



Photo: Andrew Coelho/Unsplash



Taryn Elliott/Pexels

A major city in what is nicknamed as "the Garden Parish," Ocho Rios is sitting on the northern shore of Jamaica and thus is surrounded by a multitude of natural landmarks that many consider the most stunning on the entire island. The landscape here is enriched by numerous waterfalls, azure waters, lush tropical forests, to be explored by air, on horse, underwater, you name it — and once in downtown, let the famous Jamaican hospitality pamper you during your stay.



Melissa Villarán/Pexels

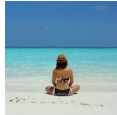


Obi - @pixel6propix/Unsplash

Featured



Margaritaville
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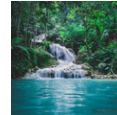


Laughing Waters
The island is packed with locations that are linked to the James Bond franch...

Top 5



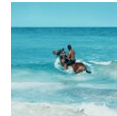
Dunn's River Falls and Park
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Blue Hole
This landmark is a well-known secret of Saint Ann Parish: despite its growin...



Bay Beach (Turtle Beach)
This nearly 1700-foot long beach has fascinating views of the Caribbean and ...



Horseback Riding
For some unconventional sightseeing, saddle up and let an experienced guide ...



Bobsledding
Inspired by Jamaica's famous Olympic team, a bobsled ride on this 1000-meter...



OCHO RIOS



Mohamed Sarim/Pexels

Originally called Las Chorreras in reference to the many waterfalls in the area, Ocho Rios has amazed its visitors for many centuries. The name was given by the Spanish who arrived here after Christopher Columbus set foot on the island in 1494. Jamaica was then a Spanish colony until the Battle of Chorreras in 1657, which ended with British victory.

Throughout history, Ocho Rios was of minor importance to its colonizers and served mostly as a base for pirates. The area started to gain appreciation in the 20th century with the arrival of artists such as Noël Coward and Ian Fleming, who did not only buy an estate here but wrote all of his James Bond novels on the island. Today, Jamaica is packed with locations that have connections to the writer or the franchise. Many of them (such as Fleming's Goldeneye house in Oracabessa) are easy to explore from Ocho Rios.

In the 60s, major developments began in the area with a focus on tourism, establishing good connections with other hubs such as Kingston and Montego Bay. Ocho Rios was transformed into what it is today: a lively city catering to all sorts of touristic needs, but with respect for all that natural beauty that continues to stun locals and visitors alike.

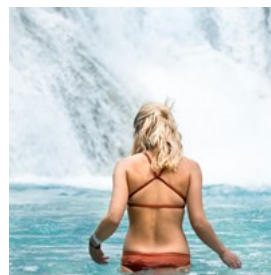
DO & SEE



Aviz/Pexels

Ocho Rios may be a less obvious choice when traveling to Jamaica, but it does not mean it has any less to offer: the island's northern shoreline is so rich in stunning natural landmarks that it will surely become a preferred choice for nature lovers as well as adventure seekers. The best experiences await you in undisturbed nature, but you will find plenty of entertainment even if you don't set foot out of the city.

Dunn's River Falls and Park



Natural formations like the Dunn's River Falls are a good reason Jamaica has earned herself the nickname "Land of Springs." The 180-foot

high, terraced waterfalls flowing down the travertine rocks just before making their way into the Caribbean is a stunning sight in itself, but there is also plenty to do here: climb the rocks, take a refreshing dip, or grab a zipline and see it all from above. There is also a water park for the youngest explorers.

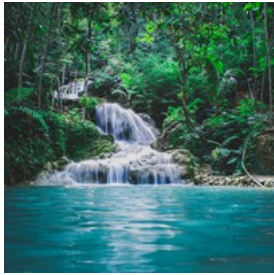
Photo: trail/Unsplash

Address: Main Street, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: daily 8.30am-4pm

Phone: +1 876 974 4767

Blue Hole



This landmark is a well-known secret of Saint Ann Parish: despite its growing fame as a tourist attraction, it has managed to reserve its secluded quality. Fed by gushing waterfalls and surrounded by rich tropical flora, these stunning azure pools provide a perfect setting for hiking and swimming. Adventure-seekers can even grab rope swings to plunge over the Hole, or sign up for a river tubing tour.

Photo: Rifqi Ramadhan/Pexels

Address: Office: Shop# 10 Office, Double V complex, 109

Main Street, Ocho Rios

Phone: +1 876 777 5226

Internet: www.coolblueholeochorios.com

Email: coolblueholeja@gmail.com

Bay Beach (Turtle Beach)



This nearly 1700-foot long beach has fascinating views of the Caribbean and Ocho Rios' Turtle Bay, and has numerous facilities including bars, bathrooms, changing rooms, and sun beds which are available for hire. There are also plenty of activities to choose from including scuba diving and jet ski — unless you need nothing more than a refreshing dip and a nap in the white sand under the coconut trees.

Photo: Claudia Altamimi/Unsplash

Opening hours: daily 8am–5pm

Horseback Riding



For some unconventional sightseeing, saddle up and let an experienced guide show you the city's most remarkable landmarks from natural

beauties to architectural gems — then end the trip with a ride straight into the sea for a movie-like finale. There are multiple tour guide operators offering horseback riding near Ocho Rios, including Ocho Rios Jamaica Tours (details below) and Jaital Tours.

Photo: Leonardo Rossatti/Pexels

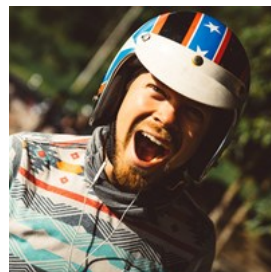
Address: Main Street, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: daily 8.30am–10pm

Phone: + 1 876 630 0664

Internet: www.ochoriosjatown.com/local-island-tours/animal-experiences-tours

Bobsledding



Inspired by Jamaica's famous Olympic team, a bobsled ride on this 1000-meter track is the way to go for some adrenaline and an

up-close experience of the Jamaican rainforest. The popular operator Mystic Mountain has a long list of other exciting activities, and is located just a stone's throw away from the magnificent Dunn's River Falls.

Photo: Colton Duke/Unsplash

Address: Ocho Rios

Opening hours: Mon–Wed 8am–5pm, Thu & Fri closed, Sat & Sun 8am–4.30pm

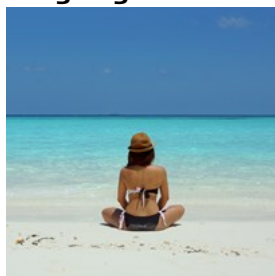
Phone: +1 876 618 1553

Internet:

www.rainforestadventure.com/mystic-mountain-jamaica

Email: contact@rainforestadventure.com

Laughing Waters



The island is packed with locations that are linked to the James Bond franchise. The private beach of Laughing Waters, which also

appears in the movie *Dr. No*, is probably the nearest of all to Ocho Rios. With only a 10-minute ride from downtown, just after Dunn's River Falls, you can find yourself in one of Jamaica's most picturesque beaches, where gurgling waterfalls will provide an idyllic setting to your peaceful getaway.

Photo: Wendy Hero/Pexels

Internet: www.udcja.com/venues

More Info: The property is managed by the Urban Development Corporation. Rental information is available on their website.

Margaritaville



Besides other Jamaican locations, Jimmy Buffett has also brought Margaritaville to Ocho Rios, to await visitors with a wide variety of

services including pools with trampolines, private beaches, retail stores, night clubs, and a full-service restaurant where healthy appetizers and heavy burgers are all twisted with Caribbean flavors.

Photo: Anna Church/Unsplash

Address: Island Village, Turtle Beach Road, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: daily 10am-9pm

Phone: +1 876 675 8800

Internet: www.margaritavillecaribbean.com/ocho-rios

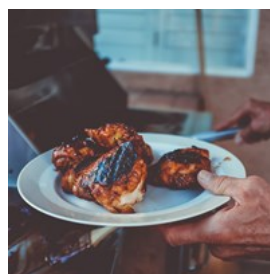
DINING



Obi - @pixel6propix/Unsplash

Jamaica's cuisine is just as exciting as the country itself: jerk dishes, where a meat of your choice is sprinkled with a unique combination of spices (also called jerk), are headliners on every restaurant's menu — and are only the beginning. Seafood and oxtail are also a staple here, and thanks to the presence of many different cultures, so are Indian, Chinese, and Italian culinary experiences.

Scotchies



The rustic, thatched-roof venue of Scotchies offers a large variety of Jamaica's signature jerk and other grilled dishes. Pick your meat, pair them

up with some tasteful sides, and enjoy the vibe and hustle that characterizes this place at any hour of the day.

Photo: Kenny Eliason/Unsplash

Address: Drax Hall, Saint Ann's Bay

Opening hours: daily 11am-9pm

Phone: +1 876 298 9195

Miss T's Kitchen

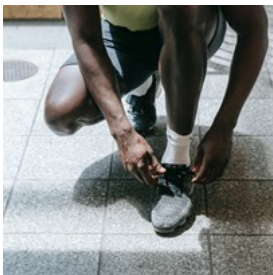


A clash of Jamaican flavors as well as vibrant colors, Miss T's is an excellent choice to indulge in the island's traditional cuisine, from

oxtail to meals from 'unda di sea'. Try and see if you can decipher the seasoning used for the justly famous jerk dishes!

Photo: Ronise daluz/Unsplash
Address: 65 Main Street, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: daily noon-9pm
Phone: +1 876 795 0099
Internet: www.misstskitchen.com

Usain Bolt Tracks & Records



No trip to Jamaica is complete without getting a taste of Usain Bolt's world. This restaurant combines everything the world loves about

Jamaica: jerk platters, reggae music, great vibes, and of course, the world record runner who is not only a co-founder but has also inspired the theme from the walls all the way to the menu: when in doubt, just try the legendary U-burger. The ultimate place to watch any kind of sports event!

Photo: Photo by Liliana Drew
Address: 101 B Main Street Shop 3, Block A, New Pineapple Shopping Centre
Opening hours: daily 11am-midnight
Internet: www.tracksandrecords.com/ocho-rios-relocating

Evita's



At Evita's, traditional Italian fares are given an exciting Caribbean twist, manifesting in meals such as the 'jerk spaghetti' and 'lasagna rastafari'. More traditional meals, albeit dominated by sea food, are also available on the menu.

Photo: Jakub Kapusnak/Unsplash
Address: Eden Bower Road, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: daily 12.30pm-10pm
Phone: +1 876 974 2333
Internet: www.evitasjamaica.900kunder.com

Margaritaville



Besides other Jamaican locations, Jimmy Buffett has also brought Margaritaville to Ocho Rios, to await visitors with a wide variety of

services including pools with trampolines, private beaches, retail stores, night clubs, and a full-service restaurant where healthy appetizers and heavy burgers are all twisted with Caribbean flavors.

Photo: Anna Church/Unsplash
Address: Island Village, Turtle Beach Road, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: daily 10am-9pm
Phone: +1 876 675 8800
Internet: www.margaritavillecaribbean.com/ocho-rios

CAFÉS & BARS



Emily Bauman/Unsplash

From lively bars with a backdrop of reggae music to cozy cafés that serve the island's famous Blue Mountain coffee, Ocho Rios has a lot to offer to visitors who only need a drink to unwind.

Island Coffees Café



A family business with a large coffee selection made of premium quality beans, where the island's famous Blue Mountain coffee is also available.

The owners are conscious about every step of the coffee-making process, and put great care into preparing not only their brews, but also the mouthwatering snacks that are available on the spot.

Photo: Pixabay/Pexels

Address: Island Village, Turtle River Road, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 7am-7pm, Sun 8am-4pm

Phone: +1 876 384 9578

Internet: www.islandcoffeesltd.com

John Crow's Tavern



With a large selection of drinks and grubs, both local and international, John Crow's offers a real pub experience. Sip on your Bob Marley cocktail or try Red Stripe, the local brew, and if you arrive at the right time, you will also be treated to a concert or another fun event.

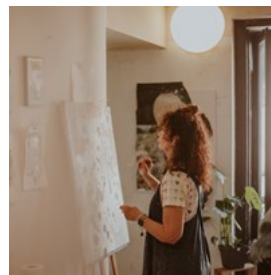
Photo: Sandra Seitamaa/Unsplash

Address: 10 Main Street, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 10am-midnight, Fri-Sun 10am-1am

Phone: +1 876 649 0566

The Courthouse Gallery & Café



A paradise within paradise, this café serves coffee and other drinks as well as heartwarming treats and sandwiches, to be had in a nice ambience decorated by lush plants and a changing selection of crafts and artwork on display.

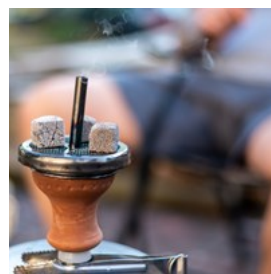
Photo: Edward Eyer/Pexels

Address: Milford Road, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: Tue-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-4pm, Mon

closed

B'Cloud 9



At Ocho Rios' prime hookah bar, visitors can select from over 17 flavours for their waterpipe party, and there is also an alluring drink selection to further elevate the mood.

Photo: JD 'S/Pexels

Address: Island Village, Turtle River Road, Ocho Rios

Opening hours: Mon & Tue closed, Wed-Sun 10am-8pm, Fri

9am-5pm

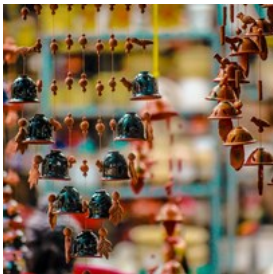
SHOPPING



andrzej brown/Unsplash

In Jamaica, everyone can find the souvenir that best matches their taste. Fans of reggae can browse from endless collections of vinyl while in good company of local artists; aspiring chefs can expand their repertoire with jerk seasoning; fashion buffs should look for leather sandals. Then there is Blue Mountain coffee, root tonic, the iconic Appleton rum, or simply some Bob Marley memorabilia — and the list goes on.

Ocho Rios Craft Market



Visitors to Ocho Rios will be spoiled for choice as the Main street embracing Bay Beach is home to over a hundred craft vendors, offering a wide selection of products so you can take a piece of Jamaica home with you.

Photo: subbu noir/Pexels
Address: Main Street, Ocho Rios

Island Village

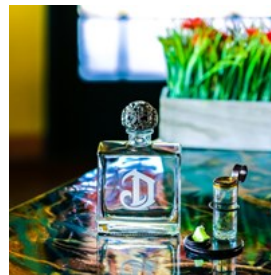


With its tropical design and ample facilities, Island Village could be easily mistaken for a village on its own. The place gives home to a

variety of boutiques, liquor stores, and restaurants, and is also a great place to sign up for various local experiences, including rum tasting and chocolate workshops. Come here for souvenir shopping, visit Bob Marley's Tuff Gong, or enjoy the beach at Margaritaville!

Photo: Gustavo Fring/Pexels
Address: Turtle River Road, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: daily 8am-10pm
Phone: +1 876 613 3719
Internet: www.islandvillageja.com

Mohan's Duty Free Shop



Located just a few minutes from Bay Beach, Mohan's Duty Free is the place to go for jewelry and perfume shopping in Ocho Rios. Friendly customer service, great discounts and products sealed with certificate of authenticity: first-time visitors will find themselves mingle with a circle of returning customers, who have a good reason to come back.

Photo: Sabel Blanco/Pexels
Address: Shop 2 Soni's Plaza, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: daily 9am-5pm
Phone: +1 876 974 9270

Sista's Liquor



Colorful Island Village is also home to one of Ocho Rios' best liquor stores: Sista's Liquor offers a variety of well-known and limited edition drinks, Jamaica's authentic Appleton rum, and extra facilities from customized bottles to hookah on the spot.

Photo: Prem Pal Singh Tanwar/Pexels

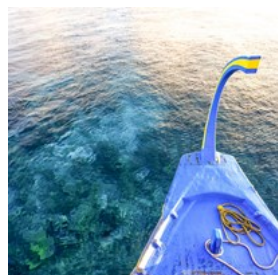
Address: Island Village, Turtle River Road, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: Mon–Thu 10am–5pm, Fri & Sat 10am–6pm,
Sun 1pm–5pm
Phone: +1 876 495 2972

TOURIST INFORMATION



Asad Photo Maldives/Pexels

Best Time to Visit



The best months to visit Jamaica are either March and April, or November through December, when temperatures are just as comfortable but visitor numbers significantly lower. Summer has come to be known as "hurricane season," and temperatures can get uncomfortably hot in July and August, which means a trip is best planned outside of the summer months.

Photo: Photo by Asad Photo Maldives/Pexels

Passport / Visa



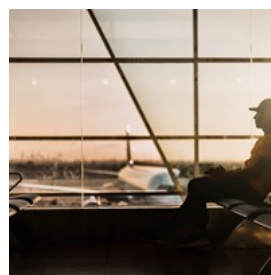
Nationals of most countries do not require a visa to enter Jamaica if their planned time of stay does not exceed 3 months (6 months in many cases).

This applies to citizens of the USA, all of the EU, Mexico, Japan, Israel, and countries of the

Commonwealth. If you do require a visa, it can, in most cases, be obtained upon arrival, but do consult an official source in advance. To receive a visa, you will most likely need to produce proof of onward travel (tickets) and sufficient funds for the duration of the stay.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

Ian Fleming International Airport (OCJ)



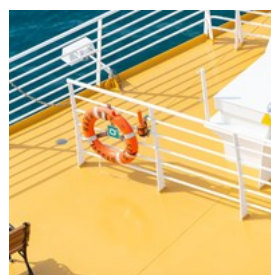
Ocho Rios is served by Ian Fleming International Airport (OCJ), located in Boscobel around 9 miles east of Ocho Rios. Several taxi and car rental

services are available at the location, and can be arranged prior to or upon arrival.

Photo: Marco López/Unsplash

Address: Boscobel, Saint Mary Parish
Phone: +1 876 975 3101
Internet: www.ifa.aero

Cruise Port (Turtle Bay Pier)

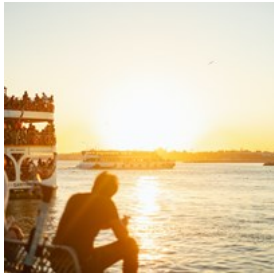


Turtle Bay Pier is the primary pier for cruise ship docking in Ocho Rios. It has a number of amenities including an information kiosk, coffee

house and WiFi access. The Terminal is connected to Ocho Rios downtown via 300-foot long Turtle Beach Road, which is well within walking distance.

Photo: Photo by Diego F. Parra/Pexels

Reynold's Pier



Reynold's Pier (often referred to as James Bond Pier) is Ocho Rios' second ferry terminal, located to the west of the city and is within a 10-minute walking distance from downtown. Usually a range of taxis are available, along with a number of vendors and tour guide operators.

Photo: Shiva Hemmat/Pexels
Address: 2 Main Street, Ocho Rios

Taxi



Official taxis in Jamaica run with red plates. With the exception of some carriers at the cruise terminals, these taxis often do not have fixed rates, which means these should be negotiated and firmly agreed upon prior to departure. You can find taxis near most hotels, shopping centres, and the airport. Two recommended taxi companies in Ocho Rios are Mr Jones Taxi (+1 876 349 3189), and Triple S Tours and Taxi Services (+1 876 854 7012).

Photo: Nubia Navarro (nubikini)/Pexels

Public Transport

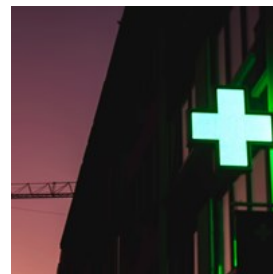


The most reliable option for long-distance travel are the Knutsford Express Buses, which operate on a fixed schedule with daily departures to destinations across Jamaica such as Falmouth, Ocho Rios, Negril, Kingston, and more. Tickets may be booked in advance, and should be validated prior to boarding.

Mini buses and route taxis are also available, but are less reliable as they only run when a certain number of passengers have signed up for a ride. With many locals opting for this form of transport, it certainly provides a more authentic travel experience.

Photo: Epicurrence/Unsplash
Address: Knutsford: Ocean Village Shopping Centre Shop #18, Ocho Rios
Internet: www.knutsfordexpress.com

Pharmacy

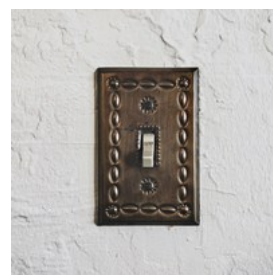


There are a number of pharmacies along Main Street to the east of Turtle Bay including Hue's Professional Pharmacy and the Great House Pharmacy, with opening hours from around 9am to 7pm or 8pm.

Our recommendation is Fontana Pharmacy, located to the south of the pharmacies mentioned above:

Photo: Serkan Yildiz/Unsplash
Address: Eight Rivers Town Centre, Ocho Rios
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 8am-8pm, Fri & Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 9am-5pm
Phone: +1 876 974 8889
Internet: www.fontanapharmacy.com/pages/Fontana-Ocho-Rios.html

Electricity



In Jamaica, the local current is 110 V, 50 Hz. Most electric outlets are type "A" (flat two-pin plugs), but some are type "B" (these sockets also work for type "A" plugs).

Photo: mk. s/Unsplash

Post



Ocho Rios Post Office is located a few metres from the intersection of Main Street and Newlin Street, and is open from 9am to 5pm on weekdays.

Photo: Mathyas Kurmann/Unsplash

Population

8,189

Currency

Jamaican dollar (JMD)

Opening hours

Business hours vary, but most stores operate from around 8.30am/9am to 4.30pm/5pm Monday through Friday, with a shortened day on Saturday.

Internet

www.visitjamaica.com

Newspapers

Daily Star

Jamaica Gleaner — www.jamaica-gleaner.com

Jamaica Observer — www.jamaicaobserver.com

Emergency numbers

Ambulance & Fire: 110

Police: 119

Tourist information

Ocho Rios Jamaica Tours

Main Street, Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Tel: +1 876 630 0664

Email: contact@ochoriosja.tours