Exploring Bonaire - a fish lover's paradise

March 13-20, 2021

Sea for Yourself®

Snorkeling Safaris

Dear Friends and Snorkeling Enthusiasts,

Fifty miles off the coast of Venezuela, Bonaire's lush band of fringing reef offers ideal conditions for novice and experienced snorkelers alike: calm, warm waters with excellent visibility, consistent sunshine, and unspoiled habitat. Bonaire's marine sanctuary was established in 1979 and today protects a diverse coral reef from the high tide line to a depth of 200 feet. It is one of the world's greatest snorkeling venues.

I first visited Bonaire in 1988 and each time I return, I enjoy it more. Here's why: For over thirty years, this small, arid Dutch island, located only 50 miles north of Venezuela, has carefully guarded its primary resource - a lush band of fringing reef that encircles the entire island. The Bonaire Marine Park has allowed the marine life to thrive while infusing an unmatched environmental sensitivity throughout Bonaire's water-oriented community.

When it came time to introduce my own kids to open water snorkeling, I chose Bonaire not only because of its healthy marine environment, but for its excellent infrastructure, friendly islanders, and a genuinely relaxed atmosphere. It's the kind of marine environment where every snorkeler, from beginner to expert, will feel at home and find plenty to explore. We love this island and believe that you will, too!

After over twenty years of visiting Bonaire, of learning its secrets, meeting its people and its fish, it is my privilege to invite you to experience the great joys that this little island has to offer. Join Sea for Yourself in March 2021 as we once again explore Bonaire!

- ✓ costs $3595 per person
- ✓ 8 days / March 13-20, 2021
- ✓ snorkelers of all skill levels will love it!
- ✓ protected and intimate marine environment
- ✓ privately-chartered snorkel boat for the exclusive use of our snorkeling group
- ✓ mangrove and night snorkels
- ✓ local experts & guest speakers
- ✓ marine biology lectures
- ✓ snorkel as often as you like

Trip Overview

Special arrangements out of 30 years experience

The title of this program, Exploring Bonaire, is indicative of our attitude and approach to this adventure. We've arranged some exciting elements that should allow our group to take best advantage of Bonaire's natural, cultural, and culinary highlights.

We will rent several large vans for our entire visit so that, as a group, we may independently explore some of Bonaire's best shore snorkeling sites, many of which are off the beaten track. After our daily activities, we will use these vans on several occasions, to "explore" some of the island's best restaurants. We have selected some of our personal favorites, and convinced their management to let us bring 15 or so "friends" as well.

We also plan to charter a private boat to be used exclusively by our group for exploration of the best snorkeling sites at Klein Bonaire (the small satellite island) and coastal sites not accessible by van. We hope to provide the opportunity to go night snorkeling and snorkeling outing by van to Bonaire's mangroves. For those wishing to explore independently, or go at their own pace, there is snorkeling just in front of our resort available anytime, day or night.

Finally, in addition to excellent snorkeling, and fine dining, we have invited key individuals associated with Bonaire's marine environment to share their knowledge, expertise, and perspective with our group. Our Sea for Yourself staff will be giving several slide or video-illustrated interpretive presentations, but I'm sure our participants will also benefit from the contributions of our guest speakers.

While Sea for Yourself considers snorkeling the top priority, this program provides certified SCUBA divers with excellent diving opportunities. The resort offers a complete complement of tanks, weights, rental gear, and divemaster services.

Itinerary

Day 1

Upon arrival in Bonaire, we transfer to Buddy's Beach and Dive Resort, our home for the next seven nights. After a short program introduction we will enjoy dinner at the resort. D

Day 2

After breakfast at the resort, we will give you a detailed program orientation and overview of our week's activities after the breakfast at the resort. This will be followed by instruction in the pool for anyone wishing to test their equipment or skills. After lunch on your own, we will have our introductory snorkel in the calm, clear waters just in front of the resort. B, D

Day 3-7

Most mornings and early afternoons are devoted to snorkeling. Visit of protected shallow reefs and excursions to various regions of the island. Visit to Slagbaai National Park, the Arawak petroglyphs, the town of Rincon as well as Goto Meer Lake where we often view flamingos, brightly-colored parrots, and unique endemic lizards. Our tour of Bonaire's southern end features colorful salt ponds and historic slave huts followed by a snorkel in the mangroves of Lac Bay. Evenings are spent enjoying slide-illustrated lectures, guest speakers, possible night snorkeling opportunities, and leisurely dinners both at our resort and at some of Bonaire's finer restaurants. B, D

Day 8

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for return flights home. B

Species great and small!

While other islands have continued traditional spear-fishing, on Bonaire it has been illegal since 1972, and the fish know it. This island offers the snorkeler opportunities to see more species of fish, in greater numbers, more intimately, than any other Caribbean destination I know.

Gold-specked French angelfish will actually approach you. Schools of blue tangs, sergeant majors, brown and blue chromis, and French grunts are prolific. Trumpetfish, groupers, peacock flounders, butterflyfish, coneys, chubs, trunkfish, cowfish, orange-spotted filefish, and more, all circulate without fear of human presence. There are more parrotfish in the waters surrounding Bonaire than I've ever seen (or heard!) anywhere else. Although I'm careful about the use of brochure superlatives, Bonaire is truly a fish lover's paradise.

We hope to provide an opportunity to go night snorkeling when we may witness feeding octopus, lobsters, shrimp, and perhaps giant tarpons. At night, the coral animals (polyps), including Bonaire's brilliant orange cup corals, extend their beautiful feeding tentacles.

We also plan to include a snorkeling outing by van to Bonaire's mangroves. While many Caribbean mangrove environments can be mucky, in this particular area tidal flow keeps the water relatively clear and the marine life healthy. In the mangroves, we may intimately view juvenile reef fish, barracuda, anemones, sponges, and the peculiar upside-down jellyfish.

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Trip Details & Prices

Trip Limit

Exploring Bonaire is limited to approximately 18 participants. Due to the limited space available for this tour, reservations will be confirmed in the order deposits are received.

Program Costs

The cost of the program is $3595 per person, based on double occupancy, plus international airfare. For those requesting a single room, an additional supplement of $775 will be added to the tour cost.

We also have a very limited number of two bedroom suites. For those requesting a two-bedroom suite, a discount of $100.00 per person, based on double occupancy in each room, will be taken off the tour cost. For those requesting a single room in a two-bedroom suite, an additional supplement of $450.00 will be added to the tour cost. Please be advised that single space and two-bedroom suites are limited and subject to availability.

If you wish to share a room we will do our best to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of departure a share cannot be found, and space is available, you will be charged a single supplement.

Deposits & Payments

A deposit of $850, plus a signed, completed reservation form confirms your registration for the trip. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment, plus single supplement, if applicable, is due 120 days prior to departure.

The tour fee includes

All bus transfers in Bonaire, meals as indicated in the itinerary, accommodations in hotels as specified, all snorkeling activities, guided cultural excursions, local taxes, group gratuities to hotel/ resort staff, services of the trip leader including any needed snorkeling lessons, marine biology lectures, and explanations of Bonaire's cultural and natural history.

The tour fee does not include

Airfare, air upgrades, departure taxes, medical immunizations, medical expenses, visa and passport fees, accident/baggage/cancellation insurance, individual transfers, excess baggage charges, meals not specified in the itinerary, dishes and beverages not part of included meals, alcoholic beverages, laundry, telephone, internet or fax charges, room service, Sea for Yourself staff gratuities, rental gear, SCUBA diving activities and other items of a personal nature.

Airfare

International airfare is not included in the program cost.

Although we are acquainted with air routes to and from Bonaire, we do not issue airline tickets. The airline you select may depend on your individual city of departure, and preference for travel times. While we are happy to share our opinions and past experiences with you, we suggest working with your local travel agent or the airline directly.

Accommodation

During our stay in Bonaire the Buddy Dive Resort will be our home for 7 nights. The resort has eleven modern buildings housing spacious one, two and three bedroom apartments, a full service dive center, activity desk, two swimming pools, restaurant, pool bar and vehicle rentals.

All apartments have a fully equipped kitchen including microwave, stove and refrigerator and a comfortably furnished living area with cable TV and phone. Two bedroom-suites have a bathroom in each bedroom. There is daily housekeeping service for you and free use of beach towels. From each of our apartments, you'll enjoy the view of either the ocean or lush tropical gardens from your own private balcony or patio. No unit is more than a few steps away from one of the 2 swimming pools and casual thatched roof, seaside pool bar.

Trip Preparation

Skill level

All snorkelers, from novice to expert, will enjoy this program. Our staff will gladly provide any needed snorkeling instruction, from floating to free diving. Whenever possible, we will seek out protected water for our snorkeling excursions, but at times the surface may be choppy due to wind. Any “hiking” will be easy to moderate on well-marked trails

Climate and weather

Bonaire’s climate is mild, subtropical, with cooling Caribbean breezes. The average temperature of 79°F varies little throughout the year. There can be scattered showers from July to January, with the remainder of the year being very dry. We have chosen a time that should give us suitable weather conditions, but please note that storms over North America can affect Bonaire and other areas of the Caribbean. And as with any tropical destination, there will always be a chance of rain, mosquitoes, and sand flies.

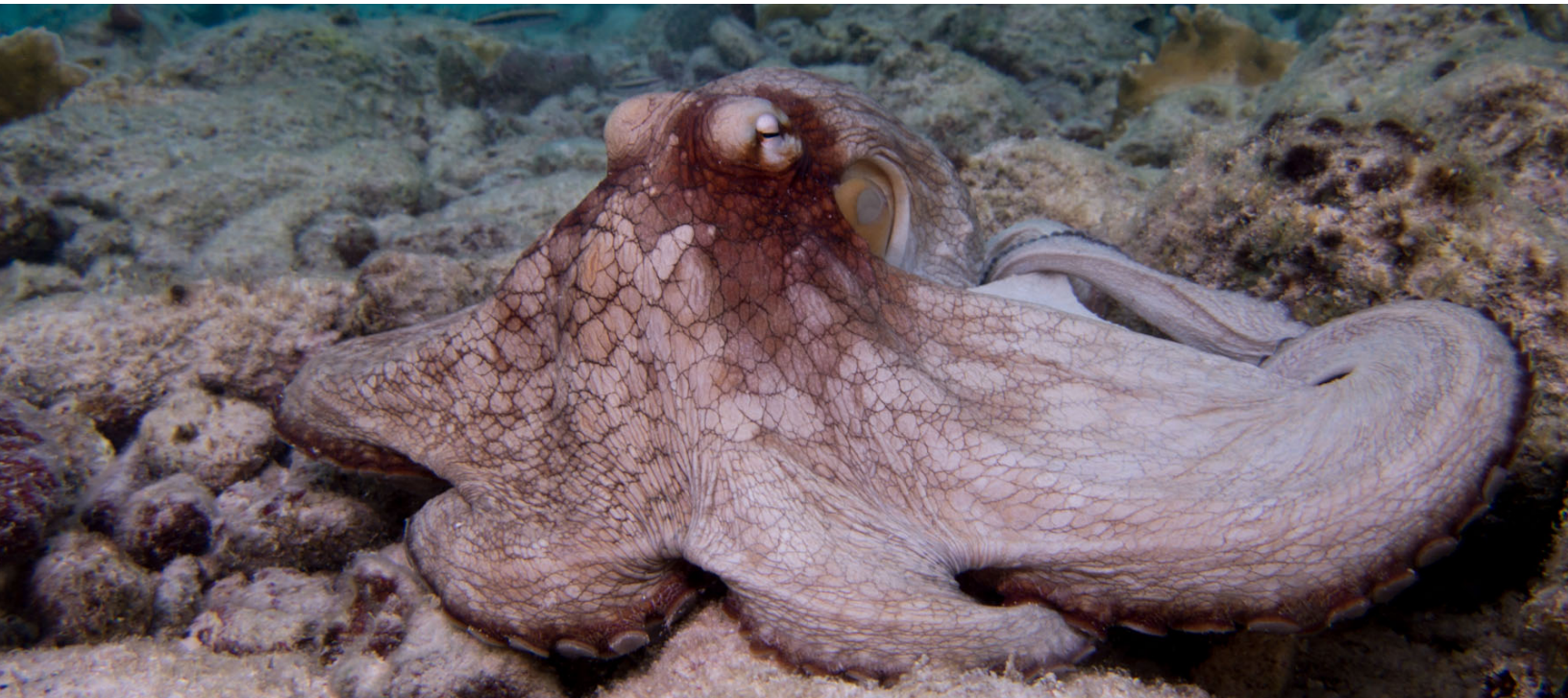
Please remember that some kind of covering (such as a Lycra suit or even pajamas!) when in the water is highly recommended as protection from sun, occasional stinging zooplankton, and to prevent coral abrasions. We strongly recommend that you consider wearing a wet suit.

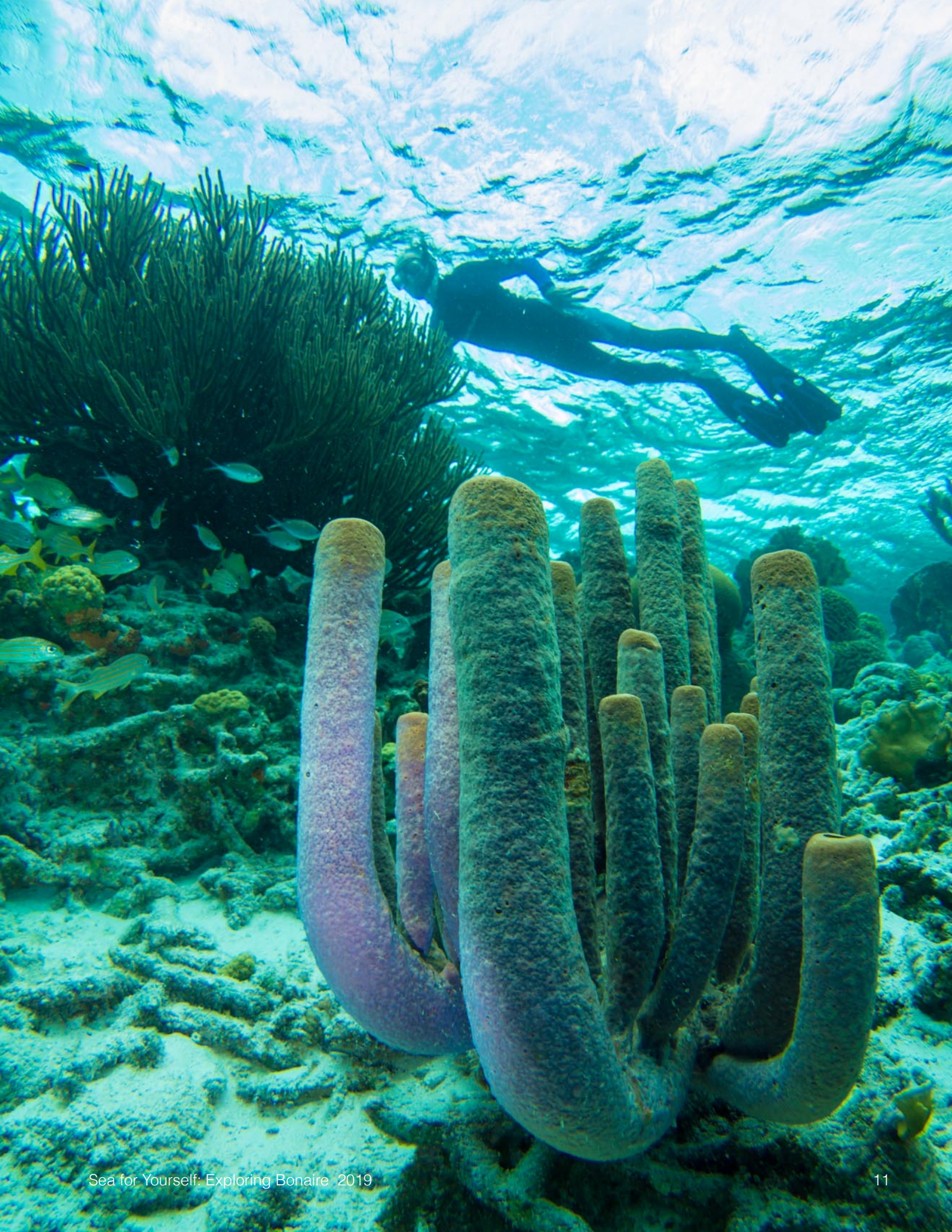
Departure information

After you have reserved space on a trip and the program is confirmed, you will receive information to help you prepare for departure, including airline information to arrange for your international and/or domestic flights, optional supplemental travel insurance information, a complete packing and a reading list and other useful information about our destination.

Insurance

Sea for Yourself provides participants who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with limited medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group travel insurance policy. We highly recommend the purchase of optional baggage and trip cancellation insurance; information will be sent to registrants. Exclusions for pre-existing conditions may be waived with the prompt purchase of travel insurance.





Sea for Yourself®

Snorkeling Safaris

Reservation Form

Exploring Bonaire 2021

I/We wish to hold _____ spaces on Exploring Bonaire, March 13-20, 2021
Enclosed please find my/our deposit check of US$ _____($850 per person, made payable to Sea for Yourself)

Name 1 _____ Birth Date _____
(as it appears on passport)

Name 2 _____ Birth Date _____
(as it appears on passport)

Address

_____
(If using a P.O. Box, please also include a street address)

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Accommodation:

1-Bedroom Suite

❒ Double, sharing with _____
(list name of accompanying person if not shown above)

❒ Single (not guaranteed) with single supplement of $775.00

❒ Share (to be assigned; not guaranteed; if share is unavailable, single supplement will apply)

2-Bedroom Suite

❒ Single, I wish to pay an additional $450.00 for single room accommodations in a 2-bedroom suite.

❒ Double/Share: I plan to share a room with _____ in a 2-bedroom suite. Please deduct $100.00 per person off my program fee. I understand that if one is not available, I will be placed in a 1-bedroom suite. 2-bedroom suites are limited and subject to availability

Waiver of Liability: I have read the schedule of activities and other information in the Sea for Yourself: Exploring Bonaire 2019 tour materials and recognize and accept all risks thereof. I understand and agree on behalf of myself, my dependents, heirs, administrators, and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth under "Liability/ Responsibility" and to release and hold harmless Sea for Yourself and any of its officers, employees, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of or damage to property, however occurring, in relation to this Sea for Yourself program scheduled for March 13-20, 2021. By signing this, I also certify that I do not have any mental or physical condition that would create a hazard for myself or other passengers.

Signature_____ Date _____

Signature_____ Date_____

NOTE: Each participant must sign this waiver.

Please send your completed reservation form and deposit to Sea For Yourself, 729 College Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Fax: (650) 323-1201 Phone: (650) 322-1494 Email: info@seaforyourself.com

Terms & Conditions

A deposit, plus a signed, completed reservation form will confirm your registration for one of our programs. You will be notified when your space on the program is confirmed. Final payment will be due 120 days before departure.

Cancellations & refunds

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your trip, notice of cancellation must be received in writing at Sea For Yourself, by email, fax or postal mail. At the time Sea For Yourself receives your written cancellation, the following per-person penalties will apply: Full refund less a per person handling fee of $250 if cancellation is made 120 days or more prior to trip departure. No refunds will be granted for cancellation less than 120 days prior to trip departure, unless the trip departs full and your space is resold. Once the trip has departed, there will be no refunds for any unused portions of the trip. Cancellation could cost you as much as 100% of the tour cost. In the event the tour is undersubscribed or sold out, you will be notified and receive a full refund of any payments you have made. No refunds will be given for unused portions of the trip.

Single supplements & shares

Please be advised that single space is limited and subject to availability. If you wish to share a room, we will do our best to find a roommate for you. If, by the time of your final payment, a share cannot be found, you will be charged a single supplement.

Possible land & fuel cost increases

Our prices are based upon the prevailing rates made far in advance of the trip's departure. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if land or fuel costs increase significantly prior to departure, it may be necessary to increase these costs. While we reserve the right to institute such an increase, since 1995 it has not been necessary to do so on any of our programs.

Liability and responsibility

While Sea for Yourself, Inc. endeavors to chose the best suppliers available, we do not have the right to control their operations and they are subject to the laws of the state or country where the service is provided. As such we make the travel arrangements described via Sea for Yourself Services upon the express condition that Sea for Yourself, Inc., and its own agents and employees, shall not be liable for any damage, delay, loss, accident, bodily injury or death, or other irregularity that may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved in Sea for Yourself tours. Nor does Sea For Yourself, Inc. accept responsibility for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars, or other such causes. Any such losses or expenses must be borne by the participant.

Most travel, including international travel, is completed without incident. Still, prior to booking travel, Sea for Yourself, Inc. urges passengers to review travel prohibitions, warnings, announcements and advisories for its destinations. Information from the U.S. Government may be found at http://www.state.gov, http://www.tsa.gov, http://www.cdc.gov, http://www.customs.gov and similar sites. Sea for Yourself, Inc. does not represent or warrant that travel to its destinations is advisable or without risk and Sea for Yourself, Inc. disclaims liability for damages or losses that may result from travel to such destinations.

Sea For Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary, trip leaders or number of participants on the program whenever, in its judgment, conditions warrant, or if it is deemed necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Sea For Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to withdraw without penalty any tour announced. Sea For Yourself, Inc. also reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour, at any time, if such action is determined by the appropriate staff member to be in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refund will be given. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owner at all times.

Dates, schedules, program details, and costs, given in good faith, based on information available and in force at the time of publication. Sea for Yourself, Inc. reserves the right to make photographs and video of any of its trips, and may use any such materials for promotional and commercial purposes.

Trip participant responsibility

As a condition to acceptance of enrollment, participants must read, agree to, and sign, the Waiver of Liability statement provided as part of the trip reservation. Participants have the responsibility to sign up for a trip appropriate to their abilities and interests. Our program materials provide information on skill level, local conditions and other information that will help you make an informed choice. We would be happy to discuss any of our trips with you to assist you in making a decision. Participants should be in good health and able to participate in the activities described in the program itinerary and are responsible for being familiar with the pre-trip information provided by Sea for Yourself, including information about equipment and clothing appropriate for the trip.

In 1995, the California legislature enacted the Seller of Travel Law creating the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) for the benefit of consumers located in California who suffer losses as a result of the bankruptcy, cessation of operations, insolvency, or the failure to provide travel services as contracted. This law applies only to California residents, but it does not cover foreign travel for California residents where the foreign providers are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (those registered in the State of California as a Seller of Travel and a participant in the TCRF). Sea for Yourself is required by law to advise you that this tour is not covered by the TCRF. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. Sea for Yourself operates with a trust account.
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