

Frommer's® PORTABLE

Aruba



Aruba Bucuti Beach Resort and Tara Beach Suites and Spa ★★★ *Frommer's Finds*

This elegant oasis provides Aruba's most adult ambience. Set on one of the Caribbean's best beaches, a serene 14-acre expanse of sugary white sand, it's a favored retreat for sophisticated couples of all ages, especially honeymooners. About half are from Europe, and most are independent and well traveled. And though most guests are straight, the Bucuti is both appealing and welcoming to gay couples. Contemporary minimalist design with walnut and linen tones warm the spacious rooms. The bathrooms feature granite counters with plenty of counter space, and the large balconies overlook gardens or the beach. Penthouses and the Jr. suites have kitchenettes. Because the Bucuti's owner-manager is the driving force behind many environmental initiatives, the hotel is one of Aruba's greenest. Recycling bins, water-conservation measures, and beachwide clean-ups are part of the effort. Beach lovers appreciate the Bucuti's *palapa-to-guest* ratio – it's the highest on the island (you'll always have shade if you want it). After the sun sets, you can dine intimately at a torch-lit table on the beach. At the breezy, open-air fitness area, nature and exercise go hand in hand. Built in 1987, the three-story Spanish mission-style resort is, at press time (July 2005), slated to be comprehensively refurbished. The new wing of 39 oceanfront suites has raised the comfort zone to stratospheric levels, with in-room Internet connections, flat screen TVs, stainless steel appliances, dreamy furniture, footed marble tubs, tasteful art, and an elegant separate concierge lounge.

Eagle Beach, Aruba. **Tel: 888/4BUCUTI** in the US and Canada, or **297/583-1100**. Fax 297/582-5272. www.bucuti.com. 104 units. Christmas–April \$260–\$375 double, \$440 suite; May–Christmas \$175–\$260 double, \$325 penthouse suite. Packages available. AE, DISC, MC, V. **Amenities:** Restaurant; bar; outdoor landscaped pool; 18-hole championship golf course nearby; open-air health club; spa; bike rental; concierge; tour/activities desk; car-rental desk; 24-hr. business center; laundry/valet service; coin-operated laundry; same-day dry cleaning. All rooms are nonsmoking. **In room:** A/C, remote-control cable TV, minibar, fridge, microwave, coffee maker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, safe, magnifying vanity mirror, ceiling fan.

Sustainable Tourism

A kind of environmental Good Housekeeping seal of approval, the Green Globe 21 certificate recognizes hotels around the world that develop and implement sound, eco-friendly policies. The Amsterdam Manor Aruba Beach Resort was Aruba's first resort to be certified, followed quickly by the Aruba Bucuti Beach Resort & Tara Beach Suites & Spa, Costa Linda Beach Resort, Manchebo Beach Resort, and Playa Linda. La Cabana All-Suite Beach Resort & Casino is the latest hotel to make the list. Bucuti guests and nonguests alike are invited to join in on beach clean-ups at 8:30am on the third Wednesday of every month. Volunteers are rewarded for their efforts with a hearty free breakfast and a group photo. Check www.greenglobe21.com to see current listings throughout the Caribbean.
