



Expedition to Awa di Oostpunt

Photo MvdB

The Curaçao – Colombia Expedition 2008

The challenge

In July 2008 we are planning to kayak 600 kilometers (400 miles) from Curaçao to Colombia. Our trip will lead us via Aruba to Los Monges, two small uninhabited Venezuelan islands. From there we will cross the sea to the scarcely populated and rough territories of the northern Colombian coast. We'll kayak along the coast to Santa Martha, our final destination. We think we will need four weeks to complete our trip.



Who are we?

We are members of Nacawok, an association which aims to organize all kinds of sports activities from an ecological point of view within a broad perspective. Nacawok promotes the island of Curaçao by organizing short and long distance kayak trips, adding to the personal growth of the participants.

The past few years we have organized different kayak trips, for instance from Bonaire or Small Curaçao to Curaçao, trips to Fuikbay, trips on the Spanish Water, trips to the westpoint of the island or to Aruba. Due to these experiences we feel confident we have acquired enough skills to undertake bigger trips such as this challenge to kayak to Colombia.



Paul Thijssen on his way to Aruba

Photo MvdB

The participants

- **Paul Thijssen**, head of department of the island's government and a very experienced sailor and kayaker.
- **André van Klinken**, teacher at Radulphus College and UNA (university of the Netherlands Antilles). He is a fanatic kayaker and triathlon athlete.
- **Martin van den Blink**, director of Smart Sources, a consultancy specialized in Human Resource Management. Martin is an enthusiastic kayaker and diver.

Our preparation.

We have already investigated the feasibility of our expedition. One of us has gone to the northern coast of Colombia to investigate safety and has explored all kinds of scenarios. We have started our physical and mental preparations and we have also contacted the Colombian and Venezuelan embassies.



Martin van den Blink between Small Curaçao en Curaçao Eastpoint

Photo PT

Our motivation

We would like to expand our horizons and stretch our personal boundaries. Kayaking for days on end at open sea will create a deeper bond between all participants. By challenging ourselves and persevering; we will gain personal growth and, hopefully, be an inspiration to others. We would like to encourage people to join us and experience the adventure and the rhythm of the Caribbean sea by kayak.



André van Klinken on Lac, Bonaire

Photo MvdB

Sponsoring

How can you help? You can sponsor our trip by donating full heartedly to our course. The money will be spend on an AIDS prevention program and will also be used to cover our expenses.

We'd like to thank you in advance for your generous donation.

Masha danki!



Contact us at nacawok@gmail.com

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