



A Joint Bulletin of the CTO, the CHTA and the CIMH

CARIBBEAN TOURISM CLIMATIC BULLETIN

for Tourism Businesses and Policymakers

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Purpose

This bulletin is a joint effort between the CTO, the CHTA and the CIMH to help tourism businesses and policymakers identify and prepare for favourable or inclement climate conditions in the Caribbean and source markets, before they occur. Use of this information can help to inform strategic and operational decisions related to the use of environmental resources, marketing, and enhancement of the visitor experience.

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Climate Advisories: Caribbean and Source Markets

The Caribbean is about to enter the wet season. What should you do?



Tourism operators in the **Cayman Islands, Belize, south east Puerto Rico, St. Maarten and Tobago** should monitor water resources in view of persistent drought. Hotels in these territories should take precautionary measures such as rainwater harvesting and advise guests of these measures. We do expect some level of drought relief in the coming months.



We are now in the warmer half of the year. Heatwaves are possible in **Belize and Trinidad** in May, and in July in **the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles**. Heat stress is becoming a concern for the most vulnerable (e.g. individuals with certain chronic diseases, the elderly and the young). Tourism practitioners are advised to prepare for an increase in the demand for cooling services.



Thermal stress conditions are predicted for the Caribbean in 5-8 weeks. There are no reports of bleaching at this time.



Outdoor activities may be disrupted by forecasted frequent rains in **The Bahamas, Belize, Cayman, Cuba and the Guianas**. Tourism operators in these territories are advised to organize more indoor activities for tourists.



The sun's UV rays are likely to be dangerously intense in the upcoming period. Tourists should be advised to frequently apply high SPF sunscreen lotion (preferably reef safe), and seek shaded areas between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM.



Increasing rainfall should provide for more lush botanical gardens and rain forests which should improve the hiking experience.



In the event of flash floods, contamination of food and water supplies might occur.

Summer is coming in the source markets. What should you do?



Despite the fact that there is currently little information in the forecast, tourism practitioners are advised to keep monitoring the climate in the source markets, particularly in the United Kingdom. Vacationers may be more inclined to book a sunny vacation if summer weather turns out to be very rainy.

Climate Outlook for the Caribbean and Source Markets

We are moving into the wet season. What do we expect for the Caribbean?

How wet?

We expect decreasing surface dryness and increasing water availability as we are moving into the wet season.

We forecast that rainfall totals will be higher than usual, or much like the usual in The Bahamas, Belize, Cayman, Cuba and the western Guianas; but drier than usual or much like usual in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao (ABC) Islands, Belize, southern Hispaniola and US Caribbean Territories. We advise tourism business and policymakers to continue monitoring the situation at these and other locations, especially in view of a possible El Niño later in the year which may make the second half of the Wet season less wet than usual.

Approximately 25 to 40 wet days are forecast for this period, except in the Guianas where 45-65 days are wet, and the ABC Islands where up to 5-10 days are wet. With a possibility for extreme wet spells, especially in the Guianas, flash floods are becoming a concern.

How dry?

Short-term drought has developed in northern Bahamas and St. Barth's, but is not expected to become a major concern. Long term drought is likely to continue to improve in Cayman and improve in Belize. It remains possible in Trinidad & Tobago, and is also possible in Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Lucia.

How hot?

Heat stress will become a concern as of May when temperatures and humidity begin to increase. In addition, there is the possibility of heat waves in Belize and Trinidad in May during dry spells and in July in The Bahamas and the Greater Antilles.

We forecast that nighttime and daytime temperatures the Caribbean will generally be higher than usual, or usual for this time of the year, with the possible exception of the daytime temperatures in the Leeward Islands.

Surf's Up

Surfers, divers, fishers and marine craft operators should consult the 7-day wave forecast before planning activities.

Click here to access this product: <http://ww3.cimh.edu.bb/>

What do we expect in the source markets?

As the summer approaches in the source markets, and there is no clear signal in the drivers of climate variations, there is not much information found in climate forecasts at this time. However, because (un)favourable climate events can happen during these months, we will continue to monitor climate conditions in these source markets.

Contact Us



Amanda Charles
Sustainable Tourism Specialist, CTO
Email: acharles@caribtourism.com



Loreto Duffy-Mayers
Regional Project Manager,
CHENACT, CHTA
Email: chenactproject@gmail.com



Denaye Hinds
Chair, CHTA/CAST
Email: dhinds@obmi.com



Roché Mahon
Postdoctoral Researcher, CIMH
Email: rmahon@cimh.edu.bb



Cédric Van Meerbeeck
Climatologist, CIMH
Email: cmeerbeeck@cimh.edu.bb

Upcoming Events

- **June 1-2, 2017: Sectoral EWISACTs Close-Out Meeting (CIMH)**
- **June 2-4, 2017: Caribbean Hospitality Industry Exchange Forum (CHTA)**
- **September 6-8, 2017: Climate Smart Sustainable Tourism Forum (CTO)**
- **October 2017: State of the Industry Conference (CTO)**



Photo Credit: [pixabay.com](https://www.pixabay.com)

Websites

Caribbean Tourism Organization:
www.onecaribbean.org

Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association:
www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com

Regional Climate Centre:
<http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb>

Disclaimer

This bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 6 months in advance. It is based on insights drawn from CIMH's suite of technical climate information products. It is recommended that stakeholders should use this information in combination with nearer-term weather forecasts to guide operational decision making. The information contained herein is provided with the understanding that the CTO, the CHTA, and the CIMH make no warranties, either expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, completeness, reliability or suitability of said information. The bulletin may be freely used by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be modified in content and then presented as original material.

Glossary

Definition of technical terms

Dry Spells – A period of a number of days to weeks during which rainfall is insignificant or far below the usual amounts for the time of year.

Heat Stress – A body exposed to excessive heat to such extent that it can no longer regulate its temperature and cool itself down, experiences heat stress. Heat Stress can take the form of discomfort, injuries and illnesses (e.g. including heatstroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps or heat rashes).

Heat wave – A multi-day period of continuous extremely high temperatures or feel like temperatures. Such heat waves tend to cause acute heat stress.

Long-term (meteorological) drought – A rainfall deficit over a total period of 12 months.

Short-term (meteorological) drought – A rainfall deficit over a total period of 3 to 6 months.

Wet Day – A 24 hour period during which the rainfall total is at least 1 mm.

Wet Spell – A multi-day period during which the rainfall total is large enough to cross a certain threshold.

Extreme wet spell – 3 consecutive days of which the total rainfall is extremely high and can increase the potential for flash flooding.

Definition of sub-regions

The Guianas – French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname.

US Caribbean Territories – Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Leeward Islands – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Montserrat, Saba, St. Barthélemy, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Maarten and St. Martin.

Windward Islands – Dominica, Grenada, Martinique, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Lesser Antilles – Leeward and Windward Islands along with, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

Greater Antilles – Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

ABC Islands – Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao

Lucayan Islands – The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands.