



## Insider's Guide to Finding Flights to Bonaire from North America

The choices for U.S. and Canadian travelers flying to Bonaire continue to change and grow. Many of these airline alternatives require knowledge of schedules, days of operation and gateway cities and routing to successfully navigate and find the most viable choice for your travel plans. There is no one 'right' or 'best' way to get here – but the following examination of the marketplace will help you find the routing (and fare) that best meets your needs.

Supply and demand along with the realities of the new airline marketplace continue to support the fact that buying airfare direct from the carriers themselves will afford you the best fares in most cases.

This White Paper will outline the variety of alternatives, contrast advantages and disadvantages, and offer some suggestions on researching and purchasing tickets to Bonaire.

Updated 06/10

## Nonstop Options from the U.S. to Bonaire (BON)

### **1. Continental Airlines – Nonstop jet service from the U.S. to Bonaire**

Continental offers flights each week from **Houston (2 flights)** and **Newark** to Bonaire

**A.** The **Houston** departures leave on Friday nights shortly before midnight (an overnight flight) arriving Bonaire early **Saturday morning**. The aircraft does a turnaround and departs from Bonaire Saturday morning with a late morning arrival back in Houston. There is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> flight that is a **Saturday night** departure from Houston arriving on Bonaire on **Sunday mornings** (with a **Sunday morning return** to Houston).

**\*NOTE – the Houston-Bonaire flight does NOT operate its Sunday-Sunday** (departing Houston late Saturday night with Sunday arrival and Sunday return) from **Aug 21-Sep 26, 2010**. It resumes from Houston starting Oct 2, 2010.

**B.** The **Newark** departure is similar, leaving on Saturday nights shortly before midnight (overnight flight) arriving Bonaire early **Sunday morning**, returning that same Sunday morning to New Jersey (arriving late morning in Newark).

**\*NOTE – the Newark-Bonaire flight does NOT operate from Aug 14-Oct 31, 2010. It resumes departing Newark Nov 6, 2010.**

Equipment – Boeing 737—Airport Codes: **IAH** (Houston) **EWR** (Newark) **BON** (Bonaire)

#### **Pros –**

- \* Nonstop flight
- \* Early arrival on Bonaire gives travelers a full day for activities
- \* Extensive network of Continental flights from other U.S. cities that connect to Houston and/or Newark.

#### **Cons –**

- \* Overnight flight arrives very early in the morning before check in for most accommodations (although many lodging options on Bonaire will allow early check-in if room is available)
- \* Limited days of operation

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares as well as ability to purchase is [www.continental.com](http://www.continental.com) ... their trip planner is easy to use for research and to make reservations and ticket purchases.

**Tip** – When using the Continental website trip planner, be sure and request dates that correspond to their southbound departure date (day before arrival).

## **2. Delta Airlines – Nonstop jet service from U.S. to Bonaire**

Delta offers one flight per week from **Atlanta** on **Saturdays**.

**A. Saturday departures from Atlanta** are mid-morning (approx. 10am) with a mid-afternoon arrival in Bonaire (approx. 2pm). Return flight leaves Bonaire later that afternoon with an approx. arrival time of 7:30pm in Atlanta.

Equipment – Boeing 737 and 757

### **Pros –**

- \*Nonstop flight
- \*Convenient connections to Atlanta on Delta system
- \*Schedule offers ideal times of travel and vacation time
- \*Simple to research and book

### **Cons –**

- \*Limited days of travel
- \*Books up early for lowest fares

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares is [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)... their trip planner is easy to use for research, reservations and purchase.

## **3. Insel Airlines – Nonstop jet service from Miami to Bonaire**

Insel Air offers non-stop flights from Miami on **Saturdays** with a Saturday return. **Saturday departures from Miami** are late afternoon (approx. 3:30pm) with a mid-evening arrival in Bonaire (approx. 6:30pm). Flights depart Bonaire late morning (approx. 11am) and arrive Miami mid-afternoon (approx. 2pm)

Equipment – MD-80

### **Pros –**

- \*Nonstop flight
- \*Ample connection time in Miami from many U.S. cities
- \*Schedule offers ideal times of travel and vacation time
- \*Insel flights to/from Bonaire via Curacao on other days of the week allow varying length of stay on Bonaire

### **Cons –**

\*Passengers flying to Miami will need to get baggage and check back in with Insel at the Miami Airport

\*Books up early for lowest fares

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares is contacting us or [www.fly-inselair.com](http://www.fly-inselair.com) ... we can provide reservations and e-ticket purchase for Insel flights for clients booking vacation packages with us.

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## Nonstop Options from the U.S. to Curacao (CUR)

### **1. American Airlines – Nonstop jet service to Curacao from Miami**

American offers **2** nonstop flights every day to Curacao from Miami and return. Flight options between Curacao and Bonaire presently include three airlines (Divi Divi Air, Insel and Dutch Antilles Express) that fly the 18 minute jump between the two islands. Schedules are available throughout the day to connect to American's flights in Curacao.

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares to Curacao on American as well as ability to purchase tickets is <http://www.aa.com>... their trip planner is easy to use for research and to make reservations and ticket purchases.

### **Curacao Option Analysis**

#### **Pros –**

- \* Connections from many U.S. cities
- \* Easy non-stop option from U.S. gateway
- \* Available every day on American with lower cost fares easier to find (Saturdays only on Delta)
- \* New Curacao airport terminal efficiently connects passengers in transit
- \* Short inter-island flight is quick and scenic

#### **Cons –**

- \* Customers must pass through immigration, claim baggage and check-in with connecting carrier
- \* Requires additional ticket purchase for flight from Curacao to Bonaire
- \* Inter-island flights operated with smaller prop/turbo-prop equipment resulting in some passenger and baggage limitations

### **2. Delta Airlines -- Nonstop jet service to Curacao from Atlanta**

Delta offers a similar schedule to their Bonaire flight (**Saturdays** only both directions) with convenient connections from many U.S. cities. **NOT available starting Sep 4 and resumes service on Dec 18, 2010.** Convenient connections to Bonaire available on DAE, Insel and Divi Divi (contact us).

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares as well as ability to purchase is [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) ... their trip planner is easy to use for research and to make reservations and ticket purchases.

### **3. Insel Air – Nonstop jet service Miami to Curacao with connecting service to Bonaire**

Insel Air offers jet service from Miami to Curacao with connecting service to Bonaire 7 days a week (Saturday is non-stop service Miami-Bonaire and return).

Equipment – MD-82 to Curacao connecting to prop service to Bonaire

#### **Pros –**

- \* Departure and arrival times in Miami allow for additional travel to other U.S. departure cities
- \* Available several days per week using one airline for entire trip
- \* Affordable fares; convenient connection in Curacao's new airport; baggage handled by Insel in Curacao for connecting flights.

#### **Cons –**

- \* Not available on most online travel sites for reservations
- \* Smaller prop equipment between Curacao and Bonaire results in passenger and baggage limitations

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares on Insel is by contacting our offices OR [www.fly-inselair.com/](http://www.fly-inselair.com/) ... we can provide reservations and e-ticket purchase for Insel flights for clients booking vacation packages with us.

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## Interisland Service from Curacao and Aruba to Bonaire

### **1. Divi Divi Air – Inter-island Air Taxi from Curacao**

Divi Divi offers daily flights between Curacao and Bonaire. They offer schedules throughout the day that provide convenient connections to Delta and American flights that service Curacao. For customers looking to use Curacao as a jumping

off point to Bonaire, Divi Divi provides reliable service as well as private charters. Flight has maximum of 9 passengers.

Equipment – Britten-Norman BN-2 Islanders; Cessna 402 Business Liner

**Pros –**

- \* Reliable, friendly and flexible
- \* Inexpensive inter-island option
- \* Fast and efficient process

**Cons –**

- \* Small aircraft results in passenger and baggage limitations
- \* Difficult to confirm reservations from the U.S. at times
- \* Requires customer check-in and baggage transfer from/to other carrier

**Best Source** is to contact them direct by phone (or email). Their website at [www.flydivi.com](http://www.flydivi.com) has their contact info and plans to provide more info in the future.

**Tip – BonairePros.com provides reservations on Divi Divi** for clients booking vacation plans with us. Contact us regarding our Custom Flight Planning services using Divi Divi with American or Delta flights to Curacao.

## **2. Dutch Antilles Express – Inter-island Flights from Aruba and Curacao to Bonaire**

DAE offer daily flights between all 3 islands with schedules throughout the day, as well as flights during evening hours. All DAE flights between Aruba and Bonaire make a connection or stop in Curacao.

Equipment – ATR-46 turbo-props

**Pros –**

- \* Offers service from Aruba and Curacao to Bonaire
- \* Offer flights at night/early morning
- \* Larger capacity of passengers and baggage than Divi Divi

**Cons –**

- \* Requires customer check-in and baggage transfers from/to other carrier
- \* Schedules may make for inconvenient connections

**Best Source** is to contact DAE direct by phone (or email). Check their website at <http://www.flydae.com> for schedule information and contact details.

**Tip** – DAE charges a higher fare for purchase through a ticket agent. Lower fares can be secured by contacting and booking direct.

### **3. Insel Air – Inter-island Flights from Aruba and Curacao to Bonaire**

Insel offer daily flights between all 3 islands with schedules throughout the day, as well as flights during evening hours. For customers flying from Aruba, all Insel flights make a connection in Curacao in route to Bonaire.

Equipment – varies

#### **Pros –**

- \* Offers service from Aruba and Curacao to Bonaire
- \* Offer flights at night/early morning
- \* Larger capacity of passengers and baggage than Divi Divi

#### **Cons –**

- \* Requires customer check-in and baggage transfers from/to other carrier
- \* Schedules may make for inconvenient connections

**Best Source** for checking schedules and fares on Insel is by contacting our offices OR [www.fly-inselair.com/](http://www.fly-inselair.com/) ... we can provide reservations and e-ticket purchase for Insel flights for clients booking vacation packages with us.

### **4. Tiara Air – Inter-island Flights from Aruba to Bonaire**

Starting July 12, 2010, Tiara will offer 3 non-stop flights each day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between Aruba and Bonaire and 1 non-stop flight on Sundays.

Equipment – Shorts SD3-60 twin engine 36 passenger

#### **Pros –**

- \* Offers service from Aruba to Bonaire non-stop (50 minute flight)
- \* Offer flights connecting to Delta, USAir, American and Jet Blue
- \* Adequate capacity of passengers and baggage

#### **Cons –**

- \* Requires customer check-in and baggage transfers from/to other carrier
- \* Schedules may make for inconvenient connections

**Best Source** is to contact Tiara direct by phone (or email). Check their website at [www.tiara-air.com](http://www.tiara-air.com) for schedule information and contact details.

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## Synopsis

Although non-stop flights from USA to Aruba were not listed in the options list, it is an alternative gateway to Bonaire with many major carriers offering competitive fares and schedules throughout the week including Delta from Atlanta, USAir from Charlotte, American from Miami and Jet Blue from JFK. As an interisland connecting point, it can be effective – but may require longer layovers in Aruba for ample connection time and possible stops in Curacao on the way to Bonaire by inter-island carriers.

We see an increasing use of Aruba and Curacao as an alternative with both lower costs and/or better arrival/departure schedules in comparison to some Bonaire flight options. That being said, the Continental, Delta and Insel Air nonstop options from the U.S. to Bonaire continue to be the preferred options of most travelers (even at higher fares).

## About **BonairePros.com**

The exclusive Bonaire travel website of *Great Southern Island Adventures* (arranging Bonaire travel since 1986), **BonairePros** is Bonaire's best source for accurate travel information. We deliver Bonaire's best online vacation values with guaranteed savings and VIP assistance. BonairePros offers Custom Flight Planning for our clients purchasing vacation packages.

### **BonairePros**

Get Bonaire's Best Value. Experience Bonaire like a Pro.

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