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**Southern Caribbean Travel Guide**

**By Burt Cotton**

Southern Caribbean travel guides are a must-have if you plan to visit. Southern Caribbean is that region of South American consisting of the nations that border the Caribbean Sea - Colombia and Venezuela. Due to the region's closeness to the equator, its climate is very tropical, which of course makes it a popular destination for those who want beaches and sand in their vacation itinerary.

>From the Caribbean coast, the bulk of Venezuela rises instantly and green like the bulging muscles bursting through a comic hero's shirt. To the Spaniards, everything would have seemed wild and yet to be controlled. From world's highest uninterrupted cataract, the Rio Churun, to the arching bridge spanning Lake Maracaibo, much of the interior of Venezuela is still to be settled, even today.

In 1533, the Spanish founded a city that would become known as the Queen of the Indies. Yet, even without the added attraction of its colonial heritage, Colombia's Cartagena is in the perfect position in the Caribbean Sea as to make it an attractive tourist destination.

Below are some top Southern Caribbean travel guides you may find useful as you travel to the Southern parts of the Caribbean.

**Backpack Traveling in Latin America**

This page contains a very helpful Southern Caribbean travel guide based on the site owner's personal experiences. While this guide does not contain a very accurate and up-to-date information on travel to Latin America, it does provide you with enough information to give you a basic information about the places you'll be visiting while on your Southern Caribbean travel.

This site should be used as an addition to the books you may have bought from stores. It includes but not limited to:

- Introduction to culture
- Safety and recent safety development
- Info for US citizens
- Tourism
- Police
- Money
- Entry over land
- Getting around
- Places to stay and eat

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### Poor But Happy Colombia Guide

Another good Southern Caribbean travel guide is Poor But Happy. This site contains the best discussions and topics on the popular tourist destination of Colombia, and written no less by those who live and work there. The topics are just about anything Colombia related from visas to adoption, to medellin, places to stay, food, etc.

### Venezuela Voyage

Dominic Hamilton travels in Venezuela as research for the Traveler's Venezuela Companion guidebook. The result is a Southern Caribbean travel guide featuring a blend of stories and images, a mix of features, and practical information that both inform and entertain.

### The Lonely Planet

Perhaps the most popular Southern Caribbean travel guide if you're traveling on a shoestring, the Lonely Planet is actually comprised of several guides to several different points in the world submitted by travelers like you. The Getting There and Away sections are the best because they teach you how to go about border crossings. There are also plenty of simple maps to give you an idea of where you are, as well locations of cheapo cafes, best banana milk shakes, and all that.

Burt Cotton –

<http://www.caribbean-travel-news.com>

## **Caribbean Travel Guide**

### **By Burt Cotton**

All there is to know about the vacation destination of your dreams - that is exactly what a Caribbean travel guide offers. But are Caribbean travel guides really godsend? Or are they just patronizing materials designed for commercial purposes?

Well, they're a little of both actually. After all, the people behind Caribbean travel guides do need a source of income in order to continue to publish their guides. But a tremendous amount of research has been placed in these guides to just dismiss them as useless resource material.

What else is more nifty, informative and convenient than a Caribbean travel guide?

Sure, the Internet may prove more updated when it comes to information, but you can't carry the Internet everywhere. And believe it or not, it's always much more gratifying to pull out a Caribbean travel guide from your carry case, flip a few pages open, then slip it right back when you're tired of reading. It sure beats having to wait in the airport, sitting bored silly and wondering whether or not your flight's going to be delayed.

That said, don't cling to travel guides religiously. Many travelers make that mistake. They are not the bibles that they are made out to be by some people. You should know that published materials, including travel guides, are out of date the moment they are published, because by then, there would have been new updated material that came up and it would be too late to include them.

So, how are you supposed to use Caribbean travel guides then? How would you know which information to believe and which facts are outdated? Unfortunately, there is no exact answer to that. To get the most out of your Caribbean travel guide, use them sparingly for basic orientation. So once you have the basics right down to a tee, go out there and discover the towns and cities on your own. That is, after all, what traveling is all about - adventure and discovery of new things. At the very least, when all other signs look foreign, the information on museums and places of interest are great.

However, when it comes to hotels and restaurants, each to his own taste and budget. Remember that bargains rise in price with popularity, so there's every bit of chance that that hot new deal in your Caribbean travel guide isn't much of a deal anymore, considering how pricey it has become. And then sometimes, too, the places get easily full with foreigners and travelers like you, so you can't always expect your Caribbean travel guide to point you in the right place all the time.

Then, if you do wander around on your own, then you will surely find quality rooms with reasonable prices. They may be located in out-of-the-way places that Caribbean travel guide writers may not know about. Remember that because you in the destination, you are in far better place to get what you want out of your vacation.

So to close it off, don't be a sad type who writes to say that "it wasn't like what you said in the book." Here's a tip: open your eyes and explore for yourself!

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