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'Cursing' flight attendant

travel



Tobago's fine beaches are in a region of the Caribbean that is struck less often by hurricanes.

(GETTY)

Good 'track' records

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Special to amNewYork

Traveling to the Caribbean during hurricane season is a gamble.

You could be sipping cocktails on the beach or canceling your trip due to bad weather. These islands lie outside the so-called hurricane belt.

NOTE: These are not sure-fire bets, so opt in for travel insurance.

Curaçao

THE ODDS: The last hurricane to hit the island in full force was 123 years ago.

WHY GO: Hot spot for scuba divers and snorkelers.

TO STAY: The swanky, year-old Baoase (from \$275, baoase.com) is one of the hottest new hotels in the Caribbean.

TO EAT: For the local catch-of-the-day served in a rustic-chic setting, head to Fishalicious.

TO DO:

- Catch John Legend, Lionel Richie, Natalie Cole and others at the Curaçao North Sea Jazz Festival (Sept. 3-4, curacaonor-

thseajazz.com).

- Party at Club Zen/K-Oz Bar.

- Scuba-dive with sharks, sea turtles, and stingrays at the Curaçao Seaquarium (curacao-sea-aquarium.com).

Tobago

THE ODDS: The last hurricane to inflict serious damage was Flora in September 1963.

WHY GO: Gorgeous rain forest, surfable beaches and hotels that don't rise above the coconut line. Need we say more?

TO STAY: Owned by a former model, the hot-pink-and-aqua Half Moon Blue Hotel (from \$140, halfmoonblue.com) is

funky enough for East Village types, while its chic sister hotel across the street, Bacolet Beach Club (from \$190, bacoletbeachclub.com) is perfect for a tonier crowd.

TO EAT: Order homey specialties through the country-kitchen-like windows of the six food stalls at Store Bay. Try classic crab and dumplings at



Curaçao is popular among snorkelers.



Aruba is an island paradise that hasn't been directly hit by a hurricane in more than 100 years.

Miss Jeans or a barbecue chicken platter at Sylvia's Food Shop.

On the gorgeous Castara Beach, enjoy roti at The Almond Tree. Buy homemade ice cream in flavors such as Guinness from the man selling from his pickup truck — he's also a rain forest tour guide.

TO DO:

- Camp under the trees on Mount Irvine Bay Beach and watch the surfers. Ask for George, who rents boards and gives lessons — his High Tide storefront is literally just a few beachfront trees.

- Head to Argyll Waterfall early so you'll have the park to yourself. Laid-back guides will show you the best spots to jump off the rocks.

Aruba

THE ODDS: Aruba hasn't taken a direct hurricane hit in more than 100 years.

WHY GO: Unspoiled beaches, gambling and a breeze.

TO STAY: Perched on a long stretch of sun-bleached sand, Bucuti Beach (from \$263, bucuti.com) is a low-rise boutique hotel with a laid-back beach bar vibe reminiscent of SoBe with roaming iguanas.

TO EAT: Right on the sand, Bucuti's Pirates' Nest is an uber-romantic dinner spot.

TO DO:

- Visit the Aruba Aloe Factory (arubaaloe.com) to pick up skin-quenching products.

- Snorkel at the Antilla Shipwreck from the Red Sail Pier (redsailaruba.com).