

WHEN “10” ISN’T ENOUGH...

Montreal Olympics 1976—not just another Olympics. And mostly because of an 85-pound fourteen-year old—coming from a country few Americans could even find on a map.

As unassuming as her swinging little brunette pony-tail, Nadia Comaneci took the gymnastics world by storm. She bounded and bounced and swayed and danced as effortlessly and flawlessly on the balance beam as in her floor routine. And she not only achieved Olympic gymnastics’ first perfect score—she also achieved six more “10’s” before she let the 1976 Olympic gymnastics spectators start catching their breath again. It was the highest score available for perfection in every detail.

The popularity of the sport was forever transformed. And the standard the tiny Romanian Olympic champion set eventually forced the discussion of raising the “perfect” score in gymnastics...to the mid-teens.

Nadia proved perfection can come in small packages. And there’s one Caribbean Island that is doing much the same...

I’m talking about Aruba...a hidden gem actually only fifteen miles away from South America. And you’d be amazed what an island 19.6 miles long by 6 miles wide has to offer....

- **The most sunny days of any island in the Caribbean.**

Would you believe 82 degrees every day, with low humidity, refreshing trade winds, and out of reach of hurricanes?

- **The largest national park in the Caribbean--and a huge sea turtle population**

Arikok National Park is a fascinating nature preserve that covers over 20% of the island. Also, four different species of sea turtles nest on the island, with an average of 80 eggs per nest. The beaches are a great place to take in the newly hatched babies making their maiden trek to the ocean.

- **Flawless white sand beaches and pristine water.**

Trip Advisor has named Aruba’s Eagle Beach one of the world’s top ten beaches—and just one of many beautiful ones in Aruba. Beaches offer serenity and beauty, including the photogenic and renowned Fofoti trees—with silhouettes always pointing toward the Caribbean. They also serve as a setting for beach tennis, wind-surfing, kite-surfing, and fairy-tale weddings. And did I mention that *Scuba Diving Magazine* has named Aruba one of the top wreck diving destinations in the Caribbean?

- **A crossroads of cultures and cuisine**

Over 90 nationalities are in the blended roots of Aruba. The choice of foods is a reflection of the many influences....from the local gouda-glazed *keshi yena* to a wide variety of South American, European, and Caribbean dishes. You won’t go hungry!

Perfection....like the movements of the tiny champion of the 1976 Olympics. When all the details come flawlessly together. When every moment of every day in Aruba is as magical as the sunset.....even a perfect score sometimes doesn’t seem high enough.