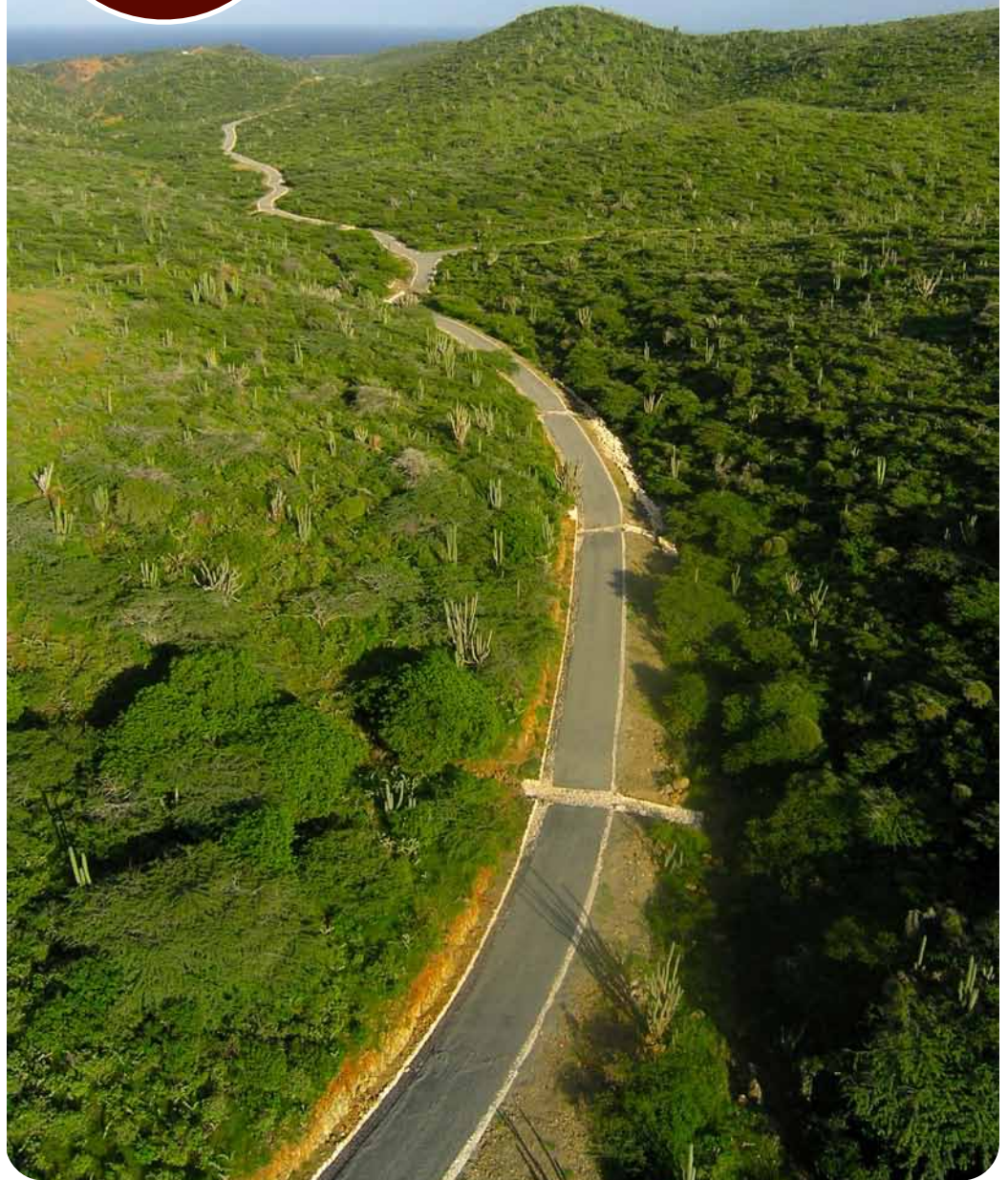




Where Nature meets Culture



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NATURE CONSERVATION



Nature Conservation

The protected area of Arikok National Park was officially established in 1997. Arikok National Park is a 32 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

Nature within the park

Most of the flora and fauna present on the island is found in the park boundaries. Generally these are plants and animals that are adapted to the harsh and extreme conditions caused by the drought and the strong Eastern trade wind laden with salt spray. The natural landscape in Aruba is not one of a lush tropical forest. However, there are areas in

the park, well hidden that allow for some large tree species to survive. Moreover, the park is home to a large variety of cacti.

Animals in the park entail mostly birds and reptiles. The birds are most active during the early morning hours and at sunsets. Arikok National Park is the habitat for several animal species only found in Aruba.

There are two bird species: the Aruban burrowing owl 'Shoco' (*Athene cunicularia arubensis*), and the Aruban parakeet 'Prikichi' (*Aratinga pertinax arubensis*). The Aruban rattlesnake 'Cascabel' (*Crotalus unicolor*) is one of the rarest rattlesnake in the world. The Aruba leaf-toed gecko (*Phyllodactylus julieni*). There is also the Aruban whiptail lizard 'Kododo' (*Cnemidophorus arubensis*).



The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

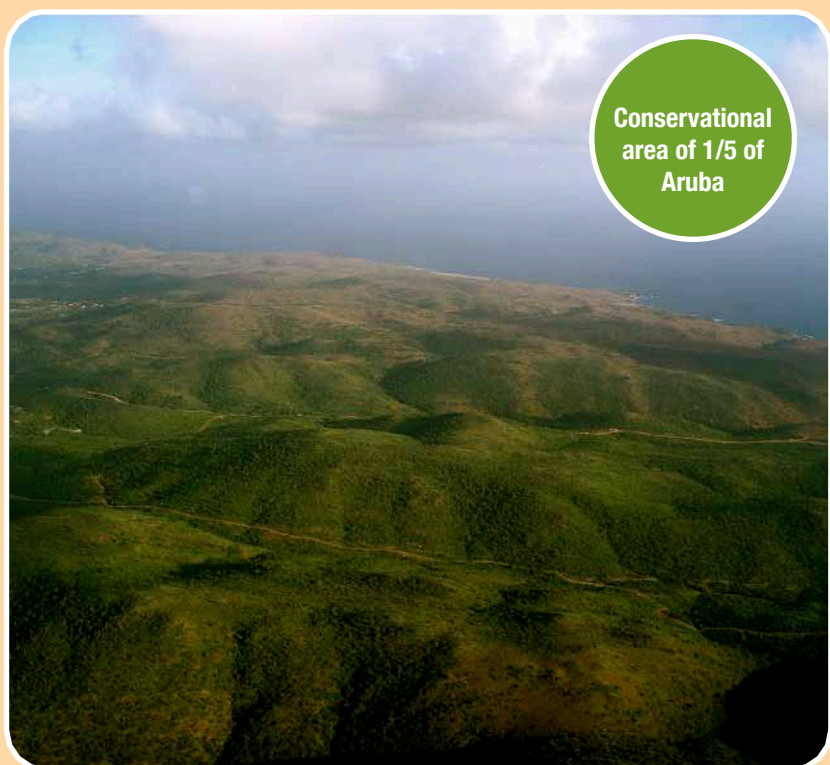
The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry river beds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.


Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of

Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past. These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored, and park rangers are learning many of the building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.





Information
center of the
Park

A NEW ATTRACTION

Visitor's Centre, *Modern Sustainable Design*

The visitor centre has a modern design. The roof is shaped in the form of a row of triangles. The design of the building is in thus a way that it captures the wind into the building. There are many louvers used to let the wind have its way into the buildings. The administration building and visitor's complex are build in a sustainable way. The usage of South American hardwood is to have less maintenance as possible. In parts of the buildings the foundation is build into a basin filled with water in order to cool some rooms. Underneath the floor with ventilation openings is a water basin. The wind will blow into the basin and cool the water and the cool air will go up into the room thus cooling the room without the use of air-conditioning.

Visitor's experience

By providing the necessary information about Aruba's flora and fauna we hope to inspire the visitors of the park and the public of Aruba to be more conscious about there behavior in and with nature. Aruba's has endemic species that are endangered and need to be protected. By emphasizing on nature conservation we hope that visitors can realize the importance of nature in general.

Shops

At the Arikok visitor center you can enjoy cool refreshments, taste local authentic snacks or buy exclusive quality products with the park logo. At the logo shop you can buy organic T-shirts and caps that are eco-friendly produced.



COFFEEHOUSE
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LOGO SHOP
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