



Caribbean Vacation Planning Guide

Everything You Need to Know Before You Go

Whether you're planning your first Caribbean vacation or your tenth, choosing the right destination can make all the difference. From lush rainforests and towering mountains to crystal-clear waters and colorful coral reefs, every Caribbean island has its own unique personality.

This guide will help you understand the different Caribbean regions, the best time to visit, weather considerations, and whether a cruise or an all-inclusive resort is the best fit for your vacation style.



Understanding the Caribbean

Although we often refer to it simply as "the Caribbean," cruise itineraries generally fall into three main regions.



Eastern Caribbean



The Eastern Caribbean is known for beautiful beaches, duty-free shopping, historic towns, and excellent snorkeling.

Common Ports

- St. Thomas (U.S. Virgin Islands)
- St. Maarten
- Puerto Rico
- Tortola
- Antigua
- St. Kitts
- Dominica
- Martinique
- Guadeloupe

Best For

- ✓ First-time cruisers
- ✓ Beautiful beaches
- ✓ Shopping
- ✓ Sailing & snorkeling
- ✓ Island hopping

What You'll Experience

Expect colorful colonial towns, mountain overlooks, protected bays, catamaran excursions, and some of the Caribbean's best beaches.



Western Caribbean



Western Caribbean cruises combine beautiful beaches with rich history and exciting adventure.

Common Ports

- Cozumel
- Costa Maya
- Roatan
- Belize City
- Grand Cayman
- Jamaica
- Puerto Plata
- Harvest Caye

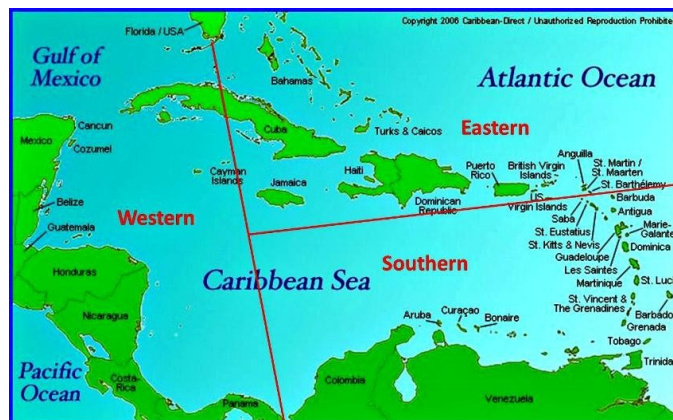
Best For

- ✓ Mayan ruins
- ✓ Scuba diving
- ✓ Snorkeling
- ✓ Wildlife encounters
- ✓ Adventure excursions

What You'll Experience

The Western Caribbean offers everything from ancient ruins and cave tubing to sloths, ziplining, reef snorkeling, and vibrant beach clubs.

☀ Southern Caribbean



Southern Caribbean itineraries are generally warmer, drier, and feature some of the Caribbean's most unique islands.

Common Ports

- Aruba
- Curaçao
- Bonaire
- Barbados
- Grenada
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent
- Trinidad

Best For

- ✓ Consistently warm weather
- ✓ Dutch Caribbean culture
- ✓ Scuba diving
- ✓ Dramatic landscapes
- ✓ Longer cruises

What You'll Experience

Think colorful architecture, desert landscapes, volcanic mountains, waterfalls, sea turtles, and world-class diving.