



# Things to Know

## Your quick guide to services, customs, and amenities.

### AIRLINES

Air Canada	876-924-8211
Air Europa	844-415-3955
Air Turks and Caicos	649-941-5730
American Airlines	800-433-7300
British Airways	800-247-9297
Caribbean Airlines	800-523-5585, 888-359-2475
Cayman Airways	800-422-9626
Copa Airlines	876-968-5330, 876-926-0326
Delta Airlines	800-221-1212
Frontier Airlines	720-902-3969
Fly Jamaica	855-933-5952
JetBlue Airways	800-JET-BLUE
Southwest	800-435-9792
Spirit Airlines	877-211-1546
United Airlines	800-231-0856
Virgin Atlantic	876-971-8917
WestJet Airlines	800-538-5696

### AIRPORTS

Norman Manley International Airport, Kingston	876-924-8452-6 <a href="http://nmia.aero">nmia.aero</a>
Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay	876-952-3124 <a href="http://mbjairport.com">mbjairport.com</a>
Ian Flemming International Airport, Boscobel, St. Mary	876-975-3101 <a href="http://ifia.aero">ifia.aero</a>

### ATMs

Most Jamaican ATMs (called ABMs) accept international bank cards with Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus, or Plus logos.

### CLIMATE

Jamaica enjoys a tropical climate with high temperatures and humid conditions year-round. Average temperature ranges from 66 degrees Fahrenheit (19 degrees Celsius) to 99 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius). Though Jamaica is known for its sunshine, the island has two rainy seasons: May to June and September to October. Also, hurricanes may pass over the island from June to October. If it rains during your stay, don't worry. Most times, these short tropical rains provide a welcome break from the afternoon heat.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Jamaica is well connected to the rest of the world. Direct international telephone service operates in all areas, 24 hours a day, and telephone operators will gladly facilitate collect, third-party, or credit card calls. Email and internet access is available at hotels, parish libraries, and local internet cafes. Three daily newspapers and five weekend newspapers will keep you in the know. Some hotels and gift shops offer international newspapers as well.

### CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards, including Visa, MasterCard, and American Express, are accepted throughout the island.

### CURRENCY

The currency of Jamaica is the Jamaica dollar. However, the U.S. dollar is also accepted as legal tender for goods and services. Licensed "cambio" (exchange) centres and commercial banks are accessible in all resort areas. Official currency exchange rates vary daily, so it's advisable to shop around for the best rate.

CUSTOMS AND DUTY

United States residents who have been out of the country for 48 hours or more may take home items valued up to \$800 (U.S.) once every 31 days without incurring duty. Adults may take home 200 cigarettes, 100 non-Cuban cigars, and one litre of alcohol. A second litre of alcohol is allowed duty-free if it's produced by a Caribbean Basin country. Family members who return home together may combine their personal exemptions on a joint declaration.

Visit [cbp.gov](http://cbp.gov) for more information.

Canadian residents who have been out of the country for more than 48 hours can claim up to \$300 (CAN) worth of goods without paying duty. Goods must be carried with them. After each absence of seven days or more, they can claim up to \$800 (CAN) worth of goods without duty. Except for tobacco products and alcohol, Canadian residents can send goods through the mail. Tobacco products and alcohol must be carried on their person.

Visit [cbsaasfc.gc.ca](http://cbsaasfc.gc.ca) for more information.

United Kingdom residents 17 or older may take the following items home, duty-free: two litres of table wine and one litre of spirits or liquor, or two litres of fortified or sparkling wine or other liquors. 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars or 250 g of tobacco. 60 cc of perfume and 250 cc of eau de toilette. Plus, other goods worth up to £145. Travelers cannot group their allowances.

Visit [hmrc.gov.uk](http://hmrc.gov.uk) for more information.

DEPARTURE TAX

There is a \$35 departure tax that must be paid upon departure. Airlines include this tax on tickets.

DRIVING

In Jamaica, drivers must keep to the left, although some flexibility is required to avoid collisions with pedestrians and domestic animals. The speed limit is 30 mph (50 kmph) in urban areas and 50 mph (80 kmph) on highways given the mountainous terrain (rural roads are often winding, bumpy, and narrow). Tourists can rent cars in most major towns and cities. Clients must be no less than 25 years old to rent a vehicle. Drivers and all passengers are required to wear safety belts, and children under 3 years old must travel in infant carriers or child safety seats. All drivers are required to carry a valid driver's licence. Jamaica recognises valid international driver's licences. Visitors from North America may use their country's licence for up to three months per visit, and United Kingdom residents may use theirs for up to one year.

DRUGS

In Jamaica, the use, sale, and possession of drugs such as cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin, and any other controlled substance is illegal. Offenders are subject to severe punishment, including arrest, fines, and/or imprisonment. The possession of up to two ounces of ganja (marijuana) has been decriminalised, but it is still not legal.

ELECTRICITY

The electrical supply in Jamaica is 110 volts/50 cycles standard, and electrical appliances use plugs that are two-pronged and flat (as in the U.S. and Canada). Bring along any adaptors or convertors you might need. Most hotels will provide you with hair dryers, alarm clocks, radios, and clothing irons, but you should check before travelling.

GETTING AROUND

Jamaica is an island of 10,992 square kilometers, and it has so much to offer. If you are keen to explore, you will find the journey just as much a part of your travel experience as the destination. From rental cars to luxury services, discover the many blessings the island has to offer.

All registered taxis in Jamaica are required by law to have red "PPV" licence plates. The fastest and most economical taxis are those used by locals, called "route taxis"—cars or buses that drive a designated course and pick up/drop off passengers at will. These are shared cabs that will usually pack several people willing to go on the same route.

There are also privately owned tour operators and bus companies that offer scheduled travel between a number of vacation towns and cities in air-conditioned buses and taxis that also have Wi-Fi.

Check with your concierge for additional information.

HOLIDAYS

On public holidays, all government agencies, including schools and most private businesses, are closed.

<i>New Year's Day</i>	<i>Emancipation Day</i>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Independence Day</i>
<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>National Heroes' Day</i>
<i>Easter Monday</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
<i>Labour Day</i>	<i>Boxing Day</i>

LANGUAGE

English is the official language of Jamaica. However, most locals speak Patois.

SAFETY

As with any place in the world, remember to follow basic precautions. Always keep all luggage in view and your personal effects close to your body.

TIME ZONE

Jamaica falls within the Eastern Time Zone (UTC/GMT -5 Hours) and does not observe daylight saving time. At approximately 18 degrees north of the equator, the island is located within the tropics. As such, it does not experience drastic seasonal changes in sunrise and sunset times. Year-round, the island averages between 11.5 and 12.5 hours of sunlight a day.

TIPPING

It is customary to leave a 10 to 15 percent gratuity at restaurants. Please make sure to check your bill (some establishments will have already included the gratuity in your total).

TRANSPORTATION AND TOUR COMPANIES

Other reliable modes of transportation are available throughout the island. Contact the following purveyors for shuttles, buses, and car rentals. Using a tour company to get around is also a great way to experience Jamaica.

Budget Rent-A-Car	876-759-1793
Caribbean and Latin Travel Consultant	876-906-3140
Caribbean World Enterprises	876-952-6404
Centro Latino	876-755-0072
El Sol Vida	876-630-0664
Fiesta Car Rentals	876-926-0133