

9. Maintenance of history

The island has wonderful houses and other historical monuments all over the place. They are attractive ruins, but left to decline and decay. It seems that if things are placed once they get forgotten. Maintenance as the key for a high quality look and well kept condition is not that common. Perhaps it is not even in the interest of the island, if it consists of most of the historical buildings (not the Cumuco houses and similar) are done by foreign influence and not always in the best periods of time for the inhabitants. Maybe the people don't like to keep the colonial houses in a good condition? How are the Arubans connected to their extraordinary and eventful history and their cultural heritage?



Chatting about the Indians, pride lights up. "We descend from Indians to 60% (...), but the Indians died out, cause they have not been strong enough to work in the goldmines." The proud smile still stayed in the face of the speaker and confused my mainly self feeling about the issue of all Indians being killed. Oh and pirates? "Never been here! Never!" said the smile disappeared on the answerer's face. Did I get on the wrong side with that question? Are the pirates worse than the colonial rule? Are Arubans less indelible on their history and the happenings? Or are things passing by as the constantly changing inhabitants can still relate to? And their history is completely new: one and the old history is the history of the island, but not of the inhabitants?



6. Inside outside



8. Lights at night

The streets have little, negligible street lighting and make it necessary to use strong car lights. The question is, has there ever been an introduction for the right positioning of the car lights onto the street itself instead onto the street lights (or the driver)? And what about the usage of the long distance light? The brightness of these causes driving by nearly blind, is it just a matter of getting used to or would be better lighting a good idea for Aruba?



8. Dogs

The pets of an Aruban household have mainly cats and dogs to offer. The lack of fencing around the house either let the dogs run free or put them on a chain. Our neighbour dog had to be on the chain the whole time of the two month visit to Aruba and only once a day the owner came by to give some food. I was wondering why people have all that dogs, which occur lots of problems, like the aggressive dogs on the street running towards the cars and trying to bite the wheels. "These dogs make it impossible for kids to play outside." Some people love their dogs and take very much care, but a vet said, "The work mostly consists of putting the not wanted animals to sleep." Are the dogs a protection for the stray dogs? How did they become so many? What does it mean to an Aruban to have one?



10. Tram, wind energy and protest

The tram for lazy tourists in Oranjestad: I can understand that tourism is a huge income for the island and for that reason important, but would it not be nicer to have a tram going all over the island? Would it be not great to show whole Aruba instead of the white beach and shopping opportunities?



Many people did not understand the reason for the tram. "why destroying the nice main street with building the tram, I don't know..." Aruba seems to have a real relaxed culture and a promenade seems to fit way better, or not? And funny is that mostly in city planning the historical city centres are transportation free zones to open up their beauty to the promenade who came to see it.



How was the communication between the inhabitants and the government about this idea? Has there been a public vote or other discussion options? Have there been any protests from the public side? Is it common to protest about disagreements? I heard about a protest against entrance fees to visit the beaches along the high risk. How did that look like, what happened?



Wind energy: The already placed windmills along the Volder Pier are a point of argument on the island. There have been small protest groups that wished to keep the beaches free view instead of sustainable. Keeping the island as original as possible is a good idea, but still a sustainable way of living seems to be so close for Aruba. With only some more windmills the island could nearly get completely independent energy wise and electricity is expensive in Aruba. Could the windmills not be placed into the water or even get an interesting object to hear? Or would the inhabitants rather spend more money on the bills instead of destroying the loved island? What does sustainability mean to an Aruban? (backside)