



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

# CARIBBEAN TOURISM CLIMATIC BULLETIN

for Tourism Businesses and Policymakers

June–August 2025 | Vol 9 | Issue 2



# Purpose

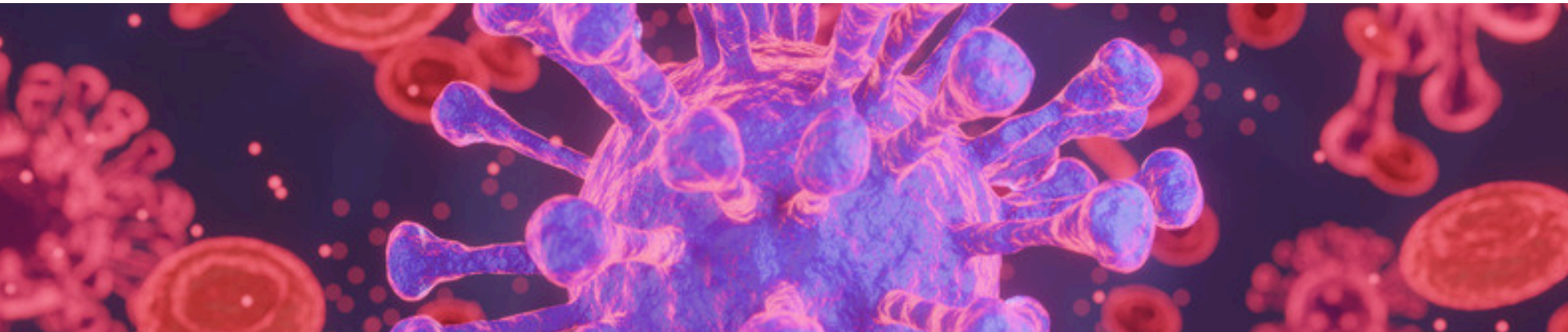
This Bulletin is a joint effort between the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) to help tourism businesses and policymakers identify and prepare for favourable or inclement climate conditions 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 (June-August 2025) 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.

# Table of Contents

Climate risk management and Visitor Health	Page 3
Climate Advisories: Caribbean	Page 4
Climate Advisories: Caribbean Source Markets	Page 10
Surf and Sargassum Outlook	Page 11
Upcoming events and contact information	Page 12
Glossary	Page 13

# CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT & VISITOR HEALTH

Climate risk management linked to enhancing visitor health and safety, 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 COVID-19, other respiratory issues and dengue, as well as other possible health threats as they arise. The CTO, CHTA, and CIMH will continue to closely monitor the situation.



# Climate Advisories: Caribbean

**June through August forms part of the Caribbean Heat Season and marks: 1) part of the long Dry Season in the ABC Islands, 2) the early Wet Season in Belize and the Lesser Antilles, 3) the summer portion of the Wet Season in the Greater Antilles, and 4) the transition from the Wet to the Dry Season in the Guianas. What should you do?**



The **2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season** officially starts on 1 June. Severe weather events can occur at this time and come with a range of hazards, including high winds, landslides, long-term flooding, flash floods, coastal flooding, among others.



The **Caribbean Heat Season** – characterised by the recurrence of heatwaves and hotter night-time and daytime temperatures – usually peaks toward late-August (except in the Guianas, where the Heat Season starts with the onset of the long dry season in August).



This season is also typically characterised by a progressive increase in **intense shower and thunderstorm activity**, as well as the number of wet days and wet spells, but a decreasing number of dry days and dry spells towards the end of August in many of the Caribbean Islands and in Belize. The resulting increase in surface moisture quickly decreases wildfire potential and the concentration of local dust in the air.

This year, unusually **warm** sea surface temperatures are expected to prevail in the North Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, adding heat and humidity to the atmosphere in our region.

# Climate Advisories: Caribbean

Generally speaking, years in which Atlantic ocean temperatures are high typically drive:

1. An increase in excessive, humid heat in the Caribbean to the point of **heat stress** and potentially triggering of local coral reef bleaching;
2. Heavy downpours triggering episodes of flooding and flash floods could occur multiple times as the wet season progresses;
3. An **intense Atlantic Hurricane Season**.

Besides the ocean temperatures, which we can predict at seasonal timescales, a major contributor to weather conditions in this season is dry Saharan air intrusions into the Caribbean – carrying **Saharan dust**, which tends to stifle shower and storm activity, while adding heat and humidity.

While the occurrence of Sahara dust intrusions tends to annually peak from May to July, the body of science currently does not enable us to forecast their frequency on monthly or seasonal timescales. This leads to a major unknown in forecasts for June-July-August: **how often will Sahara dust intrusions stifle shower and storm activity?**

If there are few intrusions, the general scenario painted above will probably materialise. We will call this scenario '**Scenario A**', which is the one we can confidently forecast. On the other end of the spectrum, the – unpredictable, yet equally likely – alternative scenario with frequent Saharan air intrusions is called '**Scenario B**'.

# Climate Advisories: Caribbean



If Scenario B were to materialise, the Caribbean Region will keep facing **unusually warm temperatures** and frequent spells of intense, humid heat, particularly in Belize and the Greater Antilles. In addition, frequent intrusions will increase the number of dry spells. On a positive note, the more frequent Sahara dust intrusions are, the fewer and shorter periods between them, meaning less chance for flood-producing rainfall events and tropical cyclone activity. However, the rainfall and storm activity becomes more erratic. So, any weather disturbance that finds a path in between such intrusions will have a greater chance of intensifying into **heavy showers**, storms or even hurricanes.



Ultimately, it is expected that June-July-August will end up somewhere between Scenario A and Scenario B.

The forecast for June to August 2025 – according to Scenario A (few Saharan air intrusions) – further suggests:

Region-wide, the unusually warm Caribbean Heat Season of 2025 will feature episodes of intense **heat stress** ramping up towards August, particularly in Belize and the Greater Antilles. Therefore, tourism practitioners should expect a significantly **higher demand for cooling/hydration services** (e.g., AC use and refrigeration use, use of pools and showers, and drinking water) than usual for the period, and should advise their staff and guests accordingly in the upcoming period.

# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Cont'd




The **2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season** is forecast to potentially be intense (*but erratic if Scenario B materialises*) with an estimated **13-20 named storms** (i.e. tropical storm, hurricane or major hurricane), including approximately **6-12 hurricanes**, of which around **3-5** may easily intensify into a major hurricane (i.e., category 3, 4 or 5 on the Saffir-Simpson scale) over the entire season. In addition, CIMH predicts between 3 and 10 named storms through the end of August.




Seasonal **rainfall amounts** are forecast to be the usual or higher in Cuba, Guyana, Hispaniola and the US Caribbean Territories, but the usual or less in the ABC Islands, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands, Trinidad & Tobago and the Windward Islands (*medium to high confidence*). While many locations may record fewer showers than usual, rainfall intensity is forecast to be greater than usual during the **2025 Caribbean Wet Season** (*medium confidence*). While beneficial for drought relief, the reduction of wildfire risk, and the recharge of water reservoirs, heavy rains lead to *high to extremely high potential* for **flooding, flash floods, cascading hazards & impacts** (except in the ABC Islands).



# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Cont'd



**Severe weather** systems related to tropical cyclones, as well as heavy showers may affect Caribbean territories repeatedly. Tourism operators are advised to **constantly monitor and abide by weather advisories** issued by National Meteorological Services 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 possibly erratic 2025 Hurricane Season and the intense wet season, during which updates are required and, therefore, ought to be regularly monitored to indicate when an uptick of activity is expected to occur.



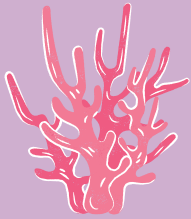
In line with the forecasted intense wet season, **drought concerns** by the end of August in the Caribbean are few. However, tourism facilities should continue to enhance/upgrade their water conservation practices, as well as rainwater harvesting and repairs to leaky pipes, etc., and advise staff and guests of the need to reduce water wastage on an ongoing basis to mitigate the impacts of potential drought towards the end of the year.



# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Cont'd



In view of the very *high* to *extremely high* exposure to **harmful UV light** on sunny days, visitors and staff 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.



The possibility of marine heatwaves triggering **coral bleaching** is unlikely through early August, but may ramp up from there on out. Though a portion of the recently bleached corals may recover in cooler, clear and clean water, the forecasted sea surface temperatures will possibly produce a long period of heat stress after August, ultimately reducing the 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. Until early August, this is also a good season to engage in coral reef restoration activities, especially in destinations where there is an on-going standalone program or partnership between tourism practitioners and coastal managers.

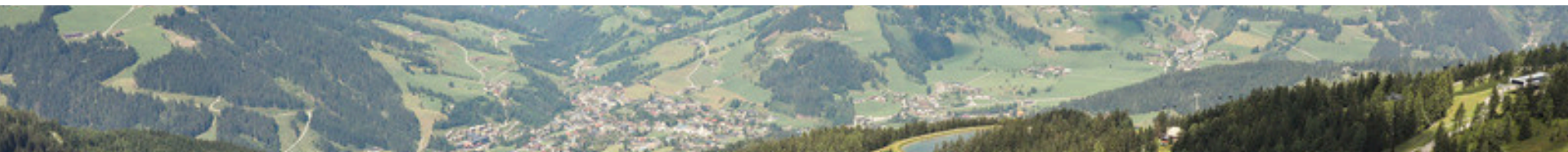
# Climate Advisories: Caribbean Source Markets

**June to August marks the summer season in the source markets.**

## **What should you do?**

Source markets tend to experience the warm and sunny summer conditions vacationers are seeking at this time, with the exception of northern Europe. 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, and activities that take advantage of the unique cultural heritage, gastronomy, and pristine natural environments on offer.

Furthermore, inbound Tour Operators are recommended to monitor the weather forecasts in the source markets during this season. They should be on the lookout for reports of inclement summer weather in Canada and northern Europe, as well as reports of wildfires causing a deterioration in air quality in Canada, the Northern US and the Mediterranean tourism markets.



# 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: <http://ww3.cimh.edu.bb/>

## 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/>



# Contact Us



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# Upcoming Events

- 1. CTO/CHTA 2025 Hurricane Readiness Webinar, June 10, 2025. Link: <https://bit.ly/CTO-CHTA-Hurricane-Season-Webinar-June-10>**
- 2. CTO Sustainable Tourism in Action Webinar 2 - Harnessing the Power of Eco Labels, June 17, 2025. Link: <https://bit.ly/CTO-Webinar-June-17-Sustainable-Tourism-in-Action>**

## Websites

Caribbean Tourism Organization:  
[www.onecaribbean.org](http://www.onecaribbean.org)

Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association:  
[www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com](http://www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com)

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

## 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.

# 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.

**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.

**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

**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/>