

## Travel Journal Entry 13: Port of Spain, Trinidad

Hi, All!

Well, here I am in Port of Spain, Trinidad. That sure was an exhausting trip! I decided for my last stop that I would stay in a guesthouse. I chose Alicia's House. It is very nice with an outdoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi. It is located in the residential area of the Hills of St. Ann's, and is close to supermarkets, churches and restaurants. It is also within walking distance of the Queen's Park Savannah, where the annual Carnival shows take place.



On my first day, I decided to check out the beautiful 14,572-acre Chaguaramas Peninsula and take an eco tour. Chaguaramas has tropical forest, green valleys, waterfalls, trails and a wide assortment of animals, including red howler monkeys, silky anteaters and caiman crocodiles. It was quite an active and exciting day!

The next day, I decided to take a day tour to Tobago, which is Trinidad's sister island. There I took a glass-bottomed boat to Buccoo Reef, which is a large coral reef. I got to do some scuba diving, which was really neat! There really is so much to see under the sea! I also visited the oldest protected rainforest reserve. It was so beautiful!

On my third day, I decided to spend some time at the beach, swimming in the ocean and trying some of the surfing skills I learned while I was in New Zealand. Wow, that seems so long ago. In the evening, I went for a traditional meal of quenk (wild pig) and pastelles (meat folded into cornmeal and wrapped in a banana leaf). I also saw a show with calypso, limbo dancers and steel bands.

My fourth day in Trinidad was spent on a mountain bike. We rode along the north coast of Trinidad to the community of Grande Riviere, which is famous for its sea turtles. After visiting with the turtles, we took a trail into the forest where we rode some really muddy trails and encountered golden silk spiders. Ugh! I am not really a fan of spiders.

After two hours in the forest, we eventually made it to another beach and a village called Sand Souci. We relaxed there and watched some surfers and had lunch. We then took a country road and got a great view of the countryside, which had lots of beautiful tropical flowers. There was a lot of uphill riding along this country road. It was a great day, but I was really exhausted by the end of it.

On my last day in Trinidad, I decided to take a walking tour of Port of Spain and enjoy the city sites. After breakfast, I went to Queen's Park Savannah. It is Port of Spain's major green space where you can see joggers, strollers and anyone looking for a break from city life. I got to sample tasty culinary Indian delicacies, sno-cones and coconut water straight from the nut. There are plenty of vendors along the three-mile perimeter of the park. I also visited the Magnificent Seven, a collection of decorated early-20th-century structures that were built by the Europeans and, today, are used as schools, residences and government offices.

Afterwards, I went downtown and visited Woodford Square. From there, you can see the parliament buildings and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Trinidad and Tobago's Roman Catholic cathedral, known for its stained glass windows.

In the afternoon, I went on a tour of Madamas Road and Waterfall. I saw different types of birds such as euphonias and toucans as well as many butterflies. This road takes you through the rainforest and to a gorgeous seventy-foot waterfall. I got to swim and enjoy. What a wonderful time I had!

I am very sad to say that my trek has come to an end. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Your pal,  
Zoë