



### **TC 'Mindset of youth workers'**

In Willemstad, Curacao November 21-28-2021

After a long time, we will start again with our projects. Hopefully you are all doing very well! We look forward to welcoming you to Curacao. Here's some information to get you in the mood.

#### **The Island**

Curaçao is an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Capital of Curaçao is Willemstad and has a population of approximately 157,000 people. Our native language is Papiamentu but our other official languages here are Dutch & English. The average temperature is 32° / 26°Celsius.





### **Time difference**

Curacao is in the UTC-4 time zone. The Netherlands is in UTC+1. That means that it is 5 hours earlier in Curaçao than in the Netherlands, so in the Netherlands 5 hours later than in Curaçao. As soon as summertime starts with us, the time difference is 6 hours instead of 5 hours. That is because Curaçao does not participate in the summertime.

### **Money**

The official currency of Curaçao is the Antillean guilder (Ang). The value of the guilder is linked to the US dollar. One American dollar is worth 1.78 Antillean guilders, although shops and hotels sometimes use a slightly different exchange rate. The euro-guilder exchange rate does vary. In addition to the guilder, the American dollar is also accepted everywhere in Curaçao, because the dollar is, just like the guilder, legal tender in Curaçao. Prices are often even quoted in US dollars. When you withdraw money from an ATM, you can normally also choose from Antillean guilders and American dollars. Paying with euros is not common in Curaçao. Some shops and hotels do accept the euro but prefer guilders or dollars.



TIP: Calculate exchange rate and order dollars

Do you want to calculate the current exchange rate of the US dollar against the euro? Then use the GWK Travelex currency converter. You can immediately see how much your euro is worth when you travel. You can immediately order your dollars via the site, so that you do not have to look for an ATM when you arrive in Curacao. You also avoid the stress that it is too busy at the ATM, there is no money in it, or your bank card is refused.



### **Customs**

To enter Curaçao you need a valid passport. You must also be in possession of a valid return ticket or an onward flight ticket. You must be able to show this on request, just like a residence address on Curaçao. In this case your address will be Perseusweg 43 at Shiloh's.



### **Drinking water**

The tap water on Curaçao is purified from seawater. The tap water is without any doubt suitable for human consumption. The taste is slightly different than we are used to in Europe. Making seawater drinkable makes tap water Curaçao very expensive, keep that in mind when you take a shower.

### **Health**

To avoid unpleasant surprises, you should take out good travel insurance. It is quite common for doctors to ask to pay for the consultation in cash. You can claim these costs later with your travel insurance. This also applies to medicines, so bring enough cash with you when you go to see a doctor.

### **The accommodation**

We will be staying at Shiloh's. Shiloh's Curacao is a comfortable, cozy, affordable and air-conditioned Center on Curaçao with free Wi-Fi, pool, lounge area, and large, bright training rooms. Shiloh's is located on short distance from Mambo Beach, Pietermaai District Restaurants and World Heritage City Willemstad.



### **Waste**

You must be careful with your waste. If you let your bags swing outside the pedal bins, it can attract all kinds of vermin, with all the consequences that entails. Containers are used at the accommodation, which are collected weekly.

Make sure to toss as many sealed bags into the containers as possible.



### **Mosquitoes**

On Curaçao you have quite a lot of problems with mosquitoes. Insect repellents with DEET in them usually work against these mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can occur all year round, but in the rainy season (mid-October to mid-December) the number of mosquitoes increases considerably.

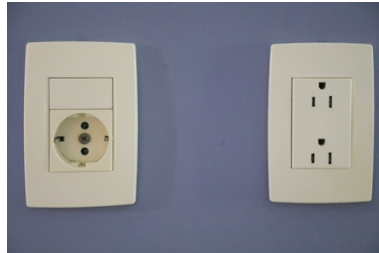
### **Sun power**

The sun is very strong on Curaçao. During a large part of the year the maximum UV index is around or above 10. In winter the sun is slightly less strong, but with sun strength 8 to 10, the sun is still just as strong as Greece in summer. Good and regular greasing with an anti-sun cream with a high protection factor is therefore a must on Curaçao. Depending on the skin type, use at least factor 15. Even better is factor 20 or 30. The so-called sunblock (factor 50 or even higher) offer little added value compared to factor 30. However, there are often several chemical fillers in them that act as true sealing. You can therefore lose the heat less well. This can lead to skin irritations or even heat stroke.



## Drugs

Curaçao's reputation as a transit country for drugs may give a different impression, but the import, possession and use of all kinds of drugs is not allowed in Curaçao. The Curaçao customs are actively checking for the possession of marijuana, weed and other types of drugs. Getting caught in possession of drugs will in almost all cases end up in a place in a prison cell.



## Electricity

Curaçao has 110-130 volts power at 50Hz. A lot of equipment that you bring from the Netherlands will work on it, but not everything. Check the equipment you want to take with you to see if it is also suitable for 110 volts. On Curaçao, other plugs and sockets are used in most places. These are the so-called American plugs. This plug type is also classified as a type A plug. If you have a European plug, you will need an adapter. These are part of the so-called world plug sets.

On Curaçao you should always consider that you will be temporarily without power. The power outages are almost always short-lived. You also must consider the fact that the main voltage is not always constant. Using a voltage regulator can prevent possible damage to laptop computers and other sensitive electronic equipment.

An email will follow with links where you can find the latest information regarding corona measures. Also, the measures taken at the accommodation and the rules on the island.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON IN CURACAO**

