

BONAIRE

We have 1 day at sea before we reach the Dutch island of Bonaire. This is one of the so-called ABC islands of the Dutch Antilles, the other 2 being Aruba and Curacao. This is the first time we have visited the island and we are looking forward to it.



Tony and Sheila and ourselves, share a taxi around the southern, flat part of the island. This takes us to the salt water lagoon, which is the nesting area of large flocks of Flamingos. This time of year, there are only a few birds left, but it is still fascinating to see these birds in their natural habitat.

The salt pans themselves are fed from sea water pumped into the lagoon by modern windmills. The hot sun evaporates the water, and the salt is raked from the bottom of the lagoon, and placed into piles, before being taken by conveyer belt, and finally ship, to the rest of the world. The water in the lagoons varies from green to pink as the water evaporates. Our taxi driver shows us some preserved slave huts alongside the lagoon, where he says his grandfather once lived.



Our next stop is at a beautiful beach where we can sunbathe and swim. We see passengers from the Aurora ship which is also in port today, and, guess what, they are passengers who were on the Van Gogh this time last year!

Back in the town of Kralendyke, where the ship is berthed, we have a lunch of Indonesian food and a few beers, before getting back on board the Van Gogh for the 4 pm sailing - next stop San Blas, Panama. We have enjoyed this, our first trip to Bonaire, and look forward to visiting it again in the future

