



2008, February 22

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**1<sup>st</sup> Tourism Outlook Seminar a success**

Jamaica's first annual Tourism Outlook Seminar hosted by the Jamaica Tourist Board and the Ministry of Tourism was a success with scores of industry stakeholders and other interests attending. The event, which took place on Wednesday (February 20), addressed a number of issues of import to the industry.

Among initiatives announced were plans for boosting eco-tourism along the island's South Coast, including a new attraction at Luana in St. Elizabeth; reviving tourism in Port Antonio; revisiting plans for the introduction of cruise ship visits to Port Royal; moving apace with redevelopment plans for downtown Kingston and targeting new and emerging markets for the island's tourism.

The conference was attended by several key persons in the industry both locally and internationally.

**[For further information telephone: (876)908-5262]**

**Jamaica among top 10 for travellers**

Jamaica is heating up the summer travel scene, according to the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA). Montego Bay, Jamaica, was just selected by ASTA as one of the "Top 10 International Hot Spots – Cities" for Summer 2008 and is the only English-speaking Caribbean country in the ASTA top 10 at number five. Jamaica was also recognized in this category for 2007.

Jamaica's appeal as a summer getaway is due to her diversity of offerings for families, couples, friends, children, nature lovers and adventure seekers.

**[For further information visit: [www.asta.org](http://www.asta.org)]**

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**Montego Bay was selected by ASTA as one of the "Top 10 International Hot Spots – Cities" for Summer 2008.**

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## First annual Reggae Academy Awards – Feb 24

Jamaica's first staging of a Reggae Academy Awards is set to take place on Sunday February 24th at 8.00 p.m. at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston. The event has been appropriately juxtaposed to coincide with the celebration of Reggae Month in February and is being organised by the Recording Industry Association of Jamaica.

Two categories, "Most Popular Song" and "Most Popular Artiste" were opened up to public voting. All other categories will be voted on by Reggae Academy members to determine the final winners.

There are 35 categories in all. Some of the categories for the Reggae Academy Awards include: Best Reggae Song, Best Reggae Album, Best Reggae Recording, Best Dancehall Song, Best Gospel Album and Best Gospel Song.

The Awards feature appearances by Shaggy, Sean Paul, Ziggy Marley, Tarrus Riley, Queen Ifrica, Prodigal Son, Diana Knig and more.

**[For further information telephone: 876- 906-0953 or visit: [www.riajamaica.com](http://www.riajamaica.com)]**

## Africa Unite – Smile Jamaica Concert this weekend

The 63<sup>rd</sup> observance of the life of late reggae singer, Bob Marley culminates this weekend (Feb. 23) with a musical extravaganza at James Bond Beach in St. Mary.

Dubbed the Africa Unite – Smile Jamaica concert, the event features a host of popular artistes including Bob Marley's eldest son and 2007 Grammy winner, Ziggy Marley. Others include Stephen Marley, The Melody Makers, Kymani Marley, Julian Marley, Damian Marley, The I – Threes and other local and international singers.

**[For further information visit: [www.africa-unite.org](http://www.africa-unite.org) OR [www.bobmarley-foundation.com](http://www.bobmarley-foundation.com)]**

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***Two categories, "Most Popular Song" and "Most Popular Artiste" were opened up to public voting.***

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### **Club Nazz And Restaurant open in Falmouth**

A multi-complex restaurant, nightclub and sports bar named Club Nazz And Restaurant was opened recently in Falmouth, Trelawny – 25 miles east of Jamaica’s resort capital, Montego Bay.

This latest attraction is housed in an old two-storey building, restored from among the host of Georgian structures within the quaint Falmouth town. It aims to court cruise ship passengers, tour attractions trippers, and resort guests for lunch, dinner and for special evening programmes of cultural showcases and haute cuisine.

***[For further information telephone: 876-979-2700, 374-8044]***

### **New Chukka Buggy Adventure Launched in Ocho Rios**

Chukka Cove in Ocho Rios has launched its latest attraction for adventure seekers wishing to explore the rugged, hilly terrain of St. Ann.

The new Chukka Buggy Adventure is a rugged, bumpy and dusty ride in a two or four-seat, tubular-frame buggy through lush green hills and fields. The journey provides a glimpse of Jamaica’s rich history and showcases the stunning nature of the island.

Upon reaching the summit, patrons can refresh themselves with a complimentary drink and a panoramic view of the coastline and surrounding countryside before descending the trails to complete the adventure. At the end of the journey, persons will have an opportunity to cool down and wash off in Chukka Adventures’ private cove.

***[For further information visit: [www.ChukkaCaribbean.com](http://www.ChukkaCaribbean.com)]***

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***Upon reaching the summit, patrons can refresh themselves with a complimentary drink and a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.***

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## Misty Bliss 2008

Misty Bliss is an annual celebration of the cultural and natural heritage of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park. This, the sixth staging of the event will take place on Sunday, February 24 at Hollywell in the hills of St. Andrew. The festival was initiated to raise awareness about the National Park which was established fifteen years ago in February 1993.

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*Misty Bliss features traditional Jamaican music, dance and food.*

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Misty Bliss features traditional Jamaican music and dance as well as a delicious spread traditional Jamaican fare such as jerk pork, crayfish rundown, roast yam, dukunno and smooth hot chocolate. Entertainment will feature Maroon drummers and a children's fair known as 'Pickney Sinting'. An authentic Jamaican marketplace offering fresh produce, herbs and spices, craft and tree seedlings is being set up for patrons of Misty Bliss.

**[For further information telephone: Tel: (876) 920-8278-9 or visit: [www.greenjamaica.org.jm](http://www.greenjamaica.org.jm)]**

## Reminder

The University of Technology's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Dinner Series continues this weekend. Each Friday since February, 1, an indigenous cuisine and culture is being highlighted until March 28. The expose takes place at Lillian's Restaurant on the campus grounds. This weekend theme dinner is Italian.

The remaining themed dinners are:

- Friday, February 29 – TASTE OF AFRICA NIGHT
- Friday, March 7 – CARIBBEAN NIGHT
- Friday, March 28 – FRENCH NIGHT

**[For further information email: [icds2008@yahoo.com](mailto:icds2008@yahoo.com) or telephone: 876-867-4028]**



## Upcoming Events

<b>Reggae Month</b>	Feb
<b>Africa Unite – Smile Jamaica concert</b>	Feb 23
<b>Reggae Academy Awards</b>	Feb 24
<b>Flutes and Flames</b>	March 7
<b>Caribbean Veggiefest</b>	March 16
<b>Symphony Under the Stars</b>	March 17
<b>Trelawny Yam Festival</b>	March 23

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**-Ends-**

**For details on these and other information of relevance to the JTB and the tourist industry please visit our information portal at [www.jtbonline.org](http://www.jtbonline.org)**