

WATERSPORTS

JAMAICA, BEAUTIFUL ON OR UNDER THE WATER!



JAMAICA

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EXPLORE JAMAICA!

Most people know Jamaica for its warm tropical climate, delightful breezes, friendly people, excellent cuisine, engaging culture and a host of marvelous resorts. And while all this is true, much less is known about the spectacular vistas which lie beneath the Caribbean Sea surrounding this slice of paradise! We invite you to explore the other Jamaica; the one where centuries of history remain preserved deep below the surface, as well as visually stimulating schools and pods of marine dwellers, much closer to shore! Jamaica's underwater world is rimmed with coral reefs, etched with canyons and grottos, and sheered with vertical walls. Marine life there is a kaleidoscope of living colour!

PLEASURE BOAT CRUISES

Not all the fun is beneath the water though! There are many pleasure boat and catamaran cruises available all around the island. Watching the sunset in Negril from one of the popular sunset cruises is a pastime in that resort town. In Ocho Rios, many catamaran cruises will take you up to Dunn's River Falls along the coast and visitors may swim across, climb the falls and sail back down to their resorts. Montego Bay also has many glass bottom boat rides, as well as semi-submarine vessels which allow you to see some of the exciting marine life without actually getting wet!

MARLIN TOURS

There is no better place to soak up the sun and enjoy fun-filled days fishing for that "big one", than being aboard one of the many vessels that participate in the numerous marlin tournaments held annually. Primarily held in the fall, marlin tournaments are plentiful, including the Falmouth Yacht Club Fishing Tournament; the Port Antonio International Marlin Tournament; the Montego Bay Yacht Club Marlin Tournament, among others. Contact the Jamaica Tourist Board for exact dates for these events each year.

BEACHES

Jamaica is well known for its beautiful and pristine beaches! Wherever on the island you are, there are many lovely beaches nearby. Most famous among them is Negril's seven mile beach, where visitors and locals alike enjoy daytime relaxation and fun activities, while many spots along the beach come alive at night for reggae shows and bonfire parties. Over in Port Antonio, San San beach and Frenchman's Cove are world renowned and are among some of the most iconic beach images of our time.

Montego Bay's Doctors Cave beach is the stuff of legend and well known for its proven healing properties. Aside from the many resort beaches, there are many public beaches where lazy sun-drenched days may be spent; including James Bond Beach; Whitehouse Beach; Hellshire Beach; Boston Beach and Cornwall Beach.

WATERFALLS & CLIFFS

Jamaica is known as the land of wood and water and the many rivers that ring the island, together with its mountainous nature, bequeaths a number of spectacular waterfalls all around the country. From Reich and Sommerset Falls in Port Antonio, to Mayfield Falls in Hanover and The YS Falls on the South Coast and many elsewhere, including the world famous Dunn's River Falls. Cascading edifices abound in this lush green land!

Particularly along Negril West End, cliff side vistas are common place. Many cave-like openings in the rocks there provide a sanctuary for some spectacular marine life as well! The west end however is more famous for its afternoon cliff-diving spectacle! Visitors and locals alike leap from several feet above the ground into clear blue waters below, plunging up to 100 feet below the surface at times.

YACHT CLUBS

Yachtsmen and Anglers will find the waters of Jamaica inviting and exhilarating. Whether as a safe harbour to rest during a trek through the Caribbean, or the intended destination, Jamaica's yacht clubs offer full service marine hospitality. The recently renovated Errol Flynn Marina in Port Antonio is a must see on any journey along the north east corridor of the island.

Many clubs also hold annual regattas and tournaments, including the Montego Bay Yacht Club Easter Regatta and The Royal Jamaica Yacht Club Spring tournament among others. The Jamaica Tourist Board's website lists the exact dates for these events annually.

SNORKELLING & DIVING

We already know that Jamaica is beautiful above the water but take the plunge beneath the water and enter a world of awe-struck beauty and exotic marine life. From delicate corals to crustaceans and fish of every stripe, colour and hue. A diverse marine life awaits you and many of the spectacular sites are not very far below the surface.

Divers will enjoy balmy year round weather and warm clear waters average 26-29 degrees Celsius all year. Many seasoned divers comment that they find the best times to dive in the Caribbean, are between June and September. Close-at-hand dive sites and a host of professional operators contribute to Jamaica being a preferred dive destination, where visibility is usually excellent, averaging about 100 feet. With the establishment of marine parks in Montego Bay, Negril and Port Antonio, fish population have rebounded tremendously.

PROMINENT DIVE SITES

There are notable dive sites all along Jamaica's north coast, from Negril through to Montego Bay, Discovery Bay, Runaway Bay; into the north east at Port Antonio and on the South Coast. Particularly at Port Royal in Kingston, where an entire city lies beneath the sea, sunken after the great earthquake of 1692. Considering that this was a former Pirate's Port, many sunken ships certainly lie off its coast. It is important to know as well, that Jamaica has a decompression chamber - located near Ocho Rios-affiliated to the University of The West Indies.

Some key dive sites to check out while visiting Jamaica include:

Negril area: The Arc; Coral Gardens; Sand Club Reef; The Thorne Room.

Montego Bay: Basket Reef; Doctors Cave Reef; Old Airport Reef; The Point & Widomakers' Cave.

Runaway Bay/Ocho Rios area: Dickie's Reef; The Ganja Planes; Judy's Paradise; Kathryn's; Llandoverly; The Nursery; Reynolds Wall; Devil's Reef & Three Stone.

Port Antonio: Alligator Head; Alligator Long; Alligator West; Blue Hole; Fairy Hill and Trident Wall.

Kingston/Port Royal: Cayman Trader; The Edge; Sandra's Buoy; Texas Wreck and Wreck Reef.

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