



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE

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Weather and Climate

Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service



Weather

This is the state of the atmosphere for a particular place and time. In Trinidad and Tobago, our weather is often described the following ways: sunny, rainy, hot, humid, dry, over cast, cloudy or windy and so on. Usually when forecasting the weather, it is done within a short time period (from present conditions to that of the next 3-10 days).



Climate

Climate however, is the weather conditions that are constant in a particular area for a long period of time (30 years or more). For example, Trinidad and Tobago is within a tropical climate. In a tropical climate, we expect wet and dry seasons. Once the climate of a specific area is determined, scientists not only know what to expect but they can predict weather patterns and changes for the future.

Changes in climate also mean that weather patterns can also change, as we have seen in recent times. For example, hotter days, increase in bush fires, flooding, drier and wetter days as well as an increase in hot spells, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but in the world.

Trinidad and Tobago's Seasons


Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean is within a tropical climate which sets the tone for our weather and our seasons. We experience two seasons:


The Dry Season:


The Dry Season begins in January and ends in May. Conditions during this period are warm and humid.

What to expect?

In the Dry Season we usually expect

-  Warm days and cooler nights

-  Strong winds

-  Hot spells

These conditions often lead to





-  Bush fires
-  Drought
-  Loss of crops
-  Low water supply

The Wet Season






The Wet Season spans from June to December. Within the Wet Season is the Hurricane Season that usually runs from June to November.

What to expect?

In the rainy season we usually expect

-  Cooler days
-  Cloud clusters
-  Increase rainfall
-  Tropical storms/ depressions/ hurricanes

These may lead to:

-  Flooding
-  Destruction of infrastructure (buildings, roads, equipment)
-  Loss of food crops
-  Increase in pests eg. mosquitoes
-  Increased water supply

