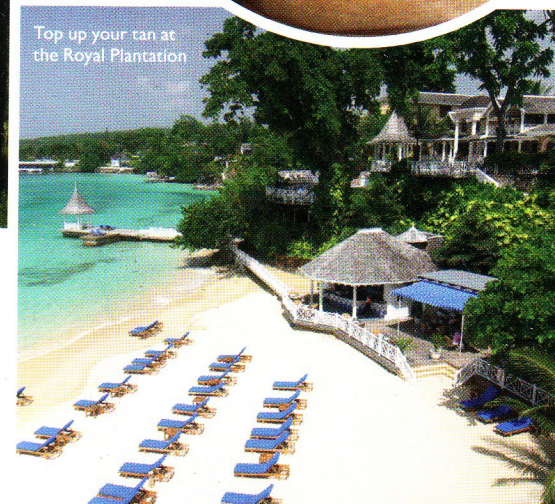




Be cocooned in a world of your own in the misty Blue Mountains



Let him play James Bond at Goldeneye



Top up your tan at the Royal Plantation



# Dec Jamaica

The Caribbean's hottest island mixes sun, sand, swaying palms and a bit of Bob Marley

## X-Factor

Jamaica is packed with exciting honeymoon experiences. How about a canopy tour of the rainforest or mountain-biking through the **Blue Mountains** (top); a coffee plantation visit or a walk up the dramatic **Dunn's River Falls**? There's horse riding in the surf on the beach, swimming with dolphins and visiting Noël Coward's former home, the splendid Firefly. Jamaica is also synonymous with music, in particular reggae. From the moment you touch down until the moment you leave, your honeymoon will **have a background track of island beats**, from roadside café stereos to steel drum bands in swish hotels. After all, this is the birthplace of **Bob Marley** (above) – there's



even a museum dedicated to him! Another speciality of the third largest island of the Caribbean is its beaches. There are more than 200 miles of golden sands and deliciously warm, clear sea.

## Hip hotels

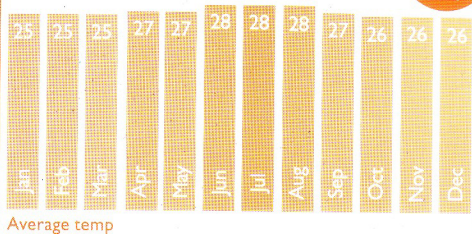
Jamaica has a wide choice of hotels and resorts, from all-inclusives, such as Sandals (sandals.com) to legendary hotels like Round Hill (roundhilljamaica.com), a celeb favourite, and Half Moon (halfmoon.com), with its **colonial vibe**. For something quirky, check out Island Outpost's (islandoutpost.com) boutique hotels such as Jakes, Strawberry Hill or Goldeneye (top right) where **Ian Fleming penned his 007 novels**. If you're looking for something modern and grand, check into The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort & Spa (ritzcarlton.com). This palatial five-star luxury resort is no home-from-home; instead it caters to your every whim, from a romantic horse ride at sunset to a helicopter trip, or a **rose-petal bath** run by your butler. For full-on luxury, book into the swish Royal Plantation, Spa & Golf Resort (royalplantation.com), a Leading Small Hotel of the World. With an intimate house-

party vibe, you can enjoy a merry-go-round of treats like jazz concerts, a traditional English high tea, cigar rolling, **rum tastings** or golf at Upton Golf & Country Club, Jamaica's most elite course.

## Best beaches

Negril, with its seven miles of white sand is loved by tourists, as it's close to hotels and bars, but we think Treasure Beach (treasurebeach.net) on the quiet south coast is top of the tree. It's **so well hidden**, you may even have it all to yourself...

## Weather watch!



Hurricane season Jun-Sept

## Need to know

### Tour operators

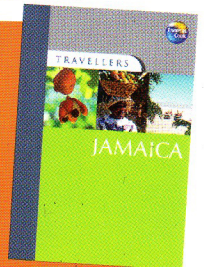
Caribtours (caribtours.co.uk), Kenwood Travel (kenwoodtravel.com), Tropical Sky (tropicalskey.co.uk)

### Essential Reading

Thomas Cook Traveller to Jamaica, £9.99, thomascookpublishing.com

### For more information

Jamaica Tourism: visitjamaica.com



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