

**Information to Help You  
Enjoy Your Stay at Sol Patch**

Table of Contents	
House Rules	Page 2
Nuts & Bolts: Internet, Pharmacies, Groceries, Gas & More	Pages 3-4
Restaurants	Pages 4-6
Closest Beaches	Pages 7-8
Nearby Hikes/Walks & Sometimes Bring Snorkeling Gear	Pages 9-11
Hiking/Walking Maps	Pages 12-13
Excursion Ideas	Page 15
Gift Shopping	Page 15
Massages and other salon services	Page 16

## **House Rules**

- 1) ACs are for night use, when you're sleeping. Our ACs are powerful, efficient and quickly cool your room. There's no need to pre-cool your apartment by turning on the AC before you go out to dinner. We don't charge for electricity, as do most vacation rentals on the island, but we depend on you to be conservative using it. Your apartment has been designed to take advantage of the island's trade winds. Open the windows and enjoy the cooling breeze.
- 2) When you're not in bed, please turn the ceiling fan off.
- 3) Don't constantly run the water when doing dishes or brushing teeth. Curacao water is desalinated using diesel fuel and is expensive.
- 4) Whenever possible, don't throw TP in the toilet. There is a small pail beside the toilet for used paper. Keeping TP out of the septic helps it operate effectively.
- 5) Lock the apartment when you leave.
- 6) Use the blue net to skim your pool to remove leaves and insects.
- 7) When having a drink in the pool, please use the insulated cups. They're great for coffee and for something cooler.
- 8) Clean up after yourself. Putting all food in the refrigerator, washing dishes after meals, and wiping or sweeping up crumbs keeps ants out of the apartment.

## **Nuts & Bolts:**

**Contacts** WhatsApp is best on Curacao

**Owners:** Lisa: +5999 510 5380; Joel +5999 522 8549; .

**Property manager:** Hynrich +5999 674 8758

**House keeper:** Lupita +5999 682 7616

**WiFi:** There are two routers. 1)Vektor \_6F40; 2) Vektor \_6F40\_5G. For both the password is: 12345678

**Recycling:** Put recyclables in the wooden crate or plastic box provided for your use. Curacao only recycles aluminium, #1 plastic (clear, blue or brown) and #2 plastic (milk jugs). Please throw away glass, paper, cardboard and food cans as the island doesn't have the capacity to recycle these.

**Groceries:** For a full sized grocery store with fresh produce, great Dutch cheeses and a full wine selection you'll need to drive back into town. The closest and nicest grocery is called Centrum. There are two Centruns on the island. You are looking for **Centrum Piscadera**.

To get there, go toward the airport. At the round-about take the very first right off the circle. Go straight through a second round-about and at the next light you'll see signs for Centrum. It's the right hand turn at the light.

There are also smaller convenience stores called "Tokos" closer to the house. Go out to the right and through Lagun. After you've driven 4 km. (2 1/2 miles) you'll see a sign to Barber. Right there on the corner is a blue toko that has wine, beer, soda, ice and some canned goods. Take the road to Barber and on the left is **Sure Mini Market**. It's in a green building. **Sunshine and Fresh** is another nice toko is a bit farther down the road in Barber. Inside it's bright, cleaner and has a bigger selection than the other two places.

If you want a grocery with a bit more selection, but don't want to go all the way to Centrum, try **New California** in Tera Cora, the town with all the windmills on the main road about halfway back to the airport.

**Pharmacies (Botikas):** The closest is in **Barber**. At the intersection in Barber, turn right toward the airport and the pharmacy is half a kilometer on the left, across from the gas station.

**Closest Gas Stations (Pump Stations):** The two closest are in Barber across from the pharmacy, and in Tera Cora, the town with the windmills & speed bumps.

## **Restaurants:**

If you don't feel like leaving home, our private chef Sylvia, of **Sylvia's Mini Kitchen** will deliver her Asian specialties right to your door. Here is the link to her menu: [Sylvia's Mini Kitchen](#). Please remember to order a day (or more) in advance. Our repeat customers often order before leaving home.

### **Leave Sol Patch and head right, toward Lagun:**

**Tur-Tur Snack:** Cold beer, Stir fried Chinese take-out and dominoes (the game, not the pizza.). Halfway between Playa Lagun and Playa Jeremi.

**Bahia Beach Bar & Restaurant:** On the cliff's edge at Playa Lagun. Dine while looking out over the beach, lagoon and ocean. For a good meal and great blender drinks.

**Discover Lagun:** At the back of Playa Lagun beach on the left. Burgers, fish, ribs, salads and good music.

**Shelter Rock:** A beautiful open air, eclectic restaurant with views of Mt. Christoffel. Owned by a Curacao family who take local food to new heights. Fridays' grilled coconuts stuffed with your choice of seafood, various meats and/or vegetables are served hot. Coming from Lagun on the road to Barber, take a the first left at the hand painted sign. Climb a steep hill and then go right and the restaurant is on the left. The service can be slow, so don't show up starving.

**Fui Wah:** In Barber the Fui Wah is in a white building on the right, across the street from the hardware store. While it caters to locals and lacks a sign, the cooks here make delicious food. Eat-in at a covered picnic table or take away. Our favourite is the goat stew "kabritu stoba" with potatoes "batata." Ask for "pika," spicy, pickled onions served on the side. "Hopi pika" gets you more. The "karne stoba," sheep, is also good. Get a cold beer while you're waiting. Open 7 days.

**Fourth of July Snack:** Cold beer and drinks, great fried chicken and egg & bacon sandwiches. In the Barber MCB Bank plaza at the corner on the left.

### **Don't turn toward Barber at the blue Santa Cruz Snack:**

**Klein Santa Martha:** This beautiful, old restored landhuis has amazing views of Santa Martha Bay, great coffee, but the food gets mixed reviews. We like going for breakfast. Santa Martha is

on the left, up a very steep driveway after you pass through the second area where the trees hang over the road.

**Bistro e Lanternu:** is on the left just past the turn to Playa Cas Abou. Brian is known for his pork ribs but you have to reserve yours in advance as they sell out every night. You can book on facebook "E Lanternu" or call 005999 869 7666 after 5:00.

### **Take the right to Willibrordus:**

**Marfa's:** At the end of the road, Marfa's is on the corner. Great place to get lunch and a cold beer. Some evenings there's live music. The goat burgers are popular here.

**Karakter:** Go right at Marfa's and follow the signs to Coral Estates, Spa 8 and the Karakter Restaurant. It's on a beach with nice snorkelling. There's also an endless pool and for the price of a drink you can hang out and swim. The spa is fantastic for a massage, mani/pedi or haircut.

### **Head toward the airport:**

**Landhuis Daniel:** Is on the left after Tera Cora. Wonderful meals served on a large covered patio in front of the landhuis. This is another restaurant that has been around forever and

remains a local favourite. A little pricey, but the food is delicious.

**Bali:** Next you'll come to the Bali Restaurant with the grass roof. The food, mostly Asian fusion, is delicious. Service can be slow, so bring time and patience. They make a great mojito.

**Buurvrouw:** A little farther on you'll come to The Buurouw on the right. The name "Buurvrouw" means "the lady next door" in Dutch. It's a lovely open-air restaurant with a delicious menu and reasonable prices. We like it here very much and encourage you to try it.

### **Leave Sol Patch and go left toward West Punt:**

**Cactus Café at Rancho el' Sobrino:** Owner and head chef Taco is known all over this end of the island. He's an interesting guy and his food is consistently great.

**Restaurant Playa Forti:** Breathtaking views on the cliff's edge. There's a huge parking lot in front of the restaurant. The food: mostly fried local fare. Few vegetarian choices.

**Blue View:** Magnificent views of the sea and Playa Forti. Lot's of local foods. Try the Yucca (cassava) fries –an island favourite.

**Janchie's:** Keep driving west past Playa Grandi, where the trees are painted like octopi, and come to Janchie's on the right. This is the oldest restaurant on the West End with good local food and a beautiful garden setting. Probably the only place to eat Iguana!

**Sol Food:** Take the left hand turn to West Punt, right before Janchie's, and then the first left again and you'll come to Sol Food. It's run by Americans Sunshine and David. Open Friday through Sunday, They make good pizza, salads and are welcoming and friendly.

**Isabelle's Off the Beach:** Just a short drive past Janchie's, on the left. Eating at Isabelle's is like dining in a garden. It's run by Americans Jason and Rebecca and has good food.

### **All the way in town:**

**Kas di Piskado Purunchi:** This place looks and feels like a fisherman's shack, right on the water. In fact the name actually means "house of the purunchi fisherman." Purunchi is the Papiamentu name of a small grouper. Local guys come up in their boats to sell fish and pelicans often wait around hoping for a handout. The fish is all fried. We recommend ordering the lionfish as it is an invasive species, and we all need to do our part to get it off local reefs.

You'll need a reservation if you want to sit by the water so call the owner Gina (she speaks English) +599-9512-9202 or +599-9462-4560.

**The Pietermaii:** Not a restaurant, but a beautifully restored, colonial neighbourhood just east of Punda. The Pietermaii boasts many wonderful restaurants and cafes both on the seaside and along its tiny streets and alleyways. Several of our favorites include **Kome'**, **Mundo Bizarro**, **BijBlauw**, and the **SCUBA Lodge**. But there are many more to choose from.

**De Visserij Piscadera:** A hugely popular fish place on the water in Piscaderabaai. You can find them on Facebook.

## **Nearby Beaches**

Exploring Curacao's beaches is a favourite pastime. There are lots to choose from. Some with amenities, others with solitude. All are good for snorkelling and diving. You really can't go wrong. Just hop in your car and drive in any direction until you see a sign for a *playa* or a *boka*.

### **The Closest (3 minutes or less)**

From any Sol Patch apartment you can walk to **Playa Jeremi**. Go early or for sunset and you'll likely be the only person there. This picturesque beach is a mix of sand, tiny smooth pebbles and sea glass.

**Playa Lagun** is just a bit farther down the road. It's got a dive shop, restaurants, fishermen and a certain small beach charm. Great place to snorkel.

A two minute drive to the northwest, take the first left after the hill, and then another left and you're at **Klein (Little) Knip**. It's a secluded, tree-lined beach, one of our favourites. **Grote (Big) Knip** is to the right. It's also lovely, has vendors, but can be overrun with tourists when cruise ship buses bring people there. Check the parking lot before making a commitment.

### **Keep heading East out of Lagun**

Just a kilometer from Lagun an upturned kayak marks the entrance to **Playa Santa Cruz**. This is a gorgeous beach with fishermen, picnic tables, covered pavilions and fishermen. It's often uncrowded, and is a starting point for hikes to the Blue Room, Boka Hulu and Boka Pos Spano. To the far left of the beach is also the residence/business of "Captain Goodlife," a quirky guy who takes people out for boat tours and rents sea kayaks.

If you continue to drive east, you pass under two areas where the trees make a canopy tunnel over the road. After the second, you'll come to an intersection, the village of Soto. If you take the second right in Soto you'll come to a beautiful landhuis (plantation house) called Grote Santa Marta. It's a beautiful working farm and tannery, and is open to the public. If you follow the winding, hilly road past the landhuis, you will eventually come to the abandoned **Sunset Waters Resort**. Drive through the old hotel and down to the beach. It is a lovely stretch of sand with a shallow lagoon—great for small kids.

Keep heading east, past the village of Soto, look for signs to **San Juan**. Take a right on the dirt road, pass under a boom gate, and drive on about a kilometer until you come to landhuis San Juan. There, an attendant will collect about Naf 10 (\$5). There are six undeveloped beaches on the property. Just bump along the dirt roads and explore. They are all lovely.

Next, just a bit further down the road, you'll see long yellow cement wall on the right, the entrance of **Cas Abou**. There are two beaches here. A tiny one is to the right, just inside the entrance to the Cas Abou housing development. The larger **Playa Cas Abao** is to the left. To go here there's an entry fee of 10 guilders (\$6 USD). The beach has a restaurant, chairs for rent and you can sometimes even get a massage.

These are the beaches within 15 or 20 minutes of Sol Patch, but there are many more in this direction. Just grab a map and go!

### **Beaches to the Northwest (left from all Sol Patch Apartments)**

After passing Landhuis Knip and the entrance to the Kleine and Grote Knip beaches mentioned above, the next beach you'll come to is **Playa Forti**, a lovely long beach beside the village of Westpunt. Forti has several places to get a bite to eat or a cold beer and is a favourite with photographers and cliff jumpers. Local kids have been leaping off these cliffs for generations, and the water is very deep so if you dare . . . .

Next, the road bends right and goes downhill into a grove of trees. There, beside a little park with trees painted like octopi, take a left to get to **Playa Piscado/Playa Grandi** (The fishermen's beach). Local fishermen moor their boats here and when they clean their catch, they throw the waste overboard where large groups of green sea turtles and fish wait for a meal. Although this beach can be crowded when cruise ship tours arrive, we highly recommend a snorkel with the turtles.

On a side note –we sometimes see tourists trying to grab or ride the turtles. Unlike fish, turtles (all marine reptiles and mammals) must come to the surface to breathe. *Sea Turtle Conservation Curacao* kindly requests that we do not touch the turtles.

## Hikes / Walks

There are dozens of great outings within just minutes of all Sol Patch Apartments. The main event, **Mt. St. Christoffel**, is only about 15 away, but the area abounds with many other hikes and beautiful walks along the sea that are even closer. Many are well marked with rock cairns and blue, hand painted driftwood signs maintained by the local NGO Uniek Curacao.

Below are some of our favorite hikes & walks and we've included a few hand drawn maps to help you find your way. If you prefer a guided hike our friend Angie is fantastic. You can reach her on Whatsapp at +5999-512-7224. Tell her Lisa & Joel sent you.

### In Lagun

**The Newtown Ruin (5-10 min walk):** Just a ten minute walk from any Sol Patch apartment gets you to the trailhead for this walk. Just a five minute stroll down the trail brings you to a stunningly beautiful ruin of a former manganese mining complex built in the early 1880s. Constructed from large coral blocks cut from the island and bricks imported from Bristol, England, the ruin's many buildings all feature beautiful arched entryways. Explore old buildings that once housed ore and livestock, living quarters, and another building with views of the ocean that contains an enormous old cistern.

**The Tree of Life (10-15 min walk):** Just five minutes past the ruin brings you to an old earthen dam on top of which grows a century old Gum Tree known as the "Tree of Life." With its many enormous roots exposed, the Tree of Life has an otherworldly aura. This is a great place to take pictures, not only of the tree, but also of the ocean views down the valley from the top of the dam.

**Seru Para Mira (45-60 min hike):** From the Tree of Life go right, up the short steep hill. At the top, take a left and you're on your way to the far peak, Seru Para Mira. On your way you'll have multiple views of the sea, Mt. Christoffel, and the valley below. You may also notice rock formations where the red-orange layers of ancient sea floor were pushed up vertically by tectonic activity.

**Ser'i Bientu (60 -75 min hike):** This hike takes you to the top of Ser'i Bientu, the peak covered with native palm trees, that overlooks the Jeremi Ocean Resort. To get to the trailhead for this

hike, make your way onto the dirt road that parallels the main road opposite the entrance to Jeremi Ocean Resort. Go left (northwest) about a half a kilometer. Although it's not marked, you'll find the trailhead on the right, when the dirt road ends and rejoins the main, paved road. The first 100 meters or so of the hike is flat, through the bush, but the trail becomes steeper as it switchbacks up Ser'i Bientu. On the way to the top there are several flat rest stops that afford panoramic views of the sea, Landhuis Knip and Westpunt. At the top are 360 degree views that are truly stunning. This is a great sunrise hike.

### **Several hikes on the old San Nicholas Landhuis property.**

**Boca Santa Pretu (5-10 minute walk):** Boca Santa Pretu, a beautiful, secluded beach is just five minutes from Lagun. The trailhead is found in Boca Santa Cruz. To get there, drive east, up the hill and out of Lagun toward town. Down the other side of the hill there's an upturned kayak that marks the entrance to Boca Santa Cruz. Go left when you get to the beach and park in the lot in front of the residence/business of "Captain Goodlife," a quirky guy who takes people out for boat tours and rents sea kayaks. From there just go left up the steep hill and you'll find a trail.

**Boca Fluit / The Blue Room:** At the back of Boca Santa Pretu is a dirt road. Follow it and in 10 minutes you'll come to Boca Fluit or The Blue Room, a cave that's a mecca for snorkelers.

**Boca Hulu (1.5 hour hike, round trip):** If you seek solitude, Boca Hulu is a gorgeous sandy beach that's worth the walk. Just take a left at The Blue Room and follow the dirt road. About a kilometer on, make your first right and walk up a short hill. The road then descends and turns east. In less than ½ a kilometer you'll see an old shack. Across the road find a short set of stairs that lead to Boca Hulu.

**Boca Pos Spanjo (1.5 hour hike, round trip):** A half a kilometer past Boca Hulu is Boca Pos Spanjo. It's a rocky beach, strewn with coral and old shells. The walk there is lovely, through a grove of tall trees, mostly manzanilla, but also a few tamarind trees, across an old salt pan that's riddled with land crab burrows. It's a beautiful spot to watch pelicans and look for shells.

**Seru Pila by Landhuis Pannekoek (1.5 hour hike, round trip):** This is an awesome hike on the Groot Santa Martha plantation. The trailhead is in the neighborhood across the street from Landhuis Pannekoek. Look online for directions. <<https://marijkesnaturetrail.com/>> The trail is well marked, and winds up over Seru Pilar giving you beautiful views of the island's south coast.

The circular trek next takes you down to old salt pans and views of San Juan Bay before winding back to the trailhead.

## **In Westpunt and Onward Toward Town**

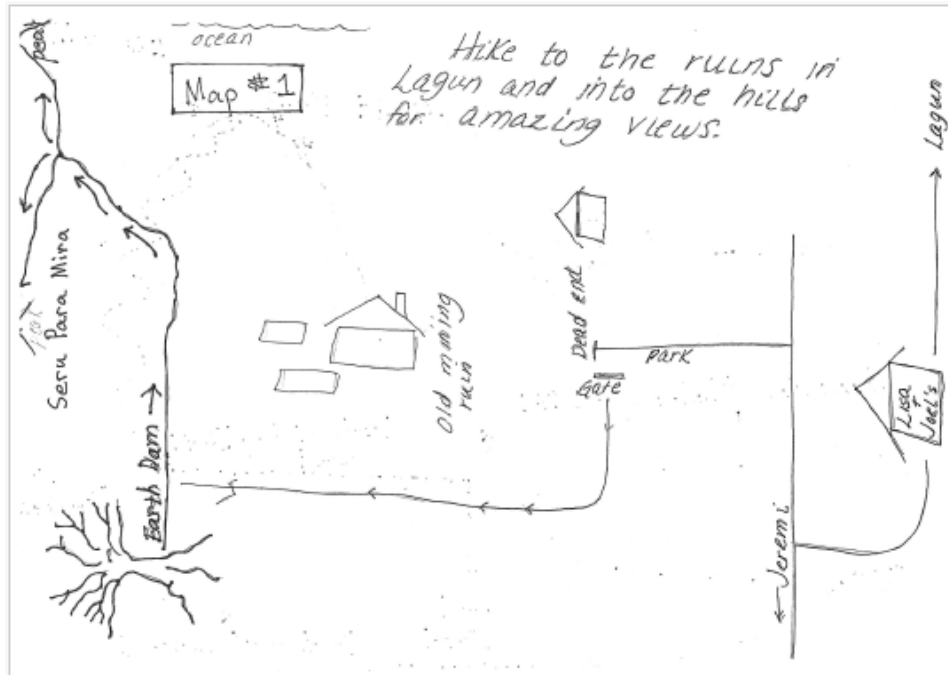
**Playa Gipy & Watamula (30-40 min walk/hike):** You can drive to Watamula, a large hole where, over the years, waves have undermined the cliff and created a big hole in the coast where waters swirl and sometimes splash into the air. But, if you like to walk beside the sea, there's a spectacular seaside trail that leads to Watamula. To get to the trailhead drive past Playa Kalki and the Kura Hulanda Lodge and Beach Club. The road will then turn from asphalt into dirt. About a kilometer on, on your left you'll see another dirt road and a blue garbage can. Go left and this short track takes you to a parking area that overlooks the sea. Here you'll find a trail, marked by rocks painted yellow, that mostly follows the cliff's edge to the right, (north) all the way down into Playa Gipy, a small tree-filled ravine and beach. On calm days you can swim and snorkel here. Climb up and out the other side of Gipy and the trail proceeds all the way to Watamula. You can't miss it. You can come back the way you came, or walk back to your car along the dirt road.

**Shete Boka National Park (10-30 min walk):** Head toward Christoffel National Park from Westpunt and after just a couple kilometers you will come to the entrance to Shete Boka National Park on the left. There's an entrance fee for this park, but it's worth it. From the parking lot, trails to the east and west lead to seven different small bays with lookout platforms. On windy days the powerful waves of the north coast crash into the shore creating their own foamy fireworks displays. Beautiful.

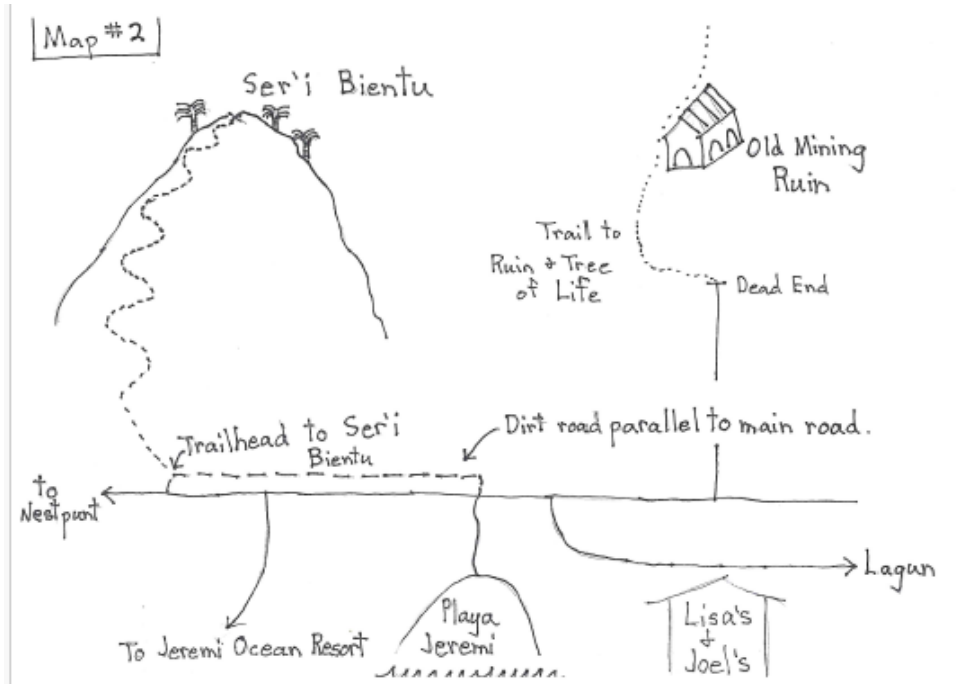
**Boka Ascension (10 min walk):** This is a great place to watch green sea turtles feeding. Resident pelicans and an occasional osprey sometimes enjoy fishing here. From Christoffel Park head east back toward the airport. Pass through the town of Barber and 5 minutes on look for signs for Landhuis Ascension on your left. Pass the landhuis and drive through an area where the main road splits in two and the median is filled with trees. Right before the road merges make a left on the dirt track. Cross over the lane for oncoming traffic and follow the dirt road to its end. Park and walk along the right side of the bay until you come to a set of stairs that take you up the cliff. Then follow the trail along the eastern edge of the bay. When you get close to the concrete bench, look for the turtles. You'll see them coming up to breathe and also notice their disc-shaped shells moving along the bottom as they forage on the seaweed that grows in the shallow bay. After your eyes become attuned to their shapes, it's possible to see a dozen or more at a time swimming about and feeding in the bay.

## Hikes & Walks Maps

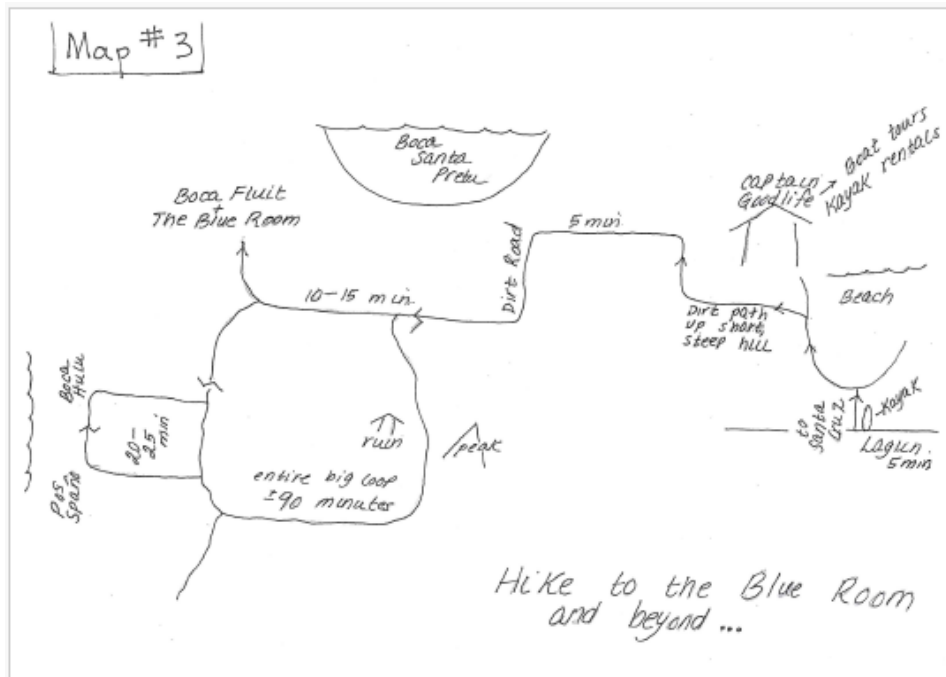
### Map #1 - The Newtown Ruin, The Tree of Life, Seru Para Mira



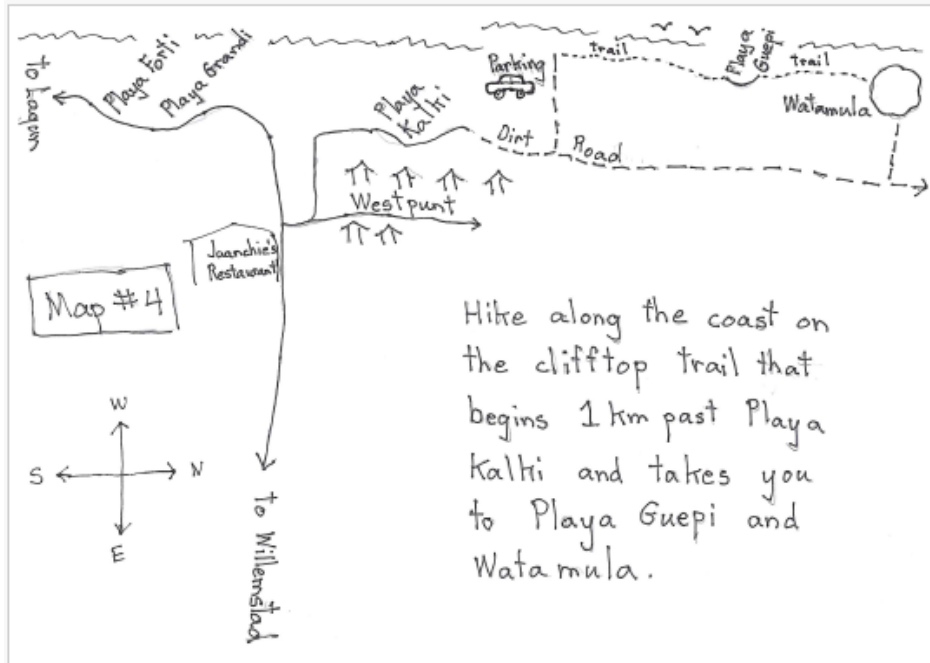
### Map #2 - Ser'i Bientu



**Map #3 - Boka Santu Pretu, Boka Fluit / The Blue Room, Boka Hulu, Boka Pos Spanjo**



**Map #4 - Playa Gipy & Watamula**



## **Excursions** (Just ask Joel or Lisa for more information.)

### **At our end the the island:**

- **Syntropic Farm Tour** in Barber with our friend Daniel who is the pied piper of regenerative, sustainable agriculture. You can reach Daniel on his what'sapp +5999-667-3107.
- Go See **Flamingos** at Jan Kok Baai in Willibrordus or at Salina Saint Michiel
- **Mountain Bike Touring** with Ed Roosenhoff and Lagun Island Tours what'sapp +5999 695 2493

### **In the downtown area:**

- **Artwalk in Otrabanda**

Two recommended guides:

1. Our friend Kurt (owner of the eclectic boutique hotel/restaurant/bar in Otrabanda called 'The Bario') Kurt guides on Thursday afternoons from The Bario. Kurt: +5999-527-1297

2. Jacqueline with Viatour Tours. Jacqueline has more options.

Viatour:<https://www.viator.com/tours/Curacao/Historic-Walking-tour-through-Otrobanda-and-Punda/d725-113255P3>

- Visit the **Floating Market** Punda
- See the **Cathedral of Thorns** and the local art at Landhuis Bloemhof
- Walk the top of **the fort in Otrabanda**
- **Slave Museum** and neighborhood walk in Otrabanda

## **Gift Shopping**

- Mambo Beach - small beachy shops with gifts, bathing suits, flip flops, T-shirts ...
- Jan Thiel- - small beachy shops with gifts, bathing suits, flip flops, T-shirts ...
- The Round Market in Punda - beautiful handmade baskets, hammocks, clothing and jewelry mostly from Kenya.
- CoCu Wayuu Crafts - gorgeous handmade bags designed in Curacao and made by the indigenous peoples of Colombia. The shop is in Elisa's home so contact her to make an appointment. Her what'sapp number is +5999 669 1665
- Kura Hulanda Village in Otrabanda is a charming side street behind the slave museum in Otrabanda with cafes and tiny boutiques. While there try the lionfish ceviche or tacos.

## Massage & Salon Services

- 8 The Experience: the best full service salon on the island is right out here in Banda Abou.  
<https://8curacao.com/>
- If you prefer a massage at home contact Marilyns at Just One Touch Massage, she is great!  
[justonetouchmassage@gmail.com](mailto:justonetouchmassage@gmail.com)

# Just one touch Massage

Massage Service

**Full body massage**

60 minutes	\$90,-
75 minutes	\$100,-
90 minutes	\$120,-

**Half body massage**

50 minutes	\$75,-
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**Back and Neck massage**

40 minutes	\$65,-
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**Back massage**

30 minutes	\$55,-
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**Foot massage**

20 minutes	\$30,-
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Special Service

**Four hands massage** \$120,-  
 Cause forced blood circulation in higher volumes. This can promote healing and pain relief at greater levels than other options available.  
 60 minutes

**Couple massage** \$170,-  
 Enhance your relationship by getting a couple massage. It promotes feelings of relaxation and intimacy.  
 60 minutes

**Chair massage** \$30,-  
 Enhance quicker healing of the strained muscles, improves the health of the skin, alleviate headaches and eye strain.  
 20 minutes

Add on

Hotstone	\$20,-
Scrub	\$15,-



JUST ONE TOUCH  
Massage

📍 Massage at your location or at the beach.  
**Book Now +5996730831**