

## ARUBA

## SEEING GREEN

Fancy an eco-focused beach vacation that's also surprisingly fun? Try Aruba.

## HOTEL ON A MISSION

When Ewald Biemans, the owner of **Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort** ([bucuti.com](http://bucuti.com); doubles from \$350), first arrived in Aruba in 1971, he was struck by the beauty of the beaches—and immediately felt a need to protect them. Over the years, he developed Bucuti, a modern, adults-only boutique hotel on Eagle Beach, into an ecotourism pioneer that utilizes solar panels and reusable water canteens, hosts monthly shore cleanups, and even recycles gray water in the gardens, which showcase indigenous plants.

## FARM-TO-TABLE CUISINE

Some chefs have begun working with local producers to spotlight Aruban ingredients and tradition. One of the pioneers is Urvin Croes, who oversees two of the island's most innovative restaurants. At the **Kitchen Table by White** ([thekitchentablebywhite.com](http://thekitchentablebywhite.com);

tasting menu \$99), in the capital city of Oranjestad, the eight-course tasting menu features dishes like native dabaru-bean tartare with octopus, while at **White Modern Cuisine** ([whitemoderncuisine.com](http://whitemoderncuisine.com); entrées \$29–\$55), his Asian-Caribbean fusion spot in the town of Noord, the more than 30 ingredients in the summer salad, including edible flowers, mini cucumbers, and microgreens, come mainly from local farmers.

*Above:* Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort has 104 rooms on Eagle Beach, one of Aruba's most impressive stretches of sand.

## BIKING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

On the island's serene western coast, you'll find Emily Cartaya's **Green Bike Aruba** ([greenbikearuba.com](http://greenbikearuba.com)), the region's first bike-share program. The eight stations make it easy for visitors to get from the cruise ship terminal to the main plazas and resorts, and unlimited monthly and annual rental plans offer residents an eco-friendly commute. —NINA RUGGIERO



## BARBADOS

Those who like their bottles of champagne and rosé supersized should head to Barbados, where global nightlife chain **Nikki Beach** is now planting its flag along a stretch of sand in Port Ferdinand. In addition to the splashy restaurant ([nikkibeach.com](http://nikkibeach.com); entrées \$21–\$150), there will be an octagonal wet bar, plenty of sun beds for lounging, and space for yachts to dock.