

## Ocho Rios, Jamaica



As the city's original name (Las Chorreras meaning "waterfalls") suggests, Ocho Rios offers a wonderful medley of natural beauty, including spectacular bodies of water encompassed by mature, lush greenery. One of the area's best-known attractions is Dunn's River Falls, a 600 foot stair-stepped waterfall that cascades down the mountain. A sight not to be missed!

Be sure to leave ample time for the plethora of other activities available. Visit the final resting place of Bob Marley. Drive down Fern gully, a three-mile winding roadway densely lined with giant ferns. See Jamaican artistry first-hand at the Harmony Hall art gallery, featuring an excellent selection of traditional artwork and handicrafts. Tour a flower-lover's dream with visits to Shaw Park Botanical Gardens, famous for its poinsettias and view of the bay; and Carinosa, a garden with more than 200 varieties of orchids.

And that's just to keep you busy during the day. After the sun goes down, the nightlife heats up. There's something for everyone in Ocho Rios - from English pubs featuring local music to splashy dance clubs with the latest music. Many of the resorts provide a variety of entertainment as well.

Quieter in comparison to Ocho Rios, the North Coast gives a new meaning to the word peaceful. Enjoy the encompassing serenity as you take part in a variety of activities from horseback riding to cave exploration. Come to Jamaica's North Coast where the air is fresh, the breeze is gentle, and the atmosphere is tranquil.

### Package Includes:

- Choice of accommodations
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Roundtrip transfers between Montego Bay airport and hotel
- Luggage handling
- Assistance of a local destination representative

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who should go?

#### Honeymooners

Jamaicans say the North Coast and Ocho Rios are where heaven spills into the seas and the carefree island attitude is infectious.

#### Music Fans

During the first week in February, the tiny village of Nine Mile celebrates the birthday of reggae legend Bob Marley, who was born and buried in Ocho Rios.

#### Families

Enjoy shopping, nice beaches, tours, hiking, lots of activities, and Dunn's River Falls.

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### What's the climate like?

	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
<b>Average High</b>	86° F	86° F	90° F	89° F
<b>Average Low</b>	74° F	75° F	79° F	78° F

<b>Average Rainfall</b>	1.2"	0.9"	3.8"	6.8"
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The northeast trade winds and mountain breezes keep the temperature pleasant year round. Water temperature is approximately 78°F.

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## How do I get around town?

### Transfers

Roundtrip transfers between the airport and your hotel are included with your vacation package. Hotels on the North Coast are approximately a 40- to 75-minute drive from the airport. Hotels located in Ocho Rios are approximately a 2-hour drive.

### Car

A rental car is not recommended.

### Taxi

To avoid any misunderstandings, the passenger should settle on the fare with the driver before departing.

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## What kinds of dining and nightlife are available?

As a nightly ritual while in Jamaica, begin your evening on the beach, watching a beautiful Caribbean sunset fade into the sparkling sea. Enjoy a frosty Red Stripe beer and dance the night away to cool sounds of reggae at a beach party.

- **L'Allegro**  
Exquisite northern Italian fare and a spicy Jamaican flair combine to make unique pizzas.
  - **Café Mango**  
Great breakfasts combining Jamaican and American flavors. A favorite of locals and visitors alike.
  - **Le Gourmet Restaurant**  
An upscale, award-winning restaurant serving fabulously prepared veal medallions, red snapper, spinach-stuffed grouper, and more.
  - **Michelle's**  
An eclectic menu featuring seafood and a variety of pastas served in an elegant atmosphere with white-gloved waiters and a romantic ambiance.
  - **Parkway Restaurant**  
Affordable traditional Jamaican cuisine such as curried goat is perfectly accompanied by the soothing reggae sounds.
  - **Windies**  
The perfect place for an elegant night out, Windies features white-gloved waiters serving traditional upscale West Indian cuisine such as Arawak jerk chicken and red snapper with marmalade.
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## Where should I go shopping?

Good finds in Jamaica include woodwork, straw items, beads, embroidery, and crafts, all offered for sale at the craft markets. Gold, silver, china, and electronic equipment are available in the duty-free stores. And don't forget to pick up some world-famous Blue Mountain coffee and Jamaican rum.

You will find a host of shopping areas including downtown craft markets, Taj Mahal, Soni's Plaza, and Island Village shopping centers. Handicrafts and vendors are plentiful at the top of Dunn's River Falls.

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## When are the local events?

### Moonshine Festival

Thursdays. Showcases cultural performances such as Junkanoo dancing, African drumming, and reggae music at the Shaw Park Botanical Garden.

### **Jamaica Carnival**

February/March/April. Held in Kingston, Montego Bay, and Ocho Rios. Flamboyantly costumed groups parade and dance in the streets. Top music performers from Jamaica, Trinidad, and other Caribbean islands play reggae and calypso music.

### **Fun in the Sun Gospel Spring Festival**

March. Full of spiritual and recreational activities in the form of in-house and on-the-street evangelistic meetings featuring world-renowned speakers and worship leaders.

### **Ocho Rios Jazz Festival**

June. Enjoy top-class performances from Jazz artists from around the world.

### **Sumfest**

July. One of the biggest beach and music festivals on the island with fun and dancing.

### **Sunsplash**

August. An outdoor reggae concert festival.

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## **What are my golf and recreation options?**

### **Golf**

Customize your vacation with discounted greens fees and gain access to hotel-affiliated golf courses with a stay at select hotels.

#### *Hotel-Affiliated Courses*

- **Sandals Golf and Country Club**

Featuring beautiful scenery and comfortable playing conditions 700 feet above the sea. Designed by P. K. Saunders. Unlimited golf is included at this course when staying at the following hotels:

- Beaches Boscobel Spa Resort and Golf Club
- Couples Ocho Rios
- Royal Plantation (with all-inclusive option)
- Sandals Dunn's River Villaggio Golf Resort & Spa
- Sandals Grande Ocho Rios Beach & Villa Resort
- Couples Sans Souci

- **SuperClubs Golf Club at Runaway Bay**

Long rolling fairways and large flat greens protected by grassy mounds and bunkers. Designed by Commander John Harris. Unlimited golf is included at this course when staying at the following hotels:

- Breezes Runaway Bay Resort & Golf Club
- Breezes Rio Bueno

- **Village Green**

A nine-hole, par-3 course to test your skill. Unlimited golf is included at this course when staying at the following hotel:

- Breezes Rio Bueno

### **Sportfishing**

Most major hotels offer full- or half-day charters that include boat, captain, crew and equipment. Blue marlin, sailfish, wahoo, dolphinfish, bonito, and yellowfin tuna can be found in Jamaica's waters.

### **Snorkeling**

Explore Jamaica's undersea world at Marine Gardens Coral Reef and Fish Habitat, part of the barrier reef surrounding the island and a popular snorkeling spot. The cool, crystal clear waters of the Caribbean make diving in Jamaica a special experience.

### **Scuba Diving**

Highly professional dive shops offer courses for beginners as well as for more advanced divers. Devil's Reef, a pinnacle located east of Ocho Rios, drops from 60 feet to over 200 feet and features caverns, a quarter-mile long shallow reef, endless small tunnels, silverslides, and nurse sharks. At Runaway Bay, the reef is alive with brightly colored schools of tropical fish, grouper, snapper, stingrays, large green morays, barracuda, sharks, and turtles. An outstanding dive site is the Canyon with its two parallel walls. The wreck site of the Kathryn is another popular dive and is home to a magnificent array of fish.

### **River Rafting**

The White River to the east of Ocho Rios is a great 45-minute ride that takes you down the largest river in the area. You can go tubing, stopping at the end for lunch.

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## **Travel tidbits**

### **Airport Lounges**

A stay at Sandals, Couples Resorts, SuperClubs, Half Moon Rose Hall, or the Ritz-Carlton come with a special airport treat. After clearing customs, make your way to their private airport lounges to wait for your transfer to your hotel. Once there, grab a Red Stripe and relax from your day of traveling. Remember though, the transfer drivers and anyone who carries your bags to the transfer van are not employed by the resort, so tip them if you receive good service.

### **Calling All Secret Agents**

Located just 20 minutes from the hustle and bustle of Ocho Rios is James Bond Beach, a beautiful stretch of beach featuring the Moonraker Jamaican Bar & Grill and guided waverunner tours which pass the famous Golden Eye, where Ian Fleming penned the James Bond novels.

### **Fans of Bob Marley**

Make a pilgrimage to Nine Mile and see the Bob Marley Mausoleum, the final resting place of the world's greatest reggae icon, Bob Marley. Visit his shrine and pay your respects. Chances are good you could meet Bob's mother Cedella Booker, or some of his old friends.

### **Dunn's River Falls**

Stunning scenery and an amazing waterfall, Dunn's River Falls is an experience of a lifetime. When climbing the falls, the rocks can get slick. To avoid slipping you can rent a pair of aqua socks at the falls, or if you want an unworn pair, purchase them back home for about the same price. The aqua socks are also good for going in the ocean so the sharp rocks and coral won't hurt your feet.

### **Green Castle Estate**

Meet Elvis the cattle supervisor and Peter the friendly bull, at Green Castle Estate, an ecologically rich and beautiful estate nestled between the majestic Blue Mountains and the Caribbean Sea. Here, you'll learn the rich history of Jamaican agriculture from the Tainos who inhabited the site 1,000 years ago, through 300 years as a sugar cane and banana plantation, to the modern estate today as one of the largest orchid and organic farms in the Caribbean.

### **Good to Know:**

Airport Name:	Sangster International Airport
3-letter Code:	MBJ
Best Weather:	December – April
Best Values:	May – November
Currency:	Jamaican Dollar (called Jay)
Language:	English
Time Zone:	Jamaica is on Eastern Standard Time, one hour ahead of Central Standard Time in winter, and does not adjust to Daylight Saving Time.
Proof of Citizenship:	Government legislation requires all people traveling via air to and from the United States and Canada to have a valid passport. For details on passports, visas, and health requirements, see <a href="#">Entry Requirements</a> .
Tipping:	10-15% is customary, but make sure the tip hasn't already been added to the bill. At many of the all-inclusive resorts, tipping in the restaurants and bars is not allowed. Be sure to tip the guides on excursions such as Dunn's River Falls and rafting tours.
Dress:	Jamaica is very casual. Shorts are allowed at most restaurants, except fine dining establishments. Bring a sweater, since some of the air-conditioned places can be cool.