

CARIBBEAN TRAVEL+LIFE



Joining the Band

What's better than watching Carnival bands parade through Port-of-Spain? Participating, of course.

On Trinidad, there aren't really four seasons but three: Before Carnival (BC), during Carnival (DC) and after Carnival (AC). We're in the thick of BC season, so if you're thinking about participating in the Caribbean's so-called "greatest show on earth" — an annual eruption of fun, sun, dance and rum that electrifies the streets of Port-of-Spain — this coming March 7 and 8, you've got no time to waste: A trip to Trinidad Carnival calls for plenty of advance planning. Here's a checklist to ensure that your visit to the region's biggest bacchanal runs smoothly.

Book a Hotel A comfortable bed is beside the point, since you won't get much use out of it: Sleep and Carnival are like oil and water. » **Tip:** At the swank new Hyatt Regency Trinidad, outdoor shower stations — complete with comfy robes and slippers — allow you to clean up from J'Ouvert luxuriously. » **Tip:** Also newly opened, the Carlton Savannah is conveniently located along the parade route and boasts an intimate boutique vibe.