

Jamaica - History

Jamaica is the third largest Caribbean island which is located in the Caribbean Sea. It is filled with luxurious white sand beaches and beautiful waterfalls and has become a highly travelled tourist destination. Jamaica is the birthplace of reggae music, Blue Mountain coffee and the world's fastest sprinters. Famous Jamaican people include: Bob Marley (Musician), Marcus Garvey (Political Activist), Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Price (Olympic sprinters/fastest man and woman on earth) and Miss "Lou" Louise Bennett-Coverley (Poet and Storyteller).

The languages spoken in Jamaica are English and Patois, which is a broken English-based creole language with West African influences.

Jamaica is a multi-racial island with many different backgrounds of people who live there. For that reason, the national motto of Jamaica is "Out of Many One People," which is displayed on Jamaica's Coat of Arms.

The name Jamaica was derived from the word "Xaymaca" which means "Land of Wood and Water". The island was given the name by the gente people called the Tainos (Arawaks) who originally settled in Jamaica over 2500 years ago.

The Jamaican Flag



WHAT DOES EACH COLOUR SYMBOLIZE?

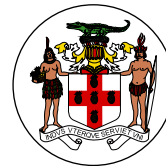
GREEN - HOPE FOR THE FUTURE AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

GOLD - NATURAL WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY AND THE BEAUTY OF SUNLIGHT

BLACK - STRENGTH AND CREATIVITY OF THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE



National Flag



National Motto
~ Out of Many One People



National Dish
~ Ackee and Saltfish



Capital City
~ Kingston

JAMAICA,
LAND WE LOVE

National Anthem



National Flower
~ Lignum Vitae



National Fruit
~ Ackee



National Bird
~ Doctor Bird

Jamaica's National Anthem

Eternal Father bless our land
Guard us with Thy mighty hand
Keep us free from evil powers
Be our light through countless hours
To our leaders, Great Defender,
Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth be ours forever
Jamaica, land we love
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica, land we love.

Teach us true respect for all
Stir response to duty's call
Strengthen us the weak to cherish
Give us vision lest we perish
Knowledge send us, Heavenly Father,
Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth be ours forever
Jamaica, land we love
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica, land we love.