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CARICOM-Canada Trade and Investment Report

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Caribbean Signature is pleased to present this 10th anniversary edition of our business publication, which has been encouraging more business and travel to the Caribbean region for a decade.

We started Caribbean Business & Travel (CBT) in 2016 to highlight a range of investment opportunities across the CARICOM region and to promote the Caribbean as one of the top global tourism destinations.

Our niche publication reaches business organisations and entrepreneurs in Florida, New York and Toronto, as well as Diaspora leaders, providing them with in-depth information from the region's decision-makers in government, the business community, key regional organisations and diplomats.

We value the collaboration and advertising support of the investment and tourism agencies across the region, and of Sandals, which recognised us from day one as an important catalyst for boosting tourism, trade and investment in the Caribbean. We also appreciate our partnership with the annual Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit (CHICOS), where our publication is available.

I am grateful for the contribution of our highly experienced Caribbean communications team who do this as a way of giving back to the region: Associate Editor Gail Bindley-Taylor, Communications specialists, Beverley Sutherland-Lewis, Ralph Seeram and Kristine De Abreu, our award-winning travel writer Mark Stevens, our consultants - Marguerite Buckmire, Bali Singh and Debra Gonsalves - and our dedicated and talented graphic designer, Stephen Mok in Toronto.

Our main focus now will be on projects and delivering business skills training.

We believe the CARICOM-Canada Trade and Investment Report is timely given the focus of the Canadian government and exporters on trade diversification, the need to maximize the benefits under preferential trading arrangements, and the importance of educating Canadian businesses on the myriad trade and investment opportunities in the region.

CBT 2026 also highlights tourism investment opportunities in CARICOM member countries that chose to participate in this promotion.

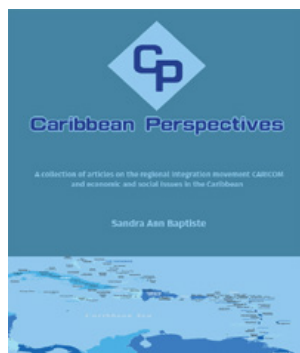
We profile the World Trade Center Georgetown (WTCG), the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA), and the CHICOS conference in The Bahamas in November.

The 2026 edition also features tourism visionary Auliana Poon, and our travel writer provides compelling reasons why our readers should take a trip to Grenada.

We hope you find this edition informative and that it will encourage you to engage in more Caribbean business and travel.

Sandra Ann Baptiste, CITP

Publisher and Editor
Chief Executive Consultant
Caribbean Signature



Caribbean Perspectives is a collection of articles by Caribbean Affairs Specialist Sandra Ann Baptiste on regional integration issues, and economic, trade and tourism developments, covering over three decades of CARICOM. It features several Heads of Government, business leaders, organisations and academics.

The book can be downloaded at:
caribbeansignature.com

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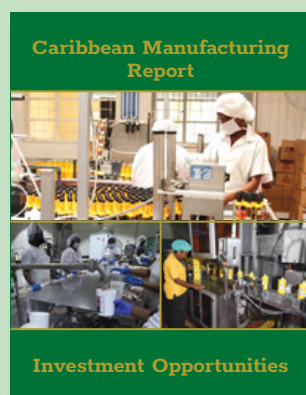
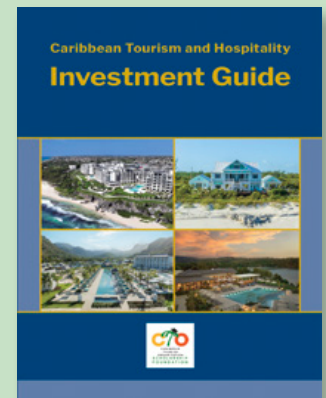
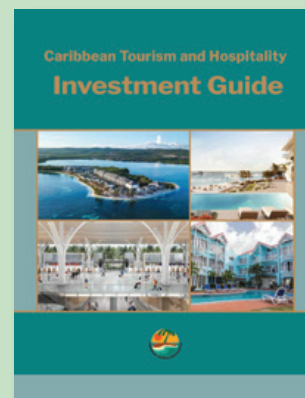
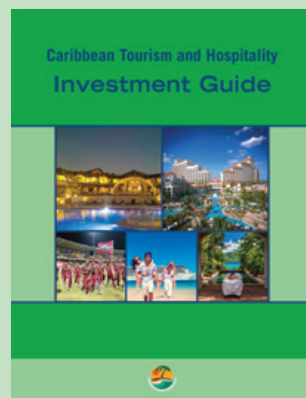
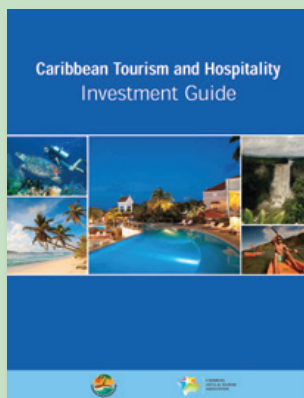
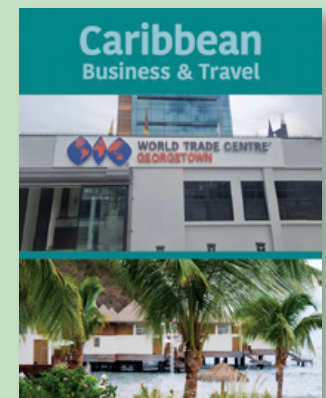
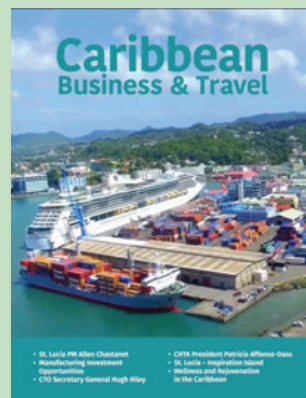
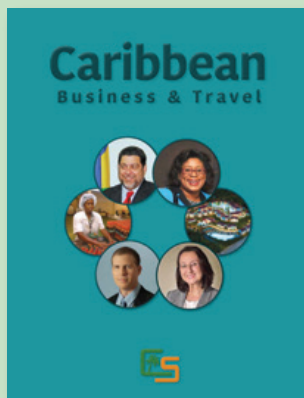
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The background of the cover is a collage of various Caribbean flags, including those of Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, and others, arranged in a grid-like pattern. Overlaid on the bottom half of the collage is a large, semi-transparent Canadian flag, featuring a prominent red maple leaf on a white field. The title text is centered over the collage.

CARICOM Canada Trade and Investment Report

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Significant Scope for the Region to Boost Trade and Investment with Canada

Barbados Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Christopher Sinckler, believes there is significant scope to deepen the CARICOM-Canada trade and investment relationship by moving from broad cooperation to a more practical, results-oriented partnership.

He said there are opportunities to increase Caribbean exports of traditional and new products, as well as services, and there are feasible projects in a range of other sectors.

At the June 2026 Canada-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Group Meeting in Panama City, Ministers endorsed a renewed Action Plan centred on competitive and resilient economies, climate action, and regional security and stability. "Building on this foundation, there are opportunities to expand commercial engagement in renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, logistics, insurance and risk management, maritime research, digital services, skills development, and the creative industries in various sectors, while making fuller use of the preferential market access available under CARIBCAN."

Sinckler said the next step should be a practical programme of collaboration supported by business-to-business engagement, sector-specific investment pipelines, targeted investor outreach, investment facilitation, and stronger reporting through the Senior Officials' Dialogue to deliver measurable commercial outcomes for both Canada and CARICOM.

CARICOM countries that use CARIBCAN, the preferential trade between Canada and the region, conducted through the World Trade Organisation-approved preferential arrangement, have not maximised the benefits.

"I believe we can do better. Some CARICOM States, including Barbados, recorded declining preferential exports

under the CARIBCAN arrangement. We are investigating the underlying causes. However, exporters benefit from the arrangement. It, therefore, remains an important mechanism for supporting CARICOM trade with Canada. The recent inclusion of Caribbean textiles and apparel in the CARIBCAN agreement presents a new opportunity for the region."

Preferential Barbadian exports under CARIBCAN declined sharply as a share of total exports, from 46% in 2023 to just 14% in 2025. "The potential to increase exports lies in expanding beyond traditional goods such as rum, sweet biscuits and sails, into new areas including medicaments for retail sale, pesticides and printed paper labels. Realizing this potential, however, depends less on trade policy and more on private sector interest, production capacity and competitiveness."

Barbados and the region continue to promote the opportunities available through the CARICOM Single Market by increasing awareness of the five core CSME regimes: the free movement of goods, services, capital, skilled nationals, and the right of establishment.

Qualifying goods are traded free of duty within the Single Market. Skills, labour, goods, services and capital can be sourced from across the region and are not limited to the host jurisdiction.

The Minister said recent reforms to the Common External Tariff (CET) and Rules of Origin will simplify trade for both regional and Canadian exporters. "Efforts to harmonise sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards through the Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), customs modernisation, digitalisation of trade procedures, and trade facilitation reforms serve to reduce non-tariff barriers impacting trade."

Sinckler said that because of significant tourism expansion projects across the region, there is tremendous scope



Hon. Christopher Sinckler
Barbados Senior Minister
of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

for increasing imports from Canada. "With close to a billion U.S. dollars in new hotel and resort investment currently underway in Barbados alone, including major projects such as the Pendry Barbados development, there is substantial and growing demand for imported construction materials, hospitality furnishings, food and beverage products, and sustainable tourism technologies."

The Minister believes Canadian investors will find compelling opportunities across several sectors given Barbados' established international business framework through its Bilateral Investment Treaty with Canada, which works hand-in-hand with the Canada-Barbados Double Taxation Agreement (DTA).

"Investment opportunities exist as Barbados advances toward its target of 100 percent renewable energy and carbon-neutral status by 2030 through mechanisms such as the Smart Energy Fund. We see financial and insurance services, infrastructural development projects, the tourism sector, alternative energy, agriculture, creative industries and building or resilient infrastructure as areas ripe for Canadian investment."

He referred to the bilateral talks in Toronto earlier this year between

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to deepen cooperation between the two countries in a number of areas, including the financial sector, alternative energy, professional services and trade in goods.

The Minister regards the private sector as a valuable partner in the ongoing dialogue with Canada under the Canada-CARICOM Strategic Partnership. “However, there is always scope to deepen that collaboration through more structured and regular consultations, stronger public-private information sharing, and enhanced regional data and market intelligence. This will ensure that, when we engage our Canadian counterparts, we do so with timely, evidence-based information that reflects the priorities and realities of businesses across the region.”

Sinckler reported that investment from Canada is robust and this is expected to grow given the wide range of prospects in CARICOM spanning agriculture, tourism, green energy, financial services and other sectors.

He pointed to the significant expansion and upgrading of the Bridgetown port. “Berth 6, as we call it, is a highly strategic investment by the Barbados Port Inc. that not only expands Barbados’ capacity to provide trade and trade-related facilitation services. It also supports our broader vision for regional connectivity, while positioning the Port of Bridgetown as the premier logistics hub for the Southern Caribbean.”

The key features of Berth 6, which marks a transformative leap in the operational capacity of the Barbados port, are increased vessel capacity, advanced cargo handling and expanded upland infrastructure. There is now greater flexibility to balance cargo and cruise vessel calls.

The Minister also advised that CARICOM is advancing the implementation of the CARICOM Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA) to improve regional air connectivity and facilitate the movement of passengers and cargo



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney during bilateral talks in Toronto.

throughout the Community. Member States are also reviewing measures to reduce the cost of intra-regional travel, strengthening regional aviation safety and oversight.

Sinckler said investments in airport infrastructure and operational modernization are being pursued to improve the efficiency and reliability of regional air transport. “These initiatives are intended to support greater regional integration, facilitate trade by improving the movement of goods and business travelers, and create a more attractive environment for Canadian investment by providing better access to CARICOM markets and strengthening regional supply chains.”

On the appeal of Barbados as a premier investment location, Sinckler said the country combines political and macroeconomic stability with a transparent legal and regulatory environment, a highly skilled workforce, modern telecommunications infrastructure, strong air connectivity, and a sophisticated financial and professional services ecosystem.

The short-to-medium-term economic outlook for Barbados remains positive and stable, with projected real GDP growth of 2–3% in 2026. This is supported by tourism and tourism-related developments, construction, public and private investment,

infrastructure upgrades and renewable energy projects.

The former Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs explained that, under the standby arrangement with the IMF, there will be no monetary disbursements unless there is an emergency. “Our relationship with the IMF provides a disciplined fiscal anchor and a credible cushion against unexpected external shocks, whether from global trade tensions, energy price volatility, or regional geopolitical uncertainty.”

The Minister said the country’s strategic location enables businesses to efficiently serve markets across the Caribbean and beyond. Barbados also maintains a competitive, OECD-compliant tax framework, including a general corporate income tax rate of 9%, with lower rates available for qualifying small businesses and targeted provisions for specific sectors.”

The Barbados Minister supports the recommendation for the establishment of a CARICOM-Canada Chamber of Commerce. “A dedicated regional representative private sector body operating within Canada would provide the kind of sustained, coordinated advocacy that individual chambers and bilateral business councils cannot easily achieve on their own.”

Canadian Exporters Keen on Exploring New Opportunities in the Caribbean

The Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) would welcome more dialogue with business associations and exporters in the Caribbean on opportunities to grow their trade and investment relationship and believes this is timely given the Canadian government's focus on trade diversification.

Matt Conley, the CME's Manager, International Trade and Skills Policy, however cautioned that momentum alone isn't enough. "Tangible opportunities need to be put on the table and kept top of mind for industry associations like CME. Manufacturers across Canada are exploring ways to grow beyond traditional markets."

He described the CME, a national community of manufacturers working together for decades to help businesses grow, compete, and succeed, as a trusted and influential voice for manufacturing in Canada, shaping public policy and helping businesses navigate the economic and regulatory challenges that affect their bottom line.

Conley said the CME encourages countries seeking deeper trade with Canada to work closely with the government to streamline regulations and align practices wherever possible. "Making trade and investment opportunities visible starts with clear, consistent communication. Businesses and governments need to articulate exactly what they can offer, what they are seeking, and where opportunities exist. When that information flows openly, exporters can quickly understand the potential and begin building a business case."

Conley said once regulatory changes are made, communication is key. "Canadian businesses often aren't aware of new and emerging opportunities. However,

CME and other industry associations can be effective partners to help spread the word, connect businesses, and make those opportunities real."

He asserted that a free trade agreement isn't critical for closer relationships as regulatory harmonization can be a much stronger tool for unlocking new markets. "When standards are aligned, rules are clear, and unnecessary barriers are removed, exporters can move faster and with greater confidence."

At the same time, he noted that strengthening trade between Canada and the Caribbean will be more challenging without a free trade agreement. He pointed to a 2022 analysis by Global Affairs Canada which shows that across Canada's long-standing FTAs - excluding Peru - bilateral trade with major FTA partners more than doubled within 10 years of entry into force, compared to growth of just 47.5% with non-FTA partners.

Conley emphasised that input from industry associations and the private sector in both Canada and the Caribbean is essential to strengthening trade and investment under the Canada-CARICOM Strategic Partnership. "At the end of the day, trade is built when companies connect - when exporters meet buyers, and partnerships can develop. Agreements set the framework, but business relationships turn them into results."

The CME official stressed that while governments play a critical role in shaping that framework, they don't always have the complete picture on the ground. "This is where organizations like CME make the difference - bringing real-world insights into the policy process. CME has a strong track record of identifying where regulations can be better aligned, where infrastructure



Matt Conley
Manager
International Trade and Skills Policy
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters

needs improvement, and where policymakers may be overlooking emerging opportunities."

Conley said with CARICOM, there is an opportunity to build trade capacity through cooperation by focusing on targeted regulatory alignment, efficient logistics, and open channels for industry feedback. "It can take time and it can be a demanding process, but it can be worth it. CME would welcome the chance to participate, share practical expertise, and engage on any trade agreements that help our members grow, diversify, and create win-wins for Canada and international trading partners."

He emphasised that no matter where Canadian exporters go, from Canada's closest neighbours to markets across the globe, manufacturers always ask the same three core questions: "Are our products ready for export - meeting standards, regulations, and customer expectations in that market? Do we understand the local business environment well enough to market effectively and connect with buyers? What conditions need to be in place for our investment to be successful?"

Conley said manufacturers think long-term when considering an opportunity. “Entering a market successfully is about laying the foundation for growth that can scale, adapt, and endure. That means investing in relationships, innovating to meet local needs, and becoming a trusted partner in that market’s community and economy.”

Conley asserted that the CME always welcomes constructive dialogue on how to remove trade barriers and create conditions that benefit both Canadian exporters and Caribbean businesses.

The CME believes its role is more important than ever given the current global turbulence. “We help manufacturers succeed through advocacy that shapes public opinion and gives manufacturing a strong, credible voice with governments to create the right conditions to invest, innovate, export and grow.”

The CME works directly with companies through hands-on programs and services to improve productivity, reduce costs, develop leaders and teams, and open new markets.

Flexibility has been the key when navigating ongoing trade uncertainty. “Many of the challenges we face in Canada, such as building skilled teams, strengthening supply chains, and driving innovation, are shared by companies in the Caribbean. For many manufacturers, the hardest challenge is the lack of certainty and stability. It stalls investment and slows growth.”

CME’s strength comes from the experience and insight of manufacturers themselves - peer-driven solutions grounded in what has worked on shop floors across the country. Conley said when manufacturers speak with one voice, governments listen and that collective effort builds stronger companies, stronger communities, and a more resilient Canadian economy. “The CME has called for more of the country’s infrastructure spending to be directed toward modern ports, efficient



Matt Conley with CME President Dennis Darby

rail links, and well-designed trade corridors. These are the arteries through which Canadian goods reach world markets. Building on the government’s \$5 billion Trade Diversification Corridors Fund, CME is pushing for sustained, targeted projects that directly open and expand export pathways.”

The Canadian economy has been weak. For 2026 as a whole, real GDP is expected to grow by less than 1%. Manufacturing, the primary target of U.S. tariffs, is on track for a fourth consecutive year of declining output. Despite these headwinds, the CME is cautiously optimistic about Canada’s short-to medium-term outlook.

Conley reported that Canadian manufacturers continue to adapt, find efficiencies, enhance their products, adjust to supply chain changes, explore new markets, and find offsets to any other challenges as their members are known for their commitment to innovation, high standards, and reliability.

The CME official said the road ahead is still turbulent as supply chain vulnerabilities and global uncertainty remain. “However, with targeted policies aimed at de-risking opportunities, investment in trade-enabling infrastructure, and a commitment to

diversification, we believe Canada can sustain growth, expand exports, and position itself as a thriving partner in the global economy.”

He said the United States will always remain Canada’s most important trading partner, and keeping CUSMA (the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement) strong means Canadian manufacturers can plan, invest, and grow with confidence.

“At the same time, CME supports the call for diversification - from Mexico to Europe and even markets closer to home, such as the Caribbean. Every new opportunity helps strengthen the manufacturing sector’s resilience and enables Canadian products to shine on the global stage.”

The CME Executive said the organisation welcomes constructive dialogue on how to remove trade barriers and create conditions that benefit both Canadian exporters and Caribbean businesses.

“The process can be complex, and building the right connections takes time and persistence, but the payoff is worth it. Every meeting, every exchange of information, moves trade closer to reality. This is the moment to act and CME’s door is open to exploring closer relationships with Caribbean partners.”

Jamaican Manufacturers See Tremendous Potential for Increasing Trade with Canada

The Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA) believes the timing to deepen Jamaica's export footprint in Canada has rarely been better and says its members are ready to expand trade and explore opportunities to benefit from Canadian expertise.

"With over 50% of Jamaica's exports historically directed to a single market, manufacturers have recognised that diversification is not optional - it is strategic. Canada consistently features among the top five markets under consideration," JMEA President Kathryn Silvera said.

As Jamaica's fourth-largest destination for goods, Canada absorbed approximately U.S.\$ 100.9 million in Jamaican exports in 2025, compared to U.S.\$ 46.67 million in 2023.

Alumina led the way at roughly 60% of total export value. Beyond minerals, key exports are Jamaican food and beverage products from processed foods like canned ackee, soup mixes, and porridge mixes, to fresh agricultural produce including yams, cassava, sweet potatoes, and ginger, to world-renowned Jamaican rum, beers, and fruit juices.

Silvera pointed out that Canada's Jamaican-origin population, concentrated overwhelmingly in Ontario and the Greater Toronto Area, exceeds 300,000, making Jamaica the largest Caribbean source country for immigrants to Canada. "This diaspora is not merely a sentimental market. It is an active commercial force."

Silvera also stressed that for a significant expansion in two-way trade to be realised, Caribbean manufacturers' groups like the JMEA must be included in any CARICOM-Canada trade discussions.

Silvera said effective trade diplomacy requires the private sector not merely to be consulted after the fact, but to be integrated into the process from the outset.

Silvera, the Director of Sales & Marketing at Chas. E. Ramson Limited, said manufacturers, exporters, and entrepreneurs live the consequences of trade agreements daily. "The Canada-CARICOM Strategic Partnership, signed in 2023, creates a valuable framework, but its commercial potential will only be realised if the private sector helps shape the agenda, not just respond to it," she stated.

Silvera said Jamaican producers can benefit from Canadian companies that are world leaders in agri-business and food processing technology. "Canadian proficiency in logistics, cold chain management, and supply chain optimisation could help Jamaican exporters reduce post-harvest losses and improve the quality consistency that premium export markets demand."

Referring to the CARIBCAN agreement, which gives most Jamaican and other Caribbean-made goods duty-free access to Canada, she said utilisation of this benefit has improved considerably. According to her, the historic challenge was not the agreement itself, but understanding how to qualify for it - specifically, navigating rules of origin requirements.

Silvera said the asymmetry in the relationship is worth noting. Jamaican goods enjoy preferential access to Canada while Canadian exports to Jamaica face standard tariff treatment. "Meanwhile, Canada has negotiated full free trade agreements with countries like Peru, Chile, and Colombia, granting those markets reciprocal duty-free access that CARICOM does not have. This creates a competitive imbalance that the region must address through deeper engagement on a formal FTA."

She said the 600 members of the JMEA bring to the table a ground-level understanding of what trade



Kathryn Silvera
JMEA President

agreements actually mean in practice, in particular, which barriers persist, which opportunities are being captured, and which are being left on the table.

Jamaica's manufacturing sector, which employs approximately 85,500 persons, has demonstrated resilience and steady growth over the past three years generating J\$ 162.5 billion in value added. The IMF projects GDP growth of negative 1.2% for 2026, reflecting the lingering effects of Hurricane Melissa, which made landfall in October 2025 and caused a 7.1% contraction in the fourth quarter of that year.

"The macroeconomic fundamentals that Jamaica has built over the past decade - fiscal discipline, declining public debt, low inflation, and a stable exchange rate, provide a solid base from which to recover."

The JMEA President said infrastructure investments include continued development of the Port of Kingston and the Government has prioritised reducing bureaucratic hurdles through the digital transformation of key regulatory processes, including business registration and customs clearance.



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OECS Member States Gearing Up to Boost Agro-processing and Services Exports to Canada

Member countries of the 12-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have reported a marked surge in Canadian commercial and travel interest in the sub-region, and are gearing up to boost exports and services.

OECS Director-General, Dr. Didacus Jules, said the export earnings from Canada are led by travel services rather than goods. “Canada is one of our top three tourism source markets, with Air Canada, Westjet and Sunwing serving OECS gateways directly. So, our true export earnings from Canada are led by travel services rather than goods.”

Merchandise exports from the OECS to Canada remain very modest, collectively averaging U.S. \$550,000, within CARICOM goods exports to Canada of roughly U.S.\$ 1 billion, a total dominated by the larger economies.

Dr. Jules said strategies to expand exports are anchored in the OECS Food and Agriculture Systems Transformation (FAST) Strategy and the near-million-strong Caribbean diaspora in Canada. Priority products are value-added agro-processing, primarily for hot pepper sauces, condiments and jams, premium and craft rums, chocolate and fine-flavour cocoa, nutmeg oil and derivatives, sea moss and wellness/nutraceutical products, as well as fresh and frozen produce such as breadfruit, dasheen and mangoes.

He noted that CARIBCAN’s duty-free access - extended by the WTO waiver to 2033 - and expanded to textile and apparel from 1 January 2025, gives these products preferential entry. “We are equally targeting services exports: education, health and wellness, ICT-enabled services and the creative

industries such as carnivals, music festivals, culture and music.”

Dr. Jules said the most feasible areas for increased Canadian investment are in tourism and hospitality development, where Canadian demand is already strong. In addition, there are opportunities for investment projects in renewable energy, particularly geothermal (Dominica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Nevis) and solar; climate-resilient infrastructure, where the OECS’s regional machinery de-risks projects for external capital; agri-business and food systems under the FAST Strategy; and digital and business-process services.

“Citizenship by Investment programmes in five Member States have also channelled significant capital into real estate and public infrastructure, and are now being placed under strengthened regional regulation through the Eastern Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Regulatory Authority (ECCIRA),” the OECS Director-General stated.

He said one of the key incentives for potential investors is monetary stability, as the E.C. dollar has been pegged at the same rate to the U.S. for 50 years. “To this, we add generous fiscal incentive regimes such as corporate tax holidays of up to 15 years and duty-free concessions on capital inputs for approved projects, unrestricted repatriation of profits, a single OECS financial and economic space with free movement of goods, people and capital investment.”

Dr. Jules said the economic outlook for the OECS is one of steady, tourism-led growth. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank estimates that real GDP growth across the currency union averaged 3.4 percent over 2023–2025 and projects 3.3 percent for 2026,



Dr. Didacus Jules
Director-General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

moderating to about 3.0 percent in 2027. Tourism is the principal contributor, supported by construction and public infrastructure investment. The OECS official said Canadian trade missions to the OECS region have raised the profile of two-way trade and investment. “The honest assessment is that the missions have built visibility and pipeline; the next test - which we welcome - is converting that pipeline into bankable investment on the ground.”

Noting that the OECS participates in the Canada-CARICOM Partnership through its Member States and values Canada’s renewed hemispheric attention, Dr. Jules stressed that the Eastern Caribbean is a distinctive sub-region - a currency union with common institutions and a single regulatory conversation.

He believes there is a strong case for Canada to engage the OECS directly as a bloc, where one dialogue reaches seven markets at once. “We would welcome a structured OECS–Canada track within the Partnership, particularly on trade facilitation, climate finance and air and sea connectivity.”

Canadian Companies Pursuing Opportunities in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

Canadian companies have shown strong interest in infrastructure development, food production, and energy, including renewable energy, in Barbados and across the Eastern Caribbean.

Canadian High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Brenda Wills, said a range of Canadian companies are pursuing opportunities with both public and private sector partners in the region.

She reported that the Canadian Trade Commissioner Service has hosted a number of trade missions in 2025-2026, including delegations from the Black Business Association of British Columbia, from Prince Edward Island's Innovate PEI trade promotion agency, as well as a 12-company delegation with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Another mission from PEI is already in the works for later this year.

Beyond traditional trade and investment promotion, Canada supports initiatives that advance economic growth and entrepreneurship through its international assistance programming across the region. She highlighted the upcoming participation of Caribbean Indigenous women entrepreneurs at the World Indigenous Business Forum in Winnipeg, describing it as an example of how Canada is helping build partnerships and deepen commercial linkages.

On strengthening CARICOM-Canada trade relations, she said Canada offers very competitive prices, supported by a favorable exchange rate, creating clear opportunities for Caribbean buyers and importers as they diversify supply chains and seek safe, reliable sources of goods.

"At the same time, greater consideration of pooled procurement across the region would help achieve critical mass, improve pricing, and create stronger incentives for suppliers, including

Canadian firms, to compete for regional opportunities. Continued advancement of regional integration, including through the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, will also support a more enabling environment for trade and investment."

On trade with Barbados, she said the volume of trade remains modest, with Canada exporting approximately \$60 million in goods annually. "The more significant activity lies in services, where Canadian exports reach approximately \$350 million per year, or roughly six times the value of merchandise trade. While data for the wider Eastern Caribbean is not always current, the overall pattern is consistent, with services representing the principal driver of commercial engagement."

With respect to infrastructure development, Wills noted that Canada has considerable experience with public-private partnerships (P3s) and the role they can play in bringing together governments, investors, and technical expertise to deliver infrastructure projects. "Canada would be pleased to share its experience with Barbados and other regional partners interested in exploring whether P3 models could help advance infrastructure priorities, strengthen project delivery, and attract additional investment. "While the Caribbean market is relatively mature, and constrained by its small size, resulting in modest growth in absolute terms, Wills underscored that "opportunities are nonetheless emerging as governments and businesses seek to diversify import sources, strengthen supply-chain resilience, and improve food and economic security."

She said the mission's Trade Commissioner Service works closely with a range of partners such as Invest Barbados, Export Barbados,



Brenda Wills
Canadian High Commissioner
Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

the Association for Global Business (BIBA), and the Barbados Chamber of Commerce & Industry, among others, to increase awareness in Canada of business opportunities in Barbados and the region.

The High Commission works in partnership with Canadian agencies such as Export Development Canada (EDC), the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), federal economic development agencies as well as Canadian provinces to present local business opportunities to our exporters and investors. "We continue our outreach to identify new business leads."

Noting that a range of Canadian business entities have been present in the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados for many years, Wills said that Barbados has recently attracted new Canadian entrants across sectors including clean energy, clean technology, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

"These investments reflect growing Canadian interest in supporting the region's sustainable development, energy transition, and capacity to respond to and recover from natural disasters," the Canadian diplomat stated.

Atlantic Canada Companies Reap Benefits from Caribbean Trade Mission

Canadian companies from the Atlantic region that participated in a recent trade mission to Barbados and three other Eastern Caribbean countries have reported fruitful discussions and identified several potential business opportunities.

“Overall feedback from participating companies was very positive. Delegates reported strong interest in their products and services, high quality meetings with relevant decision-makers, and a range of concrete follow-up opportunities including sales prospects, partnerships, and RFPs,” Errin Smith, Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Association of Community Business Development Corporations (CBDC), said in a post-mission report.

The trade delegation to Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda, was organised by CBDC in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). The Canadian government Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) and Amber Mackereth Consulting also participated in the trade initiative.

The purpose of the mission was to help Atlantic Canadian businesses diversify exports and reduce reliance on traditional markets, facilitate high quality meetings with potential clients, partners, and distributors, to strengthen commercial ties between Atlantic Canada and the Caribbean and position Canadian firms for long term engagement in fast growing regional markets.

Participating companies represented a range of sectors aligned with regional demand, including professional and business services, engineering and infrastructure services, clean technologies and renewable energy, agrifood and consumer products, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), education and training services.

Smith explained that the mission to the Eastern Caribbean supported the broader Canadian government priorities around market diversification, enabling

Atlantic Canadian firms to explore new international opportunities beyond traditional markets while building long-term partnerships.

She noted that market diversification has become a central theme of Canadian trade policy in 2026, driven by the need to reduce reliance on traditional markets and strengthen long-term export resilience. “In this context, the Caribbean Basin represents a particularly strong fit for Atlantic Canadian SMEs, offering a wide range of economic synergies, cultural compatibility, and sectoral alignment.”

Smith said that companies considered Barbados and the wider Eastern Caribbean as feasible markets because they offer sector-aligned demand, access to the right contacts, and opportunities that match Atlantic Canadian strengths in areas such as engineering, marine services, education, consulting, energy, and digital solutions.

The mission organiser reported that several participants identified Barbados as the strongest market, while others found greater potential in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, or Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, reinforcing that the broader Eastern Caribbean offers meaningful opportunities across multiple jurisdictions.

“As a result of participating in this mission, we have continued to identify multiple project opportunities across various Eastern Caribbean countries and we are actively following up on these leads. This mission provided valuable access to key contacts and helped us build relationships that will support our business development efforts in the region,” said Douglas Coles, Principal of Prince Edward Island-based Coles Associates, which provides architectural and engineering consulting services.

“The Eastern Caribbean region was identified as a strategic opportunity for Atlantic Canadian companies, supported by long-standing diplomatic and commercial ties that facilitate market entry,” Smith said.



Errin Smith
Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Association of Community Business Development Corporations (CBDC)

According to her, the Caribbean, and Barbados in particular, was selected as a priority market due to its strong alignment with Atlantic Canada’s export development objectives and existing trade relationships.

“Barbados serves as a gateway to the wider Eastern Caribbean, allowing companies to access multiple markets within a single mission. The region’s business environment is relationship-driven and well-suited to SMEs, particularly those focused on high-quality, specialized services.”

She said the region’s stable business environment, growing demand for innovative products and services, shared Commonwealth and institutional ties, and active engagement with Canadian development and trade partners create a favorable landscape for exporters.

“These factors combined with geographic proximity, an expanding tourism-driven economy, and increasing interest in Canadian expertise across sectors such as clean technology, ICT, professional services, food and beverage, and education, make Caribbean markets a compelling and strategic destination for Atlantic Canadian firms seeking new growth opportunities,” Smith said.

Canadian Diplomat Highlights Untapped Investment Opportunities in Guyana and Suriname

Georgetown-based Canadian diplomat, Sebastien Sigouin, says Guyana and Suriname's economic transformations mark some of the most significant developments in the region today and there are a wide range of untapped investment opportunities in both countries.

"With strong growth fueled by strategic investments in key sectors, these countries are rapidly positioning themselves as major players in the global economy. What is particularly striking is that this growth is not confined to one industry - it is reaching across energy, manufacturing, agriculture, infrastructure, services, and technology, creating a diversified and resilient foundation for long-term development," said Sigouin, Canada's High Commissioner to Guyana and Suriname.

According to the Canadian diplomat, this trajectory is reshaping the way international partners engage with Guyana and Suriname. "It is fostering new models of collaboration that emphasize sustainability, innovation, local content development, and capacity building. Countries like Canada see in both Guyana and Suriname, partners with shared values and where a sustained commitment to strong institutions and inclusive growth can translate into long-term prosperity, stronger commercial partnerships, and tangible benefits for all our peoples."

Sigouin said while Canada enjoys longstanding and friendly relationships with both Guyana and Suriname, these markets remain relatively unknown to many Canadian businesses and investors. "As we look ahead to the future, it will be vital to redouble our efforts - together with Canadian, Guyanese and Surinamese partners - to increase awareness of the vast and largely untapped trade and investment opportunities that there is to offer.

Increasing the promotion of their value proposition will both only strengthen bilateral commercial ties and also help unlock mutually beneficial growth in key areas."

Sigouin said as these countries continue to rise, the nature of business relationships will also evolve, moving beyond traditional trade and investment toward deeper partnerships focused on knowledge transfer, joint innovation, and sustainable economic practices.

The Canadian diplomat said the world is watching on with great interest and the opportunities ahead are immense. "So, with continued focus on transparency, good governance, and strategic development, Guyana and Suriname are well positioned to shape their own remarkable future on the global stage."

Sigouin said Guyana's economic trajectory has been highly concentrated around oil and gas, which is advancing at a pace that continues to test the country's institutional and infrastructure capacity. "But while these challenges can create risks for some businesses looking to enter the market and immediately see returns, they also present opportunities for both local and international businesses to help address capacity gaps and contribute to the country's long-term development."

Sigouin said in addition, with continued efforts in economic diversification, the non-oil Guyanese economy continues to grow and open even more opportunities to develop and modernise transportation, energy infrastructure, and public sector capacity.

He noted that Canada's most established presence in Guyana remains in mining, where companies have operated successfully for decades



Sebastien Sigouin
Canadian High Commissioner
Guyana and Suriname

and continue to expand exploration activities.

The High Commissioner said Canadian companies bring internationally recognized expertise in responsible resource development, infrastructure, clean technologies, engineering, financial services, education, and governance. "These strengths align well with the priorities of both Guyana and Suriname as they seek to build diversified, competitive, and sustainable economies."

Sigouin said The Canada-Guyana and Suriname-Guyana Chambers of Commerce play important roles in convening stakeholders and facilitating dialogue as their events and missions have successfully generated interest and brought together government, business, and diaspora actors.

"There also remains an opportunity to further align high-level engagement with practical execution. Strengthening coordination between governments and with private sector partners, developing clearer project pipelines, and ensuring more consistent follow-through would help translate interest into sustained investment," the Canadian diplomat stated.

GO-Invest Reports Increase in Investor Interest from Canada as Exports Grow

The Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest) is reporting an increase in Canadian business interest in Guyana as the agency launches new technology to equip potential investors with comprehensive and timely information they need.

More Canadian companies and entrepreneurs have been exploring opportunities in Guyana as the country records significant growth in exports to that North American market.

“We have seen growing Canadian interest in Guyana, and in turn, have successfully facilitated the introduction of new Guyanese products into the Canadian market, targeting the large and expanding Caribbean diaspora,” said Dr. Peter R. Ramsaroop, Guyana’s Chief Investment Officer, Office of the President, who is a Member of Parliament.

GO-Invest continues to facilitate inbound business delegations aimed at strengthening Canada-Guyana trade and investment relations and connecting Canadian companies with opportunities in Guyana’s priority sectors.

A visiting delegation from Ahmadiyya Muslim Business Association Canada in February was provided with a practical overview of Guyana’s investment and business environment. The Canadian team expressed an interest in agriculture and agro-processing, garments and textiles, transportation and logistics, tourism, energy and construction projects.

In collaboration with the Guyana Consulate in Toronto, GO-Invest supported the showcasing of locally produced agro-processing goods, alongside investment promotion materials, positioning Guyana as a competitive agro-industrial and export-oriented investment destination.

The GO-Invest CEO said Canada is one of Guyana’s most important export destinations that offers significant opportunities for both traditional and non-traditional exports. The large Guyanese diaspora provides a ready market for ethnic foods, beverages, and cultural products.

The period 2023–2025 was characterized by rapid growth in Guyana’s oil and mining sectors, which significantly increased export earnings and strengthened trade relations with Canada. Exports increased from U.S.\$ 92 million to U.S.\$ 327.04 in 2025. This substantial growth was driven primarily by gold exports, crude oil and petroleum products, rum and alcoholic beverages, ores and minerals and seafood products.

Dr. Ramsaroop said industrial estates continue to support investment in manufacturing, logistics, value-added processing, and export-oriented industries that create jobs and strengthen Guyana’s productive capacity.

“Our government has gone even further by establishing economic free sectors, including education, healthcare, agriculture, and agro-processing, where investors benefit from zero corporate taxes while supporting national development and economic diversification.”

The agency head said potential investors can expect faster and more targeted responses to help them make investor decisions. “Through AI-powered tools such as Ask Henry, GO-Invest is providing real-time investor support, delivering instant access to investment information, guidance, and opportunities, while improving the overall ease of doing business in Guyana.”

GO-Invest has identified energy as one of Guyana’s priority sectors, with opportunities in renewable energy, energy infrastructure, energy services, and industrial opportunities linked to improved power generation.

The priority sectors, for non-oil and gas investments are Agriculture, Manufacturing, Forestry, ICT, Mining, Tourism and Services.

The new Demerara Harbour Bridge, commissioned in 2025, improves connectivity between Regions Three and Four and supports the movement of goods and services. In addition, the 2026 budget allocates G\$ 196.1 billion for roads and bridges.



Hon. Peter R. Ramsaroop
Member of Parliament
Guyana’s Chief Investment Officer
Office of the President

Dr. Ramsaroop noted that the government is also constructing new municipal airports at Rose Hall/Canje and Lethem, upgrading hinterland airstrips, and investing G\$ 11.2 billion in river transport in 2026, including the New Parika Ferry stelling and waterfront development.

Guyana provides Import Duty and VAT Exemptions and sector specific incentives inclusive of Agriculture/ Agro-Processing, Forestry, Energy, ICT, Manufacturing, Mining, Tourism and Services reflecting national development priorities.

Guyana’s incentive framework is available to both local and foreign investors and is assessed on a case-by-case basis, considering the project type, investment value, employment creation, export potential, location, use of local inputs, and alignment with national development priorities. The incentives also include exemptions or reductions on corporate income tax for approved new investments, typically for a defined period.

“Guyana offers what investors value most - opportunity, certainty, and a government committed to turning investment into sustainable growth, job creation, and prosperity for all,” the Chief Investment Officer stated.

Canada-Guyana Chamber Playing a Key Role to Boost Trade and Investment

The Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce is poised to expand its role to encourage and equip its members to take advantage of wide-ranging trade and investment opportunities in a rapidly growing Guyanese economy.

“While oil and gas understandably dominates the headlines, the Chamber sees significant opportunity in agri-food, financial services, logistics, professional services, and technology. Guyana’s rapid growth is creating demand in construction, infrastructure support, financial inclusion, and skills training, areas where Canadian companies and Guyanese-Canadian entrepreneurs both bring real expertise,” said Lilian Chatterjee, Chair of the Chamber.

The former Canadian diplomat said Guyana is one of the most exciting growth stories in the hemisphere. “This is not a market waiting for potential, it is a market already moving, with oil and gas driving rapid GDP growth, but also pulling agriculture, construction, infrastructure, financial services, and logistics along with it. For Canadian and diaspora entrepreneurs, that means there is real room to get in early, not just in energy, but in the sectors that have to grow alongside it.”

The Chamber’s Fall trade missions to Georgetown that includes both Guyanese and Canadian companies was organized to give Canadian and Guyanese business leaders direct, structured access to one another at a time when the bilateral relationship is moving quickly.

Chatterjee, who served as High Commissioner to Guyana for three years, observed that Canada has one of the largest and most successful Guyanese communities in the world, and that community carries language, relationships, and cultural fluency that

most foreign investors simply do not have. “That is a genuine competitive advantage, and it is exactly the advantage the Chamber exists to help people use. I would tell any Canadian entrepreneur or investor, diaspora or not, that Guyana rewards people who show up, build relationships, and commit to the market rather than test it from a distance. The opportunity is real, the timing is now, and the Chamber is the fastest way to get connected to it properly.”

Chatterjee said Canada has a large and engaged Guyanese and Caribbean diaspora ready to act as a bridge between the two economies. “The combination of a fast-growing market, an existing diaspora business network, and renewed federal interest in CARICOM relations makes this a window worth acting on now rather than waiting.”

Over the past two years, the Chamber has built its flagship Annual Gala into the leading networking event and has grown a diverse membership base across energy, financial services, agri-food, logistics, and professional services. “We have supported member businesses in securing real outcomes, including new retail partnerships in Canada and successful market entry into Guyana. We have also established a presence in both countries, with operations in Ontario and in Georgetown, to better serve members on both sides of the relationship.”

The Chamber connects members through networking events, sector roundtables, and trade missions, and provides direct support for businesses pursuing opportunities in Guyana or Canada, including introductions, market insight, and assistance navigating regulatory and trade questions. “We also advocate on behalf of members on policy and trade matters affecting



Lilian Chatterjee
Chair
Canada-Guyana Chamber of Commerce

the bilateral relationship, and offer a member directory and platform for business-to-business connections.”

Chatterjee said the Chamber’s priorities are growing membership across a wider range of sectors, diversifying Chamber revenue and deepening institutional relationships with government and trade bodies in both countries.

She views the Chamber of Commerce as Canada’s Gateway to Guyana and Guyana’s Gateway to Canada.

“My vision for the Chamber is for it to become the institution that Canadian and Guyanese businesses think of first when they are serious about working across the border, not an organization people join for a gala once a year but one they can rely on year-round for real introductions, marketing intelligence and results. Longer term, my hope is that the Chamber becomes a genuine policy voice in the CARICOM-Canada relationship, the kind of organization that governments and trade bodies consult before decisions are made, not after.”

CARICOM-Canada Report Highlights

- Strengthening Caribbean and Canadian trade and investment relations is timely given the Canadian government's focus on trade diversification.
- CARICOM countries need to maximise the benefits under CARIBCAN, the preferential trading arrangement, which provides duty-free access for most Caribbean products, and take advantage of the most recent inclusion of textiles and apparel.
- The region has significant opportunities to expand agro-processing exports, especially given the huge Caribbean Diaspora in Canada.
- Guyana and Suriname, with their fast growing economies, fueled by the oil and gas sectors, have many untapped investment projects they need to promote, while focusing on reforms and capacity building.
- There are good prospects for commercial activity between Canada and the Caribbean in renewable energy, climate-resilient infrastructure, logistics, insurance and risk management, maritime research, digital services, skills development, and the creative industries.
- The Caribbean needs to engage in more targeted investor outreach in Canada so that Canadian companies and entrepreneurs can be better informed about business opportunities in the region.
- Canadian companies and entrepreneurs will consider doing business in countries that have clear regulatory processes, efficient logistics and strong supply chains.
- Caribbean governments and the private sector can benefit from extensive Canadian experience in areas such as agri-business, food processing technology, logistics and cold chain management as well as expertise in public private-sector partnerships for infrastructure projects.
- Canadian companies recently increased trade missions to Guyana, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, and identified a range of business opportunities.
- Canadian Exporters are open to collaborating and sharing expertise with the Caribbean, including strategies to grow the manufacturing sector and to remove trade barriers.
- Caribbean manufacturers and exporters groups want to be included in private sector representation at ongoing discussions on trade and investment under the CANADA-CARICOM Strategic Partnership.



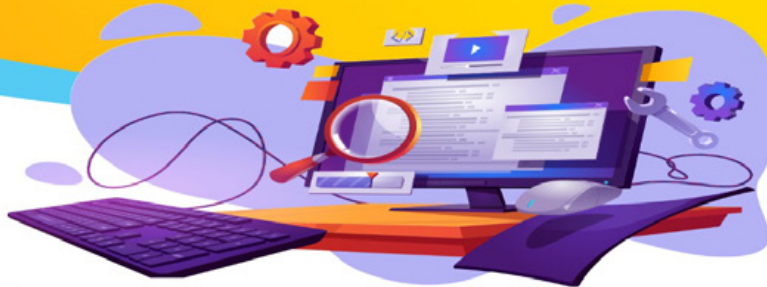
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World Trade Centre Georgetown Facilitating International Trade Dialogue and Enhancing Skills

By Ralph Seeram

The Chairman of the World Trade Centre Georgetown (WTCG), Komal Samaroo, says the success of the organization's first year reflects both the growing demand for business intelligence, professional development services and the recognition that sustained economic growth requires continuous investment in human capital, innovation and knowledge transfer.

"As global markets become more competitive and technology continues to transfer the way business is conducted, organizations and individuals must remain informed and adaptable. WTCG has sought to play a meaningful role in this process," Samaroo, who is the Executive Chairman of Demerara Distillers Limited (DDL), told Caribbean Business & Travel.

Established as part of the global network of the World Trade Center's Association, WTCG has a mandate to facilitate trade, connect businesses to international opportunities, and build the capacity of entrepreneurs and organizations operating in Guyana's rapidly expanding economy.

Over the past twelve months, WTCG has emerged as an important platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and dialogue on issues critical to business growth and economic development. WTCG facilitated and hosted numerous workshops, seminars, conferences, and training sessions in collaboration with government agencies, non-government organizations, business service organizations, private sector entities and international partners.

WTCG Executive Director Wesley Kirton said responses from the business community and public sector have been overwhelming. "Approximately 5,000 entrepreneurs, business owners, managers and public sector employees participated in various levels of training."

Events featured regional and international thought leaders, policymakers, and business experts including former President of Bolivia Jorge Quiroga, a former President of the Caribbean Development Bank Compton Bourne, CARICOM Assistant



Komal Samaroo
WTCG Chairman

Secretary General for Single Market and Trade, Ambassador Wayne McCook, former United States Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States Foreign Commercial Service Arun Venkataraman, senior ministers and government officials from Brazil, Belize, and Guyana.

Among the topics covered at the well-attended seminars were "Prospects for International Trade and The Middle East Crisis: Implications for Global Trade and the Supply Chains"; "The Effects of the 15 Percent Increase in Tariffs on CARICOM Member Countries"; and "Trade between Guyana and Brazil and the Wider Mercosur Group of Nations".

Workshops focused on management principles for micro and small enterprises, import and export regulations, artificial intelligence, digitization, innovation, the application of emerging technologies in agriculture and other productive sectors, and trade show planning and marketing.

Former Guyana Foreign Minister and Vice-President, Carl Greenidge, commended the WTCG for the format of events, which he observed has been informal and flexible enough that allowed for the participation of specific experts as well as participants with a general grasp of the topics.

"The programs of the WTCG have been a most worthy and commendable initiative by the private sector and contrary to what we have grown accustomed, it has delivered visible and tangible results,"



Wesley Kirton
WTCG Executive Director

said Greenidge who was a speaker and participant at several WTCG events.

The first anniversary activities will include more international trade seminars and training workshops.

Kirton said the Centre is well positioned to continue serving as a catalyst for trade development, business growth, and economic transformation in the coming years.

"Looking ahead, the WTCG intends to expand its program offerings, strengthen partnerships across the public and private sectors, and leverage the global reach of the World Trade Centre Associations network to provide even greater value to businesses and organizations in Guyana," the Centre's Executive Director stated.

"As Guyana continues its journey toward becoming one of the world's most dynamic emerging economies, the World Trade Centre Georgetown remains committed to its mission of connecting local businesses to global opportunities while helping to build the skills, knowledge, and relationships necessary for long-term success," said Kirton, a former diplomat and communications specialist.



Ralph Seeram
Communications
Specialist



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The Bahamas to Showcase Tourism Growth and Investment Opportunities at CHICOS 2026

Hosting the 2026 Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit (CHICOS) presents a significant opportunity for The Bahamas to engage directly with leading global developers, hotel brands, lenders, institutional investors, and senior tourism executives, and to highlight tourism expansion and investment projects.

Minister of Tourism, Glenys Hanna Martin, believes the benefits extend beyond the conference itself. "This event allows us to showcase the strength of our tourism economy, raise international awareness of investment opportunities across our islands, and reaffirm our country's reputation as a stable, attractive, and forward-looking destination for foreign direct investment."

The Minister said the economic outlook for The Bahamas remains encouraging in the short to medium term, as the country continues to see strong tourism demand, sustained private sector investment, and meaningful progress in infrastructure development. "Tourism remains the principal driver of our economy, supporting opportunities across hospitality, construction, transportation, real estate, small business, and health and wellness."

Hanna Martin said investments in airports, hotels, marinas, cruise infrastructure, and mixed-use developments will be central to strengthening economic resilience and expanding opportunities in New Providence, Grand Bahama, and the Out Islands. "The Government remains focused on fostering an investment climate that supports innovation, responsible development, and sustainable national growth."

She said the Ministry's strategy is centered on strengthening air connectivity, deepening cruise partnerships, expanding destination marketing, and continuously enhancing the visitor experience. There are also on-going initiatives to diversify source markets while promoting The Bahamas' distinctive strengths in leisure, luxury, adventure, boating, cultural travel, and authentic island experiences.

"These initiatives are supported by continued investment in high-quality



Hon. Glenys Hanna Martin
The Bahamas Tourism Minister

tourism infrastructure, expanded room inventory, and product development across our islands. The objective is to encourage longer stays, increase visitor spending, and ensure that tourism growth delivers broader and more inclusive benefits for Bahamian communities."

The Minister said there are significant investment opportunities across the tourism value chain, including luxury resorts, boutique hotels, branded residences, marinas, waterfront developments, ecotourism, wellness retreats, sports tourism, cruise related projects, meetings and convention facilities, and cultural attractions.

Hanna Martin said, in addition, sustainable development opportunities in the Out Islands remain a key focus of the Tourism Ministry.

The Minister reported that major developments already underway include MSC Cruises' U.S.\$450 million cruise terminal project in Grand Bahama, Norwegian Cruise Line's U.S.\$150 million expansion of Great Stirrup Cay, and MSC investments approaching U.S.\$1.5 billion throughout The Bahamas.

The Chairman of CHICOS, Parris Jordan, feels The Bahamas is the ideal setting to bring together the industry's leading investors, developers, brands, lenders, and government officials to discuss the future of Caribbean hospitality.

The HVS Executive said CHICOS is celebrating its 15th anniversary and returning to the Bahamas is both symbolic and strategic. "The conference



Parris Jordan
CHICOS Chairman

was founded here, so it's fitting that we return to where it all began. Beyond that, The Bahamas continues to be one of the Caribbean's premier investment destinations, with strong government support for tourism, an impressive pipeline of new developments, world-class hospitality infrastructure, and excellent international air connectivity."

Jordan said extensive nonstop air service from major markets makes it easy for international investors, developers, hotel executives, government leaders, and other industry professionals to participate in CHICOS.

The HVS Executive said the destination's globally recognized resorts, airports, marinas, cruise facilities, and supporting tourism services provide the experience and capacity to host a premier international event. "At the same time, continued investment in luxury resorts, branded residences, boutique hotels, mixed-use developments, marinas, and private island projects makes The Bahamas a compelling backdrop for the conversations and connections that help shape the future of Caribbean hospitality investment."

The 2026 event will recognize the evolution of CHICOS over the past fifteen years while looking ahead to the future of Caribbean hospitality.

"As always, our goal is to create an environment where meaningful relationships are formed and deals begin," the CHICOS Chairman stated.

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HOSTS



CAIPA Focused on Increasing Visibility of the Caribbean as an Investment Destination of Choice

By Beverley Sutherland-Lewis

Potential investors will find the Caribbean Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (CAIPA) a considerable asset when seeking information on projects, incentives and the business climate as they consider the Caribbean as an investment destination and region of choice.

The association has enhanced its communications programs designed to make the Caribbean more visible as a premier investment location, while equipping its members to make their investment facilitation process more effective.

CAIPA's President, Kaye-Anne Greenidge, explained that for investors exploring the Caribbean, CAIPA offers what individual country outreach often cannot: a single regional entry point, backed by local market knowledge and coordinated support across 25 markets, which presents the Caribbean as a unified investment platform.

"This regional approach matters because most serious investors choose a region before selecting specific countries and increasingly seek scalable opportunities and a broader regional footprint rather than one-off projects. By serving as a gateway to regional insight, country-level introductions, and cross-border growth opportunities, CAIPA reduces the learning curve and strengthens the Caribbean's visibility as an investment destination," said Greenidge, who is the CEO of Invest Barbados.

She identified as key investment sectors Digital Infrastructure, Logistics, Agricultural Technology, Niche-Tourism, Renewable Energy and the Blue Economy, among other emerging growth sectors.

"Our medium to long term vision is built around three core themes: strengthening institutional capacity across our membership, sharpening the Caribbean's regional investment brand and broadening our investment

proposition beyond its traditional pillars. We are intentionally positioning the Caribbean as a serious platform for investments," said the CAIPA President.

Greenidge noted that the Caribbean is moving from simply promoting the individual countries to truly facilitating investment as investors now expect not just information, but clear processes, rapid responses and continuous support.

"We recognize that, given our human and financial resource constraints, achieving this standard consistently across the region is still a challenge, but CAIPA is committed to finding innovative ways to support our members in strengthening their facilitation practices so that serious prospects experience the Caribbean as a place where decisions are easier, execution is faster and long-term partnerships can grow," she stated.

The association's membership, covering CARICOM as well as British and Dutch overseas territories, has grown from seven members in 2007 to 25 in 2026. Apart from the impact of a strong voice and greater visibility in international forums, the cost-effective nature of joint capacity building, research, data collection and sharing is significant.

"Across the regional capacity building initiatives taken, CAIPA's goal is to keep agency teams trained to global standards so they attract higher impact, higher quality investments and enhance the overall competitiveness of the Caribbean as an investment destination."

CAIPA recently launched the Caribbean Investment Monitor, a monthly newsletter that showcases investment opportunities. "Positioned as a branded intelligence product, each issue provides data-driven insights, foreign direct investment developments, sector updates, event highlights, and market signals that



Kaye-Anne Greenidge
CAIPA President

help investors and business leaders identify genuine opportunities, shape timing and strategy, support comparative market analysis, and reinforce the Caribbean's profile as a dynamic, multisector investment region."

She added: "It also reflects the conviction of the agency that decisions to invest in the Caribbean must be grounded in current data, sector intelligence and regional trend analysis, rather than generic promotional copy."

Greenidge, who has been at the helm of Invest Barbados for six years, said investors now expect not just information, but clear processes, rapid responses, and continuous support as they negotiate doing business in our region.

"As we look to the medium term, my priority as president is to deepen coordination between agencies, sharpen the Caribbean's visibility on the international stage, and continuously improve our investment facilitation systems across the region so that investors experience the Caribbean as one, coherent, high-performing investment space."

Through participation in the 2026 CANTO Conference and a formal

Memorandum of Understanding, both organizations have committed to joint promotion, project development, capacity building and policy dialogue aimed at building a pipeline of bankable digital projects, supporting regulatory reform and presenting a unified Caribbean digital investment brand.

Greenidge said CAIPA will continue to engage with regional members, frequently using online resources, including webinars, Zoom meetings, and similar strategies.

She acknowledged that human resources and financial constraints within individual countries vary. Still, she said CAIPA is committed to finding innovative ways to create a more even platform that equitably serves serious investments for long-term partnerships. The association is receiving support from UNCTAD and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and training events are showing measurable results.

The association has also forged a working relationship with the International Labour Organization (ILO), which is helping CAIPA member agencies integrate responsible business conduct in their performance efforts, while identifying and monitoring key performance indicators that measure the real impact of investment projects on local economies.

CAIPA is supporting the initiative to establish the Caribbean Special Economic Zones Association (CARISEZA), a regional non-governmental, not-for-profit body charged with strengthening the governance and performance of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

The proposed agency will have a mandate to support deepening collaboration between member countries, policymakers and investment agencies by shifting the position of the Caribbean from individual units to a coherent regional zone.

Greenidge regards this as strategically important because it creates a pathway to align investment promotions with SEZ development, infrastructure



Participating in an investment promotion mission in Northern Ireland are, from left, Managing Director of Verbatim Communications Gareth Robinson, Invest Barbados CEO Kaye-Anne Greenidge, former High Commissioner to the U.K. Milton Inniss and PR Consultant Janet Mc Kay.

planning and policy reforms, allowing the investor to see the scale of the multi-market possibilities and solutions rather than individual country-specific national pitches.

On the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), she stressed the region needs to leverage this new method of information sharing. She contends that AI can help teams analyze investor trends, benchmark competing destinations, spot patterns in project enquiries and strengthen follow-up and after-care through better use of data. “Used well, it can help Caribbean investment promotion agencies move from reactive information providers to more predictive, data-driven institutions that anticipate investor needs and so improve the overall quality of facilitation.”

CAIPA is proactive in its quest to make the Caribbean visible in global fora. Attendance at the World Investment Forum in Dubai in November is a high-priority agenda item. “The value of curated, coordinated, showcasing of the work of its members is very significant in situations where budget limitations of individual countries could stymie the offering of top-quality representation/presentations in very important trade and investment fora.”

The 2026 calendar for CAIPA also includes attendance at the Caribbean

Investment Forum (CIF) hosted by the Caribbean Export Development Agency and the Caribbean-Canadian Investment Summit and Trade Forum in Toronto.

On the region’s economic outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, Greenidge pointed to the projections from agencies such as ECLAC and the IDB that “despite global headwinds”, economic growth will be around 2% in 2026.

She said CAIPA is poised to help ensure the flows of investment into the Caribbean is optimized, and its task is to turn that resilience into higher-quality investment flows for the region.

The CAIPA President asserted that the collective voice of the association has an impact that no country could achieve on its own. “Already, CAIPA is living proof that working together works. Even as member countries compete for projects, they achieve far more by collaborating to promote the Caribbean as a unified, investment-ready region.”



Beverley Sutherland-Lewis
Communications Specialist

Tourism Expert Auliana Poon Advocates for more Authenticity and Digital Transformation in the Region

By Kristine De Abreu

World-renowned tourism strategist and economist Dr. Auliana Poon has made a compelling case for the Caribbean to change the way it positions itself as a tourism destination, especially for new markets being pursued.

Poon, the CEO of Leve Global, is also urging the region to own its data, invest in authenticity, and measure tourism and hospitality success in the quality of lives rather than arrivals.

From the Caribbean to Dubai and South Africa, the visionary and founder of several sustainable development organizations, she has spent the past three decades contributing to tourism industries across the globe. Her commitment to innovation and forward-thinking strategy has established her as one of the world's leading tourism consultants, sought after by governments and private sector agencies to reimagine, strengthen, and expand their tourism economies.

Poon believes that it is imperative that the region embraces Artificial Intelligence and is emphatic that AI is not a threat to be feared but a tool to be wielded. "AI is the 'refinery' that turns raw data into actionable intelligence. It can predict booking trends, personalize guest experiences in real-time, and optimize our marketing spend with surgical precision. AI is simply here to stay; the only question is who learns to use it."

Poon, who was the keynote speaker at the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) 2025 State of the Tourism Industry Conference (SOTIC) in Barbados, has described data as the

new oil. "He who controls the data controls the wealth. For too long, we in the Caribbean have outsourced our intelligence, letting tour operators and online travel agencies (OTAs) understand our customers better than we do. This is a strategic vulnerability."

A pioneer of the concepts of "Responsible Tourism" and "New Tourism," Poon has advised more than 50 countries on enhancing both their physical and digital infrastructure to meet the evolving demands of the industry. Through her work, she hopes to forge a path towards a more sustainable, innovative, and people-centered future for global tourism.

The tourism consultant has noticed an increasing interest in the Caribbean from the Middle East, Africa and Asia in not just tourism, so new strategies are needed to attract visitors from these regions. "For these markets, which are high-spending and increasingly seeking long-haul, luxury experiences, we need to position the Caribbean not just as a place to visit, but as a place to belong. We must invest in halal-friendly tourism, develop new culinary fusions, and tell stories of our own heritage that resonate with ancient Eastern cultures."

She believes it is imperative for the region to think outside of the box in order to be competitive asserting that what sets the Caribbean apart from the rest of the world are its authentic spirit and close-knit community life. A discerning traveller who will pay more and stay longer, she argues, is not chasing a perfectly packaged, cookie-cutter vacation but beautiful places, warmth, and genuine human



Dr. Auliana Poon
CEO
Leve Global

connections.

"An over-glorification of a destination only overshadows the hidden gems and stories which people have nowadays been craving with the utmost fervor. Community tourism is the soul of the Caribbean. It moves beyond sun, sand, and sea to the heart of our people. It's about sharing our way of life, our stories, and our traditions..."

According to her, this wellness tourism model should not be solely tied to an ideal climate but an overall state of living and being. Centuries-old remedies for illness, healthy eating, organic farm-to-table meals, song, dance, history, hospitality and generosity of the locals are hard to replicate elsewhere. "We offer the world a place where they can not only experience the healing power of our culture and community but also actively design a healthier future."

Trinidadian-born Poon also believes

that embracing Rastafarian roots can be advantageous in singling out the Caribbean as a “blue zone”, destinations in which visitors can find peace, longevity and healthy living. In order for tourism to be truly sustainable, destinations can be seen as a trip for a longer haul, rather than a one-off journey.

Her exceptional work establishing Being Estate Villas in Tobago embodies this model. By combining luxury, privacy and rejuvenation, these villas help visitors feel truly present and travel stress-free. The focus is not on a package, but rather just being.

Poon, whose company has offices in Trinidad and Tobago and Germany, recommends a reduction in the focus on sea, sun and sand, and hopes in the coming years that the Caribbean will begin to embrace a unified identity reimagined and reinvented. Her establishment of Exceptional Caribbean, a digital showcase highlighting the region’s diverse cultures, innovative people, products, talents, natural beauty, experiences and stories, is an example of this identity shift.

As CEO of her global company, she takes this idea further through empowering Caribbean tourism economies by “re-engineering” them. The focus is on community-based tourism, implementing eco-tourism strategies, solid branding and marketing of destinations, revolutionary market research methods, sustainable investment models and digital transformation.

Poon at the request of governments, teaches many entities how best to utilise their resources, promote growth and easily adapt to the ever-shifting geopolitical and economic changes, regionally and internationally.

She uses her company’s work in Grenada as an example of how a country can use raw data and market research to their advantage. “Our work with the Grenada Tourism Authority



Dr. Poon at the CTO’s 2025 SOTIC Conference in Barbados, with, from left, Barbados Minister of Tourism and International Transport, Ian Gooding-Edghill and CTO Secretary-General, Dona Regis-Prosper.

is a perfect illustration of how to reclaim this power. By mining their own customer arrivals data, we are helping them understand their true market demographics, preferences, and behaviors.”

Poon explains that this is the first step in a profound transformation. Grenada is simultaneously refining its global narrative, using platforms like “Pure Grenada” to inspire travelers and a corporate page to keep industry partners informed – a brilliant example of targeted, data-informed communication.”

The Leve Global CEO believes success does not translate in the numbers. “With the creation of jobs, money staying in communities, contracts won by small and medium enterprises and intellectual capital that remains home instead of flowing out. The right question is not how many came, but how many stayed.”

In order to achieve these goals, training of the local workforce and the inclusion of farmers, artisans, guides and craftspeople are great

places to start. Further educational opportunities for younger people can also bridge the gap.

Her agenda for 2027 includes creating university scholarships for talented Caribbean people.

Poon believes that planning and research are vital. “The key is to do our homework. Our one critical project is to create amazing experiences and engage locals to deliver them. We must clean up our act, making our environments more beautiful not just at the resorts but in our communities. We must get entire communities involved in delivering unforgettable experiences. This builds resilience because it is local, sustainable, and authentic.”



**Kristine De Abreu
Communications
Specialist**

Grenada Memories: Cinnamon Breezes and Nutmeg Paths

by Mark Stevens

It was the morning of the first day of our first visit to Grenada two decades ago, and I was already smitten.

After a car ride along a rollercoaster road snaking through rainforest, past rainbows of pastel-painted houses clinging to precipitous slopes decorated by the orange explosion of flowering flamboyant trees, our driver stopped beside a collection of great wooden drying trays, full of what looked like pumpkin-colored tree bark.

“Roll down your window,” said our driver. “Inhale.”

I inhaled: drying cinnamon.

Their aroma was wafted on high by omnipresent easterlies.

Fast forward twenty years: we are visiting the 17th-century Belmont Estate.

Exiting one building, negotiating a path beneath cocoa trees and nutmeg trees, I’m struck by the path beneath my feet.

I look down; I inhale.

Nutmeg shells line the path. Their aroma calls to mind that long-ago first morning here.

Cinnamon breezes and nutmeg paths.

Perfect metaphor for the delights of a tantalizing trio of islands.

A TANTALIZING TRIO

While that very first morning so many years ago ignited my passion, I would soon discover that the delights we’d encounter weren’t limited to Grenada itself.

Three islands comprise this country.

Grenada is the most populous and biggest island, with an area of around 120 square miles. Carriacou, nearly 20 miles north, is home to only 6000 people in a 13-square-mile area. Petit Martinique, just east of Carriacou, is a mere square mile and less than a thousand people.



Many Caribbean regulars consider St. George's harbor the prettiest in the whole island chain.

Not surprisingly, Grenada is the best-known of the three, but each has its own unique appeal.

Visit Carriacou, and you feel like you’ve made landfall in the Caribbean of old, and you’ve certainly discovered the ideal destination to get away from it all.

Visit Petit Martinique, and Carriacou will feel like Manhattan.

First time in Petit Martinique, we dropped anchor near the jetty and were almost immediately invited to join a wedding feast in the meeting hall near the shore.

We felt like honorary Petit Martiniquians.

NATURAL WONDERS

Much of this destination’s appeal for me is the abundance of natural wonders we find here.

All three islands are rugged and mountainous, offering dramatic and breathtaking vistas. Grenada is particularly lush, boasting great expanses of nearly pristine rainforest.

Grenada itself boasts 18 different waterfalls, from accessible Concord and Annandale Falls to a cascade deep in the forest called Seven Sisters, a more secluded oasis that requires a bit of a hike.

I’ve begun to understand why Grenada’s a hikers’ must-do.

One day, we ascend the walls of the crater at Grand Etang on the challenging trek to Mount Qua-Qua. I admittedly don’t get far, turning back and happily discovering the appealing trail that circles the crater lake itself.

Serious hikers can challenge themselves with a 6-hour quest to conquer the nearly 3000-foot peak of Mountain Catherine, but no matter your fitness level, you can find a trail to delight.

Back at Grand Etang, during our latest visit, I’m smitten by the appeal of yet another natural wonder – a group of friendly Mona monkeys.

The memory of handfeeding one friendly primate will be forever etched on my consciousness.

And it’s not just the interior that serves up natural wonders: for here in Grenada life can also be a beach.

Consider the secluded vibe of La Sagesse beach – snuggled down in a green valley, nuzzled by sapphire waters in a protected cove along a swathe of sand you might share with almost no one else.

Check out the action at Grand Anse beach – home to beach bars, many of the more popular resorts and a variety of on-water activities and adventures. Or treat yourself to the laid-back vibe



Grenada boasts plenty of natural wonders - like Annandale Falls

of Morne Rouge, dominating a small cove to the south.

Dine at Carriacou's Paradise Beach Club, then stake your claim on Paradise Beach, a spot USA Today readers once rated the Caribbean's best beach. Hop a water taxi and make like Robinson Crusoe at Sandy Island or visit Tyrrell Bay in the south and savor the idyllic vision of sailboats swinging gently at anchor even as you swim and sun.

Visit Grenada and bond with nature – on a rainforest trail, making friends with Mono monkeys or simply soaking up some sun.

A HELPING OF HISTORY

Or maybe sample a helping of history. Stroll downtown Saint George's to explore prime examples of Georgian architecture in. March up to the 17th century Fort George, commanding the approaches to the inner harbour and the Carenage with its own photogenic procession of historic buildings. Check out the views from Fort Frederick, a stronghold that's reputedly among the Caribbean's best-preserved fortifications. Mix your history with sweets or spirits.

Visit Belmont, a 17th-century former French estate and learn the story of chocolate – from cocoa bean to candy, all the while savoring the aroma wafting up from their nutmeg paths.

Sample some spirits and discover up-close-and-personal the history of rum-making at River Antoine Estate, where rum's made exactly the way it was two centuries ago.

Visit Carriacou's Windward village and see traditional boatbuilding in action – a centuries-old nautical tradition still alive and well.

Meet master boatbuilder Carl Enou and hear about the celebrations accompanying the launch of one of these historic vessels.

"Half the island gets in on it," says Enou, "from the boat blessing to food and rum, from local singing to a sacrifice made to ensure her safety and fair winds."

Just one more indication of the respect for tradition you'll find here on this tantalizing trio.

One more chance to sample a helping of history.

GRENADA MEMORIES

On our last night in Grenada, one more perfect sunset entertains my wife and I. When daylight departs, we shift to Oliver's beachside restaurant at Spice Island Beach Resort, perusing the menu here in this luxurious Michelin-awarded retreat whose very name celebrates Grenada itself.

Founded by a Grenadian illuminato, Sir Royston Hopkin, it's 100% locally owned, and as elegant nowadays as the original inn Sir Royston purchased in the sixties was rustic.

Perfect pied-à-terre for exploring a perfect island, Spice Island Beach Resort is modern and sophisticated, though the 64 suites decorating the 8-acre property boast an almost colonial charm.

When our order of pan-seared barracuda arrives, we relish its flavors even as we relive Grenada memories, old and new.



Grenada tourism staffer Melinda Telesford bonds with a Mona monkey at Grand Etang

We fondly remember another perfect pied-à-terre from an earlier visit – the equally elegant and luxurious Sandals Resort, snuggled down at Pink Gin Beach in Grenada's southwest corner.

We relive the delights of our secluded accommodation during that stay, a Rondoal Suite nestled in the bosom of nature, gourmet feasts like the spice-laden delights of appropriately named "Spices," just one of ten irresistible resort restaurants.

Now we share more memories of these delightful homes-away-from-home: Spice Island Beach Resort, with its unique Grenadian backstory, the Sandals property, a member of a seminal collection of resorts famed for their commitment to the Caribbean and its people.

As dessert arrives – a warm Spice Island Chocolate Brownie – we move on to a catalogue of our memories of Grenada itself: a tantalizing trio of islands, a bounty of natural wonders, a helping of history.

And memories of cinnamon breezes and nutmeg paths.

Photos: Sharon Matthews-Stevens

Mark Stevens is an award-winning Canadian travel writer and past Co-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada (TMAC).



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CARICOM Tourism Investment Opportunities

Antigua and Barbuda



Tourism Industry Overview

Tourism in Antigua and Barbuda continues to benefit from sustained growth, sustaining its global reach and delivering experiences that differentiate and define the twin-island paradise.

Tourism performance in 2025 built on the record-breaking arrivals of 2024, supported by strong demand from the United States, the U.K. and Europe, Canada, the Caribbean and the emerging market of Latin America. Total stayover arrivals for 2025 were 325,482.

The cruise and homeporting sector also continued to expand, positioning Antigua and Barbuda for more than one million cruise arrivals in 2026.

Within the accommodation sector, Moongate, a boutique luxury property offering a collection of standard, premium, and penthouse suites, and Nobu Beach in Barbuda, are scheduled to open this year. Nikki Beach Resort and Spa, another luxury Caribbean resort, is scheduled to be completed in 2029.

At V.C. Bird International Airport, a runway rehabilitation project is underway, marking a significant upgrade to Antigua and Barbuda's primary gateway. A new international airport, the Burton-Nibbs International Airport in Barbuda, recently opened.

Antigua Cruise Port has unveiled a new cruise terminal in St. John's Harbour, a significant milestone in the Upland Development Project. The terminal is designed to support increased homeporting and growing passenger volumes. Once completed, the facility will feature enhanced guest amenities, including a leisure-inspired day club with pool and cabanas, elevating the overall cruise guest experience.

Investment Opportunities

- Luxury boutique hotels
- Experiential and sustainable tourism developments
- Food and Beverage facilities
- Yachting, Marine Services & Blue Economy projects

We are a leading Caribbean hub for marinas, yacht repair, refit, charter, and marine services, generating year-round economic activity and skilled employment.

- Real Estate, Second Home Ownership & Citizenship by Investment
- Sports Facilities and Events:
 - Cricket and international sporting events
 - Training camps
 - Sports infrastructure supporting tourism diversification and global visibility
- Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Events (MICE)

Investment Incentives and Facilitation

The Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) is the single trusted gateway for investors, providing: investment advisory and opportunity identification, facilitation of permits, incentives, and approvals; coordination across ministries and agencies; investor aftercare and reinvestment support.

Incentives

- 100% foreign ownership permitted
- Equal treatment of foreign and local investors
- Transparent incentives framework including:
 - No exchange controls
 - An exemption from or reduction of the payment on import duty on the importation or purchase of raw materials, building materials, furniture, fixtures, fittings, appliances, machinery, plant and equipment and on vehicles for use in the construction and operation of the business.

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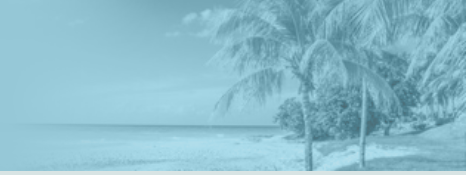
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Tourism Industry Overview

The Bahamas welcomed approximately 12.5 million visitors in 2025, up 11.4% on 2024's approximately 11.2 million arrivals, driven by continued growth in sea arrivals and expanded airlift. Breeze Airways, Delta, American Airlines, Porter Airlines and Air Canada all added new routes to Nassau and the Out Islands during the year.

The Bahamas is one of the Caribbean's premier destinations for investment. Located just 50 miles from Florida and connected by air and sea to major global markets, the archipelago of 700 islands and cays offers investors a strategic gateway to the Americas.

A stable parliamentary democracy, a transparent legal framework based on English common law, and a long-standing commitment to international business give investors the confidence they need, supported by a tax-neutral environment, a modern financial services sector, and a growing digital assets ecosystem.

Tourism remains the leading sector for foreign direct investment, though opportunities now extend well beyond resort development.

Investment Opportunities

- Boutique hotels and luxury real estate
- Marina communities and yachting
- Medical tourism and wellness retreats
- Sustainable agriculture
- Renewable energy and solar power
- Logistics and creative industries
- Climate-smart infrastructure and water security
- Blue economy initiatives, sustainable fisheries and ocean research

Across the Out Islands, investors can partner in projects that preserve natural beauty while creating jobs and strengthening local communities. Investors will also find a skilled, service-oriented workforce, world-class hospitality expertise, and a government focused on improving the ease of doing business.

From Nassau & Paradise Island to Grand Bahama, Abaco, Exuma, Eleuthera and beyond, each island offers its own distinctive proposition for growth in a safe, sophisticated, and spectacular setting.

Investment Incentives

The Bahamas Hotel Encouragement Act is available to investors for hotels of 10 rooms or more to encourage construction by providing exemptions from customs duties and relief from certain taxation.

The Bahamas Vacation Plan and Time-Sharing Act grants certain customs duties exemptions on materials to be used in the construction of time share units of specified sizes, depending on location.

Other concessions may be granted under the Heads of Agreement following discussions between qualified developers and relevant officials with the Bahamas Investment Authority, with participation from the Office of the Prime Minister.

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Barbados

Tourism Industry Overview

Barbados has experienced a strong and sustained tourism recovery, with visitor arrivals now surpassing pre-pandemic levels and hotel occupancy rates remaining among the strongest in the Caribbean.

By 2024, Barbados had already exceeded its 2019 pre-Covid performance levels, with stayover arrivals increasing by approximately 10.6 percent over 2023. In 2025, Barbados recorded its highest-ever annual stayover arrival figure, exceeding 729,000 visitors.

The cruise tourism sector continued to grow in 2025, when cruise passenger arrivals rose further to a record of approximately 894,820 passengers, representing an increase of over 30% above pre-pandemic 2019 levels.

Cruise tourism also continues to present important investment opportunities for Barbados, particularly as the island strengthens its position as a leading southern Caribbean cruise and homeporting destination.

Barbados continues to strengthen its international connectivity through extensive direct air service from major gateways across the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Europe, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Airlines servicing Barbados include major international carriers such as American Airlines, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, JetBlue, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Air Canada, WestJet, KLM, and Copa Airlines. There are multiple daily services from major gateways, including Miami, New York, Charlotte, Atlanta, Toronto, and London Heathrow.

Investment Climate and Opportunities

Barbados continues to position itself as one of the Caribbean's premier tourism investment destinations, offering investors a combination of political stability, strong tourism fundamentals, international brand recognition, and a mature hospitality sector. As one of the region's most established tourism economies, Barbados provides opportunities across hotel development, mixed-use projects, luxury residences, heritage tourism, marina and waterfront developments, and tourism support services.

Carlisle Bay Development

A major component of Barbados' tourism investment strategy is the continued transformation of Carlisle Bay, and Bridgetown and its Garrison district into a premier urban tourism, heritage, waterfront, and mixed-use investment zone. This integrated corridor combines the historic UNESCO World Heritage Site with the beachfront and waterfront assets of Carlisle Bay and cruise tourism activity, creating one of the Caribbean's most unique tourism investment opportunities.

The government is also inviting proposals for investment in hotels, luxury residences, boutique hospitality, waterfront retail and entertainment, marina facilities, cultural attractions, museums, heritage restoration, cruise tourism services, and mixed-use commercial

developments intended to reposition Bridgetown and Carlisle Bay as a vibrant tourism, residential, commercial, and cultural hub.

Medical & Wellness Tourism

Barbados is seeking to diversify its tourism product and capitalize on the growing global demand for health, wellness, and lifestyle travel.

Barbados' strong international connectivity, stable environment, high quality of life, and established tourism infrastructure position the island well for the development of medical and wellness tourism facilities targeting regional and international visitors. Investment opportunities exist in areas such as private medical facilities, specialized treatment centres, wellness retreats, rehabilitation and recovery resorts, senior and assisted living facilities, cosmetic and elective procedure clinics, sports rehabilitation centres, and integrated wellness and lifestyle communities.

Entertainment

Entertainment-based tourism investment opportunities in Barbados exist around the development of themed attractions, family entertainment facilities, and immersive visitor experiences designed to expand the island's tourism offerings beyond traditional beach tourism. Opportunities exist for the development of theme parks, water parks, adventure parks, interactive cultural and heritage attractions, marine and eco-tourism parks, sports and recreation

complexes, immersive digital attractions, and family-oriented entertainment centres capable of attracting both stayover and cruise visitors.

Investment Incentives

Through legislation such as the Tourism Development Act (TDA), investors may benefit from a variety of concessions including:

- Duty-free importation of approved tourism-related goods VAT concessions and tax allowances
- Development incentives for the construction, expansion, refurbishment, and upgrading of tourism projects. These incentives are available to a wide range of eligible tourism enterprises including hotels, villas, restaurants, attractions, recreational facilities, and tourism support services

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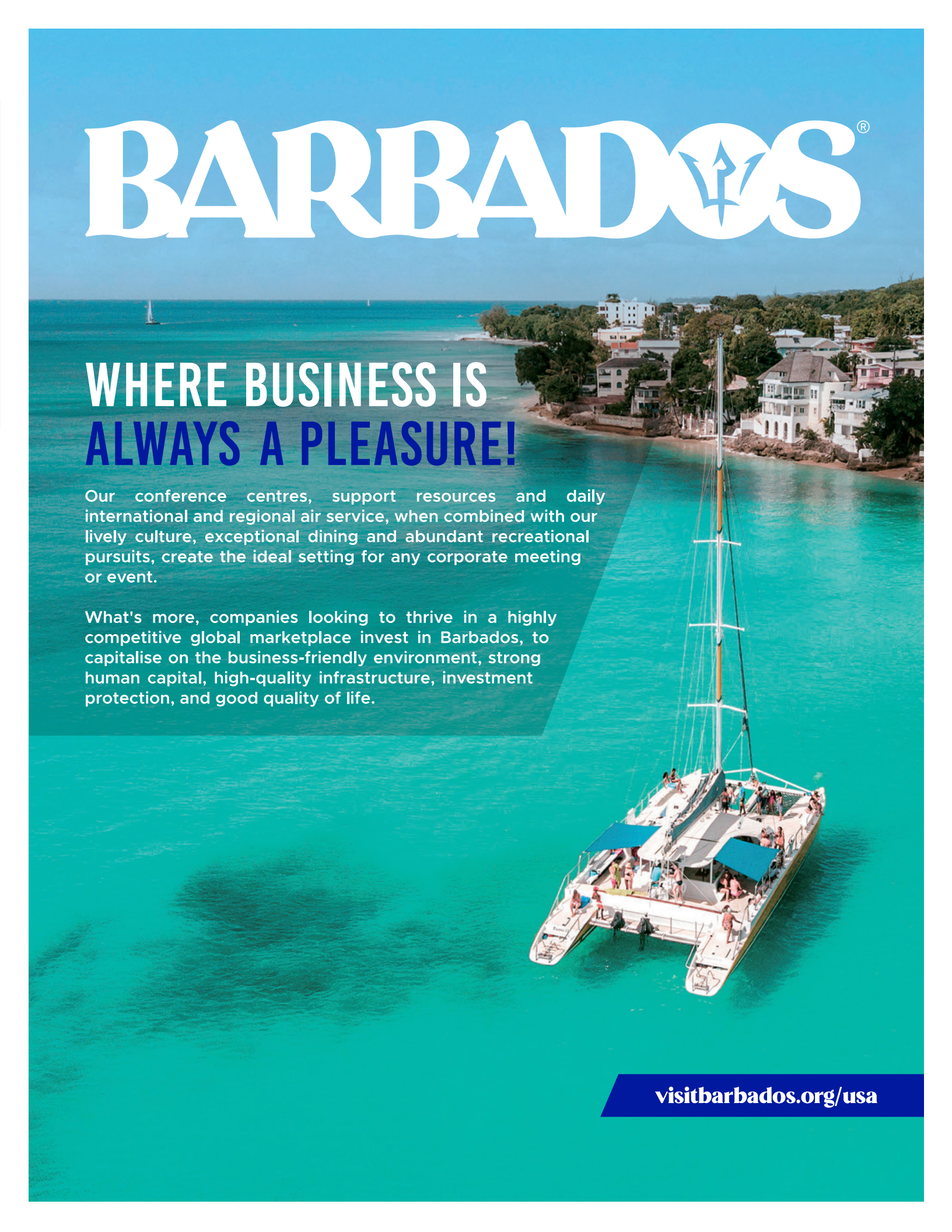
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BARBADOS[®]

An aerial photograph of Barbados, showing the turquoise Caribbean Sea, a large white catamaran sailboat with a tall mast and multiple decks filled with people, and the coastal town of Barbados with its colorful buildings and lush greenery. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue.

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visitbarbados.org/usa



Tourism Industry Overview

Belize sits where Central America meets the Caribbean Sea, with visitors drawn by the combination of experiences few destinations can match: the second-largest barrier reef in the world, the Great Blue Hole, the most extensive cave system in the region, the ancient Maya heartland, and the warmth of its people and cultures.

The appeal of this mature destination has grown faster than its room supply, creating genuine space for thoughtful tourism investment.

In 2025, overnight arrivals reached a projected 551,698, while cruise arrivals grew to 967,214, reflecting strong demand from both land and sea.

Access continues to improve. A new Belize Tourism Board partnership with BermudAir will introduce nonstop service to five U.S. cities in late 2026: Boston, Raleigh-Durham, Tampa Bay, Fort Lauderdale, and Orlando, alongside a Belize City–Guatemala City connection. Air Canada’s Montreal service also provides same-day connections from Europe.

As tourism expands beyond its established island market, Belize’s greatest opportunities now sit in emerging corridors where infrastructure has arrived ahead of development: the southern coast, the western interior, and the outer atolls.

Investors benefit from a welcoming framework for foreign capital. The foundations are reassuringly steady, a stabilized currency at 2:1 with the U. S. dollar, English common law, freehold title for foreign investors, and profit repatriation through Central Bank registration, supported by incentives designed to grow with the investment.

Investment Opportunities

Branded resort & hotel development: boutique luxury and upper-upscale properties. Ambergris Caye with minimal international branding, while the emerging southern corridor, Placencia and Hopkins, now connected to the international airport via the Coastal Plain Highway, offers beachfront positioning ahead of the market.

Meetings & incentives: conference-capable hotels serving a growing regional business travel circuit, anchored in Belize City, the commercial hub and cruise gateway, and San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, where room stock and airlift can already support mid-size regional gatherings.

Nautical tourism: marina-anchored developments, yacht services, and charter infrastructure on the Western Caribbean circuit. Placencia’s sheltered lagoon and San Pedro lead today, while new mooring infrastructure across Lighthouse Reef Atoll and the Sapodilla Cayes is opening the outer atolls to managed yachting.

Leisure & entertainment: mixed-use commercial, dining, and entertainment developments serving overnight and cruise visitors, strongest along Belize City’s waterfront and San Pedro’s town core, with Placencia Village emerging as the south’s dining and nightlife hub.

Medical wellness: facilities pairing Belize’s natural setting with wellness and recovery tourism. The Cayo District’s river valleys and Mountain Pine Ridge suit retreat-style development, while Hopkins pairs Garifuna living culture with beachfront wellness.

Multi-destination circuits: products linking Belize with the wider Mundo Maya region. Western Cayo, gateway to Caracol and Guatemala’s Petén, and the northern Corozal corridor toward Mexico’s Yucatán position operators to capture two-country itineraries.

Investment Incentives

Regular Fiscal Incentive Program - exemptions from import duty, revenue replacement duty, excise duty, and business tax for up to 25 years under an Approved Enterprise Order; fully open to foreign-owned enterprises.

High Investment Company Regime - legislated in 2024 for projects of U.S.\$ 250 million or more: automatic duty and GST exemptions through construction, business tax relief, and duty-free relocation for foreign managers and skilled workers.

Designated Processing Area Program - up to 10 years of renewable benefits for value-added activities.

Qualified Retired Persons QRP (INVEST) Program - residency and duty benefits that anchor demand for branded residences and foreign investors wishing to establish business in Belize.

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Invest in a Destination Worth Discovering

Belize is where natural beauty, cultural richness, and sustainable growth come together. With world-class marine and terrestrial attractions, expanding international air access, and a tourism industry built on authenticity, Belize offers investors the opportunity to grow alongside one of the Caribbean and Central America's most distinctive destinations.



www.TravelBelize.org



Tourism Industry Overview

In 2026, Grenada's tourism is seeing record growth, building on a 2025 high of 567,679 arrivals (up 8.2%). Driven by an 18% surge in cruise passengers and the redevelopment of the St. George's Harbor, the island is now focused on high-value sustainability and revitalizing the yachting sector.

This momentum was recently cemented at the 2026 PATWA Awards, where Grenada was named "Destination of the Year — Caribbean Experiences", and Senator Adrian Thomas was recognized as "Tourism Minister of the Year" for his leadership in sustainable development.

The Grenada Tourism Authority (GTA) is actively working to diversify its source markets, building on its strong U.S. base (currently 53% of visitors) while targeting growth in Latin America and Europe.

Investment Opportunities

Contribute to Grenada's Medical Tourism Industry

Project Polaris is an 84-acre, climate-smart medical city in Grenada, anchored by a state-of-the-art 250-bed hospital in partnership with the Mount Sinai Health System. This premier development serves as a high-traffic destination anchor, merging world-class clinical care with Grenada's luxury tourism appeal.

For the strategic investor, the opportunity lies in the project's high-yield auxiliary ecosystem. We are inviting development partners to lead in the creation of wellness-centric hotels, luxury recovery retreats, and premium residential housing tailored to the surging global medical travel market.

The Spice Isle Synergy: Investing in Agri-Tourism

Grenada is blending sustainable agri-business with premium hospitality. Capitalize on our world-renowned "Spice Isle" brand and invest in the future of luxury tourism. Investment opportunities range from agro-processing facilities for our world-renowned organic cocoa

and nutmeg to the development of "farm-to-table" estate lodges. These projects tap into the global demand for organic exports while serving as exclusive, low-density destination anchors for eco-conscious travellers.

Take Advantage of a Range of Specialized Services

The Spice Isle is also elevating its visitor experience beyond traditional accommodation. By investing in infrastructure like premium tour operations and boutique spice retreats, you can help shape a fully integrated, world-class tourism product.

Investment opportunities include:

- niche maritime services
- wellness-centered culinary tours
- tech-driven logistics for the yachting and hospitality sectors

Investment Incentives and Facilitation

Doing business in Grenada is simple.

- There are minimum entry requirements.
- No restriction on foreign ownership.
- No restrictions on foreign currency transactions.

- Easy movement of capital, profit and dividends.
- Incentives include corporate tax exemption, tax credits and duty and tax exemptions.

The Grenada Investment Development Corporation (GIDC) provides investment facilitation services which include incentive support, handling inquiries, promoting investment opportunities, aftercare and advocating for policy changes that will improve the investment climate.

Contacts

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www.puregrenada.com



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☎ (473) 444-1035

✉ pureinvestment@gidc.gd

 Pure Investment Grenada

 GIDC- Investment Promotion Agency



Explore investment opportunities!



www.investingrenada.gd

Tourism Industry Overview

Total visitor arrivals in 2025 were 453,489, an increase of 22% over 2024.

Six new hotels recently opened – Plaza Court Hotel, Jewelz by Kings and Soma Dream Hotels in Georgetown; Four Points by Sheraton at Houston; AC Marriott Hotel at Ogle, East Coast Demerara near the Eugene F. Correia International Airport; and Courtyard by Marriott at Timehri, near the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.

New experiences launched in 2025 continue to diversify Guyana's tourism offerings. Culinary tours include the Cook Like a Guyanese Tour by Wanderlust Adventures GY and the Celebrating the Coconut Tour by Eco Destination Tours Guyana, alongside Indigenous-led experiences such as the Moco Moco Camping Experience by Moco Moco Village and Quarrie Nature Escape by Quarrie Village.

Several airlines were recently added to the Guyana route: **United Airlines** - Georgetown, Guyana-Houston, Texas; **Avianca**-Georgetown, Guyana-Bogota, Colombia; **SKYHigh Dominicana**-Georgetown, Guyana-Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; **Caribbean Airlines**-Ogle, Guyana-Paramaribo, Suriname; **LIAT 2020**- Georgetown, Guyana-Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; **KLM Royal Dutch Airlines** is flying from Amsterdam to Guyana via Barbados and St. Maarten; **AirTransat** - Georgetown (CJIA) to Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ).

Investment Opportunities

Priority Areas

- Eco-lodges and sustainable resorts (interior and riverine locations)
- City and business hotels (Georgetown and surrounding areas)
- Boutique hotels and serviced apartments
- Adventure tourism and tour operations
- River transport and charter services
- Conference and events facilities

Notable Projects

- Development of new internationally branded hotels
- Expansion of existing eco-lodges and community tourism enterprises
- Infrastructure upgrades to support tourism in key regions

Investment Incentives

- Full and unrestricted repatriation of capital, profits and dividends
- New hotels, and interior lodges and resorts, are eligible for exemption from customs duty and zero rates Value Added Tax (VAT) on building materials, equipment, furniture and appliances of up to 15 % of the value of the total investment
- Existing Hotels, interior lodges and resorts are eligible for fiscal concessions of up to 50% of an additional investment
- Removal of the 14-day residency requirement for destination weddings
- Duty-and tax-free importation of ATVs
- Removal of taxes and duties on outboard engines up to 150HP
- Under LCDS 2030, at least 15% of carbon credit revenues support Indigenous community projects

Eligibility for Concessions

- New guesthouse/hotel with no less than 15 rooms
- Expansion of hotels and resorts with no less than 5 rooms

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Ameer Sattaur



Invest, Connect & Experience Guyana

Guyana continues to grow as a hub for business, tourism, and major events in the Caribbean. With expanding investment opportunities, modern infrastructure, and a rich mix of culture and nature, Guyana is perfect for visitors and investors. We welcome you to join us for the State of the Tourism Industry Conference from October 5-9, 2026, and the International Energy Conference and Expo from February 16-19, 2027.

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DiscoverGuyana

Tourism Industry Overview

Montserrat is a British Overseas Territory that offers a rare blend of volcano-based adventures, lush rainforest, and unspoiled Caribbean charm. Known as the “Emerald Isle of the Caribbean,” visitors can explore the Centre Hills rainforest, dive into pristine underwater ecosystems, and witness the extraordinary buried city of Plymouth - the Caribbean’s own Pompeii - all set against the backdrop of the iconic active Soufrière Hills Volcano.

Montserrat’s tourism sector continues its recovery, with visitor arrivals reaching 14,800 in 2023, up significantly from pandemic lows, having previously peaked at 21,000 in 2019. The newly established Montserrat Tourism Authority (MTA) is spearheading a strategy focused on high-value, eco-conscious visitors, targeting soft adventure, cultural and wellness experiences, including hiking, diving, snorkeling, and volcano viewing.

St. George’s Hill, closed to the public for over three decades, has recently reopened under controlled access, offering spectacular views of the volcano and buried Plymouth, and stands as a major new visitor attraction. The St. Patrick’s Festival and Christmas Carnival continue to anchor Montserrat’s cultural tourism calendar.

WinAir is now operating direct Twin Otter flights from St. Maarten, providing an important additional gateway and improving connectivity for visitors travelling through one of the Eastern Caribbean’s busiest regional hubs. The centerpiece of Montserrat’s infrastructure pipeline is the Little Bay Port Development Project. Once completed, the new port will accommodate larger vessels, unlocking significant cruise and commercial shipping potential. Island-wide fibre optic broadband further enhances connectivity for tourists, remote workers, and investors alike, positioning Montserrat as a modern, well-connected destination.

Investment Climate and Opportunities

- **Marina Facilities:** The Little Bay Port Development project opens opportunities for marina facilities, including boat-cleaning, laundry services, mooring services, and entertainment spaces.
- **Accommodation:** The island’s arrival reports consistently show a steady influx of stay-over visitors, up to 10,000, with a positive trajectory. Projections indicate a return to the pre-pandemic figures of more than 20,000 visitor arrivals, particularly with enhancements to port and access facilities. In light of these developments, there is a critical need to augment the accommodation capacity. Given that stay-over visitors constitute the largest percentage of arrivals, opportunities are available for the development of boutique hotels (with 20-40 rooms) and villas featuring pools, emphasizing sustainability and high-end amenities.
- **Vue Pointe Hotel for Sale:** The Vue Pointe Hotel, once Montserrat’s leading resort, is available for sale, offering beachfront property with 28 hexagonal “rondavel” cottages, a restaurant and a conference centre.
- **Belham Valley Resort:** Montserrat’s serene setting is ideal for a high-end

eco resort, enhancing the destination’s appeal for health and wellness retreats. The proposed Belham Valley Resort aims to embody a ‘tropical modernist’ style using local materials, prioritizing airflow and movement. It will seamlessly integrate with its natural surroundings, offering views of the sea and mountains. The architecture will blend indoor and outdoor spaces, utilizing landscape features like pools and running water to enhance the unique environment.

- **Golf Course:** There’s an opportunity to develop a beach front 9-hole golf course, catering to the Residential Villa Tourism market and providing additional services at the clubhouse.
- **Outdoor Facilities/Entertainment:** ventures like zip-lining and canopy tours, glamping, mountain biking experiences, pleasure boats for coastal activities, car rental companies and the creation of a Central Plaza in Salem Village for entertainment spaces. Opportunities are also available to upgrade existing restaurants or start new ones.
- **Montserrat National Trust EcoPlay Park:** This innovative park offers opportunities for investment with its sustainable features and diverse recreational offerings.

Investment Incentives

Hotel Aids Act:

- Exemptions from customs duties on hotel construction materials and equipment.
- Income tax holidays of up to 10 years for hoteliers.

Micro and Small Businesses Act:

- Registered businesses may apply for exemptions including import duty and consumption tax on building materials, furniture, etc.
- Income tax exemption for up to 5 years.
- Stamp Duty exemptions.

Contacts

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Montserrat isn't just another Caribbean destination.

It's an emerging tourism market where dramatic landscapes, expanding infrastructure, and sustainable development create exceptional opportunities for visionary investors.

Contact Us:

MONTSERRAT
TOURISM AUTHORITY

✉ OP@GOV.MS

🌐 WWW.VISITMONTSERRAT.COM

Tourism Industry Overview

Saint Lucia continues to strengthen its position as one of the Caribbean's premier tourism destinations through strategic investments in accommodation, airlift expansion, and tourism infrastructure. Welcoming 1.1 million visitors in 2025, the island has experienced steady growth in visitor arrivals following the recovery of the global tourism sector, with strong performances from its key source markets, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the wider Caribbean.

Saint Lucia continues to expand its accommodation capacity through several major hotel and resort developments. Based on the current development pipeline, the island's room stock is projected to exceed 4,450 rooms by 2026. Government projections indicate that approximately 2,000 new hotel rooms will be added over the next four years, reinforcing Saint Lucia's position as one of the Caribbean's leading luxury tourism destinations.

International air connectivity is being strengthened with year-round and seasonal non-stop services from major gateway cities in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. In recent years, the destination has expanded airlift through additional services from key North American markets, including New York, Miami, Charlotte, Atlanta, and Toronto, while maintaining strong connections from London.

The Government is pursuing new and expanded routes from North America, Europe, and Latin America to support growing visitor demand and diversify the island's source markets.

The Government of Saint Lucia is also investing in tourism-supporting infrastructure, including improvements to airports, roads, cruise facilities, and community tourism sites.

Investment Opportunities

Saint Lucia continues to encourage investment in luxury resort, hotel expansion and mixed-use tourism developments across the island to meet growing visitor demand.

Opportunities exist for the development of beachfront resorts, boutique hotels, branded residences, wellness retreats, and eco-luxury accommodations in key tourism areas, including the south-west coast, east coast, and selected locations. Investment proposals that incorporate sustainable design, environmental stewardship, and community engagement are strongly encouraged.

Current investment opportunities include:

- Luxury beachfront and hillside resorts
- Branded residential and villa developments
- Wellness and spa retreats
- Eco-lodges and nature-based accommodation
- Mixed-use tourism developments incorporating retail, dining, and recreational amenities

Entertainment and Visitor Attractions

To diversify its tourism product and encourage longer visitor stays, Saint Lucia welcomes investment in new entertainment and recreational

facilities. Opportunities exist for attractions that complement the island's natural and cultural assets while creating year-round experiences for residents and visitors alike.

Potential investment opportunities include: water parks and family entertainment centres; marine and waterfront attractions; adventure tourism facilities; wellness and health tourism facilities; marina, yachting, and cruise-related developments; and culinary, heritage, and experiential tourism attractions.

Investment Incentives

The new Tourism Development Act provides a modern framework of fiscal incentives designed to encourage sustainable, resilient, and inclusive investment in Saint Lucia's tourism sector. Approved tourism developments and certified tourism service providers may qualify for a range of incentives based on the nature, size, and economic impact of the investment.

Incentives available under the Act may include:

- Customs duty and tax exemptions on approved building materials, furniture, fixtures, fittings, equipment, machinery, and other capital imports
- Tax relief and fiscal concessions for approved tourism investments, including accommodation, attractions, marinas, tourism

transportation, recreation, and specialized tourism support services

- Property tax, stamp duty, and other statutory fee concessions for qualifying developments
- Incentives for investments that incorporate renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, climate resilience, and sustainable tourism practices
- Special incentives for community-based tourism projects, local tourism enterprises, and developments that create employment, strengthen local supply chains, and promote inclusive economic growth

Investors may also benefit from additional incentives available under other investment legislation, subject to government approval and project eligibility.

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Investor Matchmaking:

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Site Selection:

Identifying business development sites, organizing visits and tours, and assisting in selecting commercial spaces.



Set Up and Installation:

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Saint Kitts and Nevis

Tourism Industry Overview

St. Kitts stands among the Eastern Caribbean's most distinctive destinations, a volcanic island where rainforest-covered peaks descend to golden and black-sand shores, and where centuries of history remain visible in the landscape. Together with its sister island, Nevis, it forms the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The island is well connected to its key source markets, with non-stop service from carriers including American Airlines, JetBlue, Delta, United, British Airways, and Air Canada, alongside regional airlines linking St. Kitts to hubs across the Caribbean. This airlift provides direct access from major gateways in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom, and continues to expand in step with growing demand.

The destination's identity, built on the warmth, rhythm, and spirit of the Kittitian people themselves, offers intimacy and authenticity.

The country leads with its storytellers: the artisans, chefs, farmers, and culture-bearers whose lives give the island its pulse. It is a positioning designed for the modern traveller who has "seen it all" and is seeking genuine connection.

The industry is anchored by core pillars such as culinary, adventure, wellness, culture, and sustainability. Signature experiences bring these pillars to life: the St. Kitts Music Festival, Culinary Month, and its national Carnival celebrations.

Performance continues on a strong upward trajectory. Stayover air arrivals have climbed steadily beyond pre-pandemic benchmarks, while cruise tourism remains a cornerstone of the visitor economy, with passenger arrivals approaching the one-million mark.

Investment Opportunities

Investment Climate and Projects

Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is expected to remain strong for 2026 and beyond. The St. Kitts Investment Promotion Agency is collaborating with existing developers, through its "Discover the Opportunities" campaign, a marketing initiative that is designed to attract investment funds to complete unfinished projects.

Project: Hillsboro Suites & Residences

Hillsboro Suites & Residences is a real estate development comprising 180 condos with amenities of a four-star hotel.

Seeking: U.S. \$3.2 Million for Completion

Type of Investment: Equity or Loan

Entity: Hillsboro Limited.

Project: Embassy Suites St. Kitts, by Hilton

The 232 suites Pelican Bay Hotel & Condominium Project is located in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts.

Seeking: U.S. \$45 Million for Completion

Type of Investment: Equity or debt financing

Entity: Pelican Bay Limited

Project: Brimstone Village

Brimstone Village is a luxury condominium community comprising 30 units situated at the foot of Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Seeking: U.S. \$5.5 Million for Completion

Type of Investment: Equity or Joint Venture

Entity: Brimstone Village Ltd.

Other Investment Opportunities

There are also investment opportunities for a hospitality school, high-end stores, high-end restaurants and manufacturing of local craft.

Real Estate Investment

Applicants may qualify for citizenship through an investment in a pre-approved real estate project, which may include hotel shares, villas, and condominium units. The minimum real estate investment required by law is U.S. \$400,000. The real estate unit must be held for a minimum of seven years before it can be resold.

Investment Incentives

- The Hotel Aids Act provides relief from customs duties on items brought into the country for use in the construction, extension, and equipping of a hotel of not less

than 10 bedrooms.

- The Income Tax Act provides special tax relief benefits for hotels of more than 30 bedrooms. These hotels are exempt from income tax for 10 years.
- If the hotel contains less than 30 bedrooms, gains or profits would be exempt from income tax for 5 years.

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Tourism Industry Overview

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is emerging as one of the Caribbean's most compelling tourism investment destinations, offering unspoiled natural beauty, authentic experiences and strong investment potential. From hiking the iconic La Soufrière volcano to discovering hidden waterfalls, world-class scuba diving, and island hopping across 32 islands and cays, the destination delivers experiences that increasingly resonate with today's experience-driven traveller.

The Argyle International Airport transformed accessibility, with 12 airlines providing connectivity to key markets across North America, the Caribbean and the United Kingdom. Recent investments, including the opening of Sandals Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and a Holiday Inn Express & Suites, reflects growing confidence in the destination's future. In 2025, St. Vincent and the Grenadines welcomed a record 407,831 visitor arrivals, a 5.8% increase over 2024, while stay-over arrivals by air grew an impressive 17.4% year on year.

Complemented by signature events including Vincy Mas, Nine Mornings and the Bequia Easter Regatta, tourism is anchored by sailing, eco-tourism, weddings, festivals, dining and entertainment. As visitor demand accelerates, significant opportunities exist across auxiliary services, including adventure attractions, watersports, restaurants, transportation, tours, and boutique hospitality experiences.

Invest SVG, supported by a renewed national focus on investment, serves as the country's premier investment promotions agency, connecting investors to one of the Caribbean's last truly pristine destinations, presenting a rare opportunity to shape the future of sustainable tourism.

Investment Opportunities

St. Vincent and the Grenadines offers a dynamic investment environment where strong tourism growth, expanding infrastructure and a commitment to sustainable development are creating new opportunities across the sector. Supported by a renewed focus on investment facilitation, Invest SVG works closely with investors to identify opportunities and guide projects from concept to implementation.

Luxury Resort Development

Develop world-class beachfront resorts, boutique hotels and wellness retreats that capitalize on St. Vincent and the Grenadines' pristine landscapes, authentic character and growing international visitor demand.

Eco-Tourism & Nature Experiences

Invest in sustainable tourism ventures including eco-lodges, glamping accommodations, rainforest retreats and nature-based experiences that showcase the country's exceptional biodiversity while supporting responsible development.

Marinas & Sailing Infrastructure

Expand the destination's sailing and yachting offering through marina developments, yacht services, waterfront facilities and marine infrastructure that strengthen its position as a premier Caribbean cruising destination.

Tourism Support Services

As visitor arrivals continue to grow,

significant opportunities exist to expand the tourism ecosystem through high-quality support services that enhance the visitor experience.

Investment Opportunities include Adventure Attractions such as:

- Ziplining and ATV experiences
- Watersports
- Whale and dolphin watching
- Guided hiking and eco-tours
- Destination management services
- Restaurants and cafés
- Wellness, spa experiences & medical tourism

These enterprises play a vital role in strengthening the destination's tourism product while creating sustainable economic opportunities for local communities.

Investment Incentives

- Tax Incentives: Enjoy attractive tax breaks and incentives, including reduced corporate taxes, to encourage investment in tourism related projects.
- Customs Duty Exemptions: Benefit from customs duty exemptions on imported goods and equipment directly related to tourism development projects.
- Infrastructure Support: Access government support for infrastructure development, with assistance in upgrading and establishing facilities that contribute to the overall tourism experience.

- Investment Protection: Enjoy legal frameworks that safeguard foreign investments, providing a secure environment for prospective investors.
- Fast-Track Approvals: Expedited approval processes for permits and licenses, streamlining the commencement of tourism projects.
- Partnership Opportunities: Explore collaborative ventures with the government and local communities, fostering partnerships that align with sustainable and responsible tourism practices.

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Caribbean Tourism Organization

Caribbean Week 2026 - New York



From left, Micah Russell, District Manager, Bahamas Tourist Office in New York; Sloan Smith, Assistant Manager, Global Communications, Bahamas Tourist Office in Florida; CTO Secretary General Dona Regis-Prosper and Chrystal Bethell, General Manager, Global Sales.



Charmaine Spencer, Chief Marketing Officer, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, with Anderson Liburd, Sales and Marketing Officer.



Caribbean Business & Travel Associate Editor Gail Bindley-Taylor with Guyana's Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, Susan Rodrigues.



Beatriz Guerrero, U.S. publicist for Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI), and Tré Greaves, Communications Officer with Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI).



Tornia Charles, Chief Marketing Officer of the Grenada Tourism Authority with Emil Edwards, USA Director of Sales.



Sandra Orr-Toney, acting CEO, Tobago Tourism Agency Ltd. at left with Andra Joefield, Tourism Marketing Officer.

Photos by Gail Bindley-Taylor, Associate Editor

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