



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

Levels 8 -10, Tower C,
International Waterfront Complex,
1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain,
Trinidad and Tobago

Phone: 624-1403
Fax: 624-6737

17 January 2022

**Minister Mitchell Welcomes Restart of Caroni Bird Sanctuary and
Buccoo Reef Tours**

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts welcomes the restart of water based tours at the Caroni Bird Sanctuary and Buccoo Reef Tours in accordance with the recently published Public Health Ordinance on January 16th, 2022. These tours may now operate at 50% capacity during the hours of 5am to 2pm with visitors to Buccoo Reef being allowed to enter the water to swim.

Operators are reminded that while visitors are on board their vessels, they must adhere to the usual health protocols which is wearing of masks at all times and keeping your distance from others.

In addressing the development, Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts says, "I am very pleased that the tourism sector is getting a further ease in restrictions. When we first met with the Chief Medical Officer on the matter of allowing the tour boats to operate, he did say it was a possibility and I am happy that favourable consideration was given to the Ministry's proposal for restart of these tours."

On December 1st, 2021, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts hosted a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer to discuss matters related to the safe restart of tour boats and subsequent to this submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health on the readiness of this part of the sector to resume operations. At that time, all operators and staff were already trained by Tourism Trinidad Limited in the Covid-19 Protocols for the Tourism Sector and were able to show how they had implemented measures to ensure the safety of their operations. In addition, tourism operators and staff were part of the Ministry's Priority Vaccination Programme in July and

August, thereby ensuring the safety of not only their workers but also visitors and users of these tours.

Minister Mitchell continued, “We continue work closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the sector can operate safely by advocating on behalf of businesses similar to those who operate tour boats. The sector is set for recovery with more flights, more hotel rooms to be made available and general movement back to the types of activities that make for an exciting visitor experience.”

Minister Mitchell urges all citizens to continue observing the three W’s which are, to wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

*****End*****