



Montego Bay & Northwest Coast

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Why Go?

Montego Bay serves as both a gateway to Jamaica for countless travelers, and a stage for some of the island's most obvious contrasts, from the geographic to the cultural to the socioeconomic. The city is a typical Jamaican resort town, divided between an unapologetically tourist-oriented stretch of gaudiness and a rough-and-real city center. Most major Jamaican towns related to the tourism industry are thus, but within are bubbles of independent cool, with flashes of the 'real' Jamaica, although the glimpse you get may not be beautiful. Some people love it here – there are some beautiful beaches – and some can't leave soon enough. Nearby are more stretches of groomed coastline studded with enormous all-inclusive resorts, the occasional independent one, and crumbling Georgian architecture. To the south are mountains, crossroads, jungle and Cockpit Country – as wild and free of visitors as Montego is domesticated and crowded with them.

Best Places to Stay

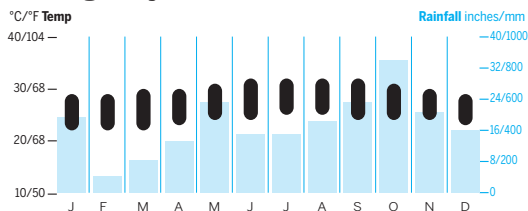
- » Time 'n Place (p174)
- » Windsor Great House (p183)
- » Round Hill Hotel & Villas (p177)
- » Hotel Rio Bueno (p176)

Nights to Not Miss...

- » Reggae Sumfest (p20)
- » Fridays at Pier One (p163)
- » Dancing at Blue Beat Jazz & Blues Bar (p162)
- » Parties on Cornwall Beach (p145)

When to Go

Montego Bay



Apr-Aug In low season there's a breeze on the coast, it's cooler in the mountains and lodging is cheaper.

Sep-Nov Low-key festivals and moody weather characterize shoulder season.

Dec-Mar High season is good for avoiding rain, but expect high rates.

Montego Bay & Northwest Coast Highlights

- 1 Blitzing through the course of Jamaican history at the cultural show at **Outameni** (p174)
- 2 Soaking up the sun with tourists and returned Jamaican expats at **Doctor's Cave Beach** (p145)
- 3 Exploring the halls of the **Greenwood Great House** (p169)
- 4 Hiking into the heart of the wild **Cockpit Country** (p181)
- 5 Watching the algae glow on your fingers as stars twinkle overhead in the **Glistening Waters** (p173)

