed Jaylen Brown back from injury, went into the game looking to improve their 14-3 record and extend their lead at the top of the standings.
But the Sixers saw their hopes of a sixth straight win demolished by a fired-up Blazers team at the Xfinity Mobile Arena in Philadelphia.
Israeli international Avdija led the way for Portland, rattling in five three-pointers, while Damian Lillard and Jrue Holiday finished with 18 points apiece.
LeBron James led the Sixers scoring with 23 points while Tyrese Maxey added 22, with the returning Brown scoring 20.



Deni Avdija #8 of the Portland Trail Blazers reacts during a game against the Philadelphia 76ers in the second quarter at Xfinity Mobile Arena on November 23, 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

While the Sixers slipped to defeat, the two teams who are neck-and-neck at the top of the Western Conference suffered no such problems. The San Antonio Spurs improved to 15-3 after routing the Sacramento Kings 123-107 on the road.
San Antonio, who rested French star Victor Wembanyama, are now a perfect 8-0 on the road after Monday's win.
Stephon Castle led San Antonio in Wembanyama's absence with 28 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds.
The Los Angeles Lakers are also 15-3 in the Western Conference after eventually pulling away from the Utah Jazz for a 109-94 victory.
Luka Doncic led the Los Angeles scoring with 28 points.
In Charlotte, Ty Jerome scored seven three-pointers in his 29-point contribution to the Memphis Grizzlies' 117-111 victory over the Hornets.
The Grizzlies improved to 13-5 for the season to continue their rise up the Western Conference standings.
Jerome was backed with 24 points from Cam Spencer while Christian Anderson led the Charlotte scoring with 25 points.
In Indianapolis two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points on his return to the Oklahoma City Thunder starting line-up but could not prevent the Pacers edging a 125-120 victory.
Kelly Oubre Jr. and Pascal Siakam led the Indiana scoring with 20 points each while Obi Toppin (17 points) and Jalen Slawson (16) made double-digit contributions from the bench.
Oklahoma City fell to 10-8 for the season to remain in ninth place in the Western Conference. Indiana improved to 6-12 as they halted their four-game losing streak.
In Minneapolis the Minnesota Timberwolves blew out the visiting Brooklyn Nets 142-116.

The Nets' former Minnesota star Julius Randle scored 29 points against his old club but the visitors were dominated by a Wolves performance led by Jaden McDaniels with 34 points, 10 rebounds and six assists.❑

Commanders pip Bengals in last-gasp thriller



Drew Stevens #19 of the Washington Commanders kicks a field goal against the Cincinnati Bengals during the third quarter of the game at Northwest Stadium on November 23, 2026 in Landover, Maryland.

Washington, United States
The Washington Commanders scored a dramatic 22-20 win against the in-form Cincinnati Bengals on Monday, snatching victory with a Drew Stevens field goal with the last kick of the game.
The Bengals looked to be edging towards victory after kicker Evan McPherson nailed a 56-yard field goal with 46 seconds remaining to put Cincinnati 20-19 ahead at the Commanders' Northwest Stadium.
But Washington quarterback Jayden Daniels orchestrated a lightning-fast drive from the restart -- which included back-to-back long-range passes to receiver Antonio Williams -- to march the Commanders into field goal range as the clock ran down.
Stevens then stepped up to drill a 26-yard field goal to settle an enthralling encounter that sees the Commanders improve to 4-5-1.
The Bengals, regarded by many as potential Super Bowl contenders, fell to 7-3.
Daniels said he had never doubted his ability to find receiver Williams for the passes of 22 yards and 42 yards that set the Commanders up for the win. "We talk about it in our offensive meeting room, it's all about trust," Daniels said. "I trusted (Antonio) to make a play for us back-to-back and he did."

The wild ending was in stark contrast to the Commanders' early offensive struggles, which saw them make just 27 yards on their first four possessions.
The Bengals took a 10-0 lead in the second quarter after a Tee Higgins touchdown and a McPherson field goal, before Washington's Jacory Croskey-Merritt rushed for a score to make it 10-7 at half-time.
A bizarre start to the second half saw the Northwest Stadium field plunged into darkness early in the third quarter when the floodlights went out.
ESPN reported that the outage occurred due to stadium officials failing to adjust a regular maintenance schedule which sees the light shut down at 10pm during weekdays.❑

MLB Cubs agree to deal with Japanese slugger Sato: reports

New York, United States
Japanese slugger Teruaki Sato has agreed to terms with Major League Baseball's Chicago Cubs on a six-year contract worth $120 million, according to multiple reports on Tuesday.
ESPN and the MLB website, citing unnamed sources, said the deal is pending a physical. It comes a day after the Cubs signed free agent pitcher Trevor Rogers to a five-year deal worth $120 million.
Sato, 27, spent the past six seasons with Japan's Hanshin Tigers before being posted for a possible US deal.
Sato won the Triple Crown for batters in the Central League by leading the way with 39 home runs, 106 runs batted in and a .306 average over 143 games. He was named the Central League's Most Valuable Player.
While Sato was a third baseman with the Tigers, he is expected to play as an outfielder for the Cubs, replacing free agent Seiya Suzuki on a club that led MLB in run scoring last season. ❑



Teruaki Sato, Japanese professional baseball infielder for the Hanshin Tigers of Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB), takes part in Game 4 of the Central League Climax Series Final Stage against Yokohama DeNA BayStars at Koshien Stadium in Nishinomiya City, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan, on October 17, 2026.



Sinner at risk of missing Australian Open after confirming knee surgery

Rome, Italy

Jannik Sinner risks missing the Australian Open after confirming on Tuesday that he has undergone surgery on his troublesome right knee.

The five-time Grand Slam champion has not played a match since winning Wimbledon for the second time in July, with less than two months until the start of the first major tournament of the season in Melbourne.

"Over the past few months, together with my team we've tried everything to treat my injury without surgery," Sinner said in a statement.

"After some very encouraging progress early on, my knee unfortunately didn't respond as we had all hoped, that's why today I underwent a minor surgery to improve the condition of my iliotibial band."

The procedure, which had been reported earlier in the day by broadcasters RAI and Sky Sport, and sports daily La Gazzetta dello Sport, was performed by knee injury specialist Lasse Lempainen at a clinic in Finland.

Italian media report that Sinner could be away from the court for another three months following surgery on an injury that the 25-year-old admitted recently left him barely able to move.



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns the ball to Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic during their men's singles first round tennis match on the first day of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on June 29, 2026.

"The worst part for me about this injury is that I cannot compete, I cannot play tennis," said Sinner in a recent video.

"Also my life outside of tennis is a bit more limited because of a simple fact that I cannot do things that I really like, because I want to protect my knee."

Sinner, a two-time champion at the Australian Open which begins on January 17, recently said that he will make his comeback at the "Six Kings Slam" tournament in Saudi Arabia, which has been rescheduled for late December due to the conflict with Yemen's Houthis.

But that now looks impossible and a difficult start to 2027 seems in store for the man who has in recent years risen to be, alongside Spanish star Carlos Alcaraz, the pre-eminent force in men's tennis.

Sinner was having a brilliant campaign before being stopped by his knee problem, with five Masters 1000 titles going alongside his triumph at Wimbledon.

The Italian's 94 percent winning record in 2026 is the best of his career, even beating his figures from the previous two seasons in each of which he won two Grand Slams and the ATP Finals.

But he recently lost top spot in the men's world rankings to Alexander Zverev, who has taken advantage of injury problems for both Sinner and Alcaraz to win Roland Garros and the U.S. Open.❑

