About

We Plan You Jam is a boutique Trinidad Carnival planning and concierge services provider. We are your local connection to everything you need for a stress-free, no hassle Carnival experience.

Meet your planners

JAMES PHILLIPS

James is “Your Guy in Trinidad”. He has been involved in the Trinidad Carnival scene and organized stress-free Carnival experiences for family and friends for over 20 years. James first caught the bug when our grandmother signed him up for Kiddies Carnival at the ripe old age of 5 and he hasn't stopped jammin' since!

NICOLE PHILLIPS

James’ Sister (known as Nicole outside of Trinidad) lives in Toronto and returns to Trinidad every year to ‘play ah mas’. She brings her power planning skills to We Plan You Jam and helps to take care of all the details. And the details’ details. You can be certain if she's not plannin', you'll find her jammin'!
The Language of Carnival

Before we get started, it's important to understand some of the lingo we use in Trinidad, as this is how we talk about and reference different aspects of Carnival.

**Band or Mas Band**
A band is a group of masqueraders that parade on the road during Carnival. There are many mas bands at Carnival, varying from a few hundred masqueraders to many thousands. Each mas band has an overarching theme and is comprised of multiple sections. Each section has a different costume design that links to the overall band theme.

**Carnival Week (aka Bacchanal Week)**
Carnival week is the seven days leading up to the last day of Carnival. For 2020, it is from February 19 to 25. Each day of Carnival week is identified as Carnival [Weekday] e.g. Carnival Friday, Carnival Saturday, etc.

**Frontline or Backline Costume**
For the ladies, there are typically two costume options you can choose from: frontline or backline. The frontline costume is the more elaborate and larger costume. The backline costume is a bit simpler though will still have more elaborate options.

**Fete**
A fete is a soca party. The term is an artifact from our French colonial days. There are many types of fetes based on what's included and the venue/entertainment. *All-Inclusive* fetes include food and alcoholic drinks, *Drinks Inclusive* fetes include drinks only (and maybe a snack), and *Cooler* fetes are BYOB (bring your own booze) fetes.

**Las Lap**
Las Lap is your last chance to party for Carnival. Generally, bands will convene in a location after the parade is done to party until 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. on Carnival Tuesday.

**Mas**
Mas is the parade of costumes. It is often used in the phrase “play mas” or “play ah mas”.

**Road**
"On de road" or the road experience is similar to mas and being on the road for the parade during Carnival.

**Soca or Soca Music**
Soca is the predominant type of music played at Carnival during fetes and on the road.
The history of Carnival

While Trinidad Carnival has become known internationally for the elaborate costume parade and epic fetes, the history of Carnival has deep cultural and socially significant roots.

Carnival was brought to Trinidad by the French settlers in the 1700s and encompassed a series of events and festivities from Christmas leading up to Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten period of fasting for Christians.

These festivities included masquerade balls, house parties, and street parades and were generally reserved for the White elite, with other classes and races only being allowed to participate if they were performing.

The African slaves began their own parallel celebration called Canboulay which, after the emancipation of slaves in the 1830s, evolved to become what we know as Carnival today and culminates in a two-day parade on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Traditional Carnival music is Calypso (or Kaiso), originally developed by the African slaves as a means to communicate with each other on the plantations. Legendary Calypsonians include Roaring Lion, Lord Kitchener, and the Mighty Sparrow.

Soca music, which originated in the 1970s as a fusion of calypso, chutney and other influences like Latin, funk, and soul, has taken over as the most popular music during Carnival. Popular Soca artistes include Machel Montano, Destra, Kes, and Patrice Roberts.

Often touted as the greatest show on earth, Trinidad Carnival has inspired other carnivals across the Caribbean and around the world like Toronto's Caribana, Miami Carnival, Notting Hill Carnival, and the New York Labour Day Parade.
More than Mas

Beyond the parties and the parade, there are many significant events associated with Trinidad Carnival. Here are just a few:

**Reenactment of the Canboulay Riots**
The Reenactment of the Canboulay Riots is a dramatic street performance in tribute to the lives lost in 1881, when the British police tried unsuccessfully to ban certain aspects of the Carnival celebration. It is held at 4 a.m. on Carnival Friday.

**Soca Monarch**
Soca Monarch is an annual soca music competition with the finals held on Carnival Friday (aka Fantastic Friday). There are two crowns or titles that contestants vie for: Power Soca Monarch and Groovy Soca Monarch.

**Panorama**
Panorama is an annual steel band (aka steelpan) music competition held at Carnival time. Each steel pan orchestra selects and plays a popular calypso or soca song. The finals are held on Carnival Saturday.

**Dimanche Gras**
Dimanche Gras (French for "Fat Sunday") is an annual costume competition during Carnival, where the mas bands who choose to participate showcase their elaborate King and Queen costumes and performances. Each band's King and Queen lead their masqueraders during the parade on Carnival Monday and Tuesday. Dimanche Gras is held on Carnival Sunday.

**J'ouvert**
J'ouvert (French for "daybreak"), also known as dirty mas, is the official start of Carnival. It begins in the early hours of Carnival Monday morning and involves participants smearing paint, mud, or oil on each other while dancing down the street in a j'ouvert band.
When you choose to participate in a j'ouvert or mas band, the price includes the complete road experience. Below outlines what's generally included with your costume and j'ouvert purchase.

**J'ouvert**
- Music trucks with live DJs
- Themed wear
- Premium bars with unlimited drinks
- Breakfast snack
- Security
- On-site paramedics
- Mobile restrooms (ladies only)

**Mas Band**
- Road experience for Monday and Tuesday
- Music trucks with live DJs
- Premium bars with unlimited drinks
- Lunch on both days
- Breakfast and snack on Tuesday
- Private security team
- On-site paramedics
- Mobile restrooms
- Roaming photographers
- Goody bags with souvenirs and Carnival essentials
- Las Lap party on Carnival Tuesday
Explore our Islands

For many of our Jammers, visiting Trinidad for Carnival is a once in a lifetime trip (though we know you'll want to come back!). There is so much more that Trinidad and our sister island Tobago has to offer that we strongly recommend trying a tour or two. Here's just a sample:

Evening Steelpan Yard Tour
Visit the authentic panyards where the famous steel bands practice, taste some streetfood (Doubles), and visit a Mas camp where Carnival costumes are displayed (based on availability).

Mud Volcano Adventure
This tour takes you on a scenic drive to the south of Trinidad with a few stops along the way to enjoy some local delicacies. At the final stop, hike 45 minutes to the Mud Volcano. After soaking up the mud, hike a further 30-45 minutes to a calm beach to wash off and enjoy.

Mini Island Tour
Explore Central Trinidad and visit the Chaguanas Market, Hanuman Statue, Temple in the Sea, and enjoy a roti lunch.

Rum Distillery Tour
Visit the world famous Angostura Rum Distillery and its museum and butterfly collection, followed by a tram ride through the facility to see the bottling process. The tour concludes with a rum-tasting session and a visit to Angostura’s very own shop.

Tobago Highlights
Enjoy a boat tour to Buccoo Reef with snorkeling and a swim in the Nylon Pool. Visit the capital Scarborough and the Botanic Garden. Take in panoramic views from Forts and explore the island with a cross-island drive.
3 Steps to Trinidad Carnival

Whether you want to participate or spectate, our goal is to ensure you have the experience of a lifetime. We have a simple sign-up process to secure your spot with us, and from there we work with you to create your ultimate experience for Trinidad Carnival.

1. **Choose your base package**
   Your base package is the starting point to creating your Carnival experience with us. Package pricing varies based on the hotel selected and the number of people in the room.

2. **Personalize your experience**
   No two Jammers are the same. Package add-ons allow us to customize your package to ensure you have the best experience for your Carnival.

3. **Secure your spot**
   Ready to join our Jammer Family (aka Jam Fam) for Trinidad Carnival 2020? Simply email us with your base package selection and we’ll take it from there.
Step 1: Choose your base package

**DOUBLE**

- HYATT
- HY-2
- $3,499USD per person

**TRIPLE**

- KAPOK
- KA-2
- $2,899USD per person

**QUADRUPLE**

- CHACONIA
- CH-3
- $2,199USD per person

- HYATT
- HY-3
- $3,099USD per person

- KAPOK
- KA-3
- $2,649USD per person

- CHACONIA
- CH-4
- $2,099USD per person

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**ALL PACKAGES INCLUDE:**

- Travel dates: Feb 21-26, 2020
- 6-days/5-nights hotel stay including breakfast and WIFI
- Round trip airport transfer
- Maracas Beach shuttle (Sat + Sun)
- Costume concierge* (includes registration + delivery; does NOT include costume cost)
- $100USD Sokah Wear credit

- Ticket + transport to one (1) event (drinks inclusive fete, Calypso tent, Panorama Finals etc.)
- Carnival experience concierge + support
- Pre-departure preparation + call
- On the ground support
- Exclusive Jammers Forum
- Detailed itinerary in smartphone app

*Bands we work with: BLISS, Harts, Lost Tribe, Pure, ROGUE, TRIBE*
Below is a sample of some of our most requested add-ons from our Jammers. **Note: all items include transportation where applicable.** Interested in something not listed below? Just ask!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HOTEL STAY EXTENSION</strong></td>
<td>Please inquire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COSTUMES</strong></td>
<td>Based on selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female frontline costume</td>
<td>From $1200+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female backline costume</td>
<td>From $750+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male costume</td>
<td>From $650+</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH + BEAUTY</strong></td>
<td>From $225+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday &amp; Tuesday Make-up</td>
<td>From $150+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday Only Make-up</td>
<td>Please inquire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-fete/Post-road massage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FETES</strong></td>
<td>From $175+ per ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Inclusive fete</td>
<td>From $125+ per ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drinks inclusive fete</td>
<td>From $75+ per ticket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooler fete</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RED ANTS JOUVERT</strong></td>
<td>$140</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOURS + EXCURSIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>City Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steel Pan Yard Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Island Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mud Volcano Adventure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rum Distillery Tour</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LOCAL CARNIVAL EVENTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Soca Monarch Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panorama Finals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimanche Gras</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calypso Tent</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT</strong></td>
<td>Please inquire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOBAGO EXTENSION</strong></td>
<td>Please inquire</td>
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</tbody>
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Ready to get official Jammer status and join our Jam Fam?

To secure your spot, send us an email at hello@weplanyoujam.com with your package selection using the code in the table on pg. 10. For example, HY-3 for the Hyatt triple occupancy room.

**Note: Add-ons can be added to your package anytime up to Carnival based on availability.**

We will confirm room availability and schedule a 15-minute call to gather additional information before you make your deposit.

Shortly after the call, we will send you an invoice to make your $500USD per person deposit payment to secure your spot.

Once your deposit is made, we give thanks to the Carnival Gods as another Jammer is born and welcomed into our Jam Fam!
Event Schedule

The event schedule below covers our favourite fetes and local Carnival events for popular travel days. **It is based on the 2019 schedule and is subject to change.**

Additional fetes and events not listed below can be added upon request. **Tickets are based on availability.**

**We recommend no more than two (2) events per day.**

**Wed**
- 2pm SCORCH DDI Cooler Cruise
- 4pm Hyatt LIME
- 6pm Mental
- 10pm Punchy Punch

**Thu**
- 3am CAESAR’S ARMY AM Beach
- 2pm Beach House All Inclusive
- 10pm TRIBE Ignite

**Fri**
- 4am Reenactment of Canboulay Riots
- 8am Silent Morning Boat Ride
- 2pm Duck Work Pool + Cabana Party
- 5pm Shades in the City
- **7pm Soca Monarch Finals**
- 10pm Blue Range Cooler Fete

**Sat**
- 2am CAESAR’S ARMY AM Bush
- 2am Pandemonium
- 11am Soca Brainwash
- **7pm Panorama Finals**

**Sun**
- 4am Sunny Side Up Breakfast Party
- 5am Shades Breakfast Party
- 2pm Beach House Cooler
- 3pm Bess Lime Carnival Island
- 4pm Brian Lara Fete
- **7pm Dimanche Gras**

**Mon**
- 2am J’ouvert
- 10am Carnival Monday parade

**Tue**
- 7am Carnival Tuesday parade
- 6pm Las Lap
EXCLUSIONS + AVAILABILITY
Package does NOT include international flights.
Packages are first come first served.

DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS
A non-refundable deposit of $500USD per person is required to secure your spot with us. All persons in your room must pay their deposit at the same time.

WHEN TO MAKE PAYMENTS
We Plan You Jam accepts flexible payment terms including lump sum, monthly, and bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) payments. Full payment is due December 15, 2019.

HOW TO PAY
We accept the following forms of payment:
- PayPal (including major credit cards)
- Cheque
- Interac e-transfer (Canadian residents only)
- Money Orders or Wire Transfers

IMPORTANT: All payments MUST be made in USD

CANCELLATION POLICY
A full refund of your deposit, less 5% administrative fees, are allowed up to 48 hours after sending the initial deposit or by June 15, 2019, whichever comes first. All refund requests must be sent via email. Please allow 7 days to process your refund.

After the first 48 hours, you must send a cancellation email to We Plan You Jam. You will have the sole responsibility to find a replacement to purchase your package before December 15, 2019. If you do not find a replacement by December 15, 2019, you forfeit all monies paid.

GROUPS + OCCUPANCY
Your package price is based on length of stay and room occupancy. If one of the occupants of your room cancels, the remaining occupants agree to the automatic increase in the cost of their package to cover one (or more) less person (or people) in the room. You will be provided an updated invoice based on the reduced occupancy.
We do de **plannin'**.
You do de **jammin'**.

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