

Tropical Storm Maria's 'West Side Story' to the Caribbean

September 9 2011



This visible image from NOAA's GOES-13 satellite shows Tropical Storm Maria approaching the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean Sea on Sept. 9 at 10:45 a.m. EDT. Maria does not have the signature shape of a mature tropical storm, and appears amorphous. Hispaniola is to the left of the storm. Credit: NASA/NOAA GOES Project

Tropical Storm Maria is making her own "West Side Story" and is headed in the direction of the Lesser Antilles. Satellite imagery today shows Maria's close proximity to the island chain in the Caribbean.

A visible image from NOAA's GOES-13 satellite showed Tropical Storm Maria approaching the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean Sea on Sept. 9 at 10:45 a.m. EDT. Maria does not have the signature shape of a mature tropical storm and appeared somewhat amorphous. The image was created by NASA's GOES Project, located at the Goddard Space

Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

One of the songs from there is appropriate for the Caribbean:

"Something's Coming": that would be Tropical Storm Maria. Warnings and watches are up through the Caribbean as Maria approaches from the west. Tropical storm watches are in force for: Dominica, Saint Martin, St. Barthelemy, Martinique, Vieques, Culebra, and Puerto Rico. Tropical storm warnings are in effect for Guadeloupe, St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius. Tropical Storm warnings are also in effect for Antigua, Anguilla, Barbuda, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and [British Virgin Islands](#)

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At 11 a.m. EDT on Sept. 9, [Tropical Storm](#) Maria's [maximum sustained winds](#) were near 45 mph. Some slight strengthening is possible in the next day, according to the National Hurricane Center. She was moving to the west-northwest near 17 mph (28 kmh). Maria was about 350 miles southeast of the Leeward Islands near 14.2 North and 57.5 West. Maria's minimum central pressure was 1003 millibars. Maria's [tropical storm force winds](#) extend out 175 miles from the center, mostly to the northeast.

Maria is expected to pass through the Lesser Antilles tonight on her westward track. The Lesser Antilles are forecast to receive between 3 and 5 inches of rainfall from Maria, with isolated totals as high as 8 inches. The National Hurricane Center notes that "Maria is expected to produce total rain accumulations of 4 to 8 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 10 inches over the central to northern Lesser Antilles, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Residents in the Caribbean should remain vigilant this weekend as Maria prepares to bring her own musical version "West Side Story" to the region with heavy rains and gusty winds.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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