

# CVE

CARIBBEAN VOLUNTEER EXPEDITIONS

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## **CVE: Fort Kenapa, Curacao, Netherland Antilles January 31- February 6, 2010**

### **Project Description**

Nowhere else in the world, outside of the Netherlands, are there so many fantastic examples of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch colonial buildings in Curacao. Located only 35 miles north of Venezuela, Curacao is roughly 40 miles long and has a dry, desert-like environment. Join us as we work with the staff of Museo Tula in clearing vegetation from Fort Kenapa, a mid eighteenth century defense system designed by the Dutch and constructed by slaves on the west side of the island. Helen Ross, architectural historian, will be leading the CVE group on this new assignment. We will be concentrating our efforts on removing vegetation from the walls near a munitions building. The ruins have been adopted by local elementary school children at Kolegio Don Sarto. It is their goal to petition the government to have the fort registered as a monument.

### **History**

The Caiquetio branch of the Arawak Indians inhabited Curacao around 500 A.D. Evidence of their existence is found in cave paintings, ceramic goods and religious items. When the Europeans first arrived they ended up transporting the Caiquetios as slaves to work in salt mines on the island of Hispaniola. By the first quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Spanish settlers had formed a government. Later in 1634, Dutch armies fought, and won, the right to control the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao. In that same year the Dutch West India Company founded their administrative headquarters in Willemstad. Peter Stuyvesant became Curacao's first governor in 1638, and later, leader of all of the New Netherlands. Most notable of his accomplishments were to divide the island into estates, each with its own landhuis (Dutch for mansion) and second, establish a depot critical in the import and export of African slaves to the American colonies.

### **Accommodations**

The project sponsor can make arrangements depending on the preferences of the group members. Participants will be responsible for paying for individual accommodations. Meals will be on your own with picnic lunches in the field.

### **Free Time Activities**

There will be adequate time to explore the island. Due to its striking collection of Dutch colonial architecture, Willemstad has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Curacao offers some of the best shopping in the Caribbean. Upscale shops filled with fine European imports line pedestrian-only streets in Punda, Willemstad. The island has over three dozen beaches so opportunities for swimming and snorkeling abound. Or find a partner and explore the hiking trails of the national parks of Cristoffel and Shete Boca. The island will be celebrating Carnival while we are visiting.

### **Flights**

When you arrive by air, you will land at Hato International Airport, located on the north coast about six miles from the capital of Willemstad. We will let you know further details. It is the responsibility of the participant to arrange and purchase airplane tickets.

### **Cost**

The lump fee of \$ 375 will cover supplies and CVE fee, insurance and project leader's expenses. This amount does not include airfare, room, food car rental, fuel costs, or incidentals.

### **Contact**

For further information, contact Helen Ross 1310 Franklin Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401 USA or (540) 371 2662 or [Helen.ross@excite.com](mailto:Helen.ross@excite.com) If you are interested in this project, please fill out the attached form, and she will be sending you additional information by regular mail.