

JAMAICA

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THE JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD ANNOUNCES EXCITING LINE-UP OF ON-ISLAND EVENTS FOR 2008

NEW YORK, NY – February 6, 2008 – Jamaica is heating up the action for a spectacular 2008, offering a variety of events that will appeal to visitors of all ages from all over the world. The island kicked off the year in style with the Caribbean's biggest jazz festival, the Air Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival held January 24-26, and closes with a bang at the Reggae Marathon in December. In between, a fascinating range of cultural and engaging activities will spice up each season. Highlights follow.

Carnival in Jamaica, Kingston, St. Catherine, St. Ann

February 16 – April 27

The annual Carnival in Jamaica is one of Kingston's premier events, with special shows featuring local Jamaican and international soca/calypso artists. This mammoth festival kicks off during Easter week with Beach Jouvert, full of painted patrons and sizzling energy, and ends with the Road March, a costumed street parade in which revelers enjoy soca, calypso and reggae music (www.visitjamaica.com).

Calabash International Literary Festival, Jake's Resort, St. Elizabeth

May 23 - 25

Calabash presents three days filled with readings and live music, all for free, at Treasure Beach. More than 30 authors and musicians from 10 countries will read and perform at the 7th Annual Calabash International Literary Festival, showcasing Jamaica's extraordinary literary strength (www.calabashfestival.org).

Ocho Rios Jazz Festival, *Ocho Rios***June 7 - 15**

In Jamaica, June is a month to celebrate the magnetic spontaneity of jazz. The 18th Annual Ocho Rios Jazz Festival will feature nine days of inspiring music and entertainment that will fascinate all age groups. Performers will travel to Jamaica from Europe, the United States and other Caribbean destinations to join renowned Jamaican jazz artists (www.ochoriosjazz.com).

Portland Jerk Festival, *Boston Playing Field, Portland***July 1**

Jamaica presents one of the biggest celebrations of jerk cuisine, hosted in Portland, known as the “home of jerk.” This is the perfect opportunity for visitors to participate in a delectable feast of jerk lobster, fish, chicken and pork, and to enjoy performances by local artists and dancers, art exhibits, carnival rides and face painting (876-715-6553).

Reggae Sumfest, *Catherine Hall, Montego Bay***July 13 – 19**

This much anticipated annual music event features the top talent in roots, rock and reggae from all over the world. Past performers have included R&B queen Mary J. Blige, LL Cool J, Rihanna, 50-Cent and G-Unit, Missy Elliott, Morgan’s Heritage, Elephant Man, Beenie Man and Bounty Killa, to name a just few (www.reggaesumfest.com).

Kingston Restaurant Week, *Kingston***November 9 – 16**

Kingston Restaurant Week offers a premium opportunity for visitors to sample Jamaica’s diverse cuisine. The event celebrates Kingston’s talented culinary community and allows travelers to experience “adventures in tastes for less,” with menu prices often reduced by as much as 50 percent (876-978-6245).

Reggae Marathon 2008, *Negril***December 4 – 6**

The 8th Annual Reggae Marathon and Half-Marathon together form Jamaica’s premier international marathon event, attracting over 1,500 participants annually. Marathon runners, sports enthusiasts and even novice runners gather in Negril, where live reggae bands provide pulsating rhythms along the entire course. While uniquely Jamaican, the race also carries a great international appeal, offering visitors an unforgettable experience that combines sports and music (www.reggaemarathon.com).

For more information on these events as well as additional events in Jamaica, or to book your trip, visit www.visitjamaica.com or call 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422).

About the Jamaica Tourist Board

The Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB), founded in 1955, is Jamaica's national tourism agency based in the capital city of Kingston. The JTB was declared the Caribbean's Leading Tourist and Convention Bureau by the World Travel Awards (WTA) for 2006 and 2007, while Jamaica earned the WTA's vote as the World's Leading Cruise Destination, the Caribbean's Leading Destination and the Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination.

JTB offices are located in Kingston, Montego Bay, Miami, Toronto and London. Representative offices are located in Düsseldorf, Barcelona, Rome, Amsterdam and Tokyo.

For details on upcoming special events, attractions and accommodations in Jamaica go to the Jamaica Tourist Board's Web site at www.visitjamaica.com, or call the Jamaica Tourist Board at 1-800-JAMAICA (1-800-526-2422).

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