

CURAÇAO

AN ISLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA







CURAÇAO

40 mi.

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Curaçao
International
Airport (CUR)

Schottegat



Willemstad



Drinking water used on the island is distilled from seawater, and all consumer goods and food must be imported.

The land is arid and does not promote the growth of produce or fruit trees. The rainiest month is December with about 11.5 days of precipitation. June is one of the driest months, with maybe two days of precipitation.

Its arid climate isn't conducive to fruit orchards or fields of vegetables, but Venezuela is able to grow these things, and sailors bring their harvests from the coastal areas over to sell in the floating market.

The market itself doesn't actually float. The stands are on solid ground and each boat goes up to a stall. At the end of each day, everything is packed back onto the boats, and the vendors sleep on the boat also. When they make the trip to Curaçao, they tend to stay for a long time. One person described his shift as spending two months in Curaçao and two months in Venezuela. Fresh merchandise is replenished often with fresh goods from the mainland.









MUSHROOMS

FARM FRESH PRODUCE

Specialty produce from around the world

Vegetables

EXIT

produce hand picked













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The Dutch found oil in Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela, but the lake was too shallow for oceangoing ships, so the oil was transported in smaller vessels to Curaçao for refining and shipment. Curaçao also developed large dry docks and bunkering facilities and became one of the largest ports in the world in terms of total tonnage handled.

The economy at the time depended heavily on oil refinery of the crude oil imported from Venezuela. Its large natural inland harbor was and is able to accommodate large tankers and other shipping vessels. Curaçao is also located at the junction of trade routes that pass through the Panama Canal, so it was a very busy harbor.