# I**©**GROWING MARIJUANA

ANJA

# A GUIDE TO JAMAICAN WEED CULTURE

# by JENNY BLOOM

# A GUIDE TO JAMAICAN WEED CULTURE

Congratulations! You've just downloaded the Ganja Livity ebook.

This guide will teach you the ins and outs about marijuana and Jamaica. Jenny explains her marijuana experience in Jamaica. The events and people in the story are real, and the marijuana that was smoked was grown and personally harvested in Grange Hill, Westmoreland. All other marijuana items were gifted by locals.

Although Jamaica can be a challenging country to navigate without assistance, it still remains a friendly country to those who are respectful to the culture and people. While the country still struggles with violence, I am happy to report that I was met with nothing but hospitality and care while in the country, and I hope to return soon.

Feel free to share this guide with fellow growers!

To learn more about this beautiful plant please visit www.ilovegrowingmarijuana.com.

For regular updates and the latest growing techniques be sure to check out my accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Happy growing,

**Robert Bergman** 



# CONTENTS

| Why Jamaica?                              | 5  |
|---|----|
| Marijuana Everywhere?                     | 6  |
| I've got to have Kaya Now                 | 7  |
| Respect                                   | 8  |
| Ashley, the explorer                      | 9  |
| Puff Puff Pass                            | 10 |
| Time for an adventure                     | 11 |
| More weed, less paper                     | 12 |
| How to Roll Dutch Style                   | 13 |
| Irocq, the resident Rasta                 | 15 |
| Common Sense                              | 16 |
| Food is Life                              | 17 |
| Ital and Love                             | 18 |
| Marijuana for recall                      | 19 |
| Cannabis, Recall and Higher Consciousness | 20 |
| Christian, the encyclopedia               | 22 |
| Citizen of the world                      | 23 |
| Change your perspective                   | 24 |
| Buying land in Jamaica                    | 25 |
| Types of Land Titles in Jamaica           | 27 |

| A STELL A  |    |
|--|----|
| the state of the s |    |
| - SA   |    |
| Godfrey, the student   | 28 |
| Speak softly and show respect  | 29 |
| 9 Countries to spend your winters  | 30 |
| Kirk, the night owl  | 32 |
| Lighting in the wind   | 33 |
| Zebu, the music lover  | 35 |
| Have mat, will travel  | 36 |
| If you seek it, you shall find   | 37 |
| Reggae Festivals in Jamaica  | 38 |
| Easson, the Rasta priest   | 40 |
| The many sects of Rastafarianism   | 41 |
| The Sacred Herb  | 42 |
| The chalice  | 43 |
| All Smell, no Nutrients  | 44 |
| An Unforgettable Experience  | 46 |
| Extra: Did 420 Originate in Jamaica?   | 47 |
| Extra: 8 Things to Do in Jamaica while High  | 48 |
| Epilogue   | 50 |
| ILGM Places of Interest  | 51 |

# WHY JAMAICA?

I never wanted to go to Jamaica. However, when the opportunity presented itself, I knew I had to go. Where else could I learn about growing marijuana in a tropical climate? Plus, Jamaica is known for marijuana. The country even somewhat legalized the use of it for religious practice. I say somewhat because every Jamaican I asked about this, chuckled and clarified, "You're less likely to get arrested."

For me, Jamaica is a prime example of what a marijuana-friendly culture can look like when there is little to no legal interaction. I traveled there eager to experience as many aspects of their marijuana culture as possible. Plus, I wanted some sun. It was January and winter was just starting to irritate me.

In retrospect, I would say I was successful. I spent a week in the island nation, and it rained half of the time. The first few days were spent in northwest Jamaica, deep in the hills with a Rastafarian family. They showed me their garden, which included okra, cannabis and bok choy. Together, we cleared the bush with machetes, taking breaks to smoke a joint in the hot sun. It was hard work, but a quick harvest of a few plants – hardly before maturation – reminded us that the work was well worth it. The fresh coconut (literally – my host climbed the tree and threw it to me) revived us before we returned to the house to smoke another. It was a simple life where the hill people live off of the land and sell their harvests in town (marijuana included).



Negril in January

# Marijuana Everywhere?

This was only the beginning, however. The rest of my time in Jamaica was split between a reggae festival on the northern coast, a Rastafarian-friendly rental in a northwest tourist town and the big city of Montego Bay. I watched festival vendors sell buds on a stick, and coconut vendors sell bags on the freeway. I shared lighters with Jamaicans, Germans, and Americans, drank ganja beer, sampled hits on a chalice and celebrated with new friends over a small slice of ganja cake.

I quickly discovered that in Jamaica, marijuana was a part of the cultural landscape almost as much as cigarettes are a part of mine. Except cigarettes are dangerous.

While everyone in Jamaica did not smoke weed in public, it was more visible the further in-land you went. In other words, if the locals around you are smoking marijuana, you are likely not in a tourist friendly area. Unless, of course, you are on a beach – where cops just recently stopped arresting tourists over smoking joints on the beach.

I definitely cannot say that I am an expert on marijuana in Jamaica after just one week, but I can say that I have a slightly better understanding of what marijuana means to many people in Jamaica. It is a healing herb. It is a way to make money. It is a lifestyle. When you come to think about it, we're not that different after all.

Do you want to know more about growing in a hot climate? Follow this link!



# I've got to have Kaya Now

I didn't expect to be covered in mud after visiting Jamaica, but I guess there is no more fitting way to begin a story on marijuana in this island nation. For seven days, I traveled throughout western and northern Jamaica, sharing conversations and weed with both locals and tourists. As the rain fell, we all came together as one enjoying the same herb through off and on downpours.

"Drink it slow, nah knock you down," Sister Dawn eyed me suspiciously as a sipped my ganja beer.

Although she wasn't the first local I met, she definitely made the largest impact. I was introduced to her by another tourist, a JamaicanAmerican free spirit named Danielle, who was also escaping the dreary Pacific Northwest winters. Although she looked like a local, her mannerisms were 100% West Coast, and I suppose I stood out as well.

Standing at the ticket line for Rebel Salute (a popular Jamaican music festival) with a huge hiking

bag on my back, the bubbly stranger started talking to me. "Oh, my GAWD girl it's about to rain!! My bags are going to get so wet! Aren't you worried about your bags??"

I could truthfully say no. I had a poncho for my tablet and cell phone bag, and my pre-rolls were securely in a plastic bag in my waist pack. Come at me rain - I was ready. But Danielle didn't take no for an answer. "Come sit in my taxi until the rain stops," she insisted. Next thing I know, I was beginning an adventure that I had not planned for.

My reggae loving American friend became my new BFF, and within a few hours, I was meeting Sister Dawn, an older Jamaican lady full of wisdom, fire and a hearty sense of humor.



My free sample of Ganja beer

Do you want to know more about making the perfect marijuana edibles? Follow this link!



Although Sister Dawn was kind (she let me store my hiking bag in her vendor booth), I was cautious to be respectful. In fact, I kept my distance, because frankly, the lady scared me. But once a food vendor handed me some ganja root beer (a free sample), and I hesitated at drinking it all at once, she seemed like the best person to ask.

She didn't recommend drinking it all at once.

So, I sipped slowly and asked her how it was made. Fermented marijuana leaves and stems made for a concoction that was part beer, part tincture, and it was quite good. Laughing at my amazing luck to be at such an event, I lowered my guard and forgot that Sister Dawn terrified me. I figured we were friends now, and it was safe to ask her about her culture.

Boy, was I wrong.

"Ask anyone what it means to be Rastafarian, and they will all be lying!" She firmly responded borderline yelled at me, all the while staring at me intently. Who was I to ask such a thing? I had offended her.

For Sister Dawn, Rastafarianism has no definition, because it is too diverse. I believe the same can be said for marijuana in Jamaica in general. There is no universal Jamaican marijuana experience. Less than 20% of the Jamaican population is Rastafarian, and not every Rastafarian smokes marijuana. Additionally, many people that smoke marijuana in Jamaica do not consider themselves to be Rastafarians.

Ganja Livity is not about defining the marijuana experience of Jamaica. It also is not about defining Rastafarianism. It is a story of my experience while in Jamaica through the conversations I had with Rastafarians and lovers of Rastafarian culture. Each of these stories combines to paint a beautiful mosaic of what I call the marijuana way of life.

# **ASHLEY, THE EXPLORER**

Superpower: Ability to trek any country with two weeks' notice

#### Citizenship: Germany

I met Ashley at Rebel Salute. She literally appeared in Danielle's group of new-found-friends once the gates opened that rainy Friday night. Danielle had met her randomly, just like she had met me, and quickly made her a part of our group. We were now all friends, and I didn't mind.

It was hard not to notice Ashley. The former German fashion model stood nearly 6 feet tall, with beautiful natural curls and two locs. This was her second trip to Jamaica, but she was no stranger to world travel. She had also visited Northern California as a trimmigant, trekked around Australia, and even spent some time in Colombia.

\*She did not trim in the town featured in my Harvest Journal, but she was pretty durn close\*

Unlike Danielle, Ashley wasn't in Jamaica for the music, she was there for the culture. Ashley loved the people and wanted to be reconnected with a place she fell in love with two years' prior. Fighting back admirer's while staying safe, Ashley knew what she was doing while remaining irie the entire time.

Want to know more about growing in Australia and the United States? Check the grow calendars now!





# **Puff Puff Pass**

In my trio of traveling gal pals, Ashley was the only one as focused on herb as myself. Eager to share my gifted ganja beer as soon as we met, I knew we would have fun together. Being German, Ashley's attitude toward marijuana was more familiar to my own. When the three of us found a seat outside of Sister Dawn's booth (she was a vendor at the festival), Ashley immediately offered to share her joint.

Ahh, the universal symbol of friendship. Marijuana.

Except that joints are never shared in Jamaica - only weed. Based on my other interactions, I'd guess that this is because marijuana is primarily a herb - just like turmeric or ginger. It is more medicine than recreation. The plant may be shared, but consumption is a personal, private thing.

However, I am American, and we share, so I took a puff only to quickly blurt out "what the fuck?"

It was a spliff - mixed with German tobacco. Apparently, that is how they roll joints in Germany.

By the end of our time together, she stopped adding the tobacco. Jamaica can wear off on you.

Follow this link to see the best strains ILGM has to offer!





### Time for an adventure

Rebel Salute is a two-day festival that includes over 24 hours of live music. Nearly 20 of those hours are performed during the night. Therefore, if you attend Rebel Salute, you must be prepared to stay up all night or pack a tent and sleep.

Ashley and I packed hammocks and quickly scouted a place to crash for the night – a scenic grassy triad facing the ocean. By 2 am, Danielle and Godfrey (another German tourist) had joined us, borrowing hammocks from locals, creating our tourist camp. I asked Ashley where she was heading after the concert. She laughed and said she didn't know.

"Maybe Negril?" She responded between puffs.

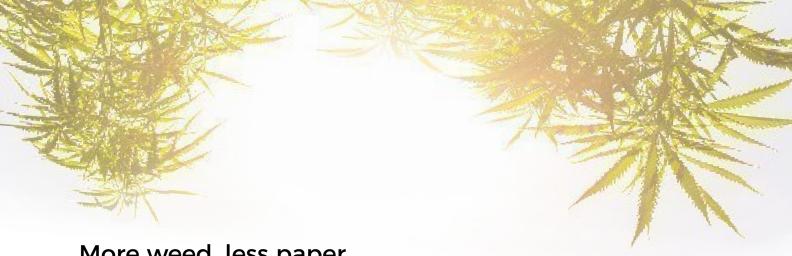
Lucky for her, that is exactly where my next Airbnb was. It was decided, Ashley was coming with me.

Sunday morning, I opened my eyes to find a beautiful African German standing over me, asking me if I was ready to catch a taxi to Negril. Sleeping in a hammock at a festival in Jamaica, where you fall asleep to reggae music and wake up to it as well was amazing, but somehow, leaving this place to go on an adventure with her felt like a good idea.



Ashley, grabbing some pics

A few pictures, and some clicks of my hiking bag straps, and off we walked, destination known, but method of arrival unknown.



### More weed, less paper

When it came to staying economical, Ashley was a pro. After hitchhiking with some festival attendees from Ocho Rios, Ashley left me at a Burger King to update my Instagram. "They have free Wi-Fi," she said while abandoning me to gather her belongings 30 minutes outside of town.

Ashley was a minimalist. Everything she had she carried on her back, including a hammock, a spare set of sheets, and a professional camera. She washed her clothes by hand and wore sturdy hiking boots. Her hair was matted and dirty, yet she still looked like she walked out of a magazine shoot.

Her minimalistic approach extended to her relationship with marijuana as well. "I roll Dutch style. More weed, less paper," she explained.

Sitting on the porch of our Negril accommodations, Ashley patiently demonstrated how to roll.

Ashley, grabbing some pics

Six joints later, she lifted one of my attempts and let out a ridiculous laugh.

"What is this??" "My attempt at rolling Dutch style." "Just go on YouTube okay?"





# How to roll Dutch Style

Tired of rolling your joints the same ole' way over and over again? Whether you're a newbie smoker or an expert toker, rolling weed Dutch style, or inside out, will have you smoking in about 30 seconds. Don't get laughed at by a beautiful European.

#### Step-By-Step Guide to Rolling Joints Dutch Style

What is the Dutch style joint rolling method? It's basically rolling your joint backward or inside out. This makes it, so your joint only has one layer of rolling paper around it. Simply tear off the paper to limit the number of harmful substances and extra tar you take in from burning rolling papers.

NOTE: If you're a newbie to rolling joints, practice using cheap tobacco... not your good grade cannabis.

#### What You'll Need to Roll Dutch Style

- $\cdot$  Rolling papers
- · Tippy (rolling cone)
- Herb (or tobacco for practicing)

#### Step 1: Flatten Rolling Paper

Lay your rolling paper down flat, making sure the glue strip is downward. Insert the tippy at the end of the paper. Place ground flower inside the rolling paper crease.



#### Step 2: Roll the Paper

Using two hands, pick up the paper and hold it with the glue facing towards you. Make sure your herb is in a smooth cone or tube shape by "rolling" the paper back and forth. Roll the glue strip downward carefully, to the edge of the weed. Use your finger to tuck your paper in, then start rolling upward while pinching your paper tippy. Make sure the paper doesn't have any creases. Your finished Dutch style joint should be in the shape of a cone.

#### Step 3: Lick the Paper

Now, there should only be one layer of paper in between you and the glue, which should now be facing upward. Lick the glue, then softly press along the glue area, bonding the joint closed with your thumb or finger.

#### Step 4: Beautify Your Joint

Use your fingertips to do a little reforming to get your joint shaped properly. Just be careful, because if the paper is still wet, it will rip or tear easily.

#### Step 5: Remove Excess Paper

Gently rip any excess paper upward, along the glue line, which may still be wet. Be very careful not to accidentally unseal the bond made by the glue strip.

#### Step 6: Smoke Your Joint

Now, smoke responsibly... or DON'T!

#### https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\_Q56JreFow



# **IROCQ, THE RESIDENT RASTA**

Superpower: Always knowing exactly what to say when you need to hear it

Citizenship: Jamaica

"Are you a Rasta?" I asked the dreadlocked man sitting in the front seat of my Negril Airbnb host's car. He turned around and smiled, nodding Yes.

Irocq lived on the property and didn't say much. He was just sort of around. Now the two of us were sitting in the car alone, waiting for the homeowner and Ashley to return. I didn't want it to be awkward, so I started talking to him.





# **Common Sense**

"Being Rasta is about using your common sense," he began, "most people do not use their common sense. They say I know this, and I know that, but they do not know. They do not stop and listen and use their common sense."

"I use mine." He smiled.

For Irocq, everything was simple, because all of the answers were already there. All that we had to do was be quiet and pay attention. I asked him if meditation was a way to be quiet.

"Yes, meditation. But not just too relax, to overstand common sense."

I deduced that Irocq was talking about higher consciousness, and started to think about it intently, but was quickly removed from my thoughts by another more relevant question -

"What do you eat tonight?"





# Food is life

I'd come to Jamaica for two things - sun and food. Specifically, I wanted to eat an Ital diet, the traditional food of Jamaica. I'd learn about it from a few Jamaican Americans back home and had decided to only eat that while in the country.

"I can cook ital for you," he offered, excited to share his time with myself and Ashley. Remembering that I was in Jamaica, I responded with, "how much?" Irocq let out a genuine laugh and insisted it was free, as long as Ashley and I provided the food. Ashley returned and agreed to the arrangement - we were having a home cooked meal tonight. That night, after walking the beach with Ashley and riding a motorcycle taxi in the pitch-black darkness of Jamaica, we arrived back at the house exactly on schedule. Irocq gathered some vegetables and began dicing them in the kitchen. I sat down at the table and watched.

"Food is very important," he began, quickly dicing celery and throwing it in a saucepan. "It can make you sick, and it can heal you."

Everything was thrown in the pot quickly - greens, potatoes, plantains, okra and green beans. "I go to doctor, he want to give you drugs. But my common sense tells me healing is all around me. So, I do not take drugs. I use plants."

He then grabs three plates and turns around and smiles.



"All done."



# Ital and Love

Grateful for our home cooked meal, Ashley set the table with candles and glasses of water. While we enjoyed our meal, Irocq continued to explain his philosophy on ital living.

"Ital is about love," he explained. "You cannot love anyone else until you love yourself, and you love yourself by feeding it healthy food. Food is life," he repeated, biting down on a plantain.

As we ate, Irocq told stories of people that had healed themselves with food. He laughed as Ashley declined her okra and poked at the hemp seeds I offered him.

"These are marijuana seeds?"

"Yes, from Canada," I replied.

Chewing on the seeds, his eyes became big, and he shook his head. "Hemp, not marijuana? It is cold in Canada. This is what they grow?"

My common sense told me Irocq thought that hemp seeds were an inferior use of a cannabis plant.



Follow this link to learn more about the difference between Hemp and Marijuana.



# Marijuana for recall

Hallucinogenic have been used worldwide for a very long time, and of the varieties available, marijuana is the most popular. One of the reasons marijuana is a go-to option for some people is its potential for raising spiritual awareness and consciousness. Many people believe it can destroy mental barriers exposing our minds to a world of knowledge.

Like many plants, Cannabis contains certain DNA that has an impact on our own when we consume it in any form that reconnects us with our truth, who we really are and our oneness with all things. The use of hallucinogenics can remind us of the importance of honoring nature and how it is our duty to respect and take care of the earth. Marijuana itself can help shape the way we see ourselves and the world around in a more life-changing, beneficial way.

ILGM offers a lot of Medical Marijuana strains. Follow this link for all our Medical strains!



# Cannabis, Recall and Higher Consciousness

For almost anyone who has used marijuana before, it is almost impossible to deny the amazing meditative effects. There are increasing numbers of people raving about achieving a higher state of consciousness when using marijuana during ceremonies, rituals and even recreationally. Some call this plant, the essence of God in plant form.

Bob Marley, a well-known advocate for marijuana once said, "When you smoke the herb, it reveals you to yourself."

This deep relaxation leaves you open to delve into part of your subconscious that holds memories of past lives and alternative realities. Anything we have been suppressing in this lifetime is able to come to the surface. The inner child, which many adults lose touch with, can now become a part of our life and any healing needed in that area can take place.

Cannabis use can make the spirit world which is usually invisible to the naked eye, more vivid. People begin to see beyond the veil and be exposed to a world of supernatural activity as well as beings that exist side by side with us.

Your dreams become vivid and powerful. Questions you have always wondered about your existence and who you are can easily be revealed to you.

The seven Chakras, which are important energy centers within the body, become alive and balance. Due to Cannabis being a higher vibrational herb, it allows cosmic energy to move unrestricted throughout each Chakra. Once energy is moving freely in the Chakras, blockages are released, and your psychic energy is enhanced. Now you are able to deeper into spiritual awareness and knowledge of Self.



This is what Irocq attempted to tell me, without speaking.



In case you forgot

# CHRISTIAN, THE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Superpower: Ability to explain everything Rasta from a Western perspective

#### Citizenship: Germany

When I met Christian in Negril, I had no idea what was going on. Ashley and I had gone walking on the beach, and the next thing I know, I am sitting on the beach in front of a villa, smoking joints with two Germans.

Ashley met Christian on the plane from Germany, in fact, they were seated next to each other. The two had exchanged emails on the flight, and she remembered he was in Negril. Her coming to Negril was no coincidence, and it was all my luck.





Christian was a blonde cryptocurrency trader, an internet entrepreneur that had done well for himself. He'd purchased land in the Jamaican hills but rented the villa for he and a friend to vacation at. Lounging on the beach with rum and pre-rolled joints, we interacted with the beach vendors, hawking marijuana and club flyers and talked about the culture of Jamaica.

"No, we don't want!" he firmly responded between sips of rum. "You have to be clear, or they never leave," he explained.



Not sure if they were here for the rum or the Coke...



# Change your perspective

Christian was not Rastafarian, but he had interacted with them in his years of living in Jamaica. He purchased land in the Jamaican hills but never traveled alone due to a large amount of violence.

"I don't spend a minute here without a joint in my mouth," Christian explained. For him, Jamaica was his escape from an expensive Germany, and local connections made it affordable. "They charge you up to \$50 US dollars for weed on the beach you know?"

As he poured repeated glasses of run and coke followed by joints of marijuana, it was not hard to tell that he was on vacation time. Sitting on the beaches of Negril, it's hard not to be.





# **Buying land in Jamaica**

Are you an American looking to buy land in Jamaica? Well, the good news is that Jamaica doesn't place any type of restrictions on the foreign ownership of land or property. Here's the step by step to living the life, like Christian.

#### Step-By-Step Guide to Buying Land in Jamaica

#### Step 1: Make an Offer

After you've found a piece of Jamaican land you'd like to own, the first step to buying it is to make the owner, also known as the vendor, an offer.

#### Step 2: Secure an Attorney

This is a very important step to buying land in Jamaica, unlike US land purchases, where generally only real estate agents are used. Expect attorney fees to range about 2% to 6% of the value of the land (16.5% GCT).

#### Step 3: Title & Survey

If the vendor accepts your offer, a title search and land survey is conducted to ensure there are no other conflicting interests or claims to the land registered.

#### Step 4: Lodge a Caveat

Now, you need to lodge a caveat or official document filed with the Registrar of Titles in Kingston. This prohibits anyone else from registering interests against the land until the sales transaction is complete and title has been transferred to you.



#### Step 5: Sign Agreement

The vendor will also have an attorney, who will prepare an Agreement for Sale. Both you, the purchaser, and the vendor will sign it.

#### Step 6: Pay Deposit & Stamp Duty

You must submit your deposit to buy the Jamaican land. Expect it to be about 10% to 20% of the land's sell price. At this time, you will also pay a percentage of the transaction stamp duty if it's not included in the deposit.

#### Step 7: Title Application

The vendor will submit an application for the title transfer to the Office of the Registrar of Titles in Kingston. At that time, the vendor will also pay any government duties owed. All documents must be stamped within 30 days of being signed, or penalties may apply.

#### Step 8: Deed Transfer

If this is a cash transaction, the deed is not transferred, and the sale of the Jamaican land is complete. However, if a mortgage is involved, it may take about three months (sometimes longer) from the date the documents were signed for the deed transfer to be completed.

Note: Foreign Currency Regulations

When using foreign currency for the purpose of buying land in Jamaica (or other Jamaican real estate), you must get approval from the Bank of Jamaica's Exchange Control Department first. You must have consent from this department before engaging in real estate purchase agreements.

# Types of Land Titles in Jamaica

When buying land in Jamaica, there are two kinds of titles to choose from:

1. Common Law Title - This is a certificate of ownership used in the purchase of unregistered land in Jamaica. Yet, it doesn't give you full title to the land.

2. Registered Title - This land title is both official and legal. It gives you full title to the Jamaican land.

The entire process of registering a Jamaican property can take about 49 days altogether. So, rent a spot for a few months while you buy land in Jamaica.



# **GODFREY, THE STUDENT**

Superpower: Ability to blend in with the locals, despite being blond. Appear and disappear on a moment's notice

#### Citizenship: Germany

Like Ashley, Godfrey was introduced to me by Danielle. She needed someone to hold her bags while she quickly ran through the rain to the ticket booth. Godfrey, a European looking blond with long dreadlocks and grungy clothes just happened to be standing there and didn't say no. He held her bags for the next hour.

Also German, he and Ashley, surprisingly did not know each other. Godfrey's English was not as good as Ashley's; plus, most of the English he knew was Jamaican. It was like he had studied English by listening to Bob Marley.



When we needed someone, Godfrey was always there...



# Speak softly and show respect

Godfrey didn't say much, but he was always there until festival officials realized he didn't have a valid ticket. He was spending his winter in Kingston with a Jamaican family because it was too cold in Germany. His behavior was awe and respect.

He bowed his head for every Rasta elder and showed chivalry to every female. He always had a lighter and always appeared when we needed it.



# 9 Countries to spend your winters

Looking for other marijuana-friendly destinations to get some sun? These 9 winter getaways will have you lounging comfortably.

#### 1. U.S. Virgin Islands

The islands of St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas are fun, hot, sandy, and cannabis-friendly. Like much of the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands have recently become more relaxed with their marijuana laws. If you get caught with an ounce or less of marijuana, they'll just fine you up to \$200.

#### 2. Cambodia

Explorers of all kinds love this beautiful Southeast Asian country. Marijuana isn't legal here, but it is still used quite a bit for cooking and medicine -- you can even find a pizza with marijuana as a topping! Joints can also be found and purchased.

#### 3. Australia

Certain parts of Australia have decriminalized marijuana possession (the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, and the Northern Territory). Other states have legalized medical marijuana. It doesn't take much to have a cannabis-friendly vacation in Australia.

#### 4. Mexico

Possession has been decriminalized in the beautiful country of Mexico. If you're found possessing 5 grams or less in Mexico, you'll be spared any legal issues. Don't go over the limit of 5 grams, though, or things can get tricky.

# 5. Uruguay

Possession and use of recreational marijuana in Uruguay are legal as of 2014, making it the first country to go fully legal. Explore the gorgeous city of Montevideo as well as the sunny beaches and delicious cuisine while legally smoking a joint.

#### 6. Portugal

Portugal has made incredible headway in their drug problem by doing the unthinkable -- they decriminalized all drugs. Marijuana is no exception, so you can relax with some weed while taking in the sights of Lisbon and beyond.

#### 7. Israel

Medical marijuana was legalized here in 1992, and they recently decriminalized recreational marijuana too. Tel Aviv is well-known for being tolerant of smokers, so feel free to take in the architecture, views, and culture with a joint in hand.

#### 8. Costa Rica (Puerto Viejo)

Another tropical paradise that has decriminalized marijuana, Costa Rica is warm, safe, and sunny. Explore its diverse tropical rainforests or relax on the white sandy beaches, and don't be afraid to toke up.

#### 9. Canary Islands

These islands are mountainous, volcanic, and marijuana-friendly. You can climb through its rolling landscape or hang out along the coast, viewing the crystal blue water as you enjoy some cannabis since the laws are tolerant here.

# **KIRK, THE NIGHT OWL**

Superpower: Ability to remain in the shadows from sunset to sunrise

#### Citizenship: Jamaica

I didn't notice Kirk at first. It was dark, and he was quietly sitting under cover from the rain as far away as you could possibly be from the Rebel Salute Stage. If it weren't for his lit joint, I probably would have never noticed him.

It was an area of the grounds, that like Sister Dawn frightened me a bit. Rebel Salute was being held on a plantation, an interesting choice of location for a festival that celebrates freedom from slavery. A cold rain had quickly taken over St. Ann's Parish, and Ashley and I needed a dry place

to hang our hammocks. Therefore, the creepy shell of a building overlooking the ocean was our new home. I felt someone watching us as we hung our hammocks to the concrete pillars. It was Kirk. He'd watch us all night.



Kirk, hiding out...



# Lighting in the wind

This isn't some creepy stalker story: however, it's a story about weed. So, when Ashley fell asleep with my lighter, I knew I was going to need to break the silence.

"Do you have a lighter that I can use?" I asked the glowing light. He motioned for me to sit down and attempted to light my slightly damp joint in the wind.

It was not working.

Laughing at his inability to help me smoke, he motioned for me to lean in close, lighting my joint with his.

"There, you go!" he laughed.

Kirk had taught me something about consuming marijuana on the beaches of Jamaica – many times, it was going to be windy, and you'll need help lighting anything. Although Jamaicans do not share joints, they will do so for the sake of lighting a friend in need. Kirk's gesture was a mark of true friendship in a culture that considers marijuana consumption a sacrament.





I could add some useful tidbit about lighting joints on the beach, but really, do you need a tutorial? However, in case there truly are some people out there who are as clueless as me, here are a few tips I've picked up along the way:

1. Make sure your weed is thoroughly dried. Jamaica is a humid country, and my weed was air dried in a shed in the hills. It was still slightly moist and did not light well.

2. Pack your joints loosely. Because I am lazy and hate rolling joints, I tended to roll fatter than necessary. Smaller, thinner joints work better when in humid conditions.

3. Turn your back away from the wind. Find cover to light your joint and use your hand to cradle your flame and keep it lit.

4. When all else fails, find someone else to help you light up.



# **ZEBU, THE MUSIC LOVER**

Superpower: Always knowing where the good vibes are

#### Citizenship: Jamaica

Jamaicans are notorious for taking their time, and Rebel Salute was no different. Zebu knew this and came prepared. Arriving two hours early with 45 pounds on my back I wasn't too happy to find out I would not be setting up my hammock. He however, had no stress whatsoever.

"They not open yet?" He asked as I reached into my waist pack to pull out a pre-roll. It was 3pm in Jamaica. I lost my water bottle on a public bus after traveling 4 hours packed like sardines. I was thirsty and tired, and a gas

station was a mile walk away.

"Nope," I said, doing my best to remain irie.

"I'm going to walk up to that gas station..." he started. It was exactly what I needed to motivate me to move any more.



Yes, we mean everywhere...



# Have mat, will travel

Zebu had traveled far as well, five hours to be exact, also by bus. Except he wasn't carrying as much as me. He carried a simple backpack and a yoga mat and was unaffected by the impending clouds.

"This your first year at Rebel Salute?" he asked, not asking where I was from.

I explained that it was and that it was also my first time in Jamaica. He had never visited any other countries, but he attended rebel salute every year. It was his favorite festival because it had the most people. He tried to attend festivals nearly once a week.





## If you seek it, you shall find

By the time we reached the gas station, I almost forgot how thirsty I was until we passed a fruit stand.

"Do you think they'll have coconut water?" I asked.

"Oh, they'll have coconut water," he laughed.

I let Zebu bargain for me and sit down to drink my coconut. As I am drinking, a Caucasian male exits a small villa and begins walking in our direction. He had a mischievous smirk on his face as he approached the stand like he was doing something risky - like sneaking away from the resort to buy weed.

He was buying weed.

The fruit stand owner recognized his body language and quickly motioned him to the back. For a few 1000 Jamaicans he handed him a few stems of marijuana. In Jamaica, marijuana is sold by the stem, buds ready to be plucked and de-seeded. He smiled, and hid his purchase, fist dapping the owner while saying "one love."

"Ready to go?" Zebu reappeared, interrupting my staring.



Jamaica is the hometown of reggae music, stemming back to the end of the 1960s. Nowadays, reggae can be found all over the world – but Jamaica is still the hotspot for some amazing reggae festivals throughout the year. While there are tons to choose from, here are four of the biggest and best reggae festivals in Jamaica that you can find.



#### Bob Marley's Birthday Bash (February)

Taking place in Negril, Jamaica, Bob Marley's Birthday Bash takes place every year and features reggae artists such as Luciano, Jesse Royal, and Josey Wales, among others. This yearly festival has been going on for more than 25 years – in fact, its 25th bash was in 2017. The festival is meant to celebrate the city of Negril as well as showcase the incredible reggae music being made today.

#### Reggae Sumfest (July)

The Reggae Sumfest is the biggest and most anticipated reggae festival in Jamaica, what with its many top artists that have already confirmed for 2018 (with more likely to follow). So far Beres Hammond, Capleton, Popcaan, Sizzla, Maxi Priest, and Spice have confirmed to perform at Sumfest this year. The festival takes place in Montego Bay and sells out quickly, so buy tickets fast.

#### Rebel Salute (January)

Taking place every January in St. Ann, Jamaica, Rebel Salute is a festival dedicated to the preservation of reggae music. At the time of writing the lineup for the 2019 festival had not been decided yet, but during the 2018 festival, dozens of artists were lined up to perform. The organizers' focus is to bring in authentic reggae performances – and they have done so for the past 20+ years.

#### Portmore Music Fest (December)

The Portmore Music Fest takes place in Portmore, Jamaica (also known as the Sunshine City) every year. It features reggae as well as some dancehall music with a dozen or so top artists in both music genres. While the 2017 festival is already over, plans will likely be in the works for the new 2018 festival and its lineup.



# **EASSON, THE RASTA PRIEST**

Superpower: Ability to quote Rastafarian scripture on demand

## Citizenship: American

I met Easson online. He was a graduate student studying to be a priest at the Church of Halle Selassie in Kingston. As a business venture, he decided to host an Airbnb in the Jamaican hills where he teaches some of the principles of Rastafarianism. You also stay with a Rastafari family. I figured it would be a great way to learn about marijuana's role in spiritual practices, according to doctrine.



# The many sects of Rastafarianism

One of the reasons you can't define Rastafarianism (as Sister Dawn explained) is because there are so many different types of it. Easson practiced a version that focused on scripture. At many points in our day, he would begin reciting bible verses, especially during sacred work.



Walking the long trek back to the house



## The Sacred Herb

Today, that work involved harvesting marijuana. Deep in the hills, our group of guests hike to his guerilla grow where 10 small sativa plants are soaking up the sun in a thriving vegetable garden. Easson cuts 15 stems and carried them back to the house.

"We'll need these for later. Grab some okra as well."

Back up the hill, we climb, bible verses chanted along the way. We reward ourselves with fresh young coconuts. Easson hires his neighbor to scale the tree. At the house, the female elder collects the stems and hangs them in her outdoor pantry. She separates the root vegetable and hangs the stems for 'drying.'

I put drying in quotes, because at 80% humidity, these buds never dry, but they still did their job.

Walking the long trek back to the house

"In town, we sell our vegetables, but we make the most money on selling herb. I spend most of my day making the stems ..."

"Pretty?" | interject.

"Yes, pretty." She laughed back. "Marijuana supports my family," she explained, caressing the stem slightly, "I love it!



My host, preparing the harvest for town

Follow this link for the FREE Harvesting Guide. Learn when and how to harvest!



## The chalice

Many Rastafarians will tell you that the chalice is the most sacred way to experience marijuana. Some cite its origins to the Old Testament, where a divination cup that brings its believers closer to God was discussed multiple times. The Rastafarian chalice looks somewhat like a bong, except it also functions somewhat like a vaporizer since it uses heat in addition to water to produce vapors.

Unlike a bong, however, the spiritual aspects of the chalice are as important as the herb itself. The chalice is made from ingredients of the earth. The main part of it is made of calabash, a plant that is a staple of the Rastafarian lifestyle and ital diet. In addition to making natural water bongs out of it, they also use calabash for their utensils and some cooking materials. Natural materials are

foundational to the Rastafarian way of life.

The chalice stem is made from bamboo, and the heating apparatus is made from clay. Heated coconut charcoal is placed in the clay oven, which heats the steam as it passes over the dried herb.

The significance of the chalice to Rastafarian culture cannot be overstated. First of all, the chalice is said to incorporate all aspects of nature whenever someone uses marijuana. Instead of simply smoking it in paper, when placed in a chalice the herb communes with fire, earth air, and water. Also, the herb maintains more of its benefits, because it has no direct contact with either fire or water. It's also relatively difficult to overheat your weed (like in some vaporizers).



Eason didn't use a chalice while he hosted my visit; however, he began selling some on his return to the United States.



## All Smell, no Nutrients

"If you have the right stuff to grow it, you can grow it just like Jamaica... When we in Jamaica plant herb here, we just dig the earth, throw the seed here, water it, cover it. We don't put nothing on it."

My last day was spent in Montego Bay, with a Jamaican Rastafarian named Tony and his American wife. They hosted a beautiful Airbnb in an upper-end section of the city, complete with flat screen televisions, catered food, and hot showers. As I enjoyed a tasty meal before my flight home, I talked weed with the husband.

"We have the best marijuana in the world," he proclaimed as I enjoyed my ital plate. Thinking back on my Northern California experience, I held my tongue so that he could explain. He then pulled out a stem of marijuana (not to share) and pressed it firmly between his fingers. The flowers reminded me of wet natural cotton, except no moisture left his fingers. It was simply dense and firm.



Sticky... Like glue!



"We call this the ganj, it is like glue," he explained. Pressing the stems together, they stuck to each other as if they had been glued. "It is locked. Something that is locked cannot be broken."

I suddenly wasn't as irritated by the sticky somewhat moist weed that I had to endure the past few days. No, it wasn't as dry as the artisan variety I can purchase on the West Coast. Sure, it didn't stink up the room and was a pain in the ass to light in some paper, but it was good weed, full of plenty of equatorial sunshine. Besides, according to Tony, what I had been smoking was likely all smell and no nutrients.

I doubt any nearby labs will back up his claim, but from a natural way of thinking about it, it does kind of make sense. The natural way even extends to how Rastafarians grow their weed. In addition to a drop and go approach to planting, many Rastafarians have strict rules about who can handle growing marijuana.

Women are not allowed to handle growing marijuana – because it is a distraction to the plants. We all know that females hate competition, and a woman on her cycle is hazardous to the health of your weed plants.

Other than that, according to Tony, anyone with as much sun as Jamaica could produce weed as good as they do as long as they 'treat it with love and care.'



Follow this link for more information about Female plants!

# AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

What did I learn from my week in Jamaica?

Well, first of all, marijuana makes anything better - even uncomfortable excursions into Caribbean countries with little more than a cell phone and a passport.

I also learned a little bit about the people who enjoy marijuana. From those studying the Rastafarian religion to the free-spirts that love the culture, to those vacationers that come for the relaxation, marijuana is simply a way of life, one that is bigger and more complex than any one person could overstand.



# EXTRA: DID 420 ORIGINATE IN JAMAICA?

Most of the Western world is familiar with the term 4.20. It represents not only a time but a day, to celebrate marijuana by consuming it. Many assume that this trend came from Jamaica, especially due to their love of this herb. However, I can confidently say Rastafarian culture is not the origin of this tradition.

In my seven days of traveling through the northwestern parts of this country, I can truthfully say that there was no point of the day where I didn't see someone smoking marijuana. Whether it was 6pm while waiting for a taxi, 2am while listening to reggae artist Chronixx or 10am while eating some ackee, it was always the right time to consume marijuana.

So, when I asked my Rasta friend, Tony, whether 4:20 meant anything to him, he was sincerely confused (even after living in the United States for 20 years) and laughed when I suggested there was a designated time to smoke.

For Rastafarians, the idea of not consuming marijuana at will is an odd concept. Although not

everyone smokes, those that do, definitely do not do so at a certain time.

Marijuana is an herb that is celebrated and incorporated into their spiritual tradition. If any stoner saying can be credited to Jamaica, it would definitely be wake and bake.



"I and I endorse bran Jamaica, di realis, original ganJamaker"

Follow this link for 20 fun ways to spend 420!

IUGROWING MARIJUANA

47

# EXTRA: 8 THINGS TO DO IN JAMAICA WHILE HIGH

It is generally advisable to remain completely sober while traveling to any foreign country, but if you choose to enjoy the local herb while in Jamaica, below are some must-try activities.

1. Enjoy the rain from someplace dry.

Jamaican rain is absolutely beautiful to listen to, no matter where you are standing. It also smells really nice. Find some cover and a hammock, light one up and listen to the sounds of nature.

2. Get around like the locals. In Jamaica, people walk slow and drive fast. Take a fast-moving bike taxi in Negril, or just take a slow stroll on one of the many beautiful beaches. It's better high.

3. Try foods from a local market. Kill those munchies with local coconuts, mangos, pineapples, bananas, peanuts and star fruit.

4. Find a good reggae bar and dance. Find a beachfront bar, or venture to Kingston for authentic dancehall. Dancing is a must while in Jamaica.

5. Take a walk on the beach. Guess what? Cops are no longer arresting tourists who puff a little on the beach, or so they say.

## 6. Eat fresh coconuts.

Marijuana makes you thirsty. Coconuts are nature's Gatorade. You'll stay properly hydrated, and you'll enjoy some of the best coconuts in the world.

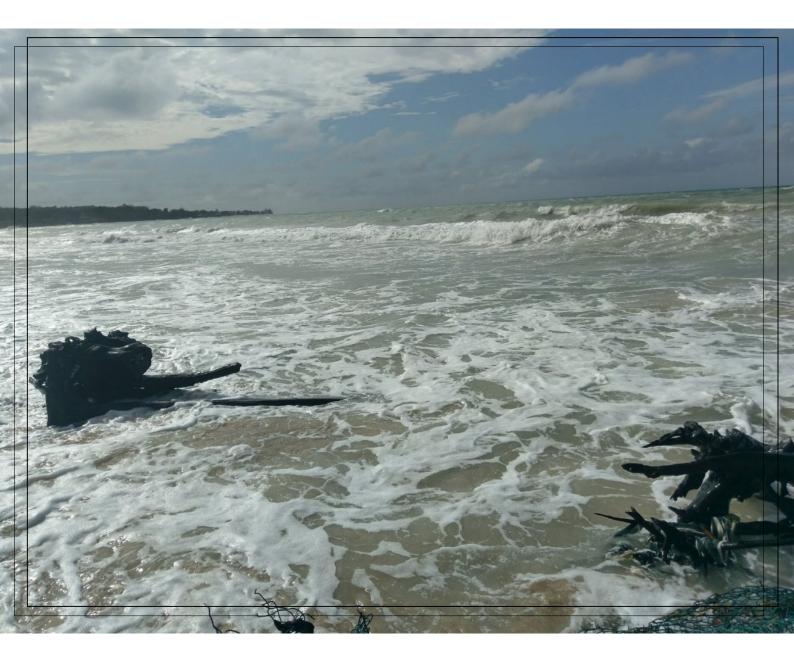






7. Use an attachable lighter. The combination of being irie and in a foreign location increases your odds of losing your lighter. Bring an attachable lighter and always be ready to light up.

8. Get a beachside massage. Nothing says relaxation like a stoned beachside massage.



## **EPILOGUE**

Thank you very much for reading this Ganje Livity ebook. I hope this information was useful! As you know, there are hundreds of marijuana growing-related articles on the website www.ilovegrowingmarijuana.com. You will also find an active marijuana grow support forum, moderated by expert marijuana growers.

If you are looking to buy viable quality marijuana seeds, visit the seed bank and read some of the reviews. We ship our seeds worldwide and guarantee arrival and germination.

I'm always looking for growers who can help build the website by writing articles, leaving comments, becoming a moderator on the forum, or telling their friends about us. So don't be shy and leave me a message if you want to contribute.

Happy growing,

**Robert Bergman** 



# **ILGM PLACES OF INTEREST**



Learn every important step from seed to bud with our Grow Guides.



Buy the perfect strain in our seedshop and start growing!



Our experts will help you with all your questions on the Grow Support Forum.



Show your bud and win The Bud of the Month contest!



Wear a T-shirt of your favorite brand! Check our merchandise.



Earn money with promoting us! Check our Affiliate program.



Learn from other growers' experience! Take a look at our Grow Journals.



More information about the law or the climate influencing your grow.



Questions about the medical effects? Take a look here!