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**Calling All Meeting Planners! Aruba's Gorgeous Beaches, Luxury Resorts, And Tax**

**Incentives Make It An Irresistible Choice.**

**By Jon**

Aruba is more than just picture perfect beaches, beautiful weather and an oasis of relaxation. It's

now one of the best places in the world to hold a business meeting, convention or other corporate function. Why? The U.S. Treasury Department announced that the United States and Aruba signed the Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) between the two countries. How would this be of interest to event and meeting planners? Because conducting meetings on Aruba will now be exactly like having meetings in the United States, in terms of tax benefits. That's right; U.S. taxpayers can claim tax deductions for all expenses associated with meetings, seminars and conventions held in Aruba. As a result, Aruba now becomes the ninth significant offshore financial center to sign such an agreement with the United States.

So, why did this agreement happen in the first place? Well, besides the economic benefit that Aruba will no doubt enjoy from the increased business, there are a few other good reasons:

- It's an example of goodwill between the U.S. and Aruba
- Helps to ensure that no safe haven exists for funds associated with illicit activities, including terrorism, money laundering and tax evasion.
- Serves as a pledge to maintain the confidence of honest taxpayers, and the fairness of the tax systems in the two countries' dealings.

"Aruba is extremely optimistic about the Tax Information Exchange Agreement with the United States and the fact that for tax purposes, having a meeting in Aruba is now just as easy as one in United States," said Minister of Tourism and Transportation Edison Briesen. "We hope that the TIEA and the availability of brand-new tax incentives for the group and meetings/incentives markets will make Aruba even more of a desirable destination."

Why Else Should You Plan Your Next Business Function in Aruba?

All Meeting Planners! Aruba's Gorgeous Beaches, Luxury Resorts, And Tax Incentives Make It An Irresistible Choice.

- Many great hotels and resorts, offering every amenity needed, including:
  - o High Speed Internet Access
  - o Professional Event Management Teams
  - o 22,000 square foot Convention Center
  - o Business Equipment
  - o Meeting Equipment
  - o AV equipment
  - o Decorating
- Renaissance Island, a 40-acre private island for business events
- The Island boasts an average temperature of 82 degrees Fahrenheit, is pleasantly cooled by the near constant trade winds and receives very little rain.
- Easy customs process: Some say its like they weren't entering a foreign country
- Lots of entertainment, dining and Casino choices
- World class golf at Tierra del Sol: An 18-hole championship course, designed by the world-renowned Robert Trent Jones, Jr
- The North Shore: Check out the interesting and undeveloped moonscape of Aruba's north shore. It's a great place for four-wheel-drive vehicles.
- Oranjestad for great shopping, including emeralds!
- Incredible Dining! Aruba has a distinct culinary power
- The U.S. dollar is accepted everywhere, and English is spoken universally

### The Final Word

If you're a meeting or event planner, Aruba definitely needs to be highly considered. Where else can you enjoy all the diverse experiences of an island paradise and then receive tax benefits as well? If one thing is true, it's that Aruba has a dizzying array of things to do: the action is nonstop both day and night.

When is the time to come to Aruba? Anytime! The temperature is relatively constant and there is no point in the year that regularly receives inclement weather. While the high season spans from January through March, expect to find lighter crowds and exceptional deals on lodging from April through December.

This article was written by Jon Wuebben. Jon writes select pieces about travel in Aruba for the

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/AUABR>

**Make A Visit To Aruba**

**By Martin Stoleman**

I love nothing more than sitting down with someone or a family of people and helping them to plan their next vacation. Why? Well, a few reasons I guess. First, I love to go on vacation. I have loved travel for as long as I can remember, so I love infecting other people with the travel bug. I also love helping people plan trips because I know that life is short and I believe that it was meant to be enjoyed. So I love helping people escape from it all and enjoy time somewhere nice. One of my favorite places to suggest for a visit is Aruba.

I often suggest Aruba because it is beautiful place to visit that is still somewhat undiscovered. I like that about a place. I rarely encourage people to visit a place that will be filled with nothing but tourists. You don't get a real taste of Mexico, for example, if you are on the beach with no one other than vacationers. So I encourage my clients to go for something a bit off the beaten path, like say Aruba.

Aruba is beautiful, there are none that would deny it. And beauty, I believe, is an essential part to any great vacation. Now of course people will have a wide variety of views on what exactly makes a thing beautiful, but I think most would agree that white sand beaches, clear blue skies and sunshine make any place great. So if you are looking for sun and beauty, look no further than to the island of Aruba.

Located in the Caribbean, Aruba has a wonderful mixture of things to do and beaches to relax on. You want the option of doing several different things on any vacation, so choosing something like Aruba that has options for busyness or relaxation is perfect no matter who you are or what kind of trip you want.

Talk to a travel agent about your desire to see Aruba. See what kind of package deals you can come up with and find out if any packages even include airfare. Be sure to share with your travel agent all about the things you hope to get from your trip so that she or he will be able to help you as much as possible. Let them fill you in on some of the lesser known things to experience in Aruba.

Grab your family or your closest friends and head off for some great time in Aruba. Once there, you will have the vacation of a lifetime. So get planning and then you can relax and enjoy all that Aruba has to offer.

Martin Stoleman is a travel agent that loves sending his clients to Aruba. See

<http://www.arubagoods.info>

for more on planning a trip there for yourself.



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