

CAP CARAÏBE

Your compass in the archipelago

**JAMAICA: Spectacular
tourism rebound**

**CUBA: The island sinks
into electrical crisis**

**GUYANA: Record growth,
persistent fragilities**

**HAITI: Humanitarian
emergency intensifies**

✦ EDITOR'S NOTE

Cap Caraibe is Antilla Magazine's new Caribbean newsletter. 2 times per weeks, our editorial team selects and verifies the most significant stories from across the archipelago: economy, energy, tourism, society, environment, sport and culture. Twenty briefs to keep your compass set on a region in motion.

△ All briefs are verified at the date of publication. Information may evolve. Stories already published in previous issues are not repeated.

TOURISM & TRAVEL

1 JAMAICA

One million visitors in a single quarter: Jamaica rewrites its tourism history

Hit hard by Hurricane Melissa in October 2025 — a Category 5 system that crippled a significant part of the island's hotel infrastructure — Jamaica has staged one of the most spectacular rebounds in Caribbean tourism history. According to the Ministry of Tourism, the island welcomed more than one million visitors during the first quarter of 2026, generating approximately \$956 million in foreign exchange earnings. Tourism Director Donovan White highlighted a 25% increase in arrivals from Latin America and 7% growth from Asia. Airlines multiplied their routes, and several hotels devastated by Melissa used the reconstruction period to relaunch as fully renovated properties.

Source: [Jamaica Ministry of Tourism / Travel And Tour World, April 2026](#)

2 JAMAICA

Seven Hyatt hotels will not reopen until 2027

Despite Jamaica's spectacular tourism rebound, the recovery remains incomplete. Seven Hyatt properties, badly damaged by Hurricane Melissa, will not reopen before 2027. The mid-April announcement is a reminder that rebuilding quality hotel infrastructure takes time, even when the political will and financing are in place. Overall hotel inventory is nonetheless estimated at around 80% operational capacity according to the latest figures.

Source: [Travel And Tour World, April 14, 2026](#)

3 PUERTO RICO

San Juan: the Caribbean's next major cruise homeport

Norwegian Cruise Line has announced that two of its newest ships will begin homeporting operations out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, from the winter 2026-2027 season. The development cements Puerto Rico as the region's go-to platform for North American cruisers, who require no passport to visit. The island recorded a 72% increase in arrivals from Spain in 2025 and continues to post strong indicators across the board.

Source: [Caribbean Journal, 2026](#)

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CUBA

Cuban tourism hits historic lows

Cuba's energy crisis is having a direct impact on tourism. In 2026, visitor arrivals have fallen to levels not seen since the 1990s. Daily power cuts lasting 18 hours or more, fuel shortages and infrastructure failures are making stays deeply unattractive. Canada, Cuba's main source market, is recording a sharp decline in bookings, with Germany, Spain and Italy following the same trend. Without any viable alternative to US restrictions on fuel shipments, analysts see little prospect of a short-term recovery.

Source: [Travel And Tour World, April 2026](#)

⚡ ENERGY & TRANSITION

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CUBA

Island in the dark: Cuba's electricity crisis deepens

On March 16, 2026, Cuba plunged into total darkness. The national electricity grid collapsed for the second time in a matter of weeks, leaving 11 million people without power. The trigger: a boiler leak at the Antonio Guiteras thermoelectric plant in Matanzas. By early April, nine generating units remained offline, creating a deficit exceeding 1,700 MW. Millions of Cubans now endure 18 or more hours of daily power cuts. The crisis stems directly from US restrictions on fuel shipments: a January 2026 Executive Order threatens sanctions against any country exporting hydrocarbons to the island, while Russian deliveries barely cover a week of national consumption.

Source: [NPR / Electric Choice, March-April 2026](#)

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DOMINICA

Dominica set to open the first geothermal plant in the English-speaking Caribbean

Long announced and repeatedly delayed, Dominica's 10 MW geothermal power plant was expected to begin operations in April 2026. The facility could cover more than 75% of the island's electricity needs, dramatically reducing its dependence on diesel generators. It has taken a decade and a \$68 million financing package assembled from multiple lenders to make this project a reality. Dominica would become the first English-speaking Caribbean country to generate geothermal power at scale.

Source: [NOW Grenada / OECS, April 2026](#)

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GRENADA

Grenada launches its first geothermal exploration

Grenada is committing to geothermal exploration drilling in 2026, a first in the island's energy history. Climate Resilience Minister Kerryne James confirmed that a successful 15 MW plant could supply 40% of all Grenadian households with clean electricity. The project has been financed entirely through grants, shielding taxpayers from exploration risk. Regional coordination through the OECS GEOBUILD programme has enabled the sharing of expertise developed with Dominica, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts.

Source: [OECS / NOW Grenada, 2026](#)

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SAINT LUCIA

Geothermal energy established as a national priority

Saint Lucia is accelerating its energy transition with a geothermal programme co-financed by the World Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Green Climate Fund and the EU Caribbean Investment Facility. In February 2026, OECS technical experts visited the island to define a legislative framework designed to attract private investment in drilling. The Saltibus and Fond Saint-Jacques sites have been identified for slim-hole exploratory drilling. Grenada, Saint Kitts and Saint Vincent are part of the same coordinated regional effort.

Source: [OECS GEOBUILD / RESDP Saint Lucia, February-March 2026](#)

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SAINT LUCIA / GRENADA / SAINT VINCENT

Three small islands pool resources to finance renewables

In a regional first, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have pooled their renewable energy projects to reach the minimum scale required by private-sector developers. The initiative, facilitated by the World Bank Group and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank through ESMAP funding, offers a new model for islands whose grids are too small to attract individual financing. Caribbean electricity tariffs currently range between \$0.29 and \$0.40 per kWh — more than double the US average.

Source: [ESMAP Newsletter, February 2026](#)



ECONOMY & MARKETS

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GUYANA

An oil giant with no refinery: Guyana's striking energy paradox

Guyana now produces close to one million barrels of oil per day. Yet in April 2026, motorists in Georgetown faced queues at petrol stations following a logistics disruption in refined fuel deliveries. The paradox is glaring: the country exports crude oil but must import finished fuel, having no domestic refinery. President Irfaan Ali's government is in active negotiations with Trinidad and Tobago to refine Guyanese crude at the long-shuttered Petrotrin facility in Pointe-a-Pierre. ExxonMobil meanwhile projects a further 30% production increase in the years ahead.

Source: [Kaieteur News / NewsRoom Guyana, April 2026](#)

11 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Hope to revive the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery

Idle since 2018, the Petrotrin refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre could be brought back to life. T&T's Energy Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal explored a partnership at the Guyana Energy Conference that would see Guyanese crude fed into the facility. The refinery, capable of processing 150,000 barrels per day, would require between \$50 million and \$200 million to restart. Arab financiers and local banking contacts have been introduced by the Guyanese government. Should the project succeed, T&T would reclaim its historic role as CARICOM's refined products supplier.

Source: [Kaieteur News / Jamaica Observer, February 2026](#)

12 GUYANA / SURINAME

The oil boom benefits the Caribbean — but not equally

The World Bank projects 23% growth for Guyana in 2026, driven by surging oil production. Suriname, following recent offshore discoveries, is also entering a phase of sustained expansion. Yet this dynamic is widening the gap with tourism-dependent states. Overall Caribbean growth is projected at just 2.1% in 2026. The World Bank speaks of a two-speed trajectory that is becoming entrenched across the sub-region, with hydrocarbon exporters pulling away from small island economies.

Source: [World Bank / Caribbean News Global, April 2026](#)

13 CARICOM (REGIONAL)

\$10 billion to shield Caribbean economies from the Gulf shock

Afreximbank approved on April 7, 2026 a \$10 billion emergency programme to help African and Caribbean economies absorb the shocks caused by the Middle East conflict. The Gulf Crisis Response Programme aims to secure essential imports — fuel, gas, fertilisers, medicines — by providing short-term liquidity to vulnerable member states. Caribbean tourism and aviation, hit hard by rising oil prices, will receive short-term relief measures. The OECS and CARICOM are associated with the regional coordination effort.

Source: [Afreximbank / CNBC Africa, April 7, 2026](#)

14 CARIBBEAN (REGIONAL)

The Middle East conflict hits island economies hard

The Middle East conflict, which escalated in late February 2026, has pushed oil prices up by roughly 45% since the start of the year. For Caribbean importing economies — which is virtually all of the islands — this shock translates into higher import costs and rising food prices. The IMF warns that tourism-dependent Caribbean economies are among the most exposed. The World Bank has revised its growth forecasts downward, highlighting a growing divergence between hydrocarbon exporters and small island developing states.

Source: [IMF / World Bank / AS/COA, April 2026](#)

SOCIETY & HUMANITARIAN

15 HAITI

6.4 million Haitians in need: the UN raises the alarm

Haiti's humanitarian crisis has reached unprecedented proportions. According to OCHA, 6.4 million people — more than half the population — require emergency assistance in 2026. Internal displacement has doubled in one year, reaching 1.4 million people. Armed gangs of the 'Viv Ansanm' coalition control approximately 90% of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. The Red Cross is raising the alarm over the growing use of armed drones in densely populated neighbourhoods. The UN is seeking to mobilise \$880 million to meet response needs.

Source: [OCHA / UN News, January-April 2026](#)

16 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC / HAITI

Hispaniola under water: 19 dead in April floods

Torrential rains began battering the island of Hispaniola on April 7, 2026, hitting both the Dominican Republic and Haiti simultaneously. The toll as of April 16 stood at 19 deaths and several thousand displaced persons. Preventive alerts were maintained in 24 of the Dominican Republic's 31 provinces. Around 30,000 people were evacuated. The Haitian situation, already extremely fragile, has been made even more precarious, with the 2026 hurricane season forecast to be an active one.

Source: [20 Minutes / La 1ere, April 16, 2026](#)

17 HAITI

Melchie Dumornay, player of the month at Lyon: a ray of light for Haiti

As Haiti endures one of the darkest periods in its recent history, one footballer is lighting up the international stage. Melchie Dumornay, midfielder at Olympique Lyonnais, was named her club's player of the month for March 2026. Widely regarded as the finest Caribbean footballer of her generation, she represents far more than sport in Haiti: she is a symbol of hope in a country where 1,600 schools have closed due to gang violence, denying hundreds of thousands of children access to education.

Source: [Vantbefinfo, April 9, 2026](#)

ENVIRONMENT & RESILIENCE

18 DOMINICA / SAINT LUCIA / ANGUILLA

Resilient hospitals: OECS strengthens healthcare against disasters

In the wake of the destruction caused by Hurricane Beryl in 2024, the OECS and NGO Direct Relief inaugurated in March 2026 several healthcare resilience projects across the smaller islands. In Saint Lucia, storm-resistant solar systems were installed on hospital facilities. In Anguilla, Princess Alexandra Hospital was equipped with an autonomous oxygen production system. Mobile medical units were distributed to Montserrat and Saint Vincent to facilitate emergency response in the aftermath of a disaster.

Source: [Direct Relief, April 2026](#)

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DOMINICA / EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Climate resilience becomes the new regional priority after Beryl

Hurricane Beryl, a Category 5 storm in 2024, profoundly shaped thinking across the Eastern Caribbean. Since then, the OECS and its partners have reoriented their priorities towards the resilience of essential systems: reliable power and water supply for hospitals, stronger roads, storm-resistant solar installations. The approach is systemic: the goal is no longer simply to rebuild after each disaster, but to design infrastructure that continues to function during and after storms — a philosophy made all the more urgent as the 2026 hurricane season is forecast to be an active one.

Source: [Direct Relief / OECS, March-April 2026](#)



SPORT & CULTURE

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PUERTO RICO / ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

2026 Caribbean Series: politics and ballparks collide

The 2026 Caribbean Series was played in Guadalajara, Mexico, after Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Panama refused to travel to Caracas, originally set as the host city. Venezuela chose to organise its own alternative tournament instead. Puerto Rico was represented by the Cangrejeros de Santurce, led by Major League-experienced players including catcher Christian Vazquez. The island has not won the title since 2018 and was chasing a 17th championship. Venezuela's absence reflects the geopolitical tensions cutting across every aspect of life in the region today.

Source: [MLB.com, February 2026](#)