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# Bucuti & Tara Launches Voluntourism Packages in Aruba, A Groundbreaking Fusion of Luxury Travel and Purpose

Volunteer by land, sea & supporting animal welfare at the Caribbean's most sustainable resort

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – July 3, 2025—Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba, the Caribbean's most acclaimed adults-only haven sustainability and wellness, proudly unveils its transformative new Voluntourism Packages. These packages invite guests to go beyond relaxation and experience the soul of Aruba through impactful, hands-on giving. This pioneering initiative empowers travelers to become changemakers, forging deep, purposeful connections with the island's people, wildlife, and ecosystems, all while enjoying the comforts of award-winning luxury.

"Our volunteer-led initiatives bring guests and Bucuti Associates together to uplift the island emotionally, ecologically and socially," shares



Crescenzia Biemans, Chief Corporate Officer of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba. "Voluntourism here is more than an activity, it's a shared commitment to Aruba's future."

## Voluntourism Experiences by Land, by Sea and in Animal Welfare

Guests can select from a menu of thoughtfully designed volunteer experiences grouped by land, sea, and animal welfare and all aligned with the <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</u>. Each initiative is curated to integrate seamlessly into a guest's stay, enriching their vacation without interrupting it.

Bucuti & Tara's Voluntourism Packages are fully customizable. Guests may choose up to three complimentary voluntourism experiences, or more if they wish. Voluntourism opportunities are included as a value-add in the nightly rate; however, transportation and any activities that require certification, such as PADI diving certification, are charged separately.

Whether guests want to engage deeply or dip in with one meaningful contribution, the program offers flexibility, purpose, and a rare sense of connection.

## By Land, by Sea & in Animal Welfare: Signature Experiences

- **Beach Cleanups**. A tradition for more than 37 years, guests can join Bucuti Associates in removing plastics and debris from Aruba's beaches, protecting sea life and keeping Eagle Beach pristine.
- **Sea Turtle Conservation**. Assist local nonprofit Turtugaruba with nesting season by safely observing sea turtles laying their clutches, monitoring nests and ensuring hatchlings have a safe path to sea.
- Reforestation Efforts. Plant native trees and help install nature trails at <u>The Bucuti Tara GMC</u>
  Nature Preserve, contributing to Aruba's first private carbon sink on land.
- Animal Welfare Support. Volunteer with local shelters or assist in the <u>Bucuti & Tara-founded pet spay/neuter initiative Stimami Sterilisami</u>, which has supported more than 40,000 spay/neuter procedures for local dogs and cats since 2016.
- Pack for a Purpose. Bring school supplies to benefit Aruba's youth and educational programs.
- **Community & Marine Restoration.** Choose from coral conservation, lionfish removal dives or mentoring youth in partnership with vetted, local NGOs.

Each experience is arranged through a dedicated concierge, who can coordinate based on guests' preferences, comfort level, and availability, even before arrival. These meaningful experiences are also ideal for guests using employer-sponsored Volunteer Time Off (VTO). They offer a fulfilling way to make a positive impact while enjoying a relaxing Aruba vacation.

#### A Model for Sustainable Tourism

Voluntourism, a blend of volunteering and tourism, is one of the fastest-growing movements in ethical travel. It gives guests the opportunity to contribute time, skills, and heart to the destinations they visit. For more than 37 years, voluntourism has continued thriving as a part of Bucuti and Tara's DNA.

Whether planting a mangrove, protecting hatching turtle nests, or reading to local children, guests become active participants in Bucuti & Tara's holistic sustainability mission. The resort's program includes over 400 verified environmental and community initiatives, encompassing energy efficiency, conservation, education, and local partnerships.

As the Caribbean's first and only certified carbon-neutral resort, Bucuti & Tara has been internationally lauded, earning recognition from the United Nations as a model for "highly replicable and scalable" sustainability in hospitality. The resort also holds the industry's top environmental certifications, including LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum, Travelife Gold, and certified CarbonNeutral®.

## **Travel That Transforms**

Guests who participate in voluntourism report a richer, more meaningful connection to the island and often return to Bucuti & Tara year after year to continue giving back. Whether it's planting a tree and returning to see it grow, helping a newborn sea turtle take its first steps to the ocean, or inspiring a local child, every

action leaves a lasting impression on both the guest and the community. "You arrive for serenity," says Biemans, "but you leave with a sense of purpose, and that's the true magic."

To learn more, visit **Bucuti.com**.

## **IMAGES & VIDEOS**

Voluntourism images are located in <u>this Dropbox folder</u>, and general resort images are in <u>this private media</u> gallery.

### About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the first certified CarbonNeutral® hotel in the Caribbean in 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is the No. 5 Hotel in the World and No. 1 Best Hotel in the Caribbean according to Tripadvisor. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist Ewald Biemans, who holds many accolades, including multiple Hotelier of the Year awards. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World."

Home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guest rooms, suites, and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest, a freshwater infinity pool, a spa, WiFi, and a complimentary tablet for use during the stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at Oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge, and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails, live music daily, and the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is IGLTA and TAG Approved® as an LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti & Tara, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of CarbonNeutral®, LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum, and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe. The resort exemplifies an all-embracing commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations deemed Bucuti & Tara's sustainability program "highly replicable and scalable" for hotels worldwide to emulate.

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