

# TOBAGO HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Tobago Heritage Festival  
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Tobago Heritage Festival, started in 1987, is an annual celebration to preserve the history, traditions, culture, food, dance, music and art of Tobago. Starting in mid July, events are held in different villages across the island over a two week period. The festival ends on August 1st (Emancipation Day).



## > MORIAH Ole Time Wedding

This event is held in the village of Moriah. It highlights the traditions of a wedding from long ago. After the ceremony in the Church, the wedding party walks to the wedding feast. Along the way they dance the “brush back” to the music of tambrin drums and fiddles.

## > BLACK ROCK Sea Festival

This event is held in the fishing village of Black Rock. It begins at 5am with the blow of a conch shell. Participants join a festive procession to the beach filled with local music. The day is filled with seafood and many fun activities including pulling seine (fishing nets) on the shore.



**> PEMBROKE**  
**Salaka Feast**

This event is held in the village of Pembroke. It is a re-creation of the Salaka, a thanksgiving festival that honours their African ancestors. It is a day of unity among villagers. Activities include wearing clothes made from tribal fabrics, prayer, drumming, dancing and food.

**> BUCCOO**  
**Crab & Goat Races**

This event is held in the village of Buccoo. The tradition began in the 1920s as a substitute for horse race betting. Villagers would train their goats all year for the competition. The day also includes crab races and is filled with lots of action and excitement.



## > CHARLOTTEVILLE National Treasures Day

This event is held in the village of Charlotteville and honours local traditions. It begins with a festive procession filled with music and costumed performers. The day's activities include baking in an earthen oven, using a batty mill, washing the dead bed and dancing the cocoa.

## > TOBAGO Ole Time Harvest

This event is held in several villages across the island. It is a time of thanksgiving and honours the tradition of bringing people together with food. Villagers invite relatives and friends to experience a church service, choir performances and a community feast.



## > LES COTEAUX

### Folk Tales & Superstitions

This event is held in the village of Les Coteaux. It preserves the rich spoken tales handed down from their African ancestors. The day includes a stage presentation and performances with stories of legends such as Gang Gang Sarah, Mama D'lo and other folklore characters.

## > MASON HALL

### Games We Used to Play

This event is held in the village of Mason Hall. It is a reminder of the games children would play in simpler times. The day begins with a road race and street parade. It continues with fun activities such as greasy pole, marble pitch, jump rope and box cart racing to name a few.



## > ROXBOROUGH

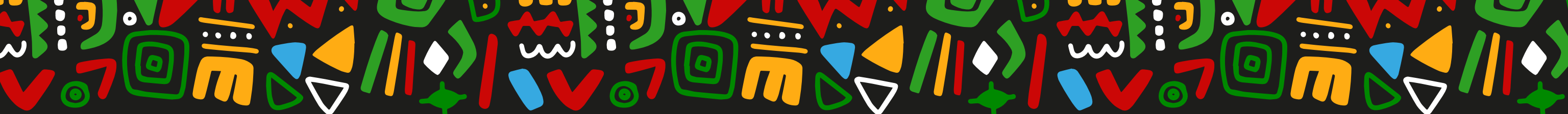
### Belmanna Riots & Seafood Festival

This event is held in the village of Roxborough. It is a re-enactment of a riot that took place on a cocoa estate in 1876 where police Corporal, James Henry Belmanna was killed by angry protesters. The day's activities also include seafood dishes and singing of folk songs.

## > TOBAGO

### Wake & Bongo

This event is held in different villages. It honours the African traditions of dealing with death. The performance includes the rituals that would be done before and after a wake. These include washing the dead bed, dancing the limbo and the singing of songs known as bongo.

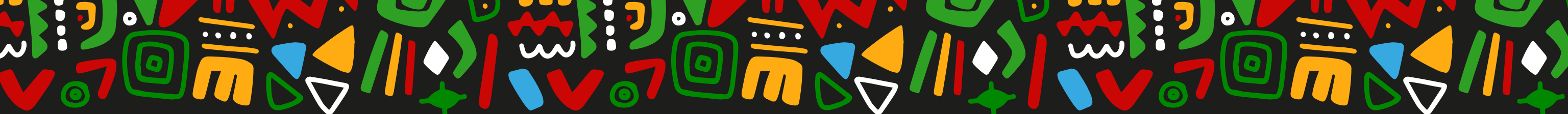


## > HERITAGE Calypso Monarch

This event is held in the village of Plymouth. It is an annual calypso competition for Tobagonians. Calypsonians perform original songs based on the theme of the Heritage Festival. The winner is crowned the Heritage Calypso Monarch for one year and walks away with a cash prize.

## > PLYMOUTH Ole Time Carnival

This event is held in the village of Plymouth. It is a celebration of the traditions of Carnival. Festivities begin before sunrise with J'Ouvert celebrations. The day continues with a cultural showcase which includes traditional Carnival characters and Speech Band mas.



## > MS. TOBAGO

# Heritage Personality

This event is a pageant to crown Ms. Tobago Heritage Personality. Each village nominates a young lady to compete for the title. Before the pageant, contestants engage in social and community work. On pageant night, the queens showcase their beauty, intelligence, talents and gowns.

## > TOBAGO

# Emancipation Celebrations

This event is the grand finale of the Tobago Heritage Festival. Celebrations begin with a Freedom Walk along the streets filled with dancing, singing and music. The Festival ends with a gala concert of performers from different villages coming together to showcase their talents.





# Tobago Heritage Festival colouring pages are inside **All About My Trinidad Colouring Book**

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