

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FOR UK TRAVEL AGENTS

# JAMAICA

## ISLAND VIBES

**DESTINATION NEWSLETTER  
& PRODUCT UPDATE**

**NEWS FOR YOU  
ACCOMMODATION  
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Photo courtesy of Sandals and Beaches Resorts

Q3 2018

**[WWW.VISITJAMAICA.COM](http://WWW.VISITJAMAICA.COM)**



# NEWS FOR YOU

## JAMAICA TO LAUNCH ON-LINE IMMIGRATION FORM

Jamaica's Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) has installed several new self-service kiosks in the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. The company will also be launching an on-line immigration form known as the Immigration and Customs Electronic C5 System. This will provide travellers with the choice of filling in the form the usual paper way on arrival or complete the form in the comfort of their homes. The system will generate a client number which will be presented to the officer in arrival for smooth and efficient processing.



## NEW SHOPPING VILLAGE OPENS IN OCHO RIOS

A new Shopping Village was recently opened in the resort town of Ocho Rios. Located in close proximity to the water-front, the facility boasts several restaurants, craft shops and an amphitheatre.



## HOW TO REACH US

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# ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

## S HOTEL TO OPEN IN MONTEGO BAY

Set for a late 2018 opening, and overlooking Jamaica's famed Doctor's Cave beach, the new, stylish and highly anticipated S Hotel Montego Bay will be poised as the ultimate trendsetting hotspot, putting the resort city of Montego Bay back on the map among international travellers. The new and contemporary 120 room S Hotel, created by Chris Issa, owner of Kingston's revered and highly rated Spanish Court Hotel and a noted Jamaican entrepreneur will artfully combine discrete urban sophistication and a laid-back resort lifestyle punctuated with a subtle, rootsy vibe.

The inspiration will be as cosmopolitan as it comes, but the feeling will be notably Jamaican with the country's soul and culture coming together to create this new multi-experiential beachfront hotel. At S Hotel Montego Bay, buzzing bars, a chic café, a high-spirited pool scene, a Sky Bar and Lounge, an international restaurant, spa, boutique, gym and guest rooms with an elevated design aesthetic, will thoughtfully combine to create a modern and effervescent sense of place.

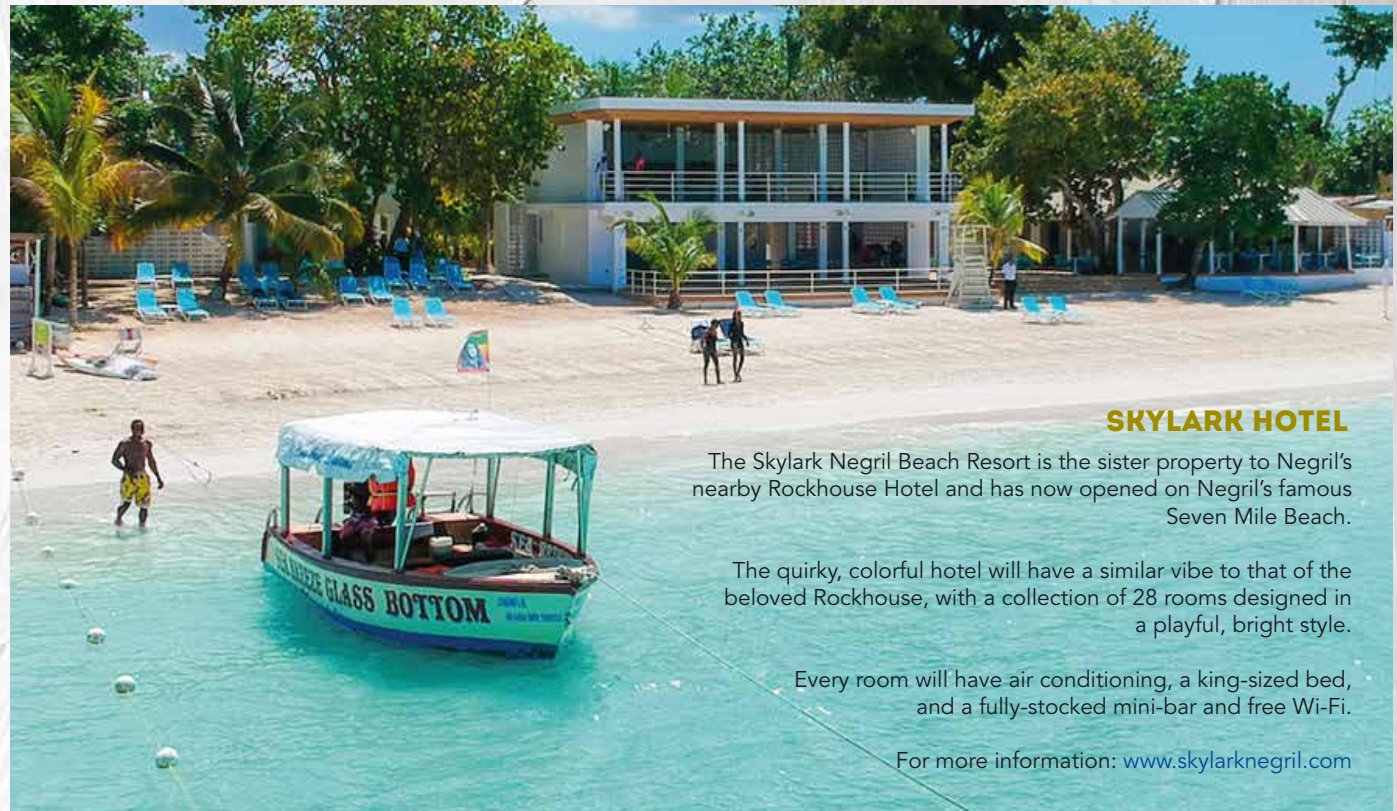


## EXCELLENCE OYSTER BAY OPENS IN FALMOUTH

The newly opened Excellence Oyster Bay is this year's host hotel for our annual "White Affair" event.

The resort hotel is located in Montego Bay, just 30 minutes from the airport and features all-suite accommodations, a variety of upscale restaurants and bars, a world-class spa and impeccable service. This adults-only, waterfront resort redefines luxury standards. Enjoy its friendly hospitality and experience the ultimate all-inclusive, adults-only, luxury at Excellence Oyster Bay.

For more information: [www.excellenceresorts.com](http://www.excellenceresorts.com)



## SKYLARK HOTEL

The Skylark Negril Beach Resort is the sister property to Negril's nearby Rockhouse Hotel and has now opened on Negril's famous Seven Mile Beach.

The quirky, colorful hotel will have a similar vibe to that of the beloved Rockhouse, with a collection of 28 rooms designed in a playful, bright style.

Every room will have air conditioning, a king-sized bed, and a fully-stocked mini-bar and free Wi-Fi.

For more information: [www.skylarknegril.com](http://www.skylarknegril.com)



# ACCOMMODATION UPDATE

## COCOSAN, A PRIVATE VILLA

As the newest addition to The Geejam Private Collection, Cocosan is undeniably unique, and unmistakably Jamaican. Seamlessly designed by Atelier Vidal, this newly built three-level home is a must-visit in Port Antonio. Cocosan features six generously portioned bedrooms, that can comfortably accommodate up to twelve guests, some with balconies offering stunning views of the sea and serene vistas for travellers seeking an authentic Jamaican experience. There is also a personal concierge on call throughout the duration of your stay.

For more information: [www.geejamhotel.com](http://www.geejamhotel.com)



## HALF MOON, GOLF & TENNIS RESORT

A holiday escape for celebrities like 50 Cent, John F and Jacqueline Kennedy and members of the British Royal Family, Jamaica's iconic Half Moon is undergoing a \$75 million renovation to mark its 65th anniversary. The expected completion date is November 2018. The renovation effort will focus on a new entry and Great House (resort lobby), an expanded beachfront with a natural swimming cove, an adults-only swimming pool, two restaurants, a market cafe, three bars and a vegan cafe located at the spa. The renovation also includes 57 new guestrooms and suites, including Prestige Ocean Rooms, Estate Ocean Rooms, Estate Ocean Suites and a Great House Ocean Suite.

For more information: [www.halfmoon.com](http://www.halfmoon.com)

## RIU PALACE TROPICAL BAY CLOSES FOR RENOVATION

The RIU Palace Tropical Bay in Negril will be closed for renovation from August 2018. The property is scheduled to reopen with a fresh look and feel in October 2018. The 416 room property will undergo a full make over including rooms, lobby, restaurants and other common areas. For more information on this hotel, visit [www.riu.com](http://www.riu.com)





# ATTRACTIONS

## ISLANDLUX

Islandlux is a newly developed lifestyle company that offers many iconic Jamaican brands in one location. A total Jamaican experience, the facility offers eight restaurants including Devon House Ice Cream, Little Ochi Seafood and Pimentoz Jerk. They also offer water-sports such as snorkelling, tubing and boat trips exploring the Negril shoreline with its scenic cliffs and magnificent beaches. The architecture is rustic, organic, laid back yet stylish. Pretty thatched pavilions that blend into the scenic setting of the Caribbean Sea show off the attention to detail and commitment to blend into the local environment.

For more information: [www.islandluxbeachparkja.com](http://www.islandluxbeachparkja.com)



## NEW JOY SPENCE APPLETON ESTATE RUM TOUR

The Appleton Jamaica Rum Tour has been renovated and rebranded. The tour pays homage to the company's world renowned Master Blender, Joy Spence. The two hour journey from the cane fields to the rum distillery will take visitors through the entire rum making process. After learning about the Appleton Rum story, visitors get down to business tasting the different varieties of the spirits. There is also a new restaurant on site serving delicious Jamaican cuisine.

For more information: [www.appletonestate.com](http://www.appletonestate.com)



## Fun for the entire family!



## NEWLY RENOVATED PUERTO SECO BEACH

The newly renovated Puerto Seco Beach in Ocho Rios now includes a dolphin cove, scuba diving and the latest craze in water sports. This includes trampolines, slides, diving boards, races and obstacle courses of three different levels of difficulty. The beach is now filled with lounge chairs and there are cabanas that can be rented for an additional fee for the duration of your stay. These come with butler service. They now have an entire area for children with brightly coloured water sports equipment. There is also a huge dining area where patrons can enjoy the jerked delights and other mouth watering menu items. If you love activity, then the newly added pool is for you as the entertainment coordinators take you through a slew of pool exercises and reggae dance classes.

For more information, email: [info@puertosecojamaica.com](mailto:info@puertosecojamaica.com)



# LEISURE EVENTS IN JAMAICA



## **PINEAPPLE CUP YACHT RACE: JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 2, 2019**

One of the oldest offshore races on the calendar, The Pineapple Cup- Montego Bay Race marks 2019 as the 34th edition of the venerable 811-Nautical mile race. The race has been won by some of the world's most famous boats and sailors and it continues to attract top talent from around the world.

For more information, [www.pineapplecup.com](http://www.pineapplecup.com)  
or email: [nigel@mobbayyachtclub.com](mailto:nigel@mobbayyachtclub.com)



## **57TH MONTEGO BAY YACHT CLUB INTERNATIONAL MARLIN TOURNAMENT: OCTOBER 2-6, 2018**

The annual Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament is Jamaica's oldest and most anticipated fishing event and will see its 57th staging. The revised format of the event will see new fishing days as well as new events and activities, including the Tight Lines Marlin Fleet Raft Up and Beach Party and the Charity Comedy Night. For more information, [www.visitjamaica.com](http://www.visitjamaica.com)



# SPOTLIGHT



**GURU TRAVEL**  
Luxury Long Haul Specialists



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## PAUL SALISBURY (DIRECTOR: GURU TRAVEL)

This feature highlights one of our top travel specialists on our Jamaica Rewards programme.

Continue to log your bookings on [www.jamaicarewards.co.uk](http://www.jamaicarewards.co.uk) and you could be in our next feature.

Are you a top booker? Our next annual "White Affair" event will be at the Excellence Oyster Bay in December.

### Q: What is your passion?

A: I've always loved to travel and being able to work and do what you love really means you never feel like you work a day in your life. The Caribbean has always held a special place in my heart. Jamaica especially, because over the last few years I have visited several times and have now fell in love with the beauty of the island and warmth of the people.

### Q: How did you become involved in travel & tourism?

A: I used to get poor service from travel agents, so I decided to take a leap of faith and open my own travel company with my business partner. I now focus on offering great service at affordable prices.

### Q.: What do you enjoy most about being a travel specialist?

A: The travelling of course!

Who doesn't love to visit new places all the time? We make it our priority to exceed our clients expectations and have been receiving great feedback for our efforts.

### Q. Tell us about how you got to where you are today.

A. It's been just over two years since we launched our travel business and it's been a whirlwind, but we wouldn't change it for the world. My background is in food and beverage but I have always believed that you can be successful in anything you put your mind to as long as you have the right vision and right work ethic.

### Q. Background about your company

A. Guru Travel is a luxury long haul specialist company and the Caribbean is a huge part of our business. We are one of Sandals and Beaches Resorts top selling agents in the UK. We are two of only six Chairman's Royal Club members in the UK working for them.

### Q. When did you begin selling Jamaica and why?

A. We started selling Jamaica in July 2016 when we launched our business and we have sold around 50 holidays to the destination within the first six months.

### Q. What's your most memorable Jamaican experience, to date?

A. There has been so many amazing moments I've had in Jamaica, but watching the sunset at Rick's Cafe is definitely the highlight of a visit to Jamaica for me.

### My Jamaica Experience:

Favourite Resort area: Sandals Montego Bay

Favourite Jamaican dish: Jerk Pork with Rice, Peas and of course, Festival

Favourite Jamaican expression: Wah Gwan?

# UPCOMING INDUSTRY EVENT

We are inviting our valued travel agents to join us for a destination update on Friday, 28th September 2018 at the Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa. Stay and join us for the Barbecue. To secure your place, you must email us at [mail@visitjamaica.com](mailto:mail@visitjamaica.com)

## SAVE THE DATE



### DESTINATION JAMAICA TRAVEL AGENT UPDATES & BARBECUE

28<sup>TH</sup> September 2018

Timings for JTM destination update 12pm & 1pm  
BBQ with entertainment until 3pm

Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf and Spa, Luton, Hertfordshire, LU1 3TO

You must reserve your space in advance by sending an email to [mail@visitjamaica.com](mailto:mail@visitjamaica.com)

#### YOUR JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

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##### Travel Agent Training and Incentive Portal:

[www.jamaicarewards.co.uk](http://www.jamaicarewards.co.uk)

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