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## 6 of the best places to eat in Aruba, from hole-in-the-wall local joints to fine dining and off-beat eats

**Susan Campbell** Dec 14, 2021, 10:00 AM

Aruba offers many notable culinary experiences, from new fusion chef's tables to pop-up gourmet picnics, and wine-cellar dinner venues.

Classic dining emporiums still abound. But don't be surprised to find modern creative concepts like Peruvian Asian menus and Hawaiian-style poké bowls. Gourmet vegan fare is easy to find now, too.

As such, Aruba is a foodie's playground. But with over 300 restaurants, you might become overwhelmed. Here are a few recommendations to get you started.

### **Fine dining, off-beat culinary experiences, and local eats**

Some spots — notably those at the recently opened [Cove mall](#) — even transform throughout the day. For example, by day [Temptation](#) is a French bakery, but by night it's a raw bar offering lobster, oysters, scallops, and more.

For locals, Aruban fast food is pastechis (fried filled pastries) and fresh-fruit batidos, which we recommend trying. Also seek out sacos — brown paper bags overstuffed with fried fare such as ribs, chicken, and pork chops — at food trucks and hole-in-the-wall hideaways called "snacks."

If you're parched, an ice-cold Balashi beer will hit the spot. Or request an Aruba Ariba, the island's cool national cocktail, made with a special local liqueur [called coecoei](#).



**Elements is located at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, one of our top hotel picks in Aruba.**  
Jhonathan Baena for Insider

## **Elements**

Elements is an elegant, adults-only seafront spot known for serving fresh, organic, and locally or ethically sourced fare. Its award-winning "world cuisine" menu offers creative takes on meat and seafood. There's also a vegan menu and an Aruban buffet option. For an intimate experience, opt for a romantic dinner for two under a private palapa on the beach.