

Snorkel Options: Bonaire

- Bonaire has excellent snorkelling in terms of fish life. You'll see a lot of fish of a lot of different species.
- Shore diving from Bonaire is easy and shallow. Because it's just at the southern edge of the hurricane belt, until a depth of about 20 feet, there's not a very interesting bottomscape. It's mostly just grey rubble. From Sand Dollar to Buddy's to Captain Don's the resorts are doing reef renewal which means you can find a lot of planted staghorn coral gardens, coral trees, and rock bommies. There are some interesting natural features close to shore.
- You can take the water taxi from Buddy's to the island of Klein Bonaire (a 5 minute ride). Bonaire blocks most of the hurricane damage from reaching Klein Bonaire, so you can find a more exciting hard and soft coral bottomscape at Klein. There's also a series of shallow (5') ravines which get a lot of plant growth. It's still not colorful the way it is in the Indo-Pacific, but it's a fair bit more colorful than Bonaire. If you just care about seeing fish, there's no need to go anywhere but shore snorkeling from Buddy's. If you care about a more varied terrain or more coral at a shallower depth, Klein is worth going to.

To Give You An Idea of How Abundant the Fish Life Is, Here's a List of Most of the Species I Saw in One Week of Snorkelling the Buddy's House Reef

Common (seen daily)

- will list by Nov. 2025

Less Common (seen 1x-2x per week)

- balloonfish, scrawled filefish, sharptail eel, lionfish, green sea turtle, octopus, reef squid

If you'd like an easy (and waterproof!) book which will tell you the names of most of the fish you'll see, this is a great resource:

https://www.amazon.com/Reef-Fish-Pocket-Paul-Humann/dp/187834823X/ref=sr_1_1?dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.EdLmXV IIpz2KrF7Ae0JA5Z_Fa_5zAxbYRh-rIdXnsgbASuppXTqH2IOa7uCKYwqe_A69f5kkUNoJNGqWLITumA.-z6g3VV_NZzFf G1g4Jz8ZIPVpCYY4g-IW1LgG_yeEPw&dib_tag=se&keywords=reef+fish+pocket+paul+humann&qid=1758170768 &sr=8-1

