



KRALENDIJK - Bonaire wants to introduce a tourist tax of 50 dollars per person, at least for tourists who do not come from one of the other islands of the former Netherlands Antilles.

This is evident from a press conference held on Monday about developments in tourism. Besides the Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB), tourism deputy Hennyson Thielman, the Chief Operating Officer at Bonaire International Airport (BIA), the harbor master and Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association (Bonhata) also made an appearance.

Valid for year

The idea behind the tax is that it is levied once a year. It will be possible to pay online, with which the tourist will be able to travel to the island several times with a special barcode. By the way, travel is not necessarily more expensive for everyone. With the introduction of the new tax, the so-called Room Tax and the car rental tax, among other things, will be abolished.

“The main aim is to ensure that the base is broadened and that everyone also pays fairly,” explains TCB Director Miles Mercera. Because more and more people are staying in apartments that are often not registered, the government is missing out on significant income.

Special rate

There will be a special rate for residents of the ABC islands and for residents of St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Saba. These pay

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only 10 dollars instead of 50. In addition - it is expected - there will also be a special rate for children under 12 years.

Island Council

“The new tax still has to be approved by the island council,” explains deputy Hennyson Thielman. A new scheme that provides more income, which is supported by more shoulders, has been studied for a number of years. The new tax is expected to come into effect on January 1, 2022.

A higher tax for cruise tourists is also being worked on. It is expected to come into effect in September 2022.

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