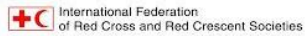


Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop

14-16 April 2016,
Barbados



Logistical Information

- Meeting:** Caribbean Early Warning Workshop
- Date:** 14 – 16 April 2016
- Meeting Location:** Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown Barbados
- Contact:** For general information related to the workshop:
Ms. Tamara Lovell, IFRC, Email: Tamara.LOVELL@ifrc.org
Mr. Marlon Clarke, UNDP Barbados and the OECS,
Email: marlon.clarke@undp.org
Ms. Alexis Cooke, UNISDR, Email: dipechocaribbean@eird.org
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General information on Barbados:



Situated about 320 km (200 mi) NNE of Trinidad and about 160 km (100 mi) ESE of Saint Lucia, Barbados is the most easterly of the Caribbean islands. The island is 34 km (21 mi) long and 23 km (14 mi) wide, with an area of 430 sq km (166 sq mi) and a total coastline of 97 km (60 mi). Comparatively, Barbados occupies slightly less than 2.5 times the area of Washington, DC. The capital city of Bridgetown, is located on the country's southwestern coast.

The coast is almost entirely encircled with coral reefs with the land rising to 336m (1,102 ft) at Mt. Hillaby in the parish of St. Andrew and in most other areas, the land falls in a series of terraces to a coastal strip or wide flat lane.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Barbados.aspx>

The currency is the Barbados Dollar (BBD): US \$ 1 = 1.98 BBD

The local Barbadian dollar is fixed to the U.S. dollar at a current exchange rate of approximately **US \$1 to BBD 1.98**. Notes are issued in denominations of BBD \$2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100. Coins are issued in BBD 0.05, 0.10, 0.25, and 1. Major credit cards and traveler's cheques are widely accepted. ATMs can be found in the airport and at all banks, which include, but are not limited to, the Royal Bank of Canada, First Caribbean and Scotiabank. You may check <http://www.oanda.com/> for more currency exchange information.



Time Zone

Local time is GMT -4.

Climate and Weather

Temperatures in Barbados range from an average low of 24°C /76°F degrees to an average high of 29°C/85°F.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Like all Caribbean countries, Barbados can be affected by hurricanes and severe weather events. The hurricane season runs from June to the end of November, so you should be continually aware of current weather conditions while in Barbados during this period. General information about natural hazard preparedness is available via the Internet from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at <http://www.fema.gov/>. You should monitor local and international weather updates from the [World Meteorological Organisation](http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=barbados), <http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=barbados> or <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/5day.shtml?world=0293>.

As the Caribbean is prone to vector borne diseases, we encourage you to visit the PAHO website www.paho.org for the latest disease outbreak updates and travel advice prior to your travel.

Electricity

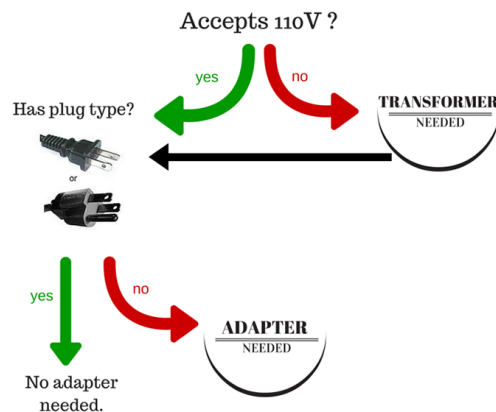
Electricity in Barbados is 110 volts/50 cycles. There is a reliable electricity supply.

Standard plug types in Barbados are:

- Flat blade (2 flat blades)
- Flat blades with round grounding pin

If traveling from North America you should be able to use your appliances without any problems, however if travelling from UK & Europe you may need adapters and transformers. Most [Barbados hotels](#) can provide adapters and transformers for hair dryers and other appliances.

Do you need an adapter or transformer
when travelling to Barbados?



Emergency Telephone Numbers

Fire: 311

Police: 211 or 430-7100

Ambulance: 511

Medical Facilities

Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Martindales Road, St. Michael
Tel: (246) 436-6450
Fax: (246) 429-5374

Bayview Hospital (Private)
St. Paul's Avenue
St. Michael
Tel: (246) 436-5446

Visas

Visas maybe required for nationals of some countries before entering Barbados. Please determine whether this will be the case for your country before travelling.

Accommodation

It is suggested to stay in the *Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown Barbados* which is the venue of the Caribbean EWS Workshop.

Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown

The Garrison Historic Area,
Hastings Christ Church
Barbados
Phone: +1 (246) 625-0000



The current rate for the Caribbean EWS Workshop for a single standard room inclusive of all taxes is 196.23 USD per night and person. This rate includes a daily breakfast.

Reservation

If you intend to stay at the Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown please email or call Rashida Graham (rashida.graham@courtyard.com) directly to make your hotel booking. Please indicate Caribbean EWS Meeting (UNDP Barbados and the OECS) as the subject of your email.

Cancellation policy

Cancellations made 5 days before arrival are without a penalty charge. Later cancellations will result in penalty of one night's deposit plus tax per room. Non-appearance will be charged by 50% of the rate of your planned stay.

There are other hotel options on the south coast. If you intend to stay at another hotel, please arrange for secure transport to and from Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown on the days of the meeting.

Per Diem

Participants sponsored by the organisers will receive per diems to cover hotel accommodation cost inclusive of breakfast and dinner. This will be issued to participants before travel and/or on the first day of the workshop.

Arrival and Departure

The transport from the airport to the hotel / venue should be covered by each participant.

Arrival in Barbados

The Grantley Adams International Airport is the only airport on the island and you can arrange your transportation (on both your arrival and departure days). The estimated cost for this service is approximately USD 25.00 one way.

Local Taxis

Taxis can be found at airports and hotels. Please only use authorized taxis (booth located directly outside the arrival lounge at the airport).

Registration for the workshop

Please confirm your participation to *Mr. Marlon Clarke*, UNDP Barbados and the OECS email: marlon.clarke@undp.org by 26 March 2016. On-site registration will take place at the morning of 14 April 2016.

Meeting room

The venue of the Caribbean EWS workshop is the Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown with the meeting being held in the main conference room. Please follow the directions provided in the hotel.

Information regarding the Workshop

Session concept notes and other relevant documents can be found on the workshop website: <http://eird.org/americas/caribbean-early-warning-system-workshop-in-barbados/>

Food and Beverages

Breakfast is included in the hotel price if you are staying at the Courtyard by Marriott.

Coffee breaks will be provided on the days of the workshop (one in the morning and one in the afternoon).

Lunch will be provided on 14 – 16 April 2016.

Dinner will be covered by each participant.

Security

Generally speaking, Barbados is a safe and peaceful country. Nevertheless, crime does exist so you are advised to maintain at least the same level of personal security awareness as you would anywhere else and ensure that your living accommodation is secure. Avoid walking alone in isolated areas, including beaches, particularly after dark. Do not carry large amounts of cash or jewelry. Valuables and travel documents should be left, where possible, in a hidden and safe location. There is a low threat from terrorism in Barbados. Still, you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks which could be in public areas, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travelers.

Local Laws and Customs (taken from the barbados.org site)

You should note that there are severe penalties for all drug offences. Pack all luggage yourself. You should be aware that it is an offence for anyone to dress in camouflage clothing in Barbados. Barbados, in common with much of the English speaking Caribbean, has a very conservative attitude to homosexuality and homophobic views are unfortunately common. Contrary to popular belief, homosexuality itself is not illegal although sodomy remains a criminal offence. However, the penalties set out in the 1992 Sexual Offences Act concerning sexual relations between members of the same sex are rarely enforced when this takes place in private. Being sexually 'tolerant' will assist in avoiding any confrontation with heterosexuals and homosexuals.

Things to do in Barbados

When time permits, there are unlimited things to do in Barbados, but here are a few top recommendations:

Atlantis Submarines (<http://atlantisadventures.com>)

Journey to a **spectacular underworld** 150ft below the crystal clear Caribbean sea in the most technologically advanced passenger submarine on earth, and explore fascinating marine life, colourful reefs, majestic coral gardens, and sunken ships. It's not just an experience, it's an adventure!



Oistins Fish Fry

This is a must! Get down to Oistins in the parish of Christ Church around 7pm, find a place to sit and eat locally caught and prepared fish and chips while the entertainment goes on around you. From reggae bands to ballroom music with couples dancing. Next to the beach and under the stars, a really fun evening out.



Visit the Beach

There are many lovely **beaches around the island** including at your hotel doorstep. Take your pick and enjoy!



Harrison's Cave (<http://harrisonscave.com>)

This **magnificent, crystallised limestone cavern** is said to be one of the wonders of the world. Its pure clear water and flowing streams helped to create beautiful stalactites and stalagmites which propagate the cave. You will be amazed by nature's mastery as you journey through this living cave.



Please visit www.barbados.org for more information.