

CVE

CARIBBEAN VOLUNTEER EXPEDITIONS

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CVE: NAAM and STIMANA projects, Curacao February 20-24, 2012

Project Descriptions

Declaring its independence from the Netherlands on October 10, 2010, the country of Curacao is a land infused with spirit. Join us as we return to Curacao and assist two different groups that are working to document their past. Our first project will be assisting NAAM which is a bustling cultural resource center in Willemstad. The name NAAM stands for National Archaeological –Anthropological Memory Management. We'll assist in cataloguing, weighing and digitizing artifacts in their laboratory. Our other project will be measuring and drawing with the volunteers of STIMANA which in English translates to the Foundation for Marine Archaeology of the Netherlands Antilles. They primarily focus on maritime and underwater archeological projects. At the western end of the island at either Santa Cruz or Play Abou there are fortifications known as batteries associated with the mid-to late-18th century Dutch built Fort Kenapa, now in ruins. Helen Ross, architectural historian, will lead the CVE group.

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 16th 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. Because of the island's appealing location 35 miles off the coast of Venezuela, the company owners established one of the largest slave markets here, critical in the import and export of African slaves to the American colonies.

Accommodations

We will be staying in hotel accommodations in downtown Willemstad. All meals will be on your own.

Free Time Activities

In 1997 UNESCO designated a large swath of the capital a World Heritage site, including Punda and Otrabanda, the two halves of town divided by St. Anna Bay, and the old Jewish quarter of Scharloo. Curacao offers some of the best shopping in the Caribbean. Upscale shops filled with fine European imports line pedestrian-only street.. Museums, art galleries and open air markets are all within walking distance of each other. Swimming and hiking are other possibilities on this roughly 40 mile long island.

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. Departure Tax: US\$20 for international departures (usually added to the cost of your airline ticket).

Cost

The fee of \$ 375 which includes supplies and CVE fee, travel insurance and project leader expenses. This does not include airfare.

Contact

For further information, contact Helen Ross (540) 371 2662 or 214hpross@cox.net If you are interested in this project, please fill out the attached form, and we will send additional information.