

Weekender: Jamaica



Less than a four hour flight from New York and under half that distance from Miami, Jamaica is the closest place to go when you need to feel far, far away. Here are three ways to do the island in a weekend

Option One – A Quiet Retreat on Treasure Beach

The southeastern parish of St. Elizabeth is home to the four pretty coves that comprise the sleepy – but surprisingly chic – coastal region of Treasure Beach. What the area lacks in all-night basement raves it makes up for in idiosyncratic charm. Dotted with fresh fish shacks, coffee shops and rum bars painted with vibrant murals, this is the place to experience Jamaica like a local.

STAY at boutique hotel **Jake's** – the colourful hub of the Treasure Beach community, where you can eat fresh seafood at Jack Sprat restaurant and sip banana daiquiris made by the delightful Dougie at his eponymous onsite bar. For something even more low-key, **Katamah Beachfront Resort** offers simple and highly affordable rooms with stylish Moroccan accents. Kick back with your fellow vacationers – mostly a bohemian, Brooklynite bunch – in the communal kitchen, which opens straight onto tranquil Frenchman's Bay.

EAT very well indeed. The parish St. Elizabeth is an agricultural Eden known as the 'bread basket' of Jamaica, and Treasure Beach takes its pick of the crop. Find vibrant Italian cuisine by Rastafarian brothers Delroy and Fitzroy at [Gee Wiz Vegetarian Café](#), sip callaloo and pineapple smoothies at Hol A Vibz Café and buy tender spiced chicken straight from Junior's roadside jerk pan on Calabash Bay Road.

DO take a boat ride down the Black River (disembarking right in the middle of the Caribbean sea for a rum and Ting at the [Pelican Bar](#) pictured below) or hire a bike to explore the lush farmland of St. Elizabeth. If you're looking for something more cerebral, the annual [Calabash Literary Festival](#) takes place at Jake's at the end of May and boasts an impressive roster of international authors, including Zadie Smith.

Getting There

Treasure Beach is two hours' drive from Montego Bay Airport and a three-hour drive from the capital city of Kingston. Ask your hotel to arrange a car service to pick you up at the airport – the transfer isn't cheap (around \$200 USD) but roads are precarious and you certainly won't need a car once you arrive.



