

Carnival

in Trinidad and Tobago

2014

Trinidad and Tobago 2014



MANY PEOPLE

CARNIVAL



A publication of the
National Carnival Commission
of Trinidad and Tobago



TRINBAGO UNIFIED CALYPSOIAN ORGANISATION





A Message

from NCC Chairman, Allison Demas



Trinidad and Tobago Carnival has been described as the Greatest Show on Earth and the Caribbean's Biggest Street Party - small wonder the celebrations continue to attract visitors by the thousands to these shores. So popular is this event, it has spawned similar celebrations in major cities around the world as diaspora populations seek to recreate the unique experience that can only be found here in Trinidad and Tobago.

Carnival is Trinidad and Tobago's most important cultural and tourist attraction. It is an annual festival celebrated on the two days prior to Ash Wednesday. On those two days, revellers don costumes and dance through the streets to the beat of calypso and soca music played on our national instrument, the steelpan or blasted from speakers attached to truck trailers. It is a cavalcade of revelry, colour and joyful abandon.

The Carnival or 'mas' experience is truly indescribable, even if you visit for just those two days. But if you can, you should come earlier – when the celebrations begin months before, with the energy and excitement gradually building up to the two-day party and street parade.

The National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (NCC), as the governing body for the development, management and coordination of the Festival, is responsible to ensure these annual celebrations continue to be full of the excitement, artistry and innovation for which the event has come to be known.

This brochure will give you a taste of what we at the NCC, in collaboration with the entire Carnival fraternity, work so assiduously to plan and prepare each year. We invite you to read on to find out more, then come join us next Carnival for what is always an extraordinary celebration.

Flagship Events

While the Carnival calendar is filled each year with a variety of exciting events, from premier all-inclusive parties, spectacular shows and concerts to first class entertainment and thrilling competitions, there are some events that stand head and shoulders above the others for their sheer popularity as part of the ritual that is Carnival:



Panorama

**Venue: Queen's Park
Savannah, Port of Spain
Date: March 1st 2014
Time: 7:00 pm**



BiG Friday-

Kings and Queens Finals (Junior & Senior)

**Venue: Queen's Park
Savannah, Port of Spain
Date: February 28th 2014
Time: 7:00 p.m.**

International Soca Monarch Finals



**Venue: Hasely Crawford
Stadium, Port of Spain
Date: February 28th 2014
Time: 6:00 pm**

Dimanche Gras



**Venue: Queen's Park
Savannah, Port of Spain
Date: March 2nd 2014
Time: 7:00 pm**

Junior Parade of Bands



**Venue: Parade through the
streets of Port of Spain
Date: March 1st 2014
Time: 7:00 a.m.**

Calendar of Carnival Events 2014

Launch of Regional Carnival

Date: January 4, 2014

Venue: Edinburgh 500, Chaguanas

Time: 2pm

While Port of Spain is considered to be the epicentre, Carnival is truly a national event. There are 53 regional celebrations across the country in places like Penal, Moruga, Arouca, Gasparillo and Mayaro. Regional celebrations have been growing in scale and popularity over the years, thus the NCC will launch the Regional Carnival with much fanfare and entertainment. The growth of the regional events is in recognition of the fact that there are many who do not, or cannot make it to the larger celebrations in Port-of-Spain or San Fernando, but who are still an integral part of the celebrations. So popular are some of the regional events that some like stick fighting and the Blue Devils competitions, have gone mainstream.

Carnival Village

Venue: Queen's Park Savannah

Date: Feb 7th – March 7th 2014

Time: 6pm

The NCC's Carnival Village is ground zero – the hub and the heartbeat of everything Carnival has to offer. Open for one month until the Friday after Carnival, the Carnival Village will feature round-the-clock excitement. In addition to nightly entertainment, visitors can immerse themselves in all things Carnival; enjoy mouth-watering cuisine and admire and purchase art and craft, jewellery and clothing from local artisans. Carnival Village is also the place to be educated on the finer points of the Festival. Hands-on cultural workshops teach traditional 'mas' skills such as wire bending, costume making and even tassa drumming, and schools from across the country bring their students to what has been dubbed the "culture school." As an added bonus, this year, the Village will introduce a Junior Calypso Tent, co-hosted by TUCO.



Jab Jab
Mas

Carnival Art Exhibitions

Venue: NALIS, Port of Spain

Date: February 12th

Time: 6:00 pm

Exhibition continues to March 10th, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Closed on March 3rd and 4th

Venue: Art Society

Date: February 13th

Time: 6:30 pm

Exhibition continues to March 8th, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Venue: NAPA, South

Date: February 22nd

Time: 6:00 pm

Exhibition continues to March 15th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Venue: Lowlands Mall, Tobago

Date: February 25th

Time: 6:00 pm

Exhibition continues to March 11th, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

The works of many of the nation's pre-eminent artists will be featured in this tribute to Carnival; new for 2014. Visitors will be able to see this iconic Festival through the eyes of the artist...



Carnival Film Series (CFS)

Organized by: Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival

Time: All screenings 7:00 pm

Dates and Venues: February 8th - Paramin Recreational Grounds + Cool Breeze Bar, Paramin

February 9th - Trevor's Edge, St. Augustine

February 13th - Movie Towne, Tobago

February 21st - San Fernando Hill Recreational Grounds

February 22nd - Saith Park, Chaguanas

February 23rd - NALIS Amphitheatre, Port of Spain

The Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival (tfff) initiated the Carnival Film Series (CFS) in 2011. The objective of the annual event is to insert a new element into the Carnival cultural landscape, focusing on representations of our Carnival in film. Since its inception, the Carnival Film Series has evolved into a popular and anticipated feature in the annual Carnival calendar.

In 2014 venues will be located throughout Trinidad and Tobago and include the National Library in Port of Spain (NALIS); Trevor's Edge Bar, St. Augustine; Movie Towne, Tobago; San Fernando Hill; Point Fortin and Couva.

One of the highlights of the 2014 Series will be a special video presentation by renowned Carnival historian Ray Funk at the NALIS Amphitheatre in Port of Spain, as well as the screening of "No Bois Man No Fraid" in Moruga, where the film was made. Other venues may include the Buccoo Complex in Tobago; Toco Composite School; Point Fortin or Rio Claro.

In addition to the films shown, the CFS will feature live calypso performances and appearances by traditional Carnival characters.

Chutney Soca Monarch Finals

Venue: Skinner's Park, San Fernando

Date: February 15th 2014

Time: Noon

The Chutney Soca Monarch competition is fast becoming a flagship event of the Carnival season and is undoubtedly the most important Indo-Trinidadian event of the Festival. Chutney soca, the fusion of soca with chutney music has become extremely popular among the masses since the 1990's and its cross-cultural appeal has given rise to a new generation of highly sought after artistes of both Indian and African descent. The entertainment factor inherent in chutney soca music is so great, that the event now draws patrons by the thousands and is quickly rivalling the Soca Monarch competition both in scope and prize money.

National Panorama Semi Finals

Venue: Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain

Date: February 15th 2014 - Single Pan & Small Conventional Semi Finals

Date: February 16th 2014 - National Semi-Finals Medium & Large

Time: Noon

"When the music sings, when the iron reverberates in your soul, when you are taken by the rhythm, when you recognise the familiar and hear the unexpected, when you are beaten down and then driven up into ecstasy, when you realise you will never hear it quite like that again, you know then; when you're at Panorama."

www.trinijunglejuice.com

Steelpan, the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, is also the focus of one of the most popular competitions of the Carnival season. The lure of sweet pan music brings the throng of pan and music enthusiasts and fete lovers to enjoy innovative and entertaining musical arrangements of the popular calypso compositions of the season. Large, medium and small steel orchestras from all over Trinidad and Tobago converge on the Savannah to initiate an annual ritual which culminates in the crowning of the cream of the crop of steel bands. The popularity of this pan competition is reflected in the audiences it draws from around the world. Those residing abroad not fortunate enough to make it to the event in person listen via radio and Internet broadcasts, carrying the spirit of Carnival around the globe.

National Stick Fighting Finals

Venue: Skinner's Park, San Fernando

Date: February 19th 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

Stick fighting (aka Kalenda/Calinda) is a Carnival tradition that will never die. The tradition can be traced back to the slave plantations of the early 1700s where opponents would battle – sometimes to death - with sticks or 'bois' in gayelles or rings. The activity was banned after the Canboulay riots in the 1800's only to be resurrected in the 20th Century. Today, the pastime is enjoying rejuvenation. More art and skill than war, it has become an integral aspect of Carnival celebrations across the country.

Calypso Fiesta

Venue: Skinner's Park, San Fernando

Date: February 22nd 2014

Time: Noon

The Calypso Monarch Semi-final competition features the cream of the crop from Calypso tents across Trinidad and Tobago. Calypso bards making the pilgrimage to San Fernando deliver an abundance of sometimes witty, sometimes scathing but always entertaining commentary on life, society and politics in Trinidad and Tobago. By the end of the evening, the finalists for the 'big yard' at the Queen's Park Savannah are chosen, but along the way the enthusiastic crowd of calypso lovers, not afraid to show their pleasure or displeasure at each individual performance, are thoroughly entertained.

KAISORAMA

Venue: NAPA, Lord Kitchener Auditorium

Date: February 27th, 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

The countdown to the Parade of Bands – the pinnacle of Carnival celebrations – begins one week earlier with Kaisorama. This 'Magnificent Monday' show features the best of the best – calypso champions through the years, masters of the art and crowd favourites – along with the grand finals of the social and political commentary, and extempo competitions.

Traditional Individuals (Seniors)

Venue: Victoria Square, Port of Spain

Date: February 26th 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

Black Indians, authentic Indians, jab jab, fancy Indians, midnight robbers, burrokeets, Dame Lorraines and moko jumbies – these characters are an integral part Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago – some dating as far back as the 18th century when the slaves caricatured plantation owners. The richness of these traditional characters comes alive at Victoria Square where visitors and locals can revel in the artistic expression exhibited in the costuming, the skill and the unique tales of each character delivered in poetry, song and dance.

Senior Conventional Individuals

Venue: Victoria Square, Port of Spain

Date: February 27th 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

No one would deny the uniqueness of Trinidad and Tobago Carnival derives in large part from the artistry on display in the ornately designed Carnival costumes. Apart from the King and Queen, each Carnival band may comprise one or more individuals and this competition is their time to shine and to showcase the incredible and varied talents of our mas makers.



Pierrot
Grenade

Re-enactment of Kambule Riots

Venue: Piccadilly Greens, Port of Spain

Date: February 28th 2014

Time: 5:00 am

Carnival is culture, but Carnival is also history. Friday before Carnival is also the day when we take a step back in time to celebrate the Festival as it once was. The Kambule Riots in 1818 were a turning point as it changed the way in which Carnival was celebrated. Despite the crackdowns on the celebrations by the colonial government and the loss of life that resulted Carnival remained deeply embedded in the psyche of the people of this country. Today, the Kambule re-enactment is a well-written and performed street pageant that pays homage to the sacrifice and resistance of our forebears against colonial oppression and features some of the best cultural performances this country has to offer.

Dragon Festival

Venue: Prince and George Sts., Port of Spain

Date: February 28th 2014

Time: 10:00 a.m.

The homage to traditional mas continues with the Dragon Festival. The dragon, also known as king beast, is a costume of scales, a dragonhead with a movable tongue and a long scaled tail. Dragon Mas may be divided into three main groups of characters: Imps, Beasts, and Rulers, Bookmen or Gownmen and represents the ultimate battle of Good vs. Evil which is an integral part of the pantomime that is traditional mas. The dragon is described as 'the fire breather from hell and the bringer of destruction' and his dance through the streets is meant to fascinate, entertain while instilling fear into his audience. In the dragon dance, the dragon encounters a pool of water, or 'holy water from the heavens' that he cannot cross. The imps surround him and taunt him to dance into submission until he finally leaps over the pool and is able to continue on his journey. It is a spectacle not to be missed.

Traditional Carnival Characters Festival

Venue: Parade through the Streets of Port of Spain

Date: February 28th 2014

Time: 10:00 am

Thousands of traditional characters including fancy clowns, minstrels and Dame Lorraines, jab-jabs, moko jumbies and midnight robbers come together for an impressive parade in downtown Port of Spain, accompanied by the traditional music of the steel pan, tamboo bamboo, tassa and African drums. This parade is a graduation for the participants of the Traditional Carnival Characters workshops – an opportunity for schools and community groups across the country to showcase all they have learnt and display the talent of the next generation of masqueraders. This parade is the culmination of the day's events that begins with the Kambule. The parade makes its way around the Queen's Park Savannah, before finally ending at the Carnival Village.

Big Friday Kings and Queens Finals (Juniors and Seniors)

Venue: Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain

Date: February 28th 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Another highly anticipated event of the Carnival season is the crowning of the King and Queen of Carnival. Traditionally taking place on Carnival Sunday, this competition has been moved to the Friday before Carnival and given the name BiG Friday to symbolise the grandeur of the event – big costumes, big performances and big entertainment. The Kings and Queens have their own show and colour; creativity and talent are all on full display.



**Dragon
Mas**

International Soca Monarch Finals

Venue: Hasley Crawford Stadium, Port of Spain

Date: February 28th 2014

Time: 6:00 pm

Over the years, the Soca Monarch competition has grown in size and prestige to become one of the flagship events of the Carnival celebrations. Indeed, the crowning of the Soca and Groovy Soca Monarchs has become one of the most scintillating and exciting competitions of the season – attracting not only an international audience but international competitors as well. It is interactive – viewers can text in to name the most popular performance of the night – and it includes some of the biggest names in soca today alongside promising new talent, each pulling out all the stops to win the biggest purse of the Carnival season. With US actors of stage and screen occupying guest spots on the panel of judges, and beamed via Internet and satellite to fans around the world, so great is the spectacle that this event ends with a cascade of fireworks over Port of Spain!

Junior Parade of Bands

Venue: Parade through the streets of Port of Spain

Date: March 1st 2014

Time: 7:00 a.m.

Carnival Saturday is kids' day! This parade and competition attracts large crowds year after year as the youngsters – from toddlers to teenagers – take over the streets of Port of Spain for fun in the sun. The Junior Parade of the Bands is a favourite event of many of the nation's schools who go head to head in competition with the private children's bands in an incredible display of colour and creativity.

National Panorama Finals - Medium and Large Bands

Venue: Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain

Date: March 1st 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

The best of the best steel orchestras gather to compete in a festival of music like no other in the world! The Panorama Finals is the place where legendary music arrangers and steel pan maestros shine for weaving popular calypsos into stunning melodies with complex passages and breath-taking modulations – all to delight and impress the huge crowds that fill the North and Grand Stands for this event each year.

Nostalgia Parade

Venue: Parade through the streets of Port of Spain

Date: March 2nd 2014

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Go back in time or take a walk down memory lane to capture the memories of Carnivals past, the music, the costumes and the excitement. This is the rationale behind the Nostalgia event. The parade even takes the traditional route of parades of the past. Small wonder then, that it is a favourite of the more mature carnival lovers .

Dimanche Gras

Venue: Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain

Date: March 2nd 2014

Time: 7:00 pm

Once an event where all Carnival monarchs were crowned, Dimanche Gras has been transformed into an event that celebrates the grandeur of Calypso. This year, the dazzling showcase will spotlight the bards of lyrics as they show off their prowess on stage. One of finalists selected from the performances at Calypso Fiesta in San Fernando, will be crowned Calypso Monarch at the "Big Stage," the Queen's Park Savannah. He, or she, will greet the dawn of J'Ouvert and make way for the reign of the Merry Monarch.

J'Ouvert

Venue: All regions

Date: March 3rd 2014

Time: 4:00 a.m.

Morning has broken and the reign of the Merry Monarch has begun. At daybreak, people take to the streets to play 'dutty' mas, ole mas, or traditional (ole time) mas. It is a ritual best characterized by the mud, oil, powder, paint and even chocolate with which people adorn their bodies. It is the first opportunity to free up, let loose and get swept up in the euphoria of the celebrations.

Parade of Bands (Carnival Monday)

Venue: Parade through the streets of Port of Spain

Date: March 3rd 2014

Time: 11:00 am

The Carnival season reaches its climax with a two-day parade through the streets of Port of Spain. On day one, the revelry and euphoria that begin at J'Ouvert or Daybreak continues when the 'pretty mas' hits the streets, with masqueraders moving to the pulsating rhythms of calypso and soca from steel bands and the music DJs along the parade route. The party is non-stop and goes well into Monday night.

Parade of Bands (South Trinidad)

Venue: Parade through the streets of San Fernando

Date: March 3rd 2014

*"We goin' dong San Fernando
Dong dey have plenty tempo...
We goin' to join San Fernadians and
Roll dong Coffee Street
So gimme more, tempo
(Calypso Rose, 1977)"*

Carnival in San Fernando has been immortalised in the classic road march hit by Calypso Rose for good reason. Celebrations in Trinidad's industrial capital are an explosion of excitement, music, creativity and colour, from J'Ouvert to Las Lap, and on par with anything witnessed in the Port of Spain celebrations.

Carapichaima Carnival Parade of Bands

Venue: Carapichaima

Date: March 3rd 2014

Time: 3:00 pm

The revitalization of regional Carnivals means there is so much more to see outside of the Capital than ever before. In Central Trinidad, Carapichaima is the place to be. Carapichaima's Carnival celebration is one of the oldest in the country. From traditional mas characters to fancy costumes, there is much to experience, making this is one of the most enjoyable celebrations in the country.

Paramin Blue Devils Competition

Venue: Paramin Junction

Date: March 3rd 2014

Time: 4:00 pm

In the village of Paramin on Carnival Monday evening, the Carnival traditions of yesteryear take centre-stage with the Blue Devils competition. Painted from head to toe in blue dye and bedecked with horns, wings and frightening masks, the devils dance to the pulsating rhythms of drums from the bamboo bamboo, biscuit/oil tins or any other crude implement that can be used to create a beat. Dancing, gyrating and performing feats of athleticism and blowing fire from torches or flambeaux and leaping into trees – all with a view to being crowned the best worst devil, the Paramin Blue Devils are an experience not to be missed.

Imp
Mas



Parade of Bands (Carnival Tuesday)

Venue: Parade through the streets of Port of Spain

Date: March 4th 2014

Time: 7:00 am

After months of preparation and anticipation, complete with spectacular costumes and pulsating music, Trinidad Carnival is unfurled in a blaze of glory on Tuesday. The parade, full of colour, creativity and energy, begins early and goes non-stop until Las Lap – the final party. Visitors and locals alike are awed by the skill and originality in the costumes on parade as Carnival bands – some thousands of members strong – tell stories of the imagination, history, culture and traditions of the country through their presentations. The absolute joy and abandon of the revellers and the infectious rhythms of calypso and soca music are the reason that Carnival in Trinidad will always be considered the greatest show – and party – on earth!

Champs of Steel Plus

Venue: Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain

Date: March 8th 2014

Time: 8:00 pm

Carnival may be over, but the Champs of Steel Plus concert gives pan aficionados and culture lovers alike one last chance to relive memories of Carnival 2014. Our finest steel orchestras, calypso, extempo, chutney and mas performers take to the stage at the Queens Park Savannah in a final blaze of glory and provide a fitting end to the celebrations.

Carnival dates 2014-2020

2014

March 3rd and 4th

2015

February 16th and 17th

2016

March 8th and 9th

2017

February 27th and 28th

2018

February 12th and 13th

2019

March 4th and 5th

2020

February 24th and 25th





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Mas



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