





Southern Caribbean



You can feel the heat and the beat of South America in the Southern Caribbean. Venezuela is close to the south and the continent's music and cultures meld with the Caribbean. Yet the vibe of each of these five major islands is different. Trinidad is all business until it comes to its Carnival, an all-consuming debauch that rivals Rio's. Just north, however, Tobago couldn't be more different. It's as mellow and as naturally beautiful as any island further north in the region.

Meanwhile to the west, the ABCs, the distinctly Dutch-flavored troika of islands, are each unique. Aruba is the favorite winter escape for Americans longing for perfect beaches and resorts. Tiny Bonaire simply has some of the world's best diving, with tangible dollops of history and funky vibes adding character. Finally, Curaçao has an intriguing colonial-era main city with natural and beachy escapes.