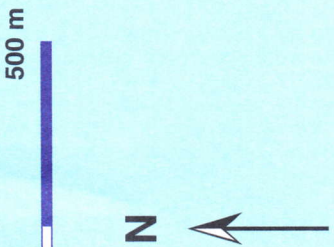




Montego Bay



Montego Bay, Jamaica

Port information

Currency	The official currency is the Jamaican dollar (JMD). U.S. dollars are widely accepted. Please be prepared to get change in Jamaican dollars if U.S. dollars are not available.	Language	The official language of Jamaica is English, although they use a dialect called 'Patois', based on English but with a thick accent and different vocabulary.
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Getting around

Best way to reach town	From the main terminal, you can get an independent shuttle bus for a single journey that will take you to town for approximately \$5 - \$7 USD per person.	Main highlights	At the southwest corner of Sam Sharpe Sq you'll find the copper-domed Civic Centre , an elegant colonial-style cut-stone building on the site of a ruined colonial courthouse. It contains the small Museum of St James, replete with relics and other exhibits tracing the history of St James' parish from Taíno days to the present. An art gallery and 200-seat theater are also on site, both of which host various events on the MoBay cultural calendar. Open 9am – 5pm. Two blocks east of Sam Sharpe Sq is one of the churches, Burchell Memorial Baptist Church , in which Sam Sharpe is said to have been a deacon. The building, which dates to 1835, is a slice of British countryside architecture smoldering handsomely away in the tropical heat. The original church was founded in 1824 by Rev Thomas Burchell. Sharpe's remains are buried in the vault. Church Street is where many of the most interesting buildings in town are clustered along Church St, the most picturesque street in MoBay, although you shouldn't expect a quiet historic district – this thoroughfare is as alive and chaotic as anywhere else downtown. The highlight is St James Parish Church , regarded as the finest church on the island. It was built between 1775 and 1782 in the shape of a Greek cross, but was so damaged by the earthquake of March 1, 1957, that it had to be rebuilt. Tour the great houses of Jamaica, including the magnificently restored 1760 Rose Hall Great House (still reputed to be haunted by the ghost of Annie Palmer, "The White Witch").
Did you know	Montego Bay is affectionately called "MoBay," and the community of Montego Bay is one of the most popular resort destinations in Jamaica. The Jamaican dialect called 'Patois' has some interesting words and phrases, so don't panic if someone wishes you a 'Bashy' day as it means excellent.		
Taxis	Taxis line up at the dock (main terminal) but make sure you are hiring a licensed JUTA taxi. Always confirm the destination and the price before entering any taxis. MAXI and JCAL are also licensed transport operators.		
Local buses	Public buses in Jamaica are described as being 'nothing short of an exciting adventure' and are not recommended.		
Main Highlights	Montego Bay is divided into three fairly distinct parts. There is the city itself with its crowded streets. There is the "hotel area" which is the mile-and-a-half strip running from the town, past the celebrated Doctor's Cave Beach and out to the Dead End Bar, including the outlying hotels and villas on beach or hillside. A short distance from the port, there is also the new developments at Fairview, with banks, offices, telecommunication stores, department stores, supermarket, restaurants, cafes and a pharmacy. Sam Sharpe Square , a pleasant cobble stoned hub of activity, is roughly the centre of the town where stands the Cage, formerly a jail for runaway slaves and the ruins of the Courthouse, built in 1804 and destroyed by fire some 20 years ago.		

Essential information

Tourist information	There is an information booth inside Terminal A. There are no shops or café in the Terminal building. The facility is being completely renovated and will be an open concept with no shops when completed.	Important information	No combat or camouflage is to be worn in Jamaica. If you are seen to be wearing any such clothes you will be sent back to the ship to change by security
Internet access	In the telecommunications center & many bars & restaurants in town for a small fee		Fruit, meat and cheese are forbidden to be brought ashore from the ship in Jamaica.
Banks	Banks can be found at Fairview complex, include a branch of First Global Bank and CIBC First Caribbean Int'l Bank. Downtown area, banks on Sam Sharpe Square and in the Bay West Centre all have 24-hour ATMS		Be prepared for high-pressure sales pitches from local vendors who will approach you the minute you go ashore. Give a firm "no, thank you" if you're not interested.
Nearest beaches	The only beaches we recommend are the famous Dr Cave beach & Aqua Sol Beach Park. Both beaches have an entrance fee (approximately US\$6pp) and is just a independent shuttle drive away, approximately \$7.00 per person per journey from the main terminal. When boarding the shuttle bus please ensure it is the beach you are going to, not an island tour		IMPORTANT: Sadly some areas in Jamaica are known for their high crime rates. But don't worry, just like any major city, be careful when carrying cash, purses or wallets and leave any unnecessary valuables in your cabin.
Shopping	Montego Bay has great savings on designer jewellery and giftware. The best duty-free shopping in Mo' Bay is at the new complex called the Shops at Rose Hall and along the Hip strip, at Blue Diamond and also at Whitter Village. The Hip Strip (Gloucester Avenue Montego Bay) features a large collection of different shops, souvenirs, clothing, supermarkets and art and craft items, which also has restaurants and other entertainment centres.		

Your Destination Services team would like to wish you an enjoyable day in Montego Bay, Jamaica

There can be last minute changes. Please check *Cruise News* for the latest information before you go ashore.