



2024

TRINIDAD

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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MEET THE TEAM



Lawrence McLean

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



Andrea McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



William McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

“Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.”

– Steve Jobs

A photograph of the Raddison Hotel's outdoor pool area. The pool is surrounded by lounge chairs, umbrellas, and palm trees. In the background, there are several modern high-rise buildings with glass facades. The text "RADDISON HOTEL" is overlaid at the top center of the image.

RADDISON HOTEL

FRI, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

HOTEL CHECK IN

RADDISON HOTEL

Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

PHONE +1 868-235-3366

3:00 PM CHECK INTO HOTEL

7:00 PM HOST DINNER

8:00 PM DISTRIBUTE COSTUMES AND J'OUVERT PACKAGE

SAT, FEBRUARY 18, 2023

FETE 1 (OPTIONAL)

3:00 AM DEPART FOR OPTIONAL FETE 1

7:00 AM RETURN TO HOTEL

3:00 PM DEPART FOR INCLUDED FETE

7:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

IN DEPTH

This is the term used to referred to parties, and there are certainly a lot of them! Seasoned Carnival Participants will literally party morning, noon and night. There are multiple, day parties, night parties and breakfast parties taking place during this time.

Selecting which fete Package to book is contingent upon how much you value your sleep!

Picking the Wassy Fete Package entitles you to one premium all-inclusive fete, which leaves plenty of time for sleep!

The Bacchanal Fete Package gives you 2 premium all-inclusive fetes, which will leave you with a bit of energy once Monday Mas comes around!



SUN, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

FETE 2 (OPTIONAL) & MARACAS BEACH

- 5:00 AM** DEPART FOR OPTIONAL FETE 2
- 9:00 AM** RETURN TO HOTEL
- 2:00 PM** DEPART FOR MARACAS BEACH
- 7:00 PM** RETURN TO HOTEL

IN DEPTH

Maracas Beach is located on the north side of the island, an hour's mountainous drive from the capital city of Port of Spain via the North Coast Road.

Unlike many of the northern beaches of Trinidad, Maracas Bay is protected by a deep bay. It is one of the most well known beaches in the island of Trinidad as it is considered by some to be the most beautiful beach of its size located relatively close to the capital city.



MON, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

J'OUVERT & MONDAY MARCH

3:00 AM DEPART FOR COCO DEVILS J'OUVERT

7:00 AM RETURN TO HOTEL

7:00 AM MONDAY MORNING MAKEUP APPOINT

10:00 AM DEPART FOR MONDAY MARCH

6:00 PM MONDAY MARCH ENDS

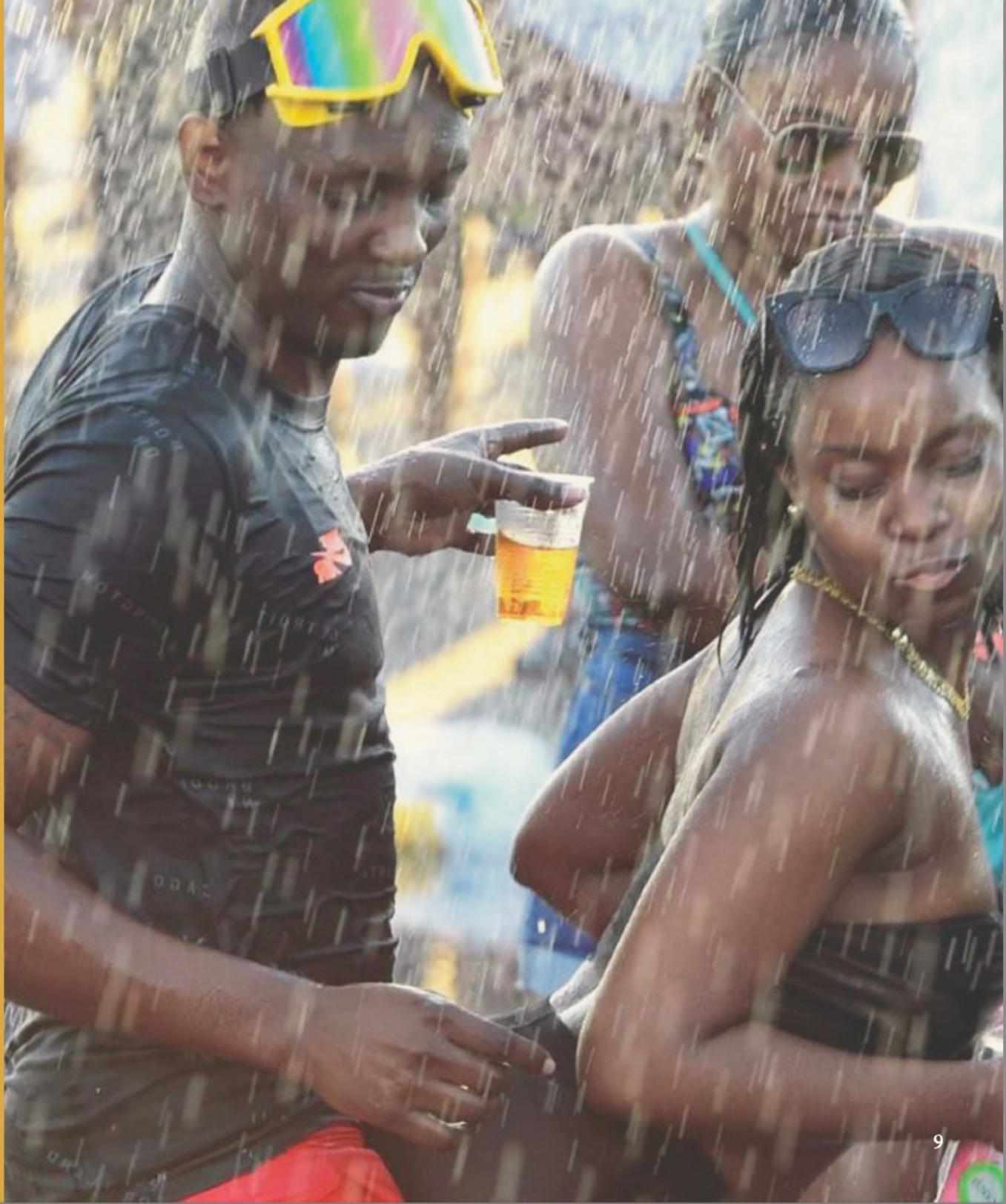
IN DEPTH

J'OUVERT WITH COCOA CREW

Cocoa Crew (Cocoa Devils) was formed in 1993 and has since established itself as one of the most successful J'ouvert bands in T&T! As opposed to most J'ouvert bands Cocoa Devils uses cocoa instead of paint or powder. Included in your cost is transportation to/from the band meeting point, food and drink (yes liquor!) while you chip down di road and all the good vibes you can handle!

MONDAY MARCH

The Monday march is one in which you can pretty much wear whatever you want. While most bands hand out Monday wear, it's customary for those that partake to have their own outfits designed or even wear body paint.



TUE, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

MAKE UP & TUESDAY MARCH

12:00 AM TUESDAY MORNING MAKEUP APPOINT.

7:00 AM DEPART FOR TUESDAY MARCH

6:00 PM TUESDAY MARCH ENDS

IN DEPTH

TUESDAY MARCH

The Tuesday march is where you will dawn your actual costume and join all those in your section, so you can ultimately walk across the stage.



MAKEUP BY KRISSYS BELLA FACES

It's Tuesday morning, you have your costume ready, hair done right and to ensure that you absolutely slay on di road we will offer you the option to get that face beat by celebrity makeup team Krissys Bella Faces.

Included in your makeup package is full sweat proof makeup with carnival gem work, glitter and lashes.





WED, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

LAST DAY

12:00 PM CHECK OUT & DEPART FOR AIRPORT

CULTURE OF CARNIVAL

WHAT IS CARNIVAL

Carnival isn't just a celebration, but rather a part of a much larger culture in which months of planning and preparation goes into only after months of lamenting about the carnival that just past. If you are new to the culture, you are likely to be taken aback by the practices and language that come along with it. For that reason, we've created a list of terms and concepts that you may want to know before partaking. If you aren't new to this, don't laugh and go on

THE MARCH

There are 2 marches (plus J'ouvert), the Monday March and Tuesday March. The Monday march is one in which you can pretty much wear whatever you want. While most bands hand out Monday wear, it's customary for those that partake to have their own outfits designed or even wear body paint. The Tuesday march is where you will dawn your actual costume and join all those in your section, so you can ultimately walk across the stage.

PLAY MAS

A term used to indicate that you are participating in the march with a band.

FETE

This is the term used to refer to parties, and there are certainly a lot of them! Seasoned Carnival Participants will literally party morning, noon and night. There are multiple, day parties, night parties and breakfast parties taking place during this time.

J'OUVERT

This is the march before the march, and may very well be the most intense march of all. You will start early in the morning, hopefully with our J'ouvert Band Coco Devils, and march while being doused in paint, powder and water all while dancing to your hearts content! It's highly suggested that you not wear anything on this day that you plan to wear again anytime in the future. In fact, it might be a good idea to cover yourself in baby oil so the paint will easily wash off.

SOCA

The type of music that you will hear throughout your time in Trinidad. It is very upbeat and high energy! If you are not familiar checkout Machel Montano or Bunji Garlin to get an idea.

BANDS

While this almost seems self-explanatory, it's important that you understand that there are dozens of mas bands that participate in Carnival! Each band consists of 5 or more sections each with its own theme of costume and each section has a front line and a backline, the frontline being the more extravagant of costume.

THE COSTUME

In designing their costumes bands usually create a theme, this year our band's theme is "La Belle Epoque - "A Beautiful Era". But having one theme, doesn't mean there just being one style of costume. Bands normally consist of several sections each with their own style of costume related to the overarching theme. Each section then has a front end, the most extravagant, and a back-end costume, smaller and slightly less extravagant but stunning nonetheless. The men also have costumes to select from in each section.



CULTURE OF CARNIVAL

PLAYING MAS

While you are more than welcome to join our trip and play mas with any band you want, we highly recommend that you do so w/ Paparazzi. Doing so will ensure that you have a seamless and effortless carnival experience where your only responsibility is to show up and have an amazing time!

If you decide NOT to play with Paparazzi, we suggest you select the Carnival Concierge Add On, so we can pick up your costume and have it waiting for you upon your arrival. You will be responsible for your transportation to your bands meeting point.

WHICH FETE PACKAGE TO BOOK?

The answer to that is contingent upon how much you value your sleep!

Picking the Wassy Fete Package entitles you to one additional premium all-inclusive fete, which leaves plenty of time for sleep!

The Bacchanal Fete Package gives you 2 additional premium all-inclusive fetes, which will leave you with a bit of energy once Monday Mas comes around!

SELECTING PAPARAZZI COSTUME

Paparazzi will launch their 2022 line of costumes in July of 2021. Once launched, you can see all of their costumes displayed on their website.

If you decide to go with one of their costumes, fill out the registration form on their site before July 30th, ensuring that select "African American Travelers" During checkout. **DO NOT PAY FOR THE COSTUME!** Entering African American Travelers will indicate to Paparazzi that they should come to us for your payments.

Paparazzi will then forward us the cost of your costume which will then be divided amongst your monthly payments. Your costume will be handed to you upon checking into the Radisson hotel.

In the meantime, you can take advantage of the amount of time we have between now and Carnival 2022 using our Carnival Costume Credit to begin payment on your costume now. By selecting Carnival Costume Credit 100% of that money will be applied to the cost of your costume when you select in July of next year. If the costume you select is less or more than the credit you've paid, we will adjust your monthly payments accordingly. If you decide not to go with a paparazzi costume, the money you've paid will be applied to the remaining balance of your trip.

TRAVELING ALONE? NO WORRIES! WE CAN ASSIGN YOUR ROOMMATE

As with our AAT trips, we extend each traveler the option of being paired up with a suitable roommate at no additional cost. Roommates are paired based upon the answers to their personality questions on their registration form, as well as their ages and even astrological signs. Several months before departure you will be given the contact information of your roommate, giving each of you the opportunity to get properly acquainted.

If the rare circumstance arises where you and your assigned roommate do not click, please let us no less than 2 weeks before we depart and we will reassign you. There will be no reassignments during our stay abroad.

BOOKING TRIPLE OCCUPANCY

Trinidad Carnival attracts nearly 1,000,000 people every year, which puts a high price tag on the cost of going.

In response to this, for the first time ever we will be offering triple occupancy hotel as a cost saving option. Keep in mind, that while we can have 3 people in one room, there will be no more than 2 beds in each room (there are no roll away beds). So, if you do book the triple occupancy option, you should be prepared to share the room with 2 other people that you know!

WE WILL NOT BE DOING ROOMMATE ASSIGNMENTS FOR TRIPLE OCCUPANCY ROOMS!