

Because even the most loyal New Yorker needs to flee the greatest city on earth sometimes.

Escape from New York

Aruba

Surf the sky

Thanks to Aruba's trade winds and warm waters year-round, the island is a top spot for kitesurfing. (July is peak season!) Beginners can get schooled in flying, dipping and flipping with five-lesson packages from **Aruba Active Vacations** for \$495, including water socks, equipment and friendly instructors.

→ Blue fisherman's huts near the Ritz-Carlton, Noord (297-586-0989, aruba-active-vacations.com)

Put it all on black

Cha-ching! Legalized gambling means a trip to Aruba's largest Vegas-style casino. Balance your bets with free booze while you try your luck at **Stellaris Casino's** 500 slot machines, more than 26 table games, sports betting and horse races. There's a VIP area for high rollers, or just play it safe at a comedy show.

→ L.G. Smith Blvd 101, Palm Beach (297-520-6428, stellariscasino.com)

Rev up the adventure

Arikok National Park's rugged landscape of limestone and lava rock makes for a rip-roaring day trip. Rent an ATV to discover this national treasure's breathtaking views and wild beaches, go spelunking in above-ground caves, cool off in natural pools, and check out a historic gold mine.

→ San Fuego 70, Santa Cruz (297-585-1234, arubanationalpark.org)

Get a homemade buzz on

The mom-and-pop owners of **The Arubian Taste** are happy to pour free minishots of their

INSIDER SECRETS

Locals give it to you straight.



"La Cabana Resort has a happy hour with two-for-one drinks and music."
—Karen

"The whole island accepts U.S. dollars."
—Anna

"Go to Zeerovers in Savaneta at 3pm to get fish straight off the boat."
—Mike

"Taxi prices are controlled by the government, so you'll never get screwed!"
—Walker



Aruba Active Vacations

homemade rum. Choose from more than 70 flavors, like ginger and chocolate mint—or custom make-your-own varieties—and then stock up on convenient airplane-size bottles of your favorites.

→ Italiestraat 50, lokaal 12, Oranjestad (297-280-9954, buyarubarum.com)

Get (ship)wrecked

Resting just 50 feet underwater, the *Antilla* is one of the shallowest shipwrecks in the Caribbean. Peel yourself away from the open bar aboard a **Jolly Pirates day cruise**, and strap on your snorkel gear to kick around the scuttled wreckage. You might get lucky and spot hawksbill turtles, massive grouper, eels and other marine-life squatters.

→ Barea di Piscado, Noord (297-586-8107, jolly-pirates.com)
■ Katherine Alex Beaven

FUN FACT

At Aruba Ostrich Farm, you can hand-feed the world's largest bird—and then try an ostrich burger.

DISCOVER!

Find more ways to get the hell out of the city at timeout.com/newyork/travel.