

A WORDS: MARK KASPROWICZ  
**WORLD**  
OF  
**WINDSURFING**

BY THE time you get your frosty mitts on this issue, winter will be well and truly here and while the hardy sail through the bitterest of weather, many hang up their harnesses until the frostbite season is over.

**For those that can't contemplate the cold, this could be your opportunity** to get out there, travel the world and, while you are doing it, score that much needed fix of windsurfing action. Our team at Windsurf has been scanning through the office atlas and managed to find a whole variety of exciting locations all over the planet. We have searched high and low to cover all the possible angles from hardcore down the line wave sailing right through to idyllic blasting on palm fringed beaches.

The big issue is money. The exchange rate of the pound even against the Egyptian currency is about as dire as you can imagine and as we go to press, the Euro is technically on a par with the battered (s)quid. So you want as much Beaufort per hard earned £ as you can get. Check out these mouth watering options we have selected and you never know...you might well be tempted to live your dreams, get out there, explore the world and discover some of the amazing windsurfing locations the world has to offer...Get ready, fasten your seatbelts and enjoy the ride....





## ON THE ROAD

As many windsurfers will have experienced, there is nothing more fun than packing your van up with just the bare essentials and hitting the road with a few buddies, ready for an adventure. The vast continent of Europe awaits you with some world class windsurfing conditions and endless options in terms of where you go and what you want to do. It's just a matter of time, money and mechanics. (NB. If you are planning that once in a life time dream trip across Europe...we would highly recommend not to offer Windsurf Magazine's photographer John Carter a lift as his presence will probably result in lost keys, missed ferries, speeding tickets, breakdowns or many other forms of travel problems. You have been warned!)

## IRELAND BRANDON BAY

Ireland is a real windsurfing hotspot and, over the last few years, the growth of wave sailing, slalom and speed has been phenomenal. Brandon Bay is located on the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry and is considered to be one of the top Irish destinations. It's best known for its wave sailing but there are other, less demanding places for all comers. The two best known wave sailing spots are Dumps and Gowlane.

Dumps is brilliant for beginners to get into wave sailing but the advice is to sail this spot at mid to low tide. At high tide it can get a bit tricky hence the name Dumps. Gowlane is the preferred spot to sail when the wind is in a south westerly direction, the waves can get pretty full on when the forecast is good so it is suited for more advanced sailors. Other popular beaches are Sandy Bay and Scraggan Bay. 'Scraggies' is sailable in almost any wind direction, however it works best when the wind direction is south – south easterly. Protected from the Atlantic Ocean the water here is generally flat, an ideal blasting ground for slalom and free riders. The conditions here are a lot more manageable than in open water even when it's honking. This spot can cater for beginners, right up to advanced slalom riders or even the bump and jump guys. Sandy Bay is located on the east shore and based there is the Jamie Knox windsurfing school. This is by far the best location for "first timers" to get out on the water and learn to windsurf. In the summer time there are qualified life guards at hand to keep an eye on things and, as the water is perfectly flat, the windsurfing is very safe and extremely easy. Brandon Bay itself is quite easy to get to and the Swansea to Cork ferry seems to be the easiest and most popular way. A word of warning if travelling by car - Ireland has some of the biggest potholes in Europe and when it's raining as it often does in Ireland, they fill up with water and can't be seen.

So if your vehicle is pimped up with alloys and rubber band tyres, be sure to take many spares – wheels that is!

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 18°C  
**Water temp summer:** 14°C  
**First time windsurfers:** Very Good  
**Intermediate & Advanced:** Very Good  
**Wave spots:** Excellent  
**Flat Water:** Good  
**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Average

*“ This is by far the best location for first timers ”*



ITALY - LAKE GARDA



PORTO POLLO - SARDINIA

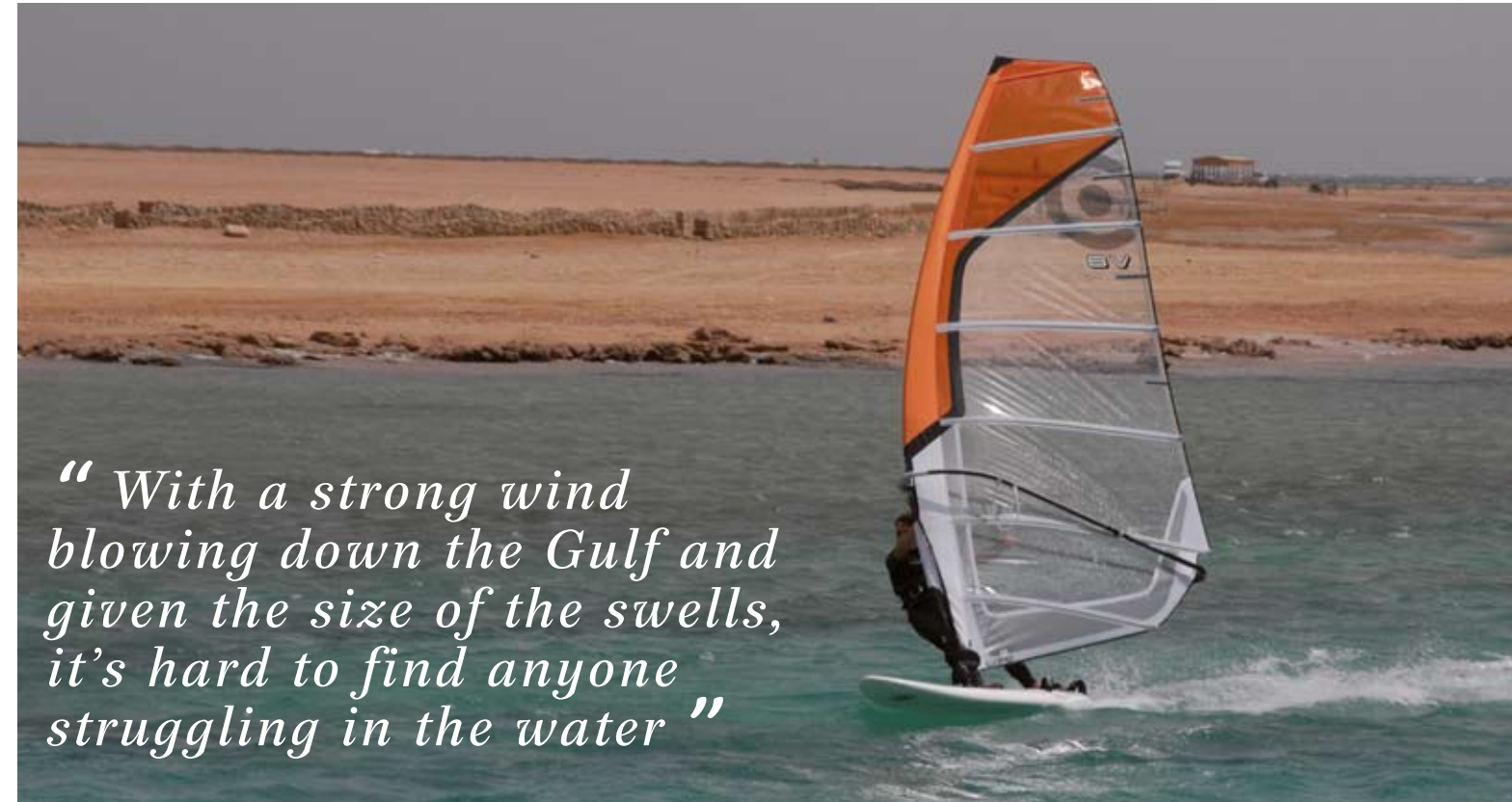
**A** great many mainland European windsurfers have made the pilgrimage to Lake Garda, in Northern Italy, but we Brits obviously need convincing because few make it there. Situated at the foot of the Italian Alps, it's one of the most stunning and picturesque locations in the world. According to legend there are two thousand named winds in Lake Garda but we're only interested in two, the Peler and Ora. The Peler, which is also known as the Viento, comes from the North and you've got to be an early bird to catch it as it usually starts just after dawn and only continues until 9 or perhaps 10 am when it dies away. The irony is that it goes straight over the town of Torbole, so the so called windsurfing capital of the lake and the town where most of the main windsurfing centres are based, doesn't get a whisper! To benefit from the Peler you need to sail from no further North than Malcesine on the East shore or Limone on the West. Take a 5mm wetsuit though as it's quite chilly before the sun comes up. By midday, the wind starts to fill again, this time from the south. It's then that Torbole comes into its own because as the wind funnels up the lake, the sides get narrower and steeper which speeds the wind up. Even so, it won't blow as strongly as the morning Peler but it will last much longer, sometimes into the evening. Torbole is where many of the schools and hire centres are and the area though busy with all sorts of waterborne activities is big enough to cope. Our advice is to head for Malcesine to get the best of both winds and for the charm and fantastic cuisine of this beautiful 14th Century lakeside town. You won't be able to windsurf from the town but there's a new yacht club with a full Starboard and Severne test centre close by and being an RYA centre offers a full range of tuition to British standards. It's part of Europa Holidays and it's run by Charles and Alison Kinsley, a British couple who have made Lake Garda their home. They will arrange accommodation, car hire, everything and show you around – there's plenty to see and do. The cuisine is excellent, there are plenty of bars and cafes and the town has a lively atmosphere. Getting there by car or van takes a couple of days. By air, it's a flight to Verona and then a forty minute ride to your destination – the downside is that the airlines are British Airways and Ryan Air – BA doesn't take windsurfing equipment while Ryan will charge at least £80 for the round trip.

**SUMMARY**  
**Air temp summer:** 26 – 29°C  
**Water temp summer:** 16°C  
**First time windsurfers:** Good  
**Intermediate & Advanced:** Excellent  
**Wave spots:** None  
**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Excellent

**A** stunning island located in the Mediterranean, surrounded by white sandy beaches and beautiful turquoise blue water, Sardinia is extremely accessible as it is only a two hour flight away. If you look at the wind map of Sardinia just about every important Mediterranean wind passes over the island. Mistral, Tramontana, Levante, Poniente and the Scirocco are the well known ones but add to that the lesser known Gracale, Libeccio and Austro and every one of the major compass points is covered! Throughout the year the prevailing wind changes four times. In spring, the North to East Tramontana blows powerfully ranging from Force 6 to 8. In the summer the south westerly Poniente is good for anything from force 4 to 8 while in the autumn the Scirocco blows from North Africa usually around force 5 to 6 but occasionally a full blown Force 9 batters through! The best windsurfing on the island is in the north in Porto Pollo. Made up of two bays, Sardinia is at its closest to Corsica here and the venturi effect accelerates the winds. The Baia del Delfini or Bay of Dolphins is home to the Windsurf Village, with accommodation scattered across the hillside and stunning views across the bay to the archipelago of the Magdalena Islands. The accommodation is close to the Michie Bouwmeester Pro hire centre stocking JP, Neil Pryde and RRD. In the bay itself, there is a large lagoon area, perfect for beginners learning to windsurf while beyond that the wind increases and the conditions are more suited to an intermediate or advanced sailor. Right out in the channel separating the two islands, it's even more testing, with the swells occasionally approaching mast high. The island itself is very scenic and a well earned rest day can be spent exploring the area around Porto Pollo. Or you might take a boat trip to the Magdalena Islands with its hidden coves, stunning vegetation and beautiful waters. Boat trips run from the nearby town of Palau, eight miles away. Diving too is popular on the island, with clean waters and a rich aquatic life. Porto Pollo is not a wild night time place, the lively nightlife is in Palau, but there are a handful of bars and restaurants within walking distance, one of them the Village's own. Nice location, windsurfing waters which are not crowded and an excellent Italian cuisine and atmosphere.

**SUMMARY**  
**Air temp summer:** 26 – 28°C  
**Water temp summer:** 17°C  
**First time windsurfers:** Excellent  
**Intermediate & Advanced:** Good  
**Wave spots:** Limited  
**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Good





*“ With a strong wind blowing down the Gulf and given the size of the swells, it’s hard to find anyone struggling in the water ”*

## EGYPT DAHAB

**I**f you had windsurfed in Dahab just 15 years ago things would have been different. The winds were constant, there were just two hotels and hire centres at either end of the lagoon, ten boards on the water was a crowd and the speed strip was in front of what is now the Hilton hotel. Now the bay lays claim to being the biggest windsurfing destination in the World. Why is it so popular? Consistent and dependable wind, the water’s bath warm, the hotels are cheap, flights too, transfer time is just an hour from Sharm El Shiekh. The lagoon is directly in front of most of the hotels and is a safe and secure area for beginners to take their first steps on a windsurfer. It has crystal blue water and is constantly in the view of most of the centres, which are in contact with each other and all have rescue boats. Dahab winds tend to start filling in around 10.30 and so any time before that is great for beginners.

Once the wind starts to hit, the lagoon and the area beyond the sand spit called ‘Speedy’, get busy. It’s a huge area but even then at peak times there can be upwards of 200 boards on the water before lunch. After lunch it gets a little quieter. The lagoon is perfect for anyone wanting the security of an almost enclosed area especially as this is an offshore wind location. Beyond the sand spit the wind is less gusty and close to the sand spit the water is flat and so it’s also great not just for speed enthusiasts wanting to take their GPS out on the

water and log some high speed sailing but for long high speed gybes and general blasting. There is, for most of the year a ‘rescue island’ located here. It’s a large inflatable platform where you can rest without having to head back upwind to your centre.

Freestylers gather on Baby Bay, located just east of the speed strip and upwind of Napoleon Reef the long sand bar. The wind is extremely clean as none of the hotel buildings cause any obstruction. The water is a stunning turquoise blue and crystal clear. There aren’t any waves in Dahab, well not real ones anyway but there are swell, huge ones at times out beyond Speedy through the gap in Napoleon reef. The locals call it Kamakaze but there is a rule that says the minimum number of windsurfers going out there has to be three. With a strong wind blowing down the Gulf and given the size of the swells, it’s hard to find anyone struggling in the water from equipment failure so one heads back for help while the other one stays with the windsurfer in trouble so that the rescue boats can find them (if you’re hiring from one of the Harry Nass centres you get a walkie –talkie to radio for help). The swells have been known to reach three or even four metres. There are many windsurfing centres in Dahab. The biggest, the Harry Nass Centres, now number four, all stocked with the latest JP and Neil Pryde equipment. Neilson have a centre with Starboard and Tushingham, Club Dahab for the younger set and Club Mistral (Fanatic, North and Mistral) based on the Hilton for those needing a bit more luxury.

They all cater for all level of windsurfers. The latest Harry Nass centre is based on the newly opened Mercure Bay View Hotel in the south of the bay. No crowds, uninterrupted wind and a shore break.

More about this exciting new venue in the next edition of Windsurf Magazine. Nearby, the town of Masbat now has just about everything you need, though windsurfing gloves are always in short supply. But there are restaurants of every description including an Indian and Thai, there are places where you can buy alcohol, no longer down a dark alley but right there on the main drag, nothing proper of course just the usual ‘Gordoons’ and ‘Jamie Walker’.

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 26 – 34°C

**Water temp summer:** 24°C

**First time windsurfers:** Very Good

**Intermediate & Advanced:** Very Good

**Wave spots:** Large swells.

**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Good.





SOTAVENTO -  
FUERTEVENTURA



NYALI BEACH - KENYA

**Y**our favoured discipline will decide where you stay in Fuerteventura. But as a starter you get the best winds in summer when the Azores high moves North and the best waves in the winter when the Atlantic storms move across the Northern part of the Ocean. Down in the south, Sotavento has a well known and dependable reputation for wind and, depending on who you ask, it's either a wave, freeride or speed location as all three disciplines have competed there at World class level. The wind is cross offshore, accelerated by a venturi effect in the mountains right behind the town. Being a land driven wind, you can see how speed comes into the equation. As you sail towards the beach and then bear away parallel to the beach, the wind is in exactly the right direction for maximum speed. Head further down the beach and the water is perfect for Bump and Jump and freeride. Just the other day the wind was pumping 25kts and there were beautiful head high rollers breaking along the length of the beach. So it's a bit of a wonderful lottery. There's plenty of accommodation in the area and the Rene Egli Pro Centre is right there on the beach, next to the water. The centre hires JP, Neil Pryde and Starboard. Tuition is available from beginner level upwards and there is also a kite school and hire centre in the same location. In the North is Corralejo. What was once a dusty sleepy town, straight out of a spaghetti Western, is now a huge resort with hotels and accommodation to suit all tastes and pockets. Nearby and within walking distance is Flag Beach Windsurf Centre. You can hire Fanatic and North equipment here and courses are available at all levels. There's a windsurfing shop here too. The water here is much flatter than nearby Glass beach and the swells will be governed by Atlantic storms but the wind is not as strong as in Sotavento and usually cross shore, so perfect for intermediates. The area around the North and North East of the island is where the waves are but you've got to be pretty careful where you sail. Not because of the conditions either water or wind, but these are popular beaches among surfers and some beaches that used to be windsurfing territory, like the Shooting Gallery, are now surfing territory and dropping in on a local is not considered polite, especially with a rig in your hand! But Cotillo in the North East, Corralejo at the harbour, Majanicho on the North coast, Punta Blanca and a handful of others are still there for those with the skills.

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 26 – 29°C  
**Water temp summer:** 20 – 24°C  
**First time windsurfers:** Very Good  
**Intermediate & Advanced:** Very Good  
**Wave spots:** Very Good.  
**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Good

**K**enya is hardly a place that springs to mind when compiling a list of top windsurfing spots but Nyali beach must vie among them. A white powder sand beach with a turquoise lagoon, protected by a reef, steady cross shore winds backed by a beach resort and a well stocked hire centre. The winds here are trades and they blow for six months from the North East, the Kaskazi, and then six months from the South East, the Kusi. There is a rainy season in October and again in June, July and August, a period known as the Long Rains, when the water temperature in the Mombasa Sea drops to a cool 24C and the swells are bigger. Air temperature is also cooler then by about 8°C. The best months for windsurfing are during the Long Rains, January and February.

Nyali is unique for the whole of the North Kenyan coast, as there is always water in the lagoon irrespective of the state of the tide.

The reef is 1km out and on the way in you can catch some of the smaller breaking waves. The Pro Surf Centre is tied in with the Nyali International Beach Hotel and offers windsurfing lessons for beginners. It's an eight hour course, at the end of which you can windsurf for free. In fact this offer is open to all who can windsurf and are staying at the hotel. It offers rescue cover, use of the launching zone, showers, bar and locked storage if you have your own equipment. But the volume of equipment is quite small, with just 20 rigs and 20 boards to choose from on a first come, first served basis.

Windsurfers also qualify for a discount on room rates. But you'd be a real windsurfhead if you went to Kenya and didn't do at least a mini safari. If you can tear yourself away for a couple of days then take a two day trip to Tvaso East National Park. Tvaso is famous for its large numbers of elephants and herds of up to one thousand buffalo and, as the East side of the park is more open than the West, there's more chance of seeing them. Nyali is just 15 minutes away from Mombasa International Airport.

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 34-36°C  
**Water temp summer:** 24 - 28°C  
**First time windsurfers:** Beginner – Good  
**Intermediate – Advance:** Good  
**Wave spots:** No  
**Activities for non-windsurfers:** – Excellent





## TURKEY ALACATI

**A**lacati is in the Meltemi's path, the Aegean Sea wind that blows from the North from June to September. Set in the Cesme Peninsula, Alacati bay is a huge protected bay almost three miles across. Right outside the main hire centres there is a shallow area for five hundred metres from the beach with turquoise waters – the perfect location to learn water starts or indeed any other technical moves you may be practising with the security of knowing that you can just step on the board again. In the North West of the bay, the area has been allocated as a dedicated beginners area, to the South is the open sea. The winds start off in the morning, increasing during the course of the day and the normal wind direction gives cross shore, flat water conditions. Although the wind is the Meltemi, it accelerates as it passes over the

Peninsula so it's a little bit stronger than elsewhere in the Aegean. The occasional South wind, known as the 'Poiras' blows cross shore from the right as you look out of the centres and it then gets a bit choppy, and small waves will break in the bay from the opening to the sea. But this is primarily a flat water blasting area. Best times to go are June and September. The main hire centre, Club Mistral, has around 100 boards in stock and offers courses for any level, the area is especially suitable for younger members of the windsurfing centre. There are no hotels attached to the windsurfing beach and those offered by the holiday companies can vary in distance so when booking check to see how long it will take you to get to the centre. There are several bars and restaurants on the beach and generally food and drink prices are not expensive.

Magnificent cliffs, tiny coves and sandy beaches surround Alacati bay which is situated at the edge of vineyards and sesame fields. There's not very much wild happening as far as night life is concerned and Ilica and Cesma, five and nine miles respectively is where you'd have to go for

that. But those two towns also have picturesque harbours with bars and restaurants around the walls. On no wind days there are the usual excursions and from Cesme you can take day trips to Greece. Those with an interest in history might visit Ephesus, one of Turkey's most famous antiquities.

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 24 – 32°C

**Water temp summer:** 20 – 24°C

**First time windsurfers:** Very Good

**Intermediate & Advanced:** Very Good

**Wave spots:** Not really but some come in with South wind.

**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Good

*“ Club Mistral, has around 100 boards in stock and offers courses for any level ”*



MUI NE BAY -  
VIETNAM

**M**ui Ne Bay, on the South China Sea, is host to the first windsurfing centre built in Vietnam. Set in the South of the country, the closest major airport is Ho Chi Min City, the centre of which is Saigon. Full Moon Beach Resort and Jibes Windsurfing Club is rather luxurious but, in common with hotels in the Far East, not that expensive, typically a room with a sea view costs around £40.00 per person a night. Jibes Windsurfing Club is next door to the Full Moon Beach Resort, directly on the beach front of Phan Thiet. It's very well stocked with Starboard, Severne and Simmer and caddies carry your gear down to the water's edge. Courses are available.

When to go? Here's the difference between the East and the West. Instead of dealing with seasons of summer and winter, Vietnam views it by 'dry', November to April, and 'rainy' seasons. So Full Moon Beach is best in the dry season when the typical wind strength is between 18 and 30 knots, sometimes stronger. It's a cross shore wind here and ideal for freeride. In the rainy season, winds are weaker. Jibes Windsurfing Club can organise trips to other locations. Suoi Nuoc is a radical onshore wave spot where it's most high every windy day. It's going to be the next Jibes centre sometime in the future, then there is Hom Ron, again best in the dry season with regular 30 knots, on shore winds and a shore break but with no coral. Slightly worrying is the name of one of the breaks – 'Cemetery'. Then there's Phu Guy Island which has everything – waves, flat water lagoon sailing, white sand beaches and crystal clear water. The wind stats are promising. Mui Ne Bay gets over 12 knots of wind for nearly two thirds of the year and there doesn't appear a peak or a low season. Packages are available and a week in the luxury accommodation offered by the Full Moon together with breakfast and dinner and one weeks board hire start from around £330 based on two windsurfers sharing. Flights are extra. I have to add that the food in this country is among the best in the East. It's where the Eastern Kitchen is strongly influenced by the country's French Colonial past. Anyone who is a burger fan might have a hard time here. One final mention and that's the currency, it's called the Dong. No further comment!

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 28 – 33°C

**Water temp summer:** 20°C

**First time windsurfers:** Can be good but not really recommended.

**Intermediate & Advanced:** Very Good

**Wave spots:** Yes

**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Very Good



SOUTH AMERICA -  
JERICOACOARA

**O**K, we can see why everyone calls it 'Jeri'. Just a touch south of the equator, Jeri offers a wide range of conditions for all levels of sailors. Anyone that has been will certainly tell you about the journey from the airport. The 190 miles transfer from Fortaleza (itself still a top windsurfing destination) takes over four hours and the last 45 minutes are off road and in the sand dunes. There is a bus service - it takes six hours - and also the option of doing the journey by helicopter. As a Brazilian National Park the whole area is protected by environmental protection agencies which help to maintain and preserve this most beautiful windsurfing spot – 25 years ago the Washington Post named the little fishing village as one of the ten most beautiful beaches in the world. But let's start with the wind, the Alizes, which dominates the North of Brazil. It's strong and consistent and increases in strength the further west you go. The Jeri high season is from June to December and a typical afternoon peak will see you using rigs of between 4.7 and 5.3 and the good news is that it's cross shore. The centres include Club Ventos with the latest JP, Starboard and Neil Pryde, SUP's are available too. A typical weeks rental for one is €250 and if you're caught sharing, everyone gets charged the daily rate. Tuition from the basics to more advanced is also available. For beginners Jeri is a great place to learn how to windsurf because in the morning the winds are lighter and the water is flat inside the bay. In the afternoon the trade winds kick in and deliver much stronger winds, perfectly suited to the intermediate and advanced rider. Just in front of Club Ventos is the main sailing area known as the Point. Flat water on the inside, waves as you sail out. So it's a really gentle introduction into wave sailing. For the more accomplished, upwind of the point is Malhada, the main wave area. You need to know what it's all about as a mistake here sends you into rocks. The waves vary according to the time of year and the biggest occur around Christmas. A couple of important points. There are no cash machines in Jeri. Although credit cards are accepted, a lot of the smaller transactions are made using cash. You're best off using the cash machines either at the airport or in Fortaleza itself. Travellers cheques cannot be exchanged in Jeri either. The busy season is from December to February when holidaying Brazilians from the South head for the Northern beaches and sometimes it's impossible to get accommodation. The rainy season is from February to June.

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 30- 34°C

**Water temp summer:** 30°C

**First time windsurfers:** Good in the mornings.

**Intermediate & Advanced:** Excellent

**Wave spots:** On the point.

**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Limited





## CARIBBEAN TOBAGO

**T**he Caribbean is one of the most exotic places in the world to go windsurfing. Each island has its own individuality and some are more developed than others. Tobago is one of the unspoilt ones and carries with it a very relaxed environment. Its white sandy beaches are lined with grass roofed huts and beautiful lagoons of crystal clear waters, and Pigeon Point is a stunner!

There is one main windsurfing spot in Tobago, Pigeon Point and for experience riders there's also Mt Irvine Bay. Pigeon Point was once a private beach and was bought by the Tobago government for the local people. If you're not part of the Pigeon Point water sports program then you have to pay to use the beach. Buccoo bay is the actual sailing area and with its flat waters is a freestylers and freeriders paradise. The best time for the trade

winds is January to May when they're normally East to North East averaging 12 to 20 knots. The best time for stronger winds though is June with the highest in the order of 25 knots. Buccoo Bay is extremely safe, protected by an offshore reef which stops all the chop and so is ideal for beginners to give it a go. The reef can create some pretty good waves and it is sailable but only by windsurfers with a high degree of ability because quite apart from the water state it is a long way from shore.

A good point about Pigeon Point beach is that it's very good for non windsurfing partners. Because of the shape of the bay there is a friendly side that suits bathers and is protected from the sand blasting that some other windsurfing spots get. There's not a huge amount here though, just a restaurant and bar and changing rooms.

Radical Sports Tobago is based at Pigeon Point hiring Starboard, Tushingham and North. They also list Mistral boards but we're not sure whether that is current. Tuition is available at all levels and for no wind days other sports are also available.

Mt. Irvine Bay throws a good hollow wave when the swells around the island are big. It can be sailed but is really more suited to surfing because as well as being hollow it's also fast.

### SUMMARY

**Air temp summer:** 28-32°C

**Water Temp summer:** 22-29°C

**First time windsurfer:** Good

**Intermediate & Advance:** More for the freerider than anything.

**Wave spots:** Yes

**Activities for non-windsurfers:** Limited on the beach

*“A good point about Pigeon Point beach is that it's very good for non windsurfing partners”*