

Come join the CARNIVAL!

Join the fun with our guide to carnivals from around the world.



If you enjoy parties as much as us, you'll have a ball living it up at a carnival! These celebrations have been around for thousands of years and usually happen at Easter. They started off as a way to over-indulge before the religious season of Lent, when everyone is meant to live simply, but they're more about having fun these days!



Rio's costumes can be wild...



RIO rocks!

The world's biggest carnival happens every February in Rio de Janeiro. The four-day festival attracts thousands of people and fills the Brazilian city with parades, people in crazy costumes, and music and dancing.

Splash out

The Rio carnival started out in 1723 as a traditional Portuguese celebration, where people spent three days wearing masks and throwing water at each other! Things changed in 1840 when a hotel owner also decided to hold a spectacular party - and the carnival was born!

Supersamba

Nowadays, the carnival's highlight is a parade at the Sambadrome, a huge stadium where different samba schools fight for the title of Carnival Champion. The Samba is an energetic style of Brazilian music and dance, and with 3,000 - 5,000 dancers from each school, the parade has to be seen to be believed!

Rio's carnival is ROARRR-some!



... and scary - eek!

Did you know...?
The singer of the most played song is crowned Road March king or queen on the last day of the carnival, winning prize money and a car!



Carnival of Caribbean colours



ISLAND fun

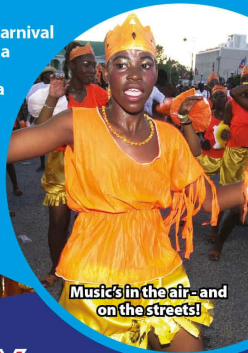
Most of the islands in the Caribbean celebrate the carnival season. The largest and most well-known one is held in Trinidad and Tobago. With parades, live bands and plenty of partying (which is also known as fete-ing) there's always lots of fun to be had.

Join the parade

One of the highlights of the festivities includes a midnight parade. This ends with the burning of a large straw figure, which is thought to cleanse the island of bad luck.

Top tunes

The Trinidad and Tobago carnival is famous for music. With a steel drum event, called the National Panorama competition, and parading bands, people can't fail to move their feet!



Music's in the air - and on the streets!

PARTY on

The New Orleans carnival season starts in January, with things getting busier as the month goes by. The celebrations are famous for their over-the-top parades and costumes. The highlight is Mardi Gras, the carnival's final night, when two glamorous masked balls are thrown.

Great gifts

Watch out if you're at a parade at the New Orleans' carnival - people on the floats throw beads, toys and plastic coins into the crowd!

Cool cake

Got a sweet tooth? Then this is the carnival for you! Everyone tucks in to King Cake, a traditional treat, which is covered in icing and sprinkled with coloured sugar. Each cake has a surprise inside - a bean or a small doll!



This guy certainly 'nose' how to dress for a carnival!

Did you know...?
When it comes to clothing, anything goes in New Orleans. However wearing the traditional carnival colours of purple, green and gold will help

Batman keeps a masked eye out for any trouble