

DESTINATIONS: ARUBA

by Camille Pepe Sperrazza

Riu Palace Aruba

The all-inclusive Riu Palace Aruba is located directly on the beach, a great location for those who enjoy walking long stretches of soft sand, visiting other resorts, and casinos. I am a big fan of Riu Palace resorts, and have stayed at many of them, including this one. Every room is a spacious junior suite or full suite, with a large balcony. Just about every room has a gorgeous view. There's a fully stocked refrigerator of beer, bottled water, and soda as well as four full bottles of booze at your disposal. If you don't want to drink in your room, bars abound, including a swim-up in the pool. The pool area is lovely, with tiled lounge chairs right in the water. Enjoy a tremendous buffet for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with everything imaginable, including champagne for breakfast. For a sit down dinner, make same-day reservations at the steakhouse, French gourmet, Asian, or Italian restaurants. There's a buffet by the pool, and a sports bar for grab-and-go snacks like popcorn and sandwiches. There are nightly shows at the air-conditioned nightclub. You can also try your luck at the casino. There's an air conditioned gym, and lovely spa area, where you can sit and enjoy the tranquility. I choose to be a preferred partner with Riu because they always provide guests with wonderful experiences.

The Renaissance Hotel and Casino in Aruba

This resort is so ultra modern and surrounded by such high-end shops, that if you are indoors, you can forget you are on an island. The sophistication is such that you could be in New York City or Vegas. But once you are outside, it's a paradise filled with sun and ocean. There are infinity pools and pool bars. My favorite part is the motorboat that docks right in the middle of the main lobby - Vegas-style - to whisk guests away, across the ocean, to their private beach, a 40-acre oasis where flamingos roam. It's relaxing, and beautiful, complete with restaurant and full bar. The fresh red snapper sandwich with spicy mayo, tastes like it has just been caught from the ocean. On the flamingo part of the beach, these friendly pink birds eat seed from your hand. Tropical fish abound, as do iguanas. When you've had enough of this serene utopia, catch the motorboat, which leaves every 15 minutes, and be back in the center of everything. This resort is located in town, right across from where the cruise ships dock. It is available as all-inclusive, or hotel only. The Marina is the adults only section. There's an ultra modern gym, fantastic restaurants, theater, and meeting rooms for groups. It also has the only 24-hour casino on the island. Book with us, and we'll send you an amenity, and tell management that you are on your way to paradise.



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These articles were accurate when written, but everything in life changes. Enjoy the journey!