



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid driver's license, identification, proof of insurance and vehicle documents. An International Driving Permit may be required for drivers from some countries. US driver's licenses and IDPs are valid for up to 90 days from arrival date.
- ❑ The national currency is the Trinidad and Tobago Dollar (TTD).
- ❑ Drive with windows up and doors locked at all times.
- ❑ Avoid traveling alone at any time. Violent crime is common, particularly after dark. Attacks against visitors, including pedestrians, are increasing. This includes popular beaches and parking areas, even during the day.
- ❑ Pedestrians account for an estimated 31% of all road traffic fatalities.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.08 g/dl. However, drink driving is common, especially at night and on weekends.
- ❑ Do not drive during the annual "Carnival" celebrations. Chaotic road conditions and high rates of alcohol use are common and significantly increase road dangers.
- ❑ Visitors should consider hiring a professional driver who is familiar with road conditions and traffic rules.
- ❑ There are 9.09 road deaths per 100,000 people in Trinidad and Tobago, compared to 2.2 in Sweden and 2.3 in the UK.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Speeding** is common, particularly on highways.
- **Drivers often** fail to signal for turns.
- **Some motorists** may operate cars with steering wheels on the left, reducing range of road vision.
- **There has been** an increase in distracted driving. Motorists may use mobile devices while behind the wheel.
- **Drivers may** stop suddenly in traffic and block roads to speak to acquaintances.
- **Motorists often** use unconventional hand signals to indicate a turn or stop.
- **Drivers** of minibus taxis (locally called "maxi-taxis") often veer across traffic lanes or stop without warning in the middle of roads to pick up or drop off passengers.
- **Many** drivers are uninsured.
- **Pedestrians** often disregard safety rules and walk in roadways, or step into streets even when traffic has right-of-way.
- **Intoxicated pedestrians** and those under the influence of psychoactive drugs may be on roadways, particularly at night in popular tourist districts, or in neighborhoods with bars and clubs.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** 9,592 km (5,960 miles) of roads.
- **The highway** network is well-developed and consists of four- and six-lane freeways.
- **Highways** on the main island of Trinidad are generally in good condition. Many are crowded.
- **Secondary roads** often have broken surfaces and are bordered by deep drainage ditches.
- **There are many** mountainous areas and steep roads. Lanes may be narrow and unprotected by safety rails.
- **Rural roads** on the smaller island of Tobago, particularly mountain roads in northern regions, are often narrow, congested and in poor condition.
- **Surfaces** of many secondary and rural roads are inadequately maintained. Roads often have broken surfaces and are bordered by deep drainage ditches.
- **Some** rural roads are lined with "leeway" (cow dung), creating slick driving conditions, particularly after rain.
- **Some roads** are narrow and winding, including those leading to and from beaches.
- **Driving** at night is not recommended. Most roads are poorly lit or unlit.
- **Pedestrians are** at high risk from drivers.
- **Drivers should** be alert to the presence of pedestrians and cyclists. In most areas, bicyclists must share roads with motorized traffic.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is underdeveloped. There are crosswalks and some pedestrian bridges in major urban areas.
- **There are** many street vendors who may block sidewalks; aggressive vendors often approach motorists and pedestrians.



Road Conditions, continued

- **Power outages** affect traffic lights and signals.
- **Demonstrations** and labor strikes may turn violent and disrupt transportation and essential services. Avoid all demonstrations and large public gatherings.
- **There are** many dangerous neighborhoods. GPS and satellite mapping systems that suggest the shortest route may direct drivers through high-crime areas.
- **Road congestion** may occur on routes leading to and from oil production facilities, especially in the southwest of Trinidad island. Traffic includes large trucks.
- **Traffic increases** when cruise ships are in port; including large numbers of pedestrians.
- **“Bump and rob”** incidents occur regularly, particularly in the Laventille area of Port of Spain. Vehicles are deliberately rear-ended; when driver stops, individuals in the car causing the crash rob those in the stopped car.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **The Beetham/Churchill Roosevelt Highway** connects to the airport. Attacks and kidnappings occur along this road. There are high numbers of serious and fatal crashes; speeding and drink driving are frequent causes. Persons on the sides of roads may throw bricks or other objects at passing vehicles to make them stop; drivers and passengers are then robbed. Police and security on both sides of the highway have been increased. If difficulty is encountered, do not stop until a patrol car or police station is within sight.
 - » **The M2 Ring Road** in Debe is regarded as the country’s most dangerous road. Multiple sharp turns, speeding drivers and reckless overtaking have been cited as major causes of serious and fatal crashes. Surfaces become slick after light rain. The route has heavy traffic, including many large trucks.
 - » **Craignish Main Road** leading to Princes Town links the island’s southeastern and western regions, and is built on unstable ground. The road has uneven pavements. Lanes are at different heights, and shift with seismic activity. Traffic gridlock is common. Hazardous conditions increase during and after heavy rains. Avoid this road.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **The annual** five-day Divali festival occurs late in the year, and is accompanied by an increase in motorized and pedestrian traffic.
- **The country is** subject to hurricanes, tropical cyclones, heavy rains, strong winds, earthquakes and seismic activity.
- **Hurricane season** within the Caribbean is generally from May to November. Trinidad and Tobago are not always affected by hurricanes, but severe storm conditions occur.
- **Storms** may be accompanied by tropical cyclones, strong winds and torrential rains. Flooding, mudslides and landslides may result. Transportation and services including emergency responses, road repairs and delivery of food may be interrupted.
- **Storm activity** may result in hazardous road conditions, including downed trees and power lines on roads. Do not drive into standing water, which may obscure deep potholes or other road hazards.
- **The country** is located in an active seismic zone, and has been struck by large earthquakes in recent years.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	50 kph (31 mph)
Residential areas	30 kph (18 mph)
Highways	100 kph (62 mph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

Right lane closed	Stop	Caution: Children in area	Riverbank	No overtaking	No stopping	U-turns prohibited	Double curve in road	Bridge



Regional and Seasonal Conditions, continued

- **“Mud volcanoes”** are not actual volcanoes, but are geographic areas that may become active and discharge large amounts of mud. Roads and transportation may be affected.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION

- **Transportation options** include cars, motorcycles, taxis, buses, registered private taxis, route taxis, shared maxi-taxis, e-scooters, bicycles, ferries and water taxis.
- **All official** public transport vehicles, including the network of taxis and buses, are identified by the letter “H” on license plates.
- **Vehicles** with the letter “P” on plates indicate unregistered vehicles illegally offering services.
- **Use only** licensed, private taxis. Pre-booked taxis, and taxis ordered through reputable hotels, are unmetered but have set fares, and are generally regarded as safer than other taxis.
- **Registered** private taxis are not shared. Agree on fare prior to travel; fares increase after 10 pm.
- **Route taxis** are shared cars that stop along routes to pick up or drop off passengers. Fares are posted on the exterior of vehicle. Drivers wear official badges.
- **Maxi-taxis** run along fixed routes and are shared by multiple passengers. Vehicles are painted white.
- **Maxi-taxi routes** on the island of Trinidad are identified by colored bands on the sides of vehicles:
 - » Yellow: Western areas.
 - » Red: Eastern areas.
 - » Green: Central zone.
 - » Black: Southern areas from San Fernando to Princes Town and toward Mayaro.
 - » Brown: Southern areas in San Fernando and to Port Fortin, Cedros and Siparia.
- **Blue band** maxi-taxis on the island of Tobago do not have set routes. Vehicles run from 9 am to 9 pm.
- **Maxi-taxi** fares are posted on doors or the front of vehicle. These drivers also wear identification badges.
- **Passengers** in maxi-taxis have been victims of violent attacks. Do not travel alone.
- **PTSC** (Public Transport Service Corporation) buses are operated by the government, and include routes in both urban and rural areas. Buses are white with red and black trim and markings.
- **PTSC buses** are modern and air-conditioned, and

- include long-distance coaches, city buses and regional intercity buses.
- **To travel** between cities, use only full-size intercity PTSC buses, which are generally regarded as reliable.
- **There are** seven main PTSC depots and three transit centers throughout the country.
- **The main** bus station on Trinidad is at South Quay in Port of Spain.
- **The main** bus terminal on Tobago is City Gate, located at Sangster’s Hill in Scarborough.
- **There is** daily bus service, including regular service to and from the airport on each island.
- **Rideshares** are available in Port of Spain. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **There is** no rail service.
- **Bicycle travel** is popular. Bike paths and general infrastructure are underdeveloped.
- **Bicycles must** share roads with motorized traffic. Drivers may disregard the safety of cyclists.
- **E-scooter** rentals are limited. Drivers may be unfamiliar with traffic laws and may pose a danger to pedestrians.
- **Ferries** operate inter-island routes between Trinidad and Tobago. Service cancellations occur frequently and without notice.
- **Ferries** and water taxis are operated by multiple companies. Safety records vary. Some boats may lack reliable navigation equipment, life boats and adequate numbers of life preservers. If traveling by boat, bring your own life preserver and do not travel during inclement weather or when waters are rough.
- **There is** water taxi service between the cities of Port of Spain and San Fernando. Tickets can be purchased at terminals located at the port.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be at least 17 years of age to drive, and 25 to rent a vehicle. Some rental car agencies may have other restrictions.
- **Jaywalking** is illegal.
- **Seat belts** are required for drivers and front seat occupants. For safety, all passengers should wear fastened seat belts.
- **Children** younger than five years must be in a child safety restraint, and are prohibited from riding in front seats. Enforcement is low. For safety, all children should be secured in seat belts or child safety restraints appropriate to size and age.
- **Taxis are** exempt from child safety restraint laws.



Traffic Regulations, continued

- **Helmet use** is compulsory for motorcycle drivers and passengers, and must meet national standards. Law does not require helmets to be fastened. For safety, helmets should be fastened.
- **Children** are not restricted from being motorcycle passengers. If possible, children should not be passengers on motorcycles.
- **Left turns** on red are forbidden.
- **U-turns** are prohibited.
- **On-the-spot** fines are illegal.
- **Drivers are** required by law to wear a shirt.
- **Blinking** red and green traffic lights at junctions mean stop before proceeding with caution; red indicates approaching drivers have right-of-way; yellow implies you have right-of-way.
- **Though** marijuana/cannabis in amounts up to 30 grams (1 ounce) have been decriminalized, use of this substance is illegal while operating a vehicle.
- **Some medicines** legally prescribed in other countries are regarded as illegal drugs in Trinidad and Tobago; if stopped, drivers may be searched. Possession of these medicines carries severe penalties.
- **Police frequently** carry out random breath tests and may erect roadblocks.

Port of Spain (Capital)

- » Located on the island of Trinidad.
- » Transportation options include cars, motorcycles, taxis, buses, registered private taxis, route taxis, shared maxi-taxis, e-scooters, bicycles, ferries and water taxis.
- » Driving is not recommended. Traffic is heavy and undisciplined, particularly during twice-daily rush hours.
- » The city has one of the most complex roadway networks in the Caribbean. The Queen’s Park Savannah roundabout is one of the world’s largest traffic circles and may be challenging to visiting drivers.
- » Road upgrades and expansion are ongoing. Many areas are under construction, and may not be adequately lit or indicated by warning signs.
- » Public transportation includes registered taxis and buses.
- » City Gate is the main transport hub for public buses and maxi-taxis.
- » Buses are operated by government-run PTSC (Public Transport Service Corporation).
- » The bus network includes urban and rural routes.
- » PTSC buses are white with red and black trim and markings.
- » A Priority Bus Route corridor through the city is limited to public transportation vehicles.
- » Official public transportation vehicles have the letter “H” on license plates.
- » Avoid vehicles with the letter “P” on plates, which are unregistered and illegally offer passengers services.
- » Use only registered, private taxis, which are not shared with other passengers. Pre-book or order taxis through a reputable hotel. Vehicles are generally regarded as safer than other taxis.
- » Private taxis are not metered and have set fares. Confirm fare prior to travel. Rates increase after 10 pm.
- » Shared cars called route taxis stop along set routes to pick up or drop off passengers.
- » Maxi-taxis are also shared, and are generally white vans. Drivers wear official badges.
- » Maxi-taxi fares are posted on the exterior of vehicles.
- » Colored bands on the sides of maxi-taxis indicate the direction of travel.
- » Two colored bands on the sides of taxis indicate the geographical area they serve. Green bands indicate routes from Port of Spain south/southwest to Chaguanas and the region of San Fernando; red-banded vehicles serve destinations east to Sangre Grande.
- » Violent attacks against passengers have taken place in maxi-taxis.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is underdeveloped. There are some pedestrian bridges and crosswalks.
- » Pedestrians often step into roadways or cross through traffic, or may walk along the edges of busy roads.
- » Many people travel by bicycle. There are few bike lanes. Cyclists are generally required to share roads with



Port of Spain, continued

- » motorized traffic. In some areas, bicyclists use sidewalks and ride among pedestrians.
- » There are some e-scooter rental shops. E-scooter traffic rules are not fully developed. Drivers may be unfamiliar with road traffic laws, and may drive on sidewalks where pedestrians are present.
- » Ferries and water taxis provide additional transportation.
- » Inter-island routes between Trinidad and Tobago include passenger and car ferries. Service cancellations occur frequently and without notice.
- » Water taxis are available between the city and San Fernando. Purchase tickets at water taxi terminals at the port.
- » Boats are operated by multiple companies. Safety records vary. Some boats may lack reliable navigation equipment, life boats and adequate numbers of life preservers. If traveling by boat, bring your own life preserver and do not travel during inclement weather or when waters are rough.
- » Piarco International Airport is 21 km (13 miles) from city center.
- » Rental cars carry license plates identifying them as rentals, and may be followed from the airport by persons intending robbery, assault or kidnapping.
- » Airport taxis are operated by the Airport Taxi Drivers' Cooperative. Vehicles are not shared.

Chaguanas

- » Located in the west-central region of the island of Trinidad.
- » Largest residential community within the country.
- » Driving is not recommended. Roads are congested, especially during twice-daily rush hours and on holidays.
- » Transportation options include cars, motorcycles, taxis, buses, registered private taxis, route taxis, shared maxi-taxis, e-scooters and bicycles.
- » The public transportation network includes registered taxis and buses.
- » City buses are operated by government-run PTSC (Public Transport Service Corporation).
- » The bus system includes inter-city and rural routes.
- » PTSC buses are white with red and black trim and markings.
- » The letter "H" is displayed on license plates of all official public transportation vehicles.
- » Do not use transport vehicles with the letter "P" on plates. These are unregistered vehicles illegally offering passengers services.
- » Taxis include private taxis, maxi-taxis and route taxis.
- » Use only registered, private taxis, which are generally regarded as safer than other taxis and are not shared with additional passengers. Pre-book or order taxis through a reputable hotel.
- » Private taxis have set fares, though rates increase after 10 pm. Verify fare with driver prior to travel.
- » Route taxis are shared cars that stop along designated routes to pick up or drop off passengers.
- » Maxi-taxis are also shared vehicles. Most are white vans. Fares are posted on the exterior of vehicle.
- » Drivers of maxi-taxis wear official badges.
- » Maxi-taxis have colored bands on the sides that specify routes.
- » Physical attacks against passengers have occurred in maxi-taxis.
- » Rideshares are available. Use only services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is underdeveloped. Crosswalks may be ignored by drivers.
- » Many pedestrians step into roadways, cross through traffic or walk along the edges of busy roads.
- » Bicycle transportation is popular. Cyclists are generally required to share roads with motorized traffic.
- » In some areas, bicyclists and e-scooter drivers use sidewalks and ride among pedestrians.
- » There are some e-scooter rental shops. E-scooter drivers may be unfamiliar with road traffic laws.



Scarborough

- » Main town on the island of Tobago.
- » Transportation options include cars, motorcycles, taxis, buses, registered private taxis, route taxis, shared maxi-taxis, e-scooters, bicycles and ferries.
- » Driving is not recommended as rental vehicles are often in poor condition. Cars are available at the airport. If hiring a vehicle, check to ensure that standard safety features are in place, including good tires, taillights, headlights, turn signals, seat belts, horn and working windshield wipers.
- » There are few roads on Tobago. There is one main road on the island: Claude Noel Highway/CNH. This route connects Scarborough and Canaan.
- » Roads are narrow and winding. Lighting is inadequate.
- » Many secondary roads are damaged from ongoing landslides.
- » Construction of several new roads is underway. Work zones may not be well-lighted or clearly marked.
- » Public transport drivers may not observe traffic laws and safety rules.
- » All buses and taxis depart from the Sangster Hill Road terminal near Milford Road.
- » Buses include public buses, national bus services operated by PTSC, and maxi-taxis.
- » Most maxi-taxis are small, privately owned minibuses.
- » Maxi-taxis generally operate from 6 to 10 am, and from 3 to 8 pm. After 8 pm, there are long waits.
- » There is one maxi-taxi route from Scarborough to Charlotteville. There is no set schedule.
- » “Private,” single-passenger taxis are unmetered. Agree on fare prior to travel.
- » Route taxis are privately-owned vehicles, and have with an “H” prefix on license plates.
- » Route taxis are often overcrowded.
- » Inter-island ferries connect to Trinidad. Service is provided multiple times a day, weather permitting.
- » Ferry safety records vary. Some boats may lack reliable navigation equipment, life boats and adequate numbers of life preservers. If traveling by boat, bring your own life preserver and do not travel during inclement weather or when waters are rough.
- » A.N.R. Robinson International Airport is located in Crown Point at the island’s southwestern tip, 10 km (6.2 miles) from Scarborough city center.
- » Taxis and maxi-taxis provide transportation from the airport to locations throughout the island.
- » Public buses and tour buses can be booked at the airport arrivals area.
- » Some major rental car agencies are represented at the airport.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Laws** prohibiting discrimination against persons with physical, sensory or other challenges are not enforced.
- **Most sidewalks** are narrow with uneven surfaces. Edges of roads and streets generally have deep gutters. Persons in wheelchairs are unable to ride across these gutters.
- **Motorists** frequently park on sidewalks. Uncovered manholes and other obstacles may force persons with mobility challenges onto main roads with hazardous traffic conditions.
- **A pedestrian** overpass at Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre near the water taxi terminal has an elevator.
- **There are no** parking provisions for mobility-impaired drivers.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program emergency numbers** into your phone before departure.
- **Responders** to emergency numbers in remote areas may not speak English.
 - » Emergency: 911
 - » Police: 999
 - » Ambulance: 811
 - » Fire: 990
 - » Coast Guard: 634-4400



Emergency Information, continued

- **Ambulances** are not widely available. The training of emergency responders may be below acceptable standards.
- **Medical care** is substandard. Some private hospitals and medical centers may offer better care than public facilities.
- **Payment** may be required prior to the administration of treatment, even in emergencies.
- **Strikes among** physicians and nurses occur and may limit access to care.
- **First responders** to emergency situations may be unable to reach areas outside of cities, or to provide urgent medical treatment or life-saving care.
- **Beyond major** urban areas, reliable medical care may be unavailable. Evacuation to another country may be required for serious illness or injury.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Call the police.
 - » Assist injured persons if it is safe to do so.
 - » Notify car rental agency.
 - » Collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses.
 - » Get license plate numbers and insurance company information from other driver(s).
 - » Take photographs of scene if possible.
 - » File a crash report with local authorities within 24 hours. Reports must be made at the station closest to crash scene.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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