

Public Holidays

- New Year** — *January 1*
- Good Friday** — *March/April (variable)*
- Easter Monday** — *March/April (variable)*
- Whit Monday** — *May/June (variable)*
- Corpus Christi** — *May/June (variable)*
- Labour Day** — *June 19*
- Emancipation Day** — *August 1*
- Independence Day** — *August 31*
- Republic Day** — *September 24*
- Christmas Day** — *December 25*
- Boxing Day** — *December 26*
- Divali (Hindu Festival)** — *October/November (variable)*
- Eid-ul-Fitr (Moslem Festival)** — *Variable*

In addition, the Monday and Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday, although not official holidays, are annual Carnival days. It is virtually impossible to conduct any business during these two days of revelry.

Business Hours

General hours of business are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Saturdays. Banking hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fridays.

History

- 1498 — Christopher Columbus discovered Trinidad
- 1595 — Sir Walter Raleigh arrived in Trinidad and caulked his ships with asphalt from Pitch Lake
- 1797 — Britain captured Trinidad from Spain
- 1802 — Trinidad became the first British crown colony
- 1814 — Tobago joined the Windward Islands as a British colony
- 1834 — Abolition of slavery
- 1845 — Arrival of first East Indian indentured labourers
- 1889 — Tobago and Trinidad joined administratively
- 1899 — Trinidad and Tobago became a joint Crown colony
- 1956 — Self-government granted by the British
- 1962 — Trinidad and Tobago became independent (August 31)
- 1973 — Trinidad and Tobago joined CARICOM
- 1976 — Trinidad and Tobago became a republic (September 24)