



ParrotIslandDivers.com

Marcos 615-955-DIVE (3483) 615-955-3483

Hotel Information

Eden Beach Resort
Kaya Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot
Bonaire - Dutch Caribbean
Phone : (599) 717-6720 - Fax : (599) 717-6710

Rental Truck

We will pick up our trucks at the airport. The rental offices are located across the parking lot to the left as you come out the door of the airport. Hurry to get in line for your rental truck. **Please be patient. This is the worst part of the trip.** You may rush to the rental office; leave your luggage for your partner to collect. The trucks are all paid for in advance. You will only have to pay the taxes and present a credit card (the one that covers the insurance) plus your driver's license. The credit card is for taxes and insurance purposes only. **You don't have to buy the insurance, but it is recommended. Completely check over your truck very thoroughly before you sign for it. Note every ding, scratch, dent and dirt smudge. I even take pictures. They will inspect every scratch when you return it.** Once you have your truck, go back and collect your partner and luggage. Please don't forget to get your Parrot Island Dive Club flag for the truck window and return your window flag after the trip. These flags are very helpful for locating trucks in our group. Leave your truck unlocked at all times with nothing valuable in it. They will break your window to steal your old shorts and shoes. Bonaire is very safe, only your truck window is in danger.

Hotel

Follow the trucks with Parrot Island Dive Club Flags to the hotel. The hotel is about a 9 minute drive to the other side of town. The rooms are all paid for. Sign in and get your room key. There is very little hotel crime on Bonaire, use common sense and don't tempt the one or two thieves on the island. Please keep your doors locked. Your room has a kitchen; if you want the maid to do your dishes ask her and leave her a bigger tip. Wireless Internet Access and a room safe are available for a weekly fee. You may sit at the restaurant and check emails. The hotel does have reasonable long distance rates. Electricity is close enough to ours in the USA, but you may want to bring a surge protector for your important electronics. Blow driers work just fine but some battery chargers might over heat. Be careful what you plug into the wall. I plug in my phone and computer charger but I don't leave them plugged in very long.

SCUBA with Wanna Dive Shop, Owner Bart

The dive shop is located at the hotel. Unlimited **NITROX** and regular tanks are included. Sunday morning there will be a dive briefing when we sign up for the unlimited tanks. **All divers must attend this briefing and purchase your park tag and complete the Check-Out buoyancy dive.** The \$25 park tag is good for one year; if you come back you won't need to buy another tag. You must complete a buoyancy check-out dive before you may dive without an instructor. You will have to maintain neutral buoyancy in midwater for one minute. This will be completed Sunday morning in a nice sandy area away from the fragile reef. **Please Do NOT Touch the reef, gloves are discouraged. The only mandatory dive is the Buoyancy Checkout dive.** After your Buoyancy Check-out, you're free to dive with the group or explore the island on your own. **Please be careful. The water is very clear, don't accidentally go too deep or stay too long.** Always dive with a buddy and stay close to your dive buddy. **Dive Computers are highly recommended.** Boat dives are available. **No diving 18 hours prior to departure.**

Shopping.

Most of the tourist shops are located down town. You may park and walk to all of them. The stores are closed from 12 PM until 2 PM. If you need dive gear, ask Bob or try some of the dive shops in town.

Food.

There are 3 grocery stores and several restaurants and all accept American money. The water is clean and drinkable. Drink lots of water, diving all day is very dehydrating. I buy a big bottle of water and refill it all week. Freeze some water bottles to put in your cooler. The food isn't very expensive depending on what you order. I like the Rib Factory down town on the water. You can drive to town and walk to any restaurant.

Departure.

Keep the Bonaire immigration paper they gave you on the plane when you arrived. You will need this when you leave. Don't forget your \$32 departure tax due before you get your ticket for the return flight. You may check your luggage early and pay departure tax to avoid the crowd and then go eat or shop and return your rental truck when you get back. I go to the airport about 3 hours early to check my bags and then I go eat in town. Return your truck in time to clear security. The security line can be long, don't get left behind because of the truck rental return.

Wreck Diver



HILMA HOOKER

The Hilma Hooker was a 236 foot long cargo vessel weighing 1,027 gross tons registered in San Andres, Columbia. She was originally named the Midsland when she was built in Holland in 1951. The vessel was later renamed Mistral, William Express, Anna, Doric Express and finally Hilma Hooker.

The Hilma Hooker ran into some mechanical rudder difficulties while passing the island of Bonaire. She was taken in tow and brought to the town pier, where customs immigrations officials decided to search her after discovering that she carried no papers. It was soon learned that the FBI had been tracking the vessel by satellite on the suspicion that she was transporting illegal drugs. What they found on the Hilma Hooker was over 25,000 pounds of marijuana hidden behind a false bulkhead. The marijuana was confiscated, taken out of town and burned.



The Hooker remained tied up to the town pier for months while officials tried to locate the vessel's owner. After a while she was moved and moored just offshore. Her hull, which was not in the best condition, began to take on water, and her pumps eventually gave out. On the morning of September 12, 1984, at approximately 9:00 AM, the vessel rolled over and sank.

Not too long after her sinking, local dive operators got together and took actions that made the Hilma Hooker a safe wreck for sport divers. They opened doors, cut cables, and drilled holes into the wreck's port side. The holes provided a way for air, generated from divers breathing on scuba to escape. This was done so no one would be tempted to remove their regulator while in a trapped air pocket, since air in these pockets is usually oxygen depleted from the rusting steel. Al Catalfumo, owner of a local dive operation, says that he and his partner cut a cable that was holding the vessel's cargo door open; if left alone it would have deteriorated and snapped, possibly when divers were under these huge doors. Al went on to say that the door fell with such force that visibility was instantly reduced to zero as the wreck was enveloped in a cloud of sand.

The Hilma Hooker now sits on her starboard side in 90 feet of water. She is completely intact and absolutely beautiful to dive as well as to photograph. Her large bronze propeller sits in 65 feet of water. She has a stern helm which is excellent for photos and, due to the usual amount of good ambient light, wide angle photographs result in nice bow and stern shots. The Hooker has also turned into a good fish haven. Get there early in the morning and you can spot a school of large tarpon resting under her bow. Her rusting structure is refuge to all types of sea creatures, large and small alike.

As a side note, the Hilma Hooker wreck is lying just next to a coral reef. This is an ideal location because divers can spend a good amount of time on the wreck, and then slowly ascend while exploring the reef. This extends bottom time exploration, while divers are still out gassing. Please do not penetrate the Hooker.



www.ParrotIslandDivers.com

106 Crosby Dr. Hendersonville TN, 37075

SCUBA Courses Available in Bonaire

**I will be conducting Specialty Certification dives every morning.
Please consult your Dive Itinerary for scheduling.**

\$99 Open Water Diver Check-Out- Dives

\$150 Advanced Open Water Certification. (Advanced diver you may try any 5 specialties. You will also have to navigate using compass headings while maintaining neutral buoyancy. The Max depth for your deep dive is 100 feet)

Specialties;

Specialty Certifications count towards your PADI Master Scuba Diver rating. All you need is 5 specialties and Rescue Diver. You may sign up for any of the Specialties anytime.

- Free Reef Navigation tutorial on first dive.
- \$95 NITROX. (Please get study materials and take test before Bonaire)
- \$75 Night Diver (3 flashlights required, Main backup and tank light)
- \$75 Deep Diver (max depth 150 feet)
- \$95 Wreck Diver (You will need a wreck reel)
- \$75 Underwater Navigation
- \$75 Peak Performance Buoyancy
- \$75 Dive Propulsion Vehicle (Addition rental fees may apply)
- \$75 Boat Diver (Addition Boat fees apply)

Don't forget your Log Book.

Log all your dives. A good diver is always learning.