



Insider's Guide to Finding Flights to Bonaire from the U.S.A.

The choices for U.S. 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.

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

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

Continental offers one flight per week from Houston and Newark to Bonaire.

The Houston departure leaves on Friday nights shortly before midnight (an overnight flight) arriving Bonaire early Saturday morning. The aircraft departs from Bonaire the same morning with a late morning arrival back in Houston. The result is a Saturday to Saturday itinerary on Bonaire.

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

Equipment – Boeing 737

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 available)
- * Limited days of operation (once a week from Houston and from Newark)
- * Lower fares book up early.

Best Source for checking schedules and fares as well as ability to purchase is **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 a Friday southbound and Saturday northbound itinerary when using the Houston gateway; Saturday southbound and Sunday northbound when using the Newark gateway. Contact our office for [Custom Flight Planning](#).

American Airlines – Nonstop jet service from Miami to Curacao

American offers 2 nonstop flights every day to Curacao from Miami, with both a mid-day arrival and late evening arrival. Return flights depart Curacao early morning and late afternoon to Miami. Flight options between Curacao and Bonaire presently include two airlines (Divi Divi Air 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.

Equipment – Boeing 737

Pros –

- * Connections from many U.S. cities to Miami on American Airlines system
- * Available every day with lower cost fares easier to find
- * 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
- * Inter-island flights operated with smaller prop/turbo-prop equipment resulting in passenger and baggage limitations

American Eagle – Nonstop Turbo-Prop service from Puerto Rico to Bonaire

American Eagle offers daily flights from San Juan, Puerto Rico to/from Bonaire (previously 5 times per week). Flights depart early evening from San Juan and arrive later that night. Early morning departures from Bonaire arrive late morning in San Juan.

Equipment – 64 passenger ATR turbo-prop

Pros –

- * Connections from many U.S. cities to San Juan on American Airlines system
- * Available every day using one airline for entire trip
- * Simple to research and book

Cons –

- * Fares can be expensive and peak days book up early
- * Long layovers in San Juan both directions on many connections
- * Smaller turbo-prop equipment results in passenger and baggage limitations
- * Late night arrival into Bonaire; delays possible

Best Source for checking schedules and fares to Bonaire or Curacao on American, as well as ability to purchase, is **www.aa.com** ... their trip planner is easy to use for research and to make reservations and ticket purchases.

Tip – You can use American Airlines/American Eagle service combining one direction using the San Juan-Bonaire flights and another direction using the Miami-Curacao flights. This option requires you also purchase a one way ticket between Bonaire and Curacao. This circle routing gives you more flexibility on busy travel dates and peak periods. **Contact our office** for this Custom Flight Planning service. **Our air experts can custom design itineraries that the online booking engines can't!**

Air Jamaica – One stop jet service from the U.S. to Bonaire

Air Jamaica offers one flight per week (Saturdays) to/from Bonaire, using their hub in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The flight leaves mid-day with an early afternoon arrival into Bonaire and departs Bonaire later the same afternoon for a late afternoon arrival in Montego Bay. Air Jamaica offers connecting service from Atlanta, JFK, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Chicago to their Bonaire flight. They have additional service from Fort Lauderdale and Los Angeles that require an overnight in Montego Bay.

Equipment – Airbus 321

Pros –

- * Convenient schedules with maximum vacation time on Bonaire
- * Lower fares available; typically cheaper than alternatives
- * Simple to book; efficient connections

Cons –

- * Saturdays only with minimal gateway cities
- * Customer service and on-time performance can be a problem on occasion

Air Jamaica – One stop jet service from the U.S. to Curacao

Air Jamaica has similar service from Montego Bay to Curacao, with the same flight times and connecting cities from the U.S. as their Bonaire service ... however, the Curacao service operates from Montego Bay *to* Curacao on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday and departs *from* Curacao for Montego Bay on Thursday and Sunday. This allows customers to use the Curacao service for one or both directions of an Air Jamaica itinerary to Bonaire, requiring only the purchase of a ticket for the 18 minute flight between Bonaire and Curacao. (This allows for more varied itineraries of travel dates.)

Equipment – Airbus 320

Pros –

- * Off peak travel days allow for lower fares and availability
- * Seats available to Curacao when Bonaire is sold out
- * Allows for varying length of vacation stay

Cons –

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

Best Source for checking schedules and fares on Air Jamaica as well as ability to purchase is **www.airjamaica.com** ... or by contacting our office.

Tip – when using **Bonaire and Curacao gateways in a combined itinerary on Air Jamaica**, contact our office for Custom Flight Planning services. We can look at various combinations/dates as well as arrange the inter-island flights to complete your vacation itinerary. **Our air experts can custom design itineraries that the online booking engines can't!**

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 both American and Air Jamaica 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. Maximum of 9 passengers per flight.

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

Pros –

- * Reliable, friendly and flexible
- * Least expensive 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 has their contact info and plans to provide more info in the future.

Tip – **BonairePros.com provides reservations (and pre-paid tickets) on Divi Divi** for clients booking vacation plans with us. Contact us regarding our Custom Flight Planning services using Divi Divi with American or Air Jamaica flights to Curacao.

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 up to midnight. For customers flying into Aruba, DAE provides the only current service between Aruba and Bonaire at publication time of this paper. All flights between Aruba and Bonaire make a connection in Curacao.

Equipment – ATR-46 turbo-props

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Pros –

- * Offers service from Aruba 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
- * Difficult to confirm reservations from the U.S. at times

Best Source is to contact DAE direct by phone (or email). Their website at www.flydae.com offers 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.

About **BonairePros.com**

The exclusive Bonaire travel website operated by *Great Southern Island Adventures* (arranging Bonaire travel since 1986), **BonairePros.com** is Bonaire's best source for accurate information and efficient travel arrangements. We offer our clients the best value and most reliable options for your Bonaire vacation. BonairePros also offers Custom Flight Planning for our clients purchasing vacation packages.

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