

CARIBBEAN HOTEL & TOURISM ASSOCIATION

## Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association Hurricane Cancellation Guidelines

Recognizing public concerns and perceptions regarding travel to the Caribbean during the hurricane season and the need to provide traveler assurances, a growing number of Caribbean destinations and hotels have adopted hurricane cancellation policies.

The likelihood of a hurricane directly affecting most areas of the Caribbean in any given year is rare, given the vast geography of the over one million square miles of the Caribbean basin. The frequency of hurricanes varies greatly from year to year. Therefore, what happens in one part of the Caribbean will often not have an effect on other parts of the region. Not every hurricane may directly affect travel plans.

To encourage more destinations and hotels to provide these assurances to travelers and prospective travelers, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association has established voluntary guidelines for the region's 32 hotel and tourism associations and its accommodations and attractions members. These guidelines are intended to provide recommended minimum assurances for addressing travel cancellations, extended stays, early departures and rescheduling should a destination be under imminent threat.

A number of Caribbean destinations, independent properties, hotel chains, and airlines exceed these assurances. In addition, airlines and many hotels offer traveler insurance, either directly or through third-parties booking services.

Although it is not mandatory that all hotels in the Caribbean should adopt a Hurricane Cancellation Policy, properties that are members of the CHTA are encouraged to do so. CHTA's Hurricane Cancellation Guidelines are designed to facilitate the comfort of guests as well as to protect the reputation of hotels and destinations in the Caribbean. Travelers are advised to consult with their hotel, airline, travel agency or tour operator on specific policies.