



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

CARIBBEAN TOURISM CLIMATIC BULLETIN

for Tourism Businesses and Policymakers

September - November 2024 | Vol 8 | Issue 3



Purpose

This Bulletin is a joint effort between the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (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. It is recommended that industry stakeholders use the seasonal climate forecast information for the upcoming period (September - November 2024) presented in this Bulletin in tandem with weather forecasts (1-7 days). This suite of information can inform strategic and operational decisions related to the use of environmental resources, marketing, and enhancement of the visitor experience.

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Glossary

Seasonal climate forecast - the guidance offered by a forecaster or forecast centre on climate conditions during the coming months.

Forecast information in this Bulletin pertains to the 3 months highlighted in the Issue.

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, with increased flash flood potential.

Caribbean Heat Season - most heatwaves and the associated spikes in heat stress occur between April or May and October in the Caribbean

Short-term drought – A rainfall deficit over a total period of 6 months.

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

Dry day – A 24 hour period during which the rainfall total is less than 1 mm.

Dry spell – A succession of at least 7 consecutive dry days.

Caribbean Cool Season - occurs between December and February or March when the Caribbean experiences comfortably cool weather

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

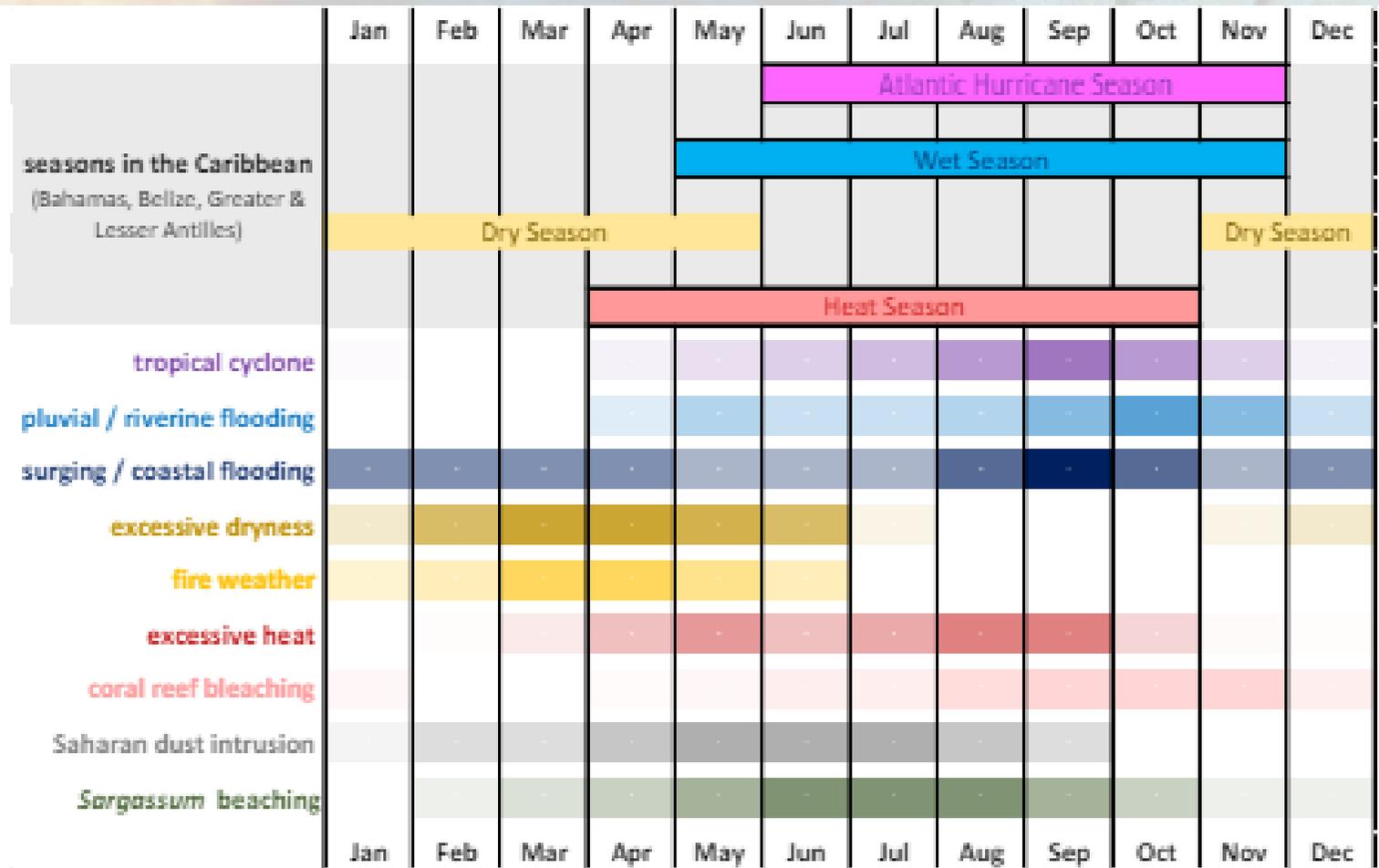
Lucayan Islands – The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands.

For more technical climate terms:

<https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/glossary-of-terms/>

Climatological seasonality of hazards

hazard frequency



CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT IN CARIBBEAN TOURISM

Climate risk management remains a critical factor in ensuring tourism sector resilience and managing the overall visitor experience. Tourism interests across the region should be prepared to deal with weather and climate emergencies in addition to ongoing concerns related to managing respiratory issues and dengue, as well as other possible threats as they arise.

The CTO, CHTA, and CIMH will continue to closely monitor the situation.



Climate Advisories: Caribbean

September through November marks: 1) the late wet season in the Caribbean Islands and Belize, 2) the transition to the wet season in the ABC Islands, and 3) the hot, dry season in the Guianas. What should you do?



The **2024 Hurricane Season** officially lasts until November 30th, with the peak of tropical cyclone activity typically lasting until around mid-October, but storms and hurricanes have occurred after the official end date. It appears that near-record warm North Atlantic temperatures have enabled the earliest-within-a-season development of a category 5 hurricane on 2 July (Beryl), but the Season has been fairly quiet since then as a result of conditions in the atmosphere being inhibitive to tropical cyclone development. Still, the second half of the Hurricane Season (September to November) is predicted to be more active than average, possibly ending up with 15 more named storms, 9 hurricanes, and up to 3 major hurricanes (medium confidence). However, even higher numbers cannot be excluded.



Higher than usual **heavy shower activity** is forecasted throughout the region for the peak of the **Caribbean Wet Season**. Such heavy rains and wet spells lead to high (i.e., at least once every other year) to extremely high (i.e., at least once in most years) potential for **flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards & impacts** throughout the region.



Climate Advisories: Caribbean (Cont'd)



Severe weather systems related to tropical cyclones, as well as heavy showers may affect Caribbean territories repeatedly. Severe weather events such as tropical cyclones are a recurrent feature of our climate through November and come with a range of hazards, including high winds, landslides, long-term flooding, flash floods, coastal flooding, among others. Tourism operators are advised to **constantly monitor and abide by weather advisories** issued by National Meteorological Services, National Disaster Management Offices and other information provided by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (<http://cdema.org/>) and the US National Hurricane Center (<https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>). At all times, tourism operators should maintain a state of readiness, including communication plans and response protocols to deal with sudden eventualities. This is particularly critical in view of the forecasted hyperactive 2024 Hurricane Season along with an intense wet season.



The frequency of light showers and **seasonal rainfall totals** are likely to be at least as high as usual except in Barbados, Belize, the Guianas, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Windward Islands (medium to high confidence). Still, no major **drought concerns** are expected by the end of November. Tourism facilities should continue to enhance/upgrade their water conservation practices, as well as rainwater harvesting and repairs to leaky pipes, etc., and advise staff and guests of the need to reduce water wastage on an ongoing basis.

Climate Advisories: Caribbean (Cont'd)



While preparing for hurricanes and other severe weather events remains a priority, this year an additional priority for climate risk management should be on heat and associated impacts, at least through October. Because of record heat in the North Atlantic Ocean, there are strong indications that the level of **excessive heat** during the last two months of the **Caribbean Heat Season** – i.e., September and October – will possibly challenge the record-breaking years 2010, 2016, 2020 and 2023. This is in view of warmer than usual daytime and nighttime temperatures, higher humidity, as well as a higher frequency/longer duration of heat waves (high confidence).



Heat stress is, therefore, a particular concern in the Lesser Antilles and the Guianas, where the Heat Season typically peaks in September. Moreover, in the aftermath of a debilitating severe weather event, exposure to the combination of humid heat and recurrent heat waves can become severely dangerous to human life if unmitigated. Tourism practitioners should expect an **increase in demand for cooling/hydration services** (e.g., AC use and refrigeration use, use of pools and showers, and drinking water) and should advise their guests accordingly in the upcoming period.



Notwithstanding that it is the wettest part of the year in the Caribbean Islands and Belize, there remains a high risk of skin damage due to **harmful ultraviolet (UV) light** emitted by the sun. The UV index will progressively decrease from extremely high to very high on sunny days towards November. Visitors should be encouraged to apply high SPF sunscreen lotion regularly (preferably reef safe), and seek shaded areas between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM. Outdoor tourism operators and staff should also be mindful to minimise skin exposure during these times, and to wear sunscreen and protective clothing when they work outdoors.



Climate Advisories: Caribbean (Cont'd)



Widespread marine heatwaves triggering **coral bleaching** are expected to occur. Though a portion of the recently bleached corals may recover in cooler, clear and clean water, the forecasted sea surface temperatures will *very likely* produce a long period of heat stress in the corals, ultimately reducing their chance of recovery. Therefore, it is imperative to minimise runoff of pollutants into coastal waters and to encourage the use of reef-safe sunscreen by guests and locals alike. This can increase the survival chances of coral reefs.

A small, light-colored watermark of the word "Canva" is visible on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the second text block.

Canva

The frequency of **Saharan dust** incursions into the Caribbean tends to decrease during this period. Similarly, local dust levels should be on the low end throughout the remainder of the Wet Season.

Climate Advisories: Caribbean Source Markets

September to November marks the Autumn season in the source markets. What should you do?

Northern source markets will experience less sunny and cooler weather in the Autumn season despite that temperatures are very likely to be at least as warm as usual in North America and Europe (high confidence). This may create a climate-driven increase in demand for Caribbean vacations. Tourism operators are therefore recommended to focus on enhanced marketing efforts to attract visitors. Additionally, they should differentiate themselves through innovative package offers, memorable customer service (bearing in mind appropriate health protocols where applicable), and activities that take advantage of the pristine natural environments on offer. Furthermore, Tour Operators should monitor the weather forecasts in the source markets.

In addition, some competing markets in the ASEAN region of Southeast Asia are expected to likely see much wetter, but hotter than usual conditions, increasing the potential for flooding, flash floods and associated impacts. Marketing efforts could focus on attracting visitors to the generally sunny, warm, breezy weather even in the wet season, as well as the anticipated, excellent air quality in this season and general health and safety in the Caribbean region.



Surf and Sargassum Outlook

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:

<https://marine.cimh.edu.bb/#/model/WaveWatch%203/Regional>

Sargassum Outlook

Tourism operators may consult the University of the West Indies / Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI/CERMES)'s Sargassum sub-regional Outlook Bulletin for the Eastern Caribbean or the monthly University of South Florida (USF)/NASA Sargassum Outlook Bulletin for the entire Caribbean before planning activities.

Click here to access the latest UWI/CERMES product:
<https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/sargassum/outlook-bulletin.aspx>

Click here to access the USF/NASA product:
<https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/SaWS.html>

Additionally, a Sargassum resource guide is available from the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) and can be accessed here:
<https://caribbeanhotelandtourism.com/publications/>
Additional resources and publications for Sargassum management are also available from CTO here:
<https://www.onecaribbean.org/our-work/sustainable-tourism-dept/sargassum-resources/>



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Stay Alert & Be Prepared!

Upcoming Events:

The poster for the World Tourism Day 2024 Virtual Forum features the Caribbean Tourism Organization logo on the left, which includes a palm tree and waves. To the right, the text reads 'WORLD TOURISM DAY 2024' and 'TOURISM AND PEACE' in blue, with 'VIRTUAL FORUM' in orange below. The main theme is 'RESILIENCE & RENEWAL: BUILDING A PEACEFUL FUTURE' in large blue letters, accompanied by a blue dove icon. Below the theme, it states: 'FOR WORLD TOURISM DAY 2024 THE CTO INVITES ALL CARIBBEAN STAKEHOLDERS TO EMBRACE THE THEME OF:'. A paragraph follows: 'Let's collectively utilize tourism for peace, resilience, and sustainable development, creating an inclusive, environmentally conscious, and harmonious global tourism sector.' The date and time are listed as 'Friday, 27 September 2024, 09:00am - 11:00am AST/EST'. A QR code is labeled 'REGISTER HERE'. At the bottom, a quote reads: 'We look forward to celebrating this pivotal day with you and advancing our shared vision for a more resilient and peaceful Caribbean!'.

- **CHTA: Caribbean Hospitality Industry Education Forum (CHIEF), December 2024**
- **CIMH Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF), November 28-29, 2024**

Disclaimer

This Bulletin provides a broad overview of climate conditions up to 3 months in advance. It is based on insights drawn from CIMH's suite of technical climate information products and industry insights from the CTO and the CHTA. 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 and distributed by the public with appropriate acknowledgement of its source but shall not be modified in content and then presented as original material. CTO, CHTA and CIMH disclaim any liability with respect to the use of any information within this document by any person or entity

Websites

Caribbean Tourism Organization:
www.onecaribbean.org

Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association:
www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com

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