



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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Ministry Welcomes Lifting of Restrictions as Boost to Tourism and Entertainment Sectors

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts is welcoming easier and smoother travel into Trinidad and Tobago. As of midnight on Saturday 26th March visitors and returning residents only need a rapid Antigen test for entry. Therefore, a PCR test is no longer required. This move will improve the ease of entry by reducing the overall cost of travel into Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition, April 4th will bring an end to Safe Zones and limits on gatherings in public spaces will no longer be enforced, however mask wearing must be maintained. Visits to beaches and rivers will also be unrestricted with no time limits from April 4th.

This means that tours and other tourism related activities will be able to continue freely and tour operators and tour guides can now offer visitors tours and experiences in the manner in which they were accustomed to before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These reduced restrictions come at a time when both the tourism and culture sectors are on a path of recovery, particularly after the highly successful 'Taste of Carnival' that saw events held within the public health regulations at that time.

Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell said, "The staging of 'Taste of Carnival' events is certainly instructive, as it signalled the reopening of the events industry. These activities brought much hope and relief to persons involved in the entertainment sector and its support services." Minister Mitchell continued, "It is also encouraging that twenty-five days later, these events caused no significant spike in Covid-19 cases."

Between October and December 2021 and into January 2022, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts embarked on collaborative approaches, consultations and constant dialogue with key stakeholders to define protocols

for the safe reopening of the entertainment sector and restarting of tours and tourism activity which will ensure their recovery and generate revenue for both sectors. This resulted in the restarting of Buccoo Reef and Caroni Bird Sanctuary tours as well as reduced restrictions to allow for staging of events at all national performance spaces.

Every year, the events industry generates significant revenue for promoters, performers, artistes and cultural workers as direct beneficiaries of the staging of concerts, shows and productions. In addition, service providers who support the industry like janitorial and security companies, food and beverage suppliers, graphic artists, caterers and sound and lighting technicians will also benefit from this further lifting of restrictions as the events industry returns to normal.

Minister Mitchell reminds the population, that even as we all prepare to move around more freely to visit sites and attractions and attend events across both Trinidad and Tobago, we should all exercise personal responsibility while still observing the 3Ws: Wear a mask, Wash your hands and Watch your distance.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts will continue in its support of the tourism and culture sectors and its stakeholders as they are guided on the road through recovery and towards growth.

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