



### Pit-stop Bonaire



Well, you thought you would never hear from the Zeezwaluw crew from Sint Maarten .... And that is true! They are still in Bonaire and decided not to proceed with their Sint Maarten and Leeward Island plan any more.

May 25, after 3 weeks in Bonaire, there had not been a suitable weather window, or was in the next 8 days. So, early June already (and the start of hurricane season) before leaving Bonaire, gives them a too short time window to explore the Leeward Islands and come back to Curaçao as planned.



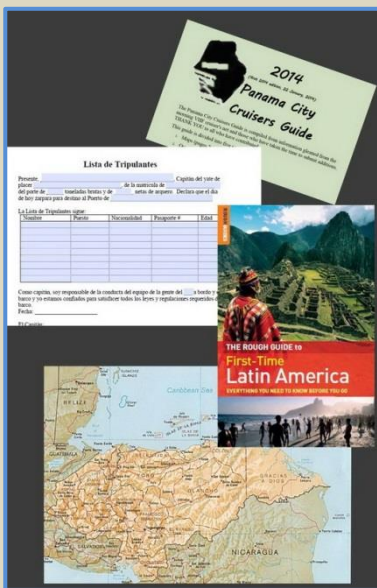
Therefore Zeezwaluw' plans are turning 180°. The door to the East is locked, but opens the one to the West. For this part of the Caribbean is unknown territory to the crew, they have to

study these countries, gather detailed information, learning the weather patterns and so on to sail safely to and in these waters. As of the crew has learned so far, Colombia, Panama with the San Blas Islands (not the Panama Canal) Honduras and Belize are the next countries to sail to.

It is a lot of info to process. This time the hurricane

season is not the problem in those waters for these countries are far out of the main path of hurricanes, but they have wet- and dry seasons. The wet season is really wet, tremendous downpours which are no fun. OK you can fill-up the water tanks easily but exploring inland doing wilderness tracks for example, is not possible.

The plans for now are; Zeezwaluw will sail to Santa Marta in Colombia in November where after to Cartagena and the Colombian islands before they head to San Blas Islands. More news and info will be gathered in Bonaire the next month or 2. After Bonaire, Curaçao will be visited again for a month or 2 before they set off to Colombia.



That said, the crew does some fun things in Bonaire of course! There are at the moment 11 Dutch sailing boats in the mooring field of 42 moorings. It looks like the Dutch took over again! Many happy hours and "Burger nights" will spend together chatting and absorb the plans of their fellow sailors.



Fun they had also last week, a new and exciting happy hour event they joined, "Dutch Dinghy Drifting". The crew told the correspondent all participating dinghy's gathered at the stern of the Dutch Catamaran Zanzibar. All dinghies were tied one way or another to a neighbour. When the last rope slipped from the Zanzibar, the bunch of dinghy's started to drift with the wind, out of the mooring field into the direction of Klein Bonaire.



While chatting having a sundowner and a snack the flat water became a little rough (for dinghies). They were bouncing on the waves and against each other but it was fun! The fetch and the wind force of 6Bft pushed them quickly to the little island without sandy beaches. The island shore has only reefs and coral sand.

Just before they reached the reefs, they untied the dinghies from each other and swiftly returned to the shelter of the mooring field. Not to their own boats but near the marina was a diving-buoy to tie boats too. In the lee of Bonaire the water was quiet again and Happy Hour started all-over again! It was an enjoyable Happy Hour this one the Zeezwaluw crew thought and liked it very much. See [the fun movie by](#) by Tineke Petter© of SV Zanzibar.



More news and adventures in the next Zeezwaluw Post!

