

Montego Bay, Jamaica

Jamaica's second city delivers turquoise bays, reggae rhythms, and colonial plantation history — all from a modern pier that can berth four ships simultaneously, now expanding to become the Caribbean's next major homeport hub.

Docked (Freeport Pier)

Typical call: 7-10 hrs

USD widely accepted / JMD

English (Patois locally)

Tropical year-round

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at Montego Bay Cruise Port (Freeport) — no tendering. Up to 4 vessels simultaneously; major \$1.5B expansion underway through 2027.

Best For: Beaches, plantation history, river rafting, adventure excursions, reggae culture, and authentic Jamaican jerk.

Walk to center: 5–8 km (3–5 miles) to the Hip Strip. Taxi ~\$15–20 USD one-way; the port area itself has duty-free shops and a craft market.

Don't Miss: Jerk chicken at Scotchies, Doctor's Cave Beach, and Rose Hall Great House — all within 25 minutes of the port.

Getting around: Taxi USD 5–10 · Rideshare Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Doctor's Cave Beach** — MoBay's most famous beach — powder-white sand, calm turquoise water, and a full beach club with chairs, food, snorkeling, and water sports.
- Rose Hall Great House** — A beautifully restored 18th-century Georgian plantation home, famous for guided tours through period rooms and the spine-tingling legend of Annie...
- Martha Brae River Rafting** — Glide through lush rainforest on a 30-foot bamboo raft, poled by a local guide who shares folklore and points out wildlife.
- Jerk Lunch at Scotchies** — The authentic local pilgrimage for MoBay jerk — smoky chicken and pork cooked low-and-slow over pimento wood at this legendary roadside joint about...
- Chukka Adventures — Horseback, ATV & Zip** — Jamaica's leading adventure operator offers horseback-ride-n-swim, ATV backcountry rides, ziplining, river tubing, and catamaran cruises from...

BEST WALKS

- The Hip Strip (Gloucester Avenue)** 1–2 hrs | Flat | Shopping, food & beach — Montego Bay's main tourist boulevard runs parallel to the coast from the Gloucester Avenue strip down to Doctor's Cave Beach.
- Cruise Terminal Craft Market** 30–60 min | Flat | Shopping — The terminal's own craft market has Jamaican wood carvings, spices, Blue Mountain coffee, and rum — solid souvenir shopping without leaving the port area.
- Sam Sharpe Square (Downtown)** 30–45 min | Flat | History & local life — The heart of downtown MoBay, named after national hero Samuel Sharpe.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		86°	73°	21d
Jun		88°	76°	19d
Aug		89°	77°	22d
Sep		88°	77°	24d
Oct		87°	76°	25d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:54AM–6:28PM · Jun 5:35AM–6:49PM · Aug 5:53AM–6:38PM · Sep 5:59AM–6:13PM · Oct 6:05AM–5:48PM

USD widely accepted / JMD

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Use JUTA taxis only. Look for red license plates marked PPV and the JUTA logo. Always agree the fare in USD before you get in — the tourist desk at the terminal posts official destination rates. Avoid unlicensed touts.
- Always clarify USD vs JMD. US dollars are accepted everywhere in tourist areas, but a \$500 JMD quote is only ~\$3 USD. Confirm currency when agreeing prices to avoid confusion — or pay in USD and avoid the issue entirely.
- Eat jerk at Scotchies, not the ship. Scotchies is 15 minutes from the port and serves legendary pimento-wood jerk chicken — a \$10–15 USD plate with festival bread and a Red Stripe beats any buffet. This is what Montego Bay tastes like.
- Dunn's River Falls needs 9+ hours. It's 1.5–2 hours each way and takes 2+ hours to complete — only book it if your port day is at least 9 hours. Book via your cruise line: their tours are held for late ships.
- Greenwood Great House is the less-touristed plantation alternative. About 35 minutes east, it has genuine antique furnishings and Barrett family history (ancestors of poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning). Less crowded than Rose Hall, more authentic atmosphere.
- Stick to the tourist corridor.

Montego Bay, Jamaica — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



- 1** **Doctor's Cave Beach** Historic public beach opened in 1906, famed for mineral-rich waters once promoted for their healing properties.
- 3** **Ras Natango Gallery and Garden** Hillside art gallery and botanical garden run by a Rastafarian artist, with panoramic views over the north coast.

- 2** **Sam Sharpe Square** Historic downtown square named for the leader of the 1831-32 Baptist War slave rebellion, with a bronze monument and 18th-century cage cell.
- P** **Cruise port / terminal**