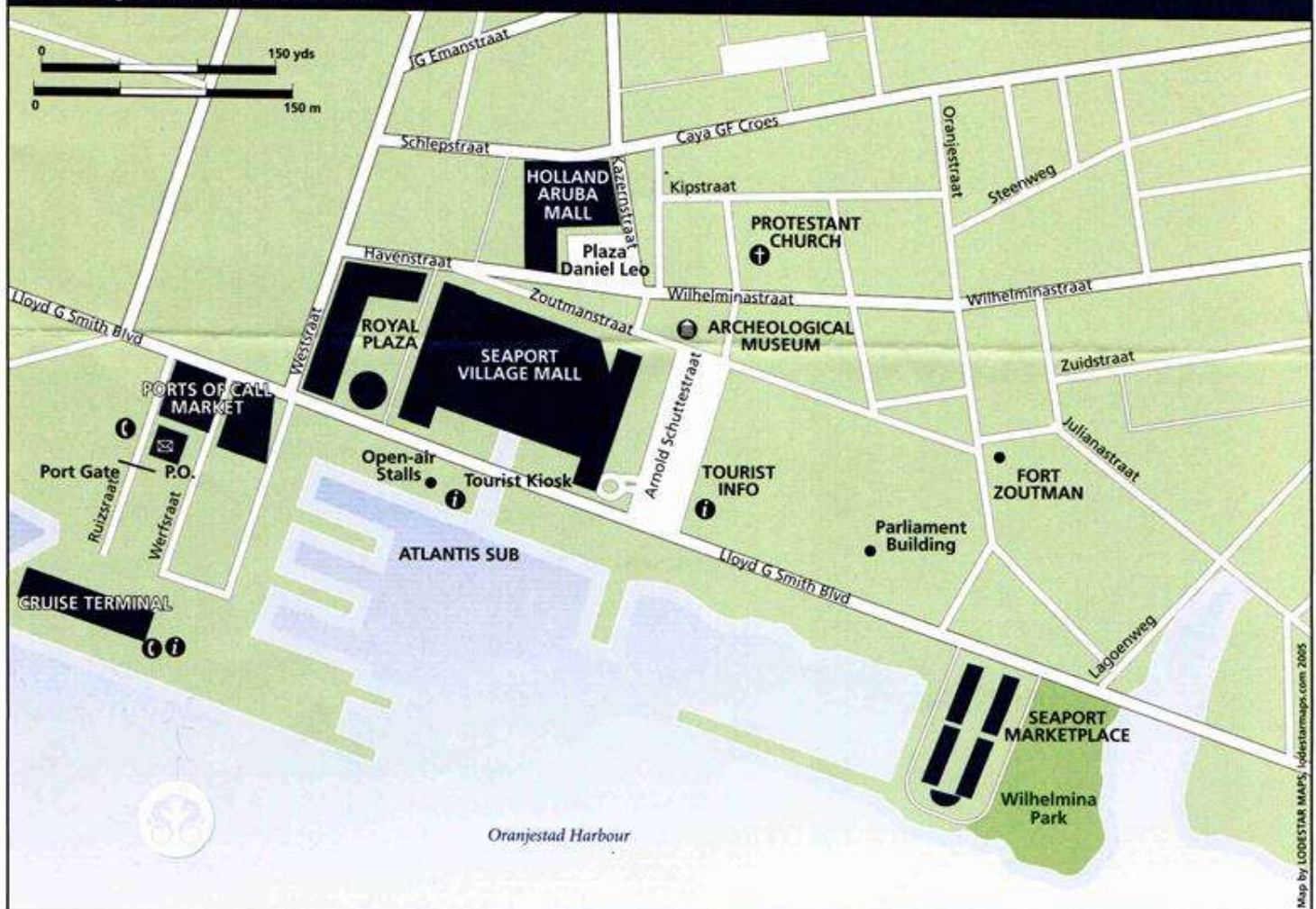




Port Description

Oranjestad, Aruba



Dock: Crystal Symphony is scheduled to dock at the Oranjestad Cruise Passenger Terminal.

Distance to town: Downtown Oranjestad is just a short walk from the terminal.

Local Crystal Cruises' Port Representative: S.E.L. Maduro & Sons, Inc., Ph: (011) 297-52-82343 / 297-9-31517

Currency: Local currency is the Aruba Florin Guilder (AFL), but U.S. dollars and credit cards are widely accepted. Please refer to the daily Reflections for the current exchange rate.

Shopping: Shopping can be found at the town center, as well as slightly south of this area. Top brand boutiques, jewelry stores and general retail shops are available. Please be advised that on Sundays the majority of shops will remain closed.

Shuttle Bus: Not necessary as the town is within walking distance.

Taxis: Taxis are available outside the terminal building.

Aruba is a long, narrow island, located just 15 miles from Venezuela's coast, with a dry and sunny climate year-round. Its distinctive beauty lies in the stark contrast between the sea and its countryside. Next to arid deserts, which host an array of wild rock formations, curiously bent divi-divi trees and cactus jungles, are magnificent beaches that shelve into transparent blue waters. Combining Dutch efficiency and Caribbean charm, Aruba has become one of the most popular playgrounds in the Caribbean, boasting sophisticated resorts and casinos.

Oranjestad

The capital, Oranjestad, is a bustling town with an assortment of high-end boutiques, jewelry stores and retail opportunities that could exhaust even the most dedicated shoppers. It is best explored on foot. If you are interested in exploring Aruba's culture a little bit more in depth, you will find the Archeological Museum of Aruba in Oranjestad, which's two rooms house the exhibition of fascinating Indian artifacts, farm and domestic utensils and skeletons. You can also visit the Historical Museum of Aruba, which is located in the historic Fort Zoutman, which was built in 1796 and served as a lighthouse, government office building, a police station and a prison. Now, as a historical museum, you will find Aruban artifacts in this 18th-century house.

Aruba Harbor

After a shopping trip, guests might return to the harbor where fishing boats and schooners are moored. Nearly all newcomers to Aruba take this opportunity to photograph the Schooner Harbor for its beautifully colored boats docked along the quay where boat people display their wares in open stalls.

Beaches

One of the main highlights for many visitors to Aruba are the beautiful beaches that adorn its shores. From our pier in the center of Oranjestad, the island's premier resort area of Palm Beach is just over five miles to the north. Here you can find fabulous hotels, located on the beachfront, that offer all the facilities of a five-star establishment. These properties generally welcome visitors, although there may be a charge for using their facilities. Travel & Leisure has designated *Eagle Beach*, located on the southwestern side of the island, one of the 10 best beaches in the world.

Butterfly Farm

One of the most beautiful sights in Aruba is a blooming garden with hundreds of butterflies fluttering around in the sun. The Butterfly Farm provides its guests with entertaining information on these beautiful creatures and their life.

Open daily from 9:00am to 4:30pm. Located on J. E. Irausquin Blvd., Palm Beach.

California Lighthouse

On the northern end of the island stands the lighthouse built by a French architect in 1910. Although the interior is closed to the public you can climb up the hill to its base for some great views. The landscape around the lighthouse is quite stark and the lighthouse is surrounded by huge boulders that look somewhat extraterrestrial. Here, the California Lighthouse affords sweeping 360-degree views of spectacular scenery—gentle sand dunes, rocky coral shoreline, and turbulent waves. The picturesque lighthouse gets its name from the *California*, a passenger ship that sank off the nearby coast in 1916.

Natural Bridge

The Natural Bridge was one of Aruba's landmarks. But unfortunately strong hurricanes and bad weather conditions have destroyed the spectacular natural bridge on Aruba's north shore. Aruba's Natural Bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Aruba's stunning geological formation where years of erosion from the sea had carved its way through coral rock forming a 100 foot bridge, 25 feet over the sea, which was the largest of its kind in the Caribbean. But a smaller natural bridge is still there, closely located to the location of the collapsed natural bridge and which may be visited instead.

Shopping

The stores of Aruba are stocked with well-priced imported merchandise. Aruba is a "Shopper's Paradise," with perfume, liquor, linens, jewelry, cameras, watches, crystal, china and designer fashions like Polo Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfinger, Ferragamo, Boss, Guess, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and many more. Many stores also feature local handcrafts. Most stores and boutiques are located in down town Oranjestad, just a short walk from Crystal Symphony's docking location. ***Stores on the main streets are usually open from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday through Saturday, although some are closed for lunch between 12:00 noon and 2:00 pm Shops in the malls are open from 9:30am to 6:00pm. Some stores are open on Sundays and holidays when cruise ships are in port.***

Port Descriptions are provided to our guests compliments of the Crystal Adventures shore excursions staff. Information is intended as a guideline only and cannot be guaranteed by Crystal Cruises in any way.