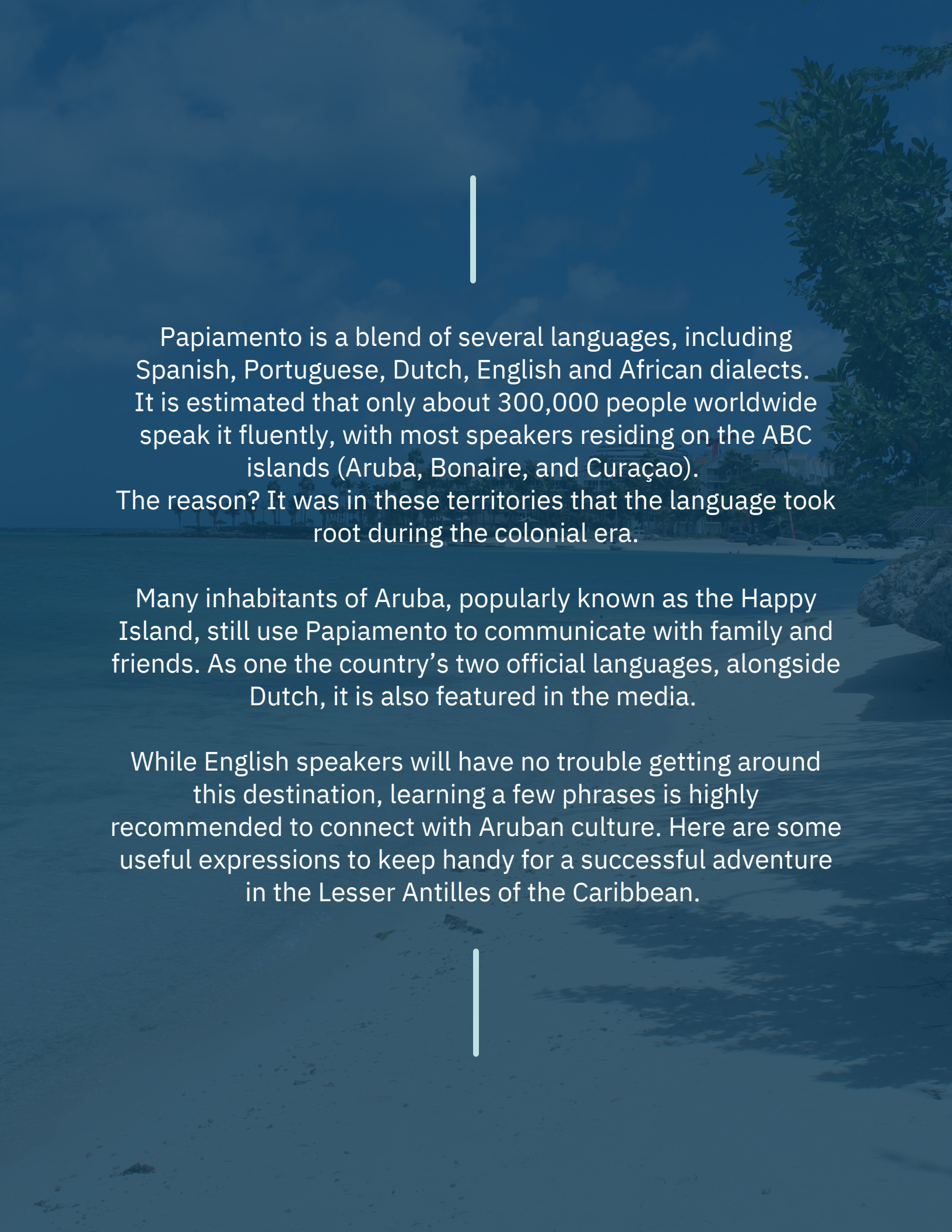


Papiamento basics:

A guide with key expressions for your Aruba trip





Papiamentu is a blend of several languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English and African dialects. It is estimated that only about 300,000 people worldwide speak it fluently, with most speakers residing on the ABC islands (Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao). The reason? It was in these territories that the language took root during the colonial era.

Many inhabitants of Aruba, popularly known as the Happy Island, still use Papiamentu to communicate with family and friends. As one of the country's two official languages, alongside Dutch, it is also featured in the media.

While English speakers will have no trouble getting around this destination, learning a few phrases is highly recommended to connect with Aruban culture. Here are some useful expressions to keep handy for a successful adventure in the Lesser Antilles of the Caribbean.

Papiamento 101: Common expressions for travelers



- **Bon dia:** Locals make use of this expression, meaning “good morning”, until noon. "Bon tardi" (good afternoon) is said from lunchtime until sunset, while "bon nochi" (good night) is reserved for when it is dark outside.
- **Halo:** Meaning “hello”, this is a slightly more casual way to greet others..
- **Ayo:** This means “good bye”.
- **Con ta bai?:** Use this to ask others how they are.
- **Bo por papia Ingles?:** In situations where the other person's language is unclear, this phrase, which means “do you speak English?”, can be very practical.
- **Mi no ta papia Papiamento:** A local starts speaking to you in Papiamento and you do not understand what they are saying? Use this phrase to let them know you are not fluent in that language.
- **Kwanto esaki ta costa:** You can use this phrase to ask “how much does this cost?”. A variable of this sentence is “cuanto esaki ta costa?”.
- **Masha danki:** To say “thank you very much” after any kind of transaction or favor, turn to “masha danki”.
- **Bon apetit:** This phrase is pretty straight forward, as it is what many countries around the world use to tell others to enjoy their meal.
- **Salud:** Join a toast by saying “salud” (cheers).



Now that you know some basic expressions in Papiamentu, you are ready to fully enjoy everything Aruba has to offer.

At Ocean Z Boutique Hotel Aruba, we invite you to discover our comfortable suites so you can elevate your island experience to new heights.

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