

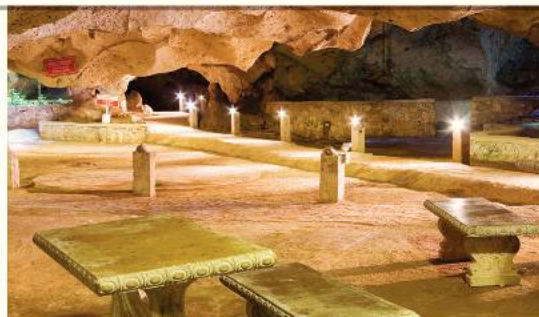
OCHO RIOS & RUNAWAY BAY



JAMAICA

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OCHO RIOS

Ocho Rios does not have “eight rivers” as the Spanish name implies. The English confused the translation of Las Chorreras (river rapids), the original name the Spanish had given to the area. About halfway between Montego Bay and Port Antonio, “Ochi” is an easy starting place for most of the attractions on the north coast. The drive from Montego Bay Airport takes a little over an hour on the coastal highway, and there are many scenic detours along the way. You can stay in the lively town of Ocho Rios and have it all - duty free stores, outdoor markets and restaurants, which line the curve of Mallards Bay, a half-moon shaped harbor where large cruise ships are often docked. And there’s plenty more to do in the rest of St. Ann Parish.

The catalyst for the region’s growth was the bauxite industry, but tourism grew as more visitors discovered the natural beauty of the area. Cruise ships started stopping in the deep-water harbor and the town now welcomes over 350,000 passengers a year. Ocho Rios is called The Attractions Capital for a good reason - there are plenty of them. From botanical gardens to roaring Dunn’s River Falls, the thrilling new Rainforest Bobsled Jamaica at Mystic Mountain, mysterious Green Grotto Caves and historic great houses. You can explore by horseback, mountain bike, zip-line and catamaran.

Ocho Rios offers more hotel rooms than anywhere else on the Island. Accommodations appeal to families and couples who come



here for their weddings and honeymoons. Wrapped into one tidy package are all-inclusive resorts boasting hundreds of rooms, many restaurants and a host of things to see and do. Food, drink, activities and tours are all included in one price. The smaller boutique hotels, with fewer rooms and more personalized service, give visitors the chance to get to know the real Ocho Rios. Vacationers can be spontaneous, enjoy local restaurants and change plans at the drop of a dime. When everybody comes along - family and friends - apartments and spacious villas make for comfortable, cost effective accommodations.

Ocho Rios was home to Ian Fleming, author of the James Bond novels. Fleming’s custom built mansion, GoldenEye, where he wrote all 13 of his famous spy books, is the center of one of the many Ocho Rios area resorts.

Ocho Rios - The Centrepiece of Jamaica!

RUNAWAY BAY

To the west of the resort town of Ocho Rios sits Runaway Bay, another major Jamaican destination. Runaway Bay, is less crowded and hectic than its better-known neighbor to the east, Ocho Rios. Runaway Bay vacations are suitable for people who want to enjoy a quieter getaway to an all-inclusive resort or one of the many villas.

There are many activities to keep travellers occupied in Runaway Bay. Fishing and scuba diving are legendary, the waters around Runaway Bay are packed with tropical fish, coral reefs, and other interesting features. Because the reefs are close to shore, snorkeling here is as good as anywhere in Jamaica. It’s a good idea for people on a Runaway Bay vacation to bring their own snorkeling gear; however, rentals are offered by most resorts. Resorts will also have packages that include fishing.

Fishing boats are restricted from several areas of the surrounding ocean. These protected dive sites include sunken boats, a large underwater canyon, and an extensive coral reef.



Christopher Columbus first glimpse of Jamaica was the area around Runaway Bay. On a later voyage, he was stranded with disabled ships down the coast in St. Ann’s Bay. The Columbus Park Museum, a couple miles west of Runaway Bay, preserves artifacts from Jamaican history. Other good activities on Runaway Bay vacations include horseback riding at Chukka Caribbean Adventures, a visit to the 18th-century Seville Great House, or a round of golf at Superclubs Runaway Bay Golf Course. Bob Marley’s birthplace, the second most important memorial to the legendary musician after the Bob Marley Museum in Kingston, is an easy day trip from Runaway Bay.

There are many great places to stay on Runaway Bay vacations. There are many villas in the hills and on the beaches around town. Runaway Bay has a fair selection of smaller, intimate hotels. There are also several large all-inclusive resorts in Runaway Bay. Vacations in Runaway Bay may not be as close to the action as a vacation to Ocho Rios or Montego Bay, but if you want to relax in the Caribbean sun at a good hotel, Runaway Bay is a great place to go.



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