

Project Curaçao



Part of the
United Through Sport
Caribbean Program



HOCKEY

in Curacao

The Curacao Hockey federation is composed of five hockey clubs, competing in a league and sporadic tournaments. All five clubs play and train out of the same Willemstad sports facility, limiting the sports reach Nationally.

There are officially 100 youth players and about 50 seniors players, 80% of whom are expatriated Dutch nationals.



THE LACK OF LOCAL PARTICIPATION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO:

Access

Hockey equipment is not readily available away from the existing clubs on the island, and the sport is not being taught in the majority of schools. With only one playable hockey facility the sport is very centralised to one location, hence those in more remote communities have multiple barriers to access.

Culture

The most popular sports amongst the island's local inhabitants are baseball and football, hockey is seen as an expensive Dutch sport that is only played in the capital by the middle class. There is little local knowledge of games or events going on on the island, rules of the game and the sport globally.

Administration

The federation and board members are unpaid volunteers either retired or in full time jobs. They are 'trying' to create a schools and outreach programme but time and human resource limitations have meant it has not yet begun.



Programme Locations

Within cycling, or walking distance from our proposed accommodation is Dr Albert Schweitzer school, a primary school ideal to start a 'Mass Participation Programme'. In the same area is Klein College, where we would begin our 'School of Excellence', both with easy access to the hockey ground for sessions.

- *UTS Accommodation - Hockey pitch*
🚗 7 min ⇄ 3 km
- *UTS Accommodation - Dr. Albert Primary School & Klein College*
🚗 6 min ⇄ 2,6 km
- *School & College - Hockey Stadium (S.V.S.U.B.T)*
🚶 10 min ⇄ 0,95 km

Mission

- Create a youth system for the Hockey Federation, connecting existing clubs to school programmes to ensure progression and adherence.
- Focus on creating more access for specific populations and communities; females, local people, remote and low income communities.
- Decentralise the sport from the island's capital.
- Improve the sport holistically on the island, resulting in more opportunities through the sport.



FOOTBALL

in Curacao

In Curacao there are 12 competing football clubs. 4 of these, are based on the same National Stadium as the Hockey clubs.

Football is one of the most popular sports on the island, and perhaps where the most success stories and professional opportunities lie. A large number of positive role

models from the island are playing in the top European leagues, powerhouses such FC Ajax and AC Milan have established Academies in neighbouring ABC islands, there are regular scouting visits and the proximity to South America means professional playing opportunities are more available than other sports.



Mission

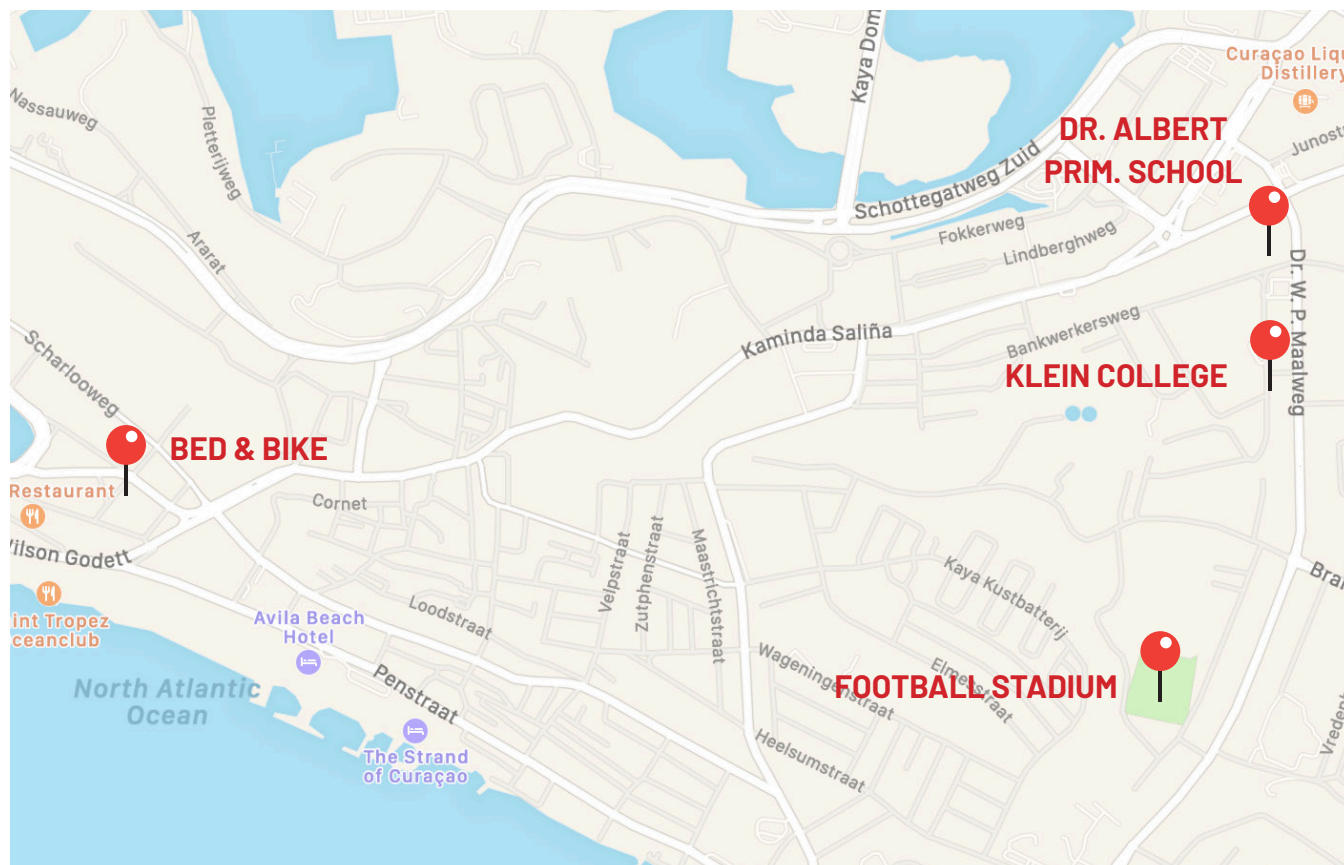
- Create a Mass Participation programme focussed on inclusion and female participation.
- Establish an academy style 'School of Excellence', providing holistic support for developing players; working toward career and educational opportunities.
- Improve standard and level of competition on the island through the provision of coaching, equipment and expertise.



Programme Locations

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- *UTS Accommodation - National Stadium*
🚗 7 min 📏 3 km
- *Bed & Bike - Schools*
🚗 6 min 📏 2,6 km
- *School & College - National Stadium*
🚶 10 min 📏 0,95 km



CYCLING

in Curacao

Cycling's popularity in mainland Netherlands is not yet replicated in Curacao. The Curacao Cycling Federation puts on occasional road races but these are rare and not well advertised.

Conversely, there is a road biking community and a competing national race team.

Willemstad is also home to four good bike shops, selling high-end and intermediate road bikes with options for kids. Mountain biking is more common on the island, with a much busier calendar of races and events.



Mission

- Get more Curacaoans into cycling as transport, recreation and sport.
- Establish inclusive weekly 'fun rides'
- Educate around road safety, environmental and lifestyle benefits of cycling.

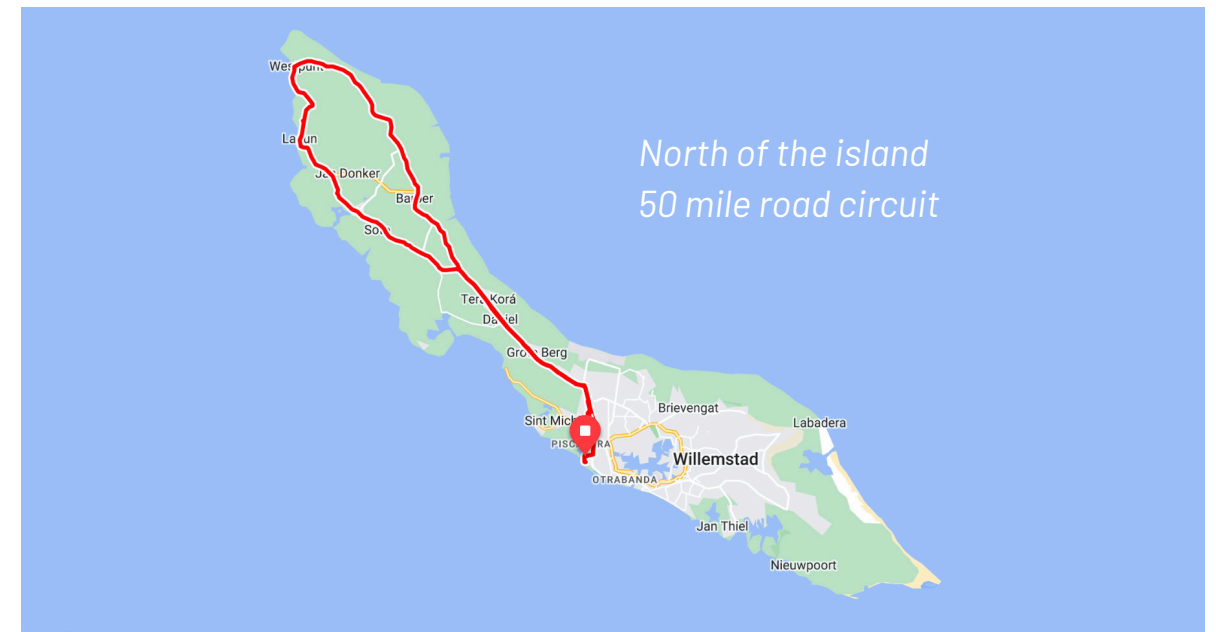
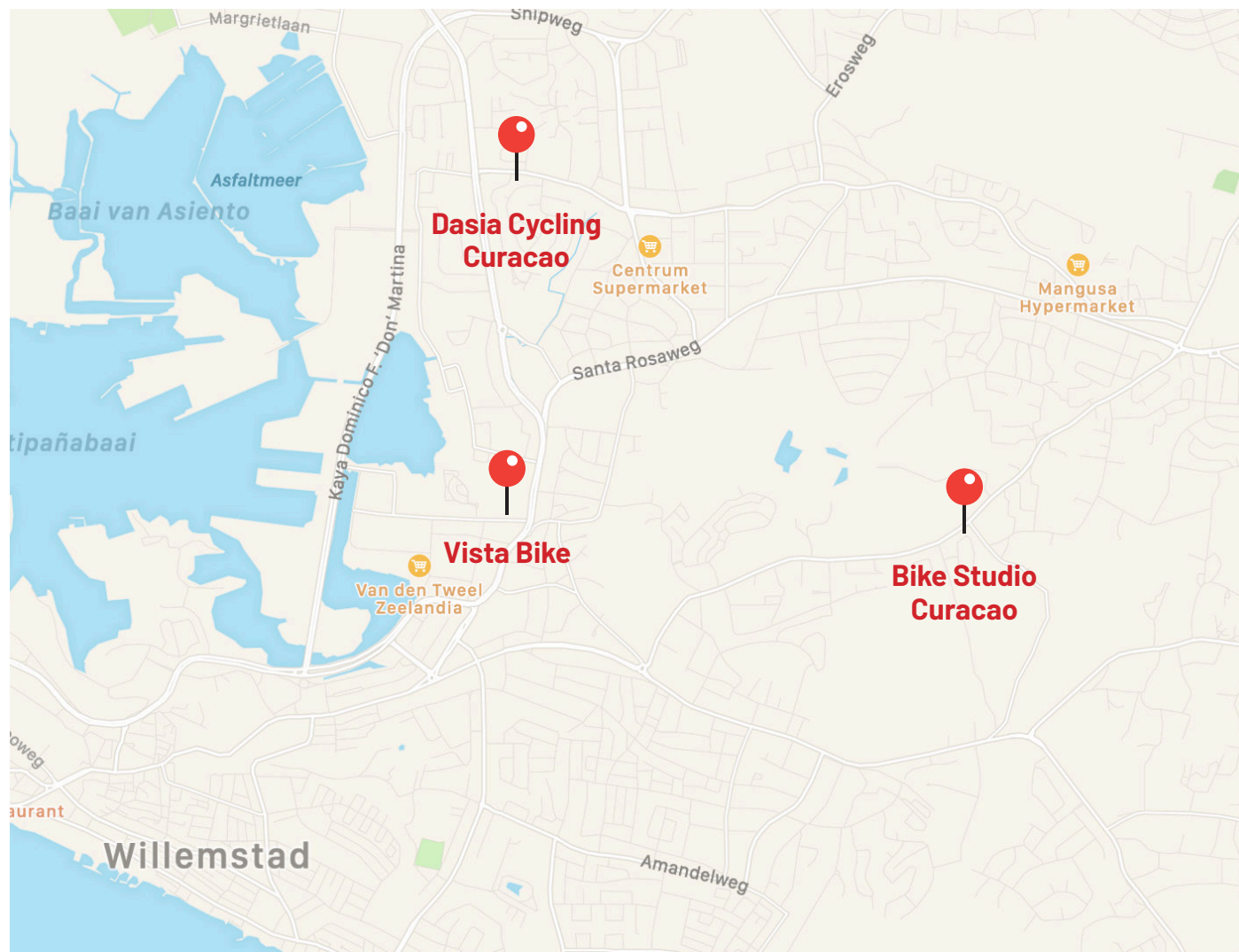


Programme Locations

UTS Curacao accommodation will be located in close proximity to the only four existing bike shops on the Island.

These shops have a great variety of Road bikes, Mountain bikes and options for children,

they also provide a repair service. Which makes them the ideal hub to establish clubs from, similar to the UK system. There are numerous GPS and Strava road routes across the island. There are also records of previously used race routes.



There are numerous GPS and Strava road routes across the island. There are also records of previously used race routes. Our volunteers and interns will run safety assessments on existing routes while having the chance to discover and create new ones.

We plan to discover the safest route from (or around) Willemstad to create and host a Saturday morning 'Fun Run' style, weekly event promoting cycling participation, eco-responsible travel and road safety.



ACCOMMODATION

in Curacao

Pietermaai

Located in the heart of Pietermaai District—the colourful and vibrant coastal area outside of Curaçao’s capital, Willemstad where our programmes will be based. Pietermaai is known affectionately as ‘little SoHo’ due to its hip nightlife scene

and student friendly atmosphere. All interns will have access to a city bike, which they can use to travel between placements and get to downtown Willemstad or nearby beaches and shopping areas during time off.



Bed & Bike

The modern hostel-style property offers 2 types of dorm rooms; 16-bed dorm room and a 6-bed dorms.

Both options have shared bathrooms (separate male & female ones) and have access to 2 shared kitchenettes, dining rooms, outdoor terrace, and of course free Wi-Fi!

There is also a restaurant/lounge located on the first floor that serves lunch and dinner, until late 8pm night.



OTHER POSSIBLE PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Sports Management Internship

New project will need coordination and expansion, an exciting opportunity to be part of an organisation at launch stage.

Event Management Internship

The aforementioned sports lack competition and events. We will have the possibility to create adult and kids tournaments in football, hockey and cycling.

Sports Psychology

There's a course at the University of Curacao, we could work in collaboration with.



School care

Classroom assistance for preschool 'early years' or primary school - mirroring St. Lucia programme.

Rugby

We have good links with National team and their 'Get into Rugby' programme.

Baseball

Most popular sport in Curacao, not available in Saint Lucia and could open up the US market.

Handball

Popular Dutch sport played in Curacao.