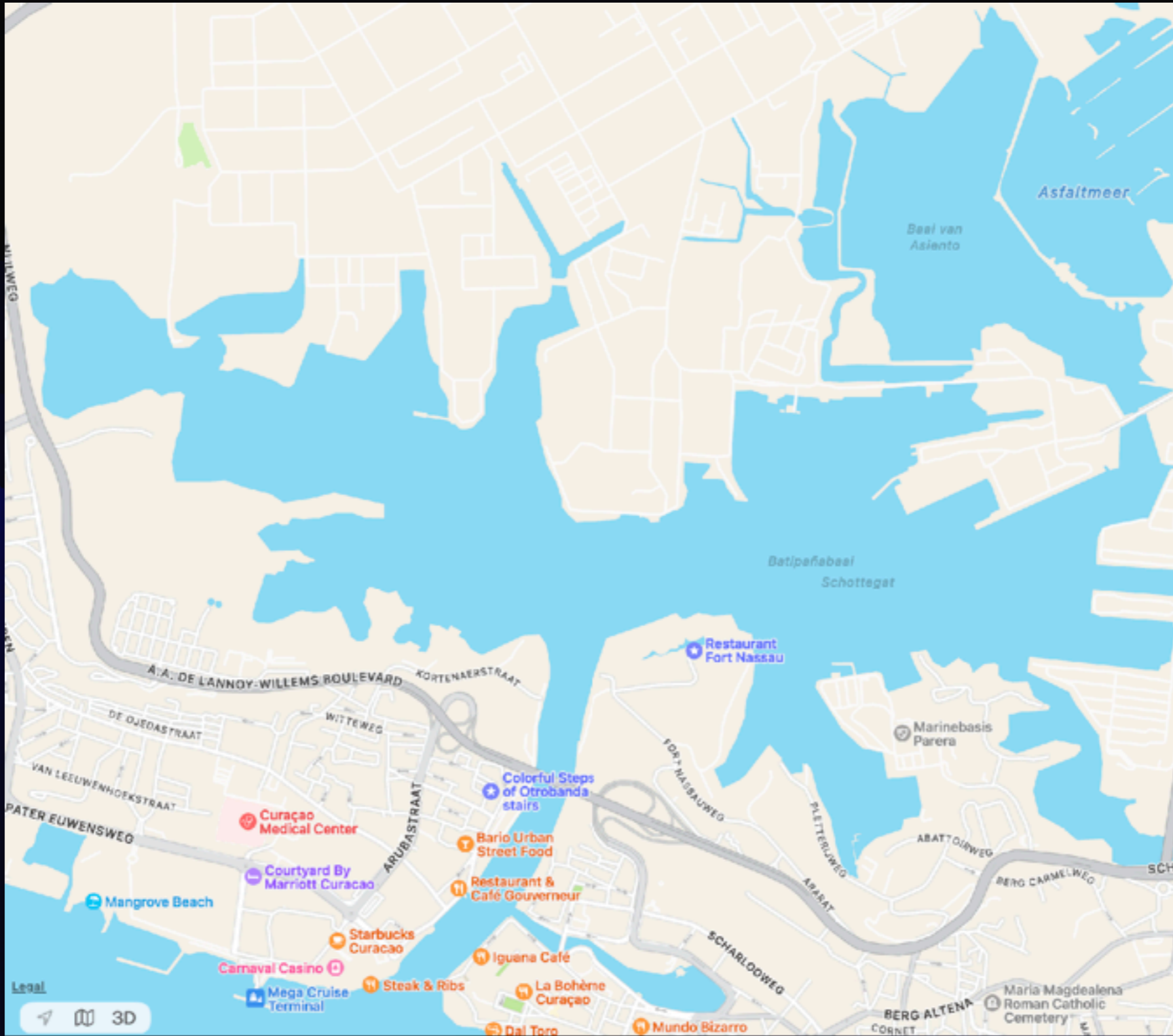






During World War II, the refinery produced a large quantity of gasoline and aviation fuel for the Allied forces. The market for these light oil products outperformed the market for heavy oil products. So, the remainder of the heavy Venezuelan oil (an estimated 1.5 million tons of asphalt) was dumped in Buskbaai, a water body next to the refinery. It has become known as the "Asphalt Lake" and was filled with about one million tons of asphalt.







During 1983–1985 a contractor scooped 0.5 million tons of asphalt from it for use in the refinery. This contract to clean up the asphalt was included in the sale by Shell of its Curacao assets in 1985, and it was estimated that in ten years it would be finished, but that did not happen. The asphalt-sand mix at the bottom of the lake was also to have been burned in an incinerator. Another company began processing the asphalt into a useful fuel, and in 2014 it was again estimated that the asphalt would be cleaned up in about four years.



MACK

DT4

FK





Tourism has become key to the island's economy instead of the refinery.















QUEEN EMMA BRIDGE,  
FAMOUS FOR BEING  
THE ONLY FLOATING  
WOODEN BRIDGE IN  
THE WORLD. IT FLOATS  
ON PONTOONS.







# CURAÇAO

40 mi.

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