



Ocho Rios & North Coast

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Why Go?

Ocho Rios is the ideal base for the widest range of outdoor activities in Jamaica, such as horseback riding, scuba diving, mountain biking, and swimming with dolphins. The area around the third-largest town in Jamaica features some of the most beautiful (and popular) natural attractions on the island. Along the north coast you will find pleasant white sand beaches, clear waters, spectacular waterfalls and lush mountainous terrain.

The town can sometimes feel rather like an American theme park, with cruise ships disgorging hordes of passengers, all-inclusive hotels, and appropriately tourist-friendly nightlife, but if you grow tired of pre-fab commercialism you can retreat to the luxurious villas and exclusive elegant hotels east of town, take the winding mountain roads inland to pay your respects to Bob Marley, visit a working plantation, or retrace the footsteps of Columbus near St Ann's Bay, the site of Jamaica's earliest Spanish settlement.

Best Places to Eat

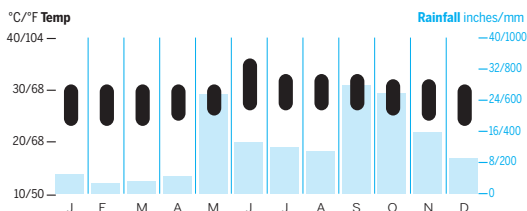
- » Toscanini (p125)
- » Passage to India (p125)
- » Scotchies Too (p125)
- » Tamarind Great House (p131)

Best Places to Stay

- » Cottage at Te Moana (p123)
- » Goldeneye (p131)
- » Itopia (p138)
- » Bolt House (p133)

When to Go

Ocho Rios



Feb Take part in the Fat Tyre cycling festival – or cheer on the daredevils.

Apr Carnival revelry at the Beach J'ouvert and Jamaica Baccchanal all-night soca parties.

Aug Check out the local dance-hall talent and the St Mary Mi Come From at James Bond Beach.



Ocho Rios & North Coast Highlights

1 Climbing one of the world's most famous waterfalls, **Dunn's River Falls** (p119)

2 Savoring the jaw-dropping view from author Noël Coward's well-preserved former home, **Firefly** (p132)

3 Paying your respects to Jamaica's best-known son at Bob Marley's birthplace and final resting place, **Nine Mile** (p141)