

INDUSTRY NEWS

SHARKIES SEAFOOD WINS 2020 TRIPADVISOR TRAVELERS' CHOICE AWARD

Sharkies Seafood owner, Alwyn Brown was pleased to announce that the restaurant has been recognised as a 2020 Travelers' Choice award-winner for Best in St Ann, Jamaica. The award is based on outstanding 2019 diner reviews. Established by a full year of Tripadvisor reviews, award winners are known for consistently receiving great diner feedback, placing them in the top 10 percent of hospitality businesses around the globe. Chief Commercial Officer at Tripadvisor Kanika Soni stated, "Winners of the 2020 Travelers' Choice Awards should be proud of this distinguished recognition. Although it's been a challenging year for travel and hospitality, we want to celebrate our partners' achievements. Not only are these winners well deserving, they are also a great source of inspiration for diners as the world begins to venture out again." A delighted Brown said that the award is testament to what Jamaica represents. "Sharkies and its sister location, Plantation Smokehouse, are locally owned and operated. We buy and utilise Jamaican products....we are part of a community that employs its own and supports it wholeheartedly," he explained.

(Jamaica Gleaner)

VISITORS FROM HIGH-RISK NOW REQUIRED TO DO COVID-19 PCR TEST

Effective August 15 to September 30, the Ministry of Health and Wellness has expanded the list of high risk areas to include Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and the USA (all States). All residents from those area are required to upload a negative COVID-19 PCR. The test is to be performed at a medical lab which is accredited by the relevant health authorities. For the USA, the lab should be accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The test must be done no more than 10 days before arrival in Jamaica. Effective August 20, all persons arriving on the island will be required to upload the negative test. Children aged 11 years or younger will not be required to upload a negative test. Business travelers are now required to upload a negative PCR test, and will still be required to do a test on arrival at the airport. Business travelers must await their test results in their rooms before they can conduct in person business. Travellers must have, and will be asked to present, the original negative certificate on arrival in Jamaica.

(Ministry of Health and Wellness)

IN THE MARKET

JAMAICA WORKS THE 'ROOMS' TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Destinations have come up with creative strategies to engage travelers during the Covid-19 pandemic. From online cooking classes and fitness demos to DJ parties and inviting beach scenes, tourist boards worked to keep their islands top of mind for future visitors. The Jamaica Tourist Board took the virtual route a step further and recently hosted a Zoom webinar update where viewers visited different "rooms," each of which was hosted by either a representative on location at a resort, an attraction or at an airport or an airport VIP lounge. Donovan White, Jamaica's Director of Tourism, said that "we must use all available resources as we bring back our economy in the safest way possible. We've seen that engagement helps drive demand and that the health and safety protocols we have in place make travelers more confident in visiting our island."

(Travel Weekly)

Events

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, all events have been postponed.