

THE JAMAICAN

DESTINATION NEWSLETTER + PRODUCT UPDATE



JAMAICA [®] HOME OF ALL RIGHT



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CANADA (TRAVEL AGENTS PAGE)**



The Jamaica Tourist Board's

ONE LOVE REWARDS PROGRAM

is offering even more incentives for agents who complete the program and enter their Jamaica bookings online. Top monthly prizes include Visa Gift Cards worth up to \$300 CAD.



SAMPLE ONE LOVE REWARDS PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Annual "All White Affair" event in Jamaica to honour the top 50 booking agents
- Shopping in the "A One Love Rewards" store
- Insider Jamaica knowledge so you can sell the island with confidence
- 50% discount on Club MoBay and Club Kingston airport lounges
- On island VIP meet & greet courtesies at MJB
- Monthly newsletter
- Preferred agent listing on the JTB website
- Priority on FAM Tours

Join today!

www.OneLoveRewards.com

HOTEL + RESORT UPDATES

NEW



EXCELLENCE OYSTER BAY, FALMOUTH

Newly opened just this June and set on its own private peninsular, Excellence Oyster Bay offers a new standard of All-Inclusive Luxury in a premier destination. With a unique waterfront location, a variety of dining options; new suite concepts, this resort becomes the ultimate Caribbean getaway. Located in Falmouth, about 35 minutes from the Montego Bay airport, this 350 room all-suite property promises the ultimate in luxury offerings.



SANDALS SOUTH COAST DEBUTS OVER WATER BUTLER SUITES & CHAPEL!

Your clients looking for romantic over-water suites no longer need to fly 14 hours or more to the South Pacific! In a fraction of that time they can be in beautiful Jamaica, enjoying their new over-the-water Private Island Butler Bungalows at Sandals South Coast! 12 new spacious and tastefully decorated emporiums of luxury await your clients. Additionally, a new 12-seater Over-The-Water Wedding Chapel opens at this property, to accommodate those absolutely unique wedding experiences.



JEWEL RESORTS NOW PART OF PLAYA HOTELS & RESORTS

Playa Hotels & Resorts have announced the acquisition of all the Jewel Resorts in Jamaica, as well as the 489 room Hilton Rose Hall Resort. The full integration details will be rolled out over the coming months but it is expected that one or two of the new acquisitions will carry the Panama Jack branding. In the meantime, all the properties continue to operate as normal.



HALF MOON BEACH, GOLF & TENNIS RESORT

As any 65-year old will tell you, even the best bones eventually get a little stiff. So like any Baby Boomer, Jamaica's iconic Half Moon resort in Montego Bay is getting a little work done on the eve of its 65th birthday, according to Half Moon's chairman Guy Steuart III. Scheduled to be completed by November 1, the U\$75M renewal will create a new Great House and add another 48 rooms to the property. Additionally, upgrades in public spaces and dining options will be part of the renewal project.



RIU PALACE TROPICAL BAY CLOSES FOR RENOVATIONS

Come August 2018, the first RIU property in Jamaica will close for renovations, with reopening scheduled for October 2108. Each of its 416 rooms will get a full make over, together with restaurants; bars; the lobby and other common areas.

HOTEL + RESORT UPDATES



NAME CHANGE FOR KARISMA'S AZUL BEACH RESORT SENSATORI JAMAICA

What's in a name? A lot, when you are an industry leading luxury resort brand! Karisma Resorts has announced that its Negril property will henceforth be known as simply Azul Beach Resort Negril. What will not change, are the stunning and picturesque sunsets visible from the shore of this 290 room gem on Negril's seven mile beach.



SEA GARDEN BEACH RESORT UNDERGOES REFURBISHMENT!

Located in the heart of Montego Bay's tourism mecca, Sea Garden has been an all-time favorite of many frequent visitors over the years. Over 90% of regular rooms have been renovated and the remainder will be completed before the up-coming winter season. In addition, by year-end new rooms and a spa will be added.



SANDALS MONTEGO BAY RESORT OPENS CONFERENCE CENTRE!

Boasting a fantastic re-modeled lobby & entrance area; several new luxury suites; over 2300 square feet of new meeting space; the flagship Sandals Montego Bay Resort remains a gem in the Sandals crown! Its largest meeting space can now accommodate up to 250 persons for a reception style hosting.



THE TRYALL CLUB NOW REPRESENTED BY CANLINK

For clients looking for luxury villa accommodations in Jamaica and inclined to play a round of golf close to home before breakfast; they need look no further than the Tryall Golf, Tennis and Beach Club just outside Montego Bay! With the recent merger of CanLink and Resorts to the Best, this property along with The Jamaica Inn, are now represented in Canada by CanLink.



ROCK HOUSE NEGRIL EXPANDS!

One of Negril's favorite West End boutique hotels for over 25 years! It has seen growth in its clientele, warranting the acquisition of a property next door, increasing its room count to 40. Additionally, it has acquired beach-front land on the Seven Mile Beach to construct a new property, to be called Skylark Beach Resort. Stay tuned for more on this later!

FOCUS ON ATTRACTIONS

Beyond the fantastic resorts and beautiful beaches, Jamaica offers her visitors an exciting array of attractions to meet every comfort level. Whether you are looking to explore caves; swing on a zip line through our lush vegetation, or relax on a calm raft ride down a lazy river, Jamaica has something for everyone! There are over 140 different attractions on the Island; here are a few to tell your clients about! To see more attractions, log onto www.visitjamaica.com



ISLAND LUX BEACH PARK, NEGRIL

Negril's Seven Mile Beach is legendary. Lots of Irie places to sleep, play, eat and chill. But what if all those options were available in one spot on the beach? Welcome to the new Island Lux Beach Park! Consider this your one stop place on the beach where clients may engage and indulge in everything delicious and fun that Jamaica has to offer. Spread over five and a half acres of pristine beachfront property, it boasts several restaurants & eateries; entertainment spaces and chill & relax zones.

www.islandluxbeachparkja.com



RASTAFARI INDIGENOUS VILLAGE, MONTEGO BAY

The Rastafarian faith has been synonymous with Jamaican culture, primarily as a religious and lifestyle endeavour. A group of enterprising brethren of the faith, have organized and established a cultural tour which brings visitors into the inner sanctum of true Rastafari! The Rasta Village tour showcases the life, skills & experiences of Rastafarians. It teaches about the ways of Rastafarian, including organic farming; traditional crafts; worship, music and respectful engagement with the sacraments.

www.rastavillage.com



THE NEW, JOY SPENCE APPLETON ESTATE RUM TOUR!

Formerly the Appleton Jamaica Rum Tour, the newly renovated, rebranded and reopened tour pays homage to the company's world renowned Master Blender Joy Spence. The two hour journey from cane field to rum distillery, will take visitors through the entire rum making process. After learning of 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.

www.appletonestate.com



BOB MARLEY MUSEUM, KINGSTON

No visit to Jamaica's Capital City is complete without stopping in to visit the Bob Marley Museum. The former home and recording studio of the legendary musician contains memorabilia chronicling his life, career and music. Curated by the Marley Estate and open for daily tours, the museum takes visitors through the early years, showcasing all the life experiences and seminal musical creations of this iconic musician. It then through film and narration, explores the consciousness and motivation behind what is known today as Marley Music.

www.bobmarleymuseum.com

SPOTLIGHT ON SMALL HOTELS

Destination Jamaica's product versatility is one of its strongest selling points and included in that product range, is a wide array of charming Inns & small hotels, spanning the length and breadth of the Island. Most are owner-operated, so your clients will enjoy authentic Jamaican hospitality, often literally at the home of their hosts. For more information on Jamaica's Inns & small hotels, visit: www.jamaicainnsandhotels.com



JAMAICA INN, OCHO RIOS

Have you ever wondered what it's like to stay at the same property where Royalty and Captains of Industry and State have stayed? Well look no further than the Jamaica Inn! For over 50 years, the same family has been operating this boutique property, with its elegant beach cove and powdery sand. The spacious rooms and veranda suites will take your clients back in time when understated elegance was the order of the day. www.jamaicainn.com



SPA RETREAT, NEGRIL

This is truly one of the gems of the West End in Negril. The views of the Caribbean Sea are spectacular and the accommodations complement the atmosphere beautifully. Clients seeking pampering and relaxation will find The Spa Retreat a wonderful piece of paradise, catering to their every need. This is a fully Canadian owned property and the owners also operate spas in the Ottawa area. www.thespajamaica.com



RELAX RESORT, MONTEGO BAY

The name says it all at this property! Clients seeking to escape the hustle and bustle of daily life will find this property just what the doctor ordered! Just a few short minutes from the Montego Bay airport, this homely family run property is ideal for clients seeking an authentic local getaway? It is also ideal for a family reunion or other leisure group clients seeking their own little chateau to relax in Jamaica! www.relax-resort.com



BAYVIEW ECO RESORT, PORT ANTONIO

Every breath you take at the Bayview Eco Resort will make you fall more and more in love with the place. One can hardly be any closer to nature than being here at this green-friendly oasis, tucked away amidst the lush vegetation of Port Antonio. Let the staff pamper you and experience what true relaxation is really about. Be at one with nature and experience the rejuvenation this beautiful eco-friendly property provides. www.bayviewecoresort.com

EYE ON VILLAS

Destination Jamaica boasts a wide selection of villas and apartments for your discerning clients. Many of our independent villas come with full service butlers; cooks; house keepers and grounds men to keep your clients in the lap of luxury during their stay. Many others are part of larger villas complexes, with the conveniences of a traditional hotel and extra special experience of private villas. To explore more of our villa offerings, visit: www.javavillas.org or call: 876-974-2508



MILBROOKS VILLA RESORT, ROSE HALL, MONTEGO BAY

An exclusively elegant boutique villa, surrounded by lush, green, beautifully manicured gardens with spectacular breathtaking views of the Caribbean Sea. It features spacious and tastefully decorated suites, private balcony, outdoor infinity pool, outdoor hot tub, pool deck bar; sumptuous feather beds, with 600-thread count linens; Jacuzzi baths and the finest in amenities. www.milbrooksresortmontegobay.com



CARY ISLAND VILLA, OCHO RIOS

Cary Island is a charming seaside Tudor-style private home which comes fully staffed with a cook, housekeepers and gardener. Perched on a cliff side, the main house has four air-conditioned bedrooms, four bathrooms, dining room, living room, Cable TV in the living area, card room and entertainment lounge. An adjoining cottage offers 3 more air-conditioned bedrooms and three baths. The large balcony on the second floor of the main villa looks straight out to the beautiful blue waters of the Caribbean. www.vilasinjamaica.com



SEA URCHIN VILLA, TREASURE BEACH, SOUTH COAST

This newly built villa sits across the road from the Old Wharf Cove and overlooks the sea. Upstairs, the large airy bedroom features a king size bed as well as an en suite bathroom. The top-floor escape also includes a spacious sitting room, state-of-the-art bathroom and kitchen with all amenities for cooking gourmet meals. There is a large verandah with dining and lounging areas, as well as a mini plunge pool. The downstairs features two bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, another kitchen, a large living room with ocean view and a charming TV den cooled by sea breezes.

www.jakeshotel.com



CRYSTAL COVE VILLA, PORT ANTONIO

Crystal Cove villa is for discriminating vacationers looking for a unspoiled beauty and away from the tourist hub. It is a perfect hideaway, very private 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms Housekeeper/cook, handyman, house keeper; Air conditioning, ceiling fans in all bedrooms. Swimming right from the house, you can kayak or snorkel to Princess Nina's Island, Blue Lagoon and San San Beach. It is within walking distance from the famous Blue Lagoon (5 mins) and Frenchman's Cove beach (15 mins). www.crystalcoveja.com

NEWS YOU CAN USE! NEWS YOU CAN USE!

MINISTER BARTLETT IS CARIBBEAN TOURISM MINISTER OF THE YEAR!!

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, The Hon Edmund Bartlett was recently named the 2017 Caribbean Tourism Minister of the year by the Caribbean Journal Industry website. The publication recognized Minister Bartlett's decades of tireless service to the industry and his spear-heading of the tremendous growth in Jamaica's tourism industry.



KNUTSFORD EXPRESS OPENS MONTEGO BAY AIRPORT HUB

Luxury Island bus service Knutsford Express recently opened a hub at the Sangster International airport. This means travelers can now board these luxury coaches right off the plane at the airport and travel non-stop over to Ocho Rios or Kingston in fine style! Operating now for over eleven (11) years, Knutsford Express is the perfect way to travel between the north coast and Kingston in style and comfort. In addition to its North Coast service, Knutsford express also runs regularly scheduled coach services on the South Coast.

www.knutsfordexpress.com



CLUB MOBAY REFURBISHES AND EXPANDS THE XAYMACA LOUNGE

By now you must know about the Club Mobay Airport lounge at the Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. But did you know that they recently expanded the facility? Now there is the Xaymaca Lounge! Outfitted with more of the top notch amenities specifically aimed at travellers who want a relaxing environment to spend their remaining hours in paradise, before boarding their flight back home. And of course, there is much of the delightful Island cuisine Club Mobay is already known for!

NEW INDO CHINESE RESTAURANT OPENS IN MONTEGO BAY

Mantra restaurant & bar opened recently on Queens Drive in Montego Bay, also known as "top road". It promises a delicious fusion of Jamaican-Chinese & Indian cuisine. Apart from the culinary delights, the views from this location overlook the hip strip and the airport zone, making for a beautiful light show and spectacular vistas at nights.

JAMAICA TO LAUNCH ON-LINE IMMIGRATION FORM

No one likes to wait in a long line, in fact no one likes to wait in any line period! Jamaica knows that and so in addition to installing several new self-serve kiosks in the Montego Bay airport, Jamaica's Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA), will be launching an on-line immigration form soon. Known as the Immigration & Custom Electronic C5 System, travellers will have the choice of doing it on arrival the usual paper way, or filling out their customs and immigration declaration forms online from the comfort of their homes. The system will generate a client number which will be presented to the officer on arrival for smooth and efficient processing.



NEWS YOU CAN USE! NEWS YOU CAN USE!

GLISTENING WATERS NIGHT-TIME BOAT TOUR

Do you have clients who are looking for something unique? They want to go home and brag about doing something on vacation that is just not your every day vacation experience? Well look no further than the night time boat tour at the Glistening Waters attraction in Falmouth. Also known as The Luminous Lagoon, this natural phosphorescent lagoon offers a surreal experience on a starry night. The mixed waters of the Caribbean Sea and the Martha Brae river combine to make fish glow as they dart around in a cloud of bio-luminescent micro organisms that become green or blue when disturbed.

www.glisteningwaters.com



ISLAND ROUTES TO DEBUT DOUBLE-DECKER CATAMARAN IN JAMAICA!

Have you ever been searching for a party boat to host 150 of your closest friends? Well the search is over! Island Routes Jamaica is commissioning into service the party boat "Calipsoul!" This 65 feet long two level catamaran is perfect for guests who want to relax in a state of the art vessel, while cruising the high seas of the Caribbean! An all-inclusive bar; DJ booth spinning island rhythms; snorkeling equipment and a wet & wild slide all make for a fun time at sea.

ARTISAN VILLAGE COMING TO FALMOUTH!

The old Falmouth wharf is getting a new lease on life, with a one billion dollar construction project aimed at transforming the old sugar port into a modern arts and craft emporium. The new Falmouth Artisan Village, adjacent to the Falmouth Cruise Ship pier, will be the home to over 300 shops and creative spaces for craft vendors and other indigenous artists.

RASTA TACO OPENS IN OCHO RIOS

Many visitors to Jamaica know that the island was once a Spanish colony. No place reminds of that more than Ocho Rios! So it should come as no surprise that Ochi is home to the famous Spanish-inspired taco restaurant, Rasta Taco! Located at the Island Village Shopping complex, this eatery serves local favorites in addition to vegetarian dishes and other fusion specialties.



MONTEGO BAY HOSTS FIRST EVER ROYAL PASSOVER EVENT!

Jamaica is well known for its diverse and welcoming population. This is not by accident. Our national motto is out of many, one people. There are adherents to all major faiths residing in harmony in Jamaica. Our population is a mix of peoples with ancestors from all across the globe. And so on the heels of the opening of the first Kosher restaurant in Montego Bay, the first Royal Passover event was held at the Melia Braco Resort, this past March. With over 400 years of rich Jewish history, Jamaica played the consummate host to the participants in this strictly Kosher Royal Passover event. It is slated to be an annual event. Interestingly, Jamaica is home to one of only four remaining sand-floor Synagogues in the world. The 100 year-old Sharare Shalom Synagogue is in downtown Kingston.

SHOW KART JAMAICA ATTRACTION

Push Cart Derby was a popular event for youngsters in Jamaica back in the day and many still remember the fun and excitement of those days. That's what Show Kart has recreated at the Port Rhoades Sports Club in Discovery Bay, St Ann. Operating Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9:30am to 12noon, visitors will enjoy a cultural immersion experience through Jamaican folklore, dance and music before experiencing the thrill and excitement of Push Cart Derby 2.0!

UPCOMING EVENTS

There are lots of exciting events happening all over the Island all the time! Here are a few select ones that you may want to start telling your clients about! How about putting together a group trip? For more information on all up-coming events, visit www.visitjamaica.com/things-to-do

REGGAE SUMFEST: JULY 15-22, MONTEGO BAY

Reggae Sumfest is Jamaica's premier festival dedicated to showcasing our island's indigenous reggae music, while also promoting Jamaica as a prime summer destination. Reggae Sumfest attracts visitors and media from all across the globe and features some of the top artists in the reggae music industry today.

www.reggaesumfest.com



PALI-PRO SURF CONTEST: JULY 23-29, ST. THOMAS

This anticipated surfing event brings together regional and professional surfers who compete for the contest prize and the ratings they can earn from their presence at this growing tournament. Through partnership with Jamaica Surfing Association, Caribbean Surf Network, and Western Atlantic Pro Surf Series, Makka Pro has risen to new levels and has been attracting more competitors globally. www.jamsurfass.webs.com

DREAM WEEKEND: AUGUST 2-6, NEGRIL

This annual week-long party series getaway features Jamaica's most popular artists/DJs and is fused with a high energy vibe like no other. In its 10th staging, the event is popular with locals & visitors alike, featuring a series of ten (10) party events, which are packed with exceptional hospitality and pulsating entertainment.

www.jamaicadreamweekend.com



CARIBBEAN WEDDING INDUSTRY AWARDS & EXPO: SEPTEMBER 7-9, MONTEGO BAY

Romantic resorts and destinations across the Caribbean will converge and be recognized as leaders in the booming multi-billion-dollar destination wedding and honeymoon niche. This Caribbean-wide educational symposium and wedding industry awards event will showcase the Caribbean's unique romantic wedding and honeymoon offerings.

www.caribbeanweddingindustryawards.com

COME CELEBRATE JESUS! OCTOBER 13, MONTEGO BAY

The Montego Bay Convention Centre will come alive with joyous gospel music, as local and international artists deliver rousing renditions in praise and worship. The event has grown tremendously since its 2012 inauguration, attracting major international headliners each year. www.ccjconcert.com



MERRITONE HOMECOMING & FAMILY REUNION: OCTOBER 16-19, NEGRIL

The 66th Anniversary of Merritone Music and the 26th Anniversary of Merritone Music Homecoming are great reasons to celebrate this year. Join the musical Blake clan and friends while they bring back memories of yesterday and present great hope for music as a universal force for unity. www.merritonemusic.com

(How many did you already know?)

Jamaica is well known as a place which heals the mind, body and soul. Many visitors come to our shores to put aside the hustle and bustle of daily life and bask in the warmth of our people; the tranquility of our island vistas and soothe their souls. But did you know that this healing of the physical body is a literal healing? Oh yes! Jamaica is blessed with naturally occurring mineral spas, which have been proven to contain healing properties. Here are a few of the more famous ones.

- ◆ Milk River Bath, Clarendon. Located on the banks of the milk river in Clarendon on Jamaica's south-central coast, it was officially opened to the public in 1974. The waters have a radioactivity of 16m curries per litre, which is about 50 times as radioactive as the waters of Vichy in France; and 54 times as radioactive as the waters of Baden in Switzerland!

www.milkriverbath.com



- ◆ Doctor's Cave Bathing Beach, Montego Bay. Many would know this as a popular resort area beach but it was Sir Herbert Barker – a British Osteopath – who in the 1920 discovered the healing powers of the waters here. Since then it has been a mecca for celebrities and regulars alike. www.doctorscavebathingclub.com
- ◆ Rockfort Mineral Bath, Kingston. Rockfort Mineral bath is one of the oldest public facilities in Jamaica. The therapeutic properties of the mineral-rich waters flow from the Rockfort Hills above it and is believed to have surfaced after the devastating Port Royal earthquake of 1907.

Sangster International Airport

Montego Bay
www.mbjairport.com
Phone: 1.876.952.3124

Norman Manley International Airport

Kingston
www.nmia.aero
Phone: 1.876.924.8452

Ian Fleming International Airport

St. Mary
www.ifa.aero
Phone: 1.876.975.3101

Jamaica Customs

www.jacustoms.gov.jm
Phone: 1.876.952.2469

Jamaica Immigration

www.pica.gov.jm
Phone: 1.876.952.2408

Canadian High Commission, Kingston

www.canadianinternational.gc.ca/jamaica
Phone: 1.876.926.1500

Canadian Consulate, Montego Bay

29 Gloucester Ave
Phone: 1.876.952.6198

Jamaican Consulate, Toronto

www.jcgtoronto.ca
Phone: 416.598.3008

Jamaican High Commission, Ottawa

www.jhcottawa.ca
Phone: 613.233.9311

Jamaica Tourist Board

Montego Bay
www.visitjamaica.com
Phone: 1.876.952.4425

Government of Jamaica

www.jis.gov.jm

Jamaica's Premier Airport Lounge Relax. Connect. Discover

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KINGSTON

Club
MOBAY

Arrival Services

- Personalized Meet & Greet
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- Assistance with luggage retrieval
- Coordination with your ground transportation
- Private restrooms & changing facilities

Find us at the Departure Terminals at
Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay
and
Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston

Departure Services

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- Access to departure lounges
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