

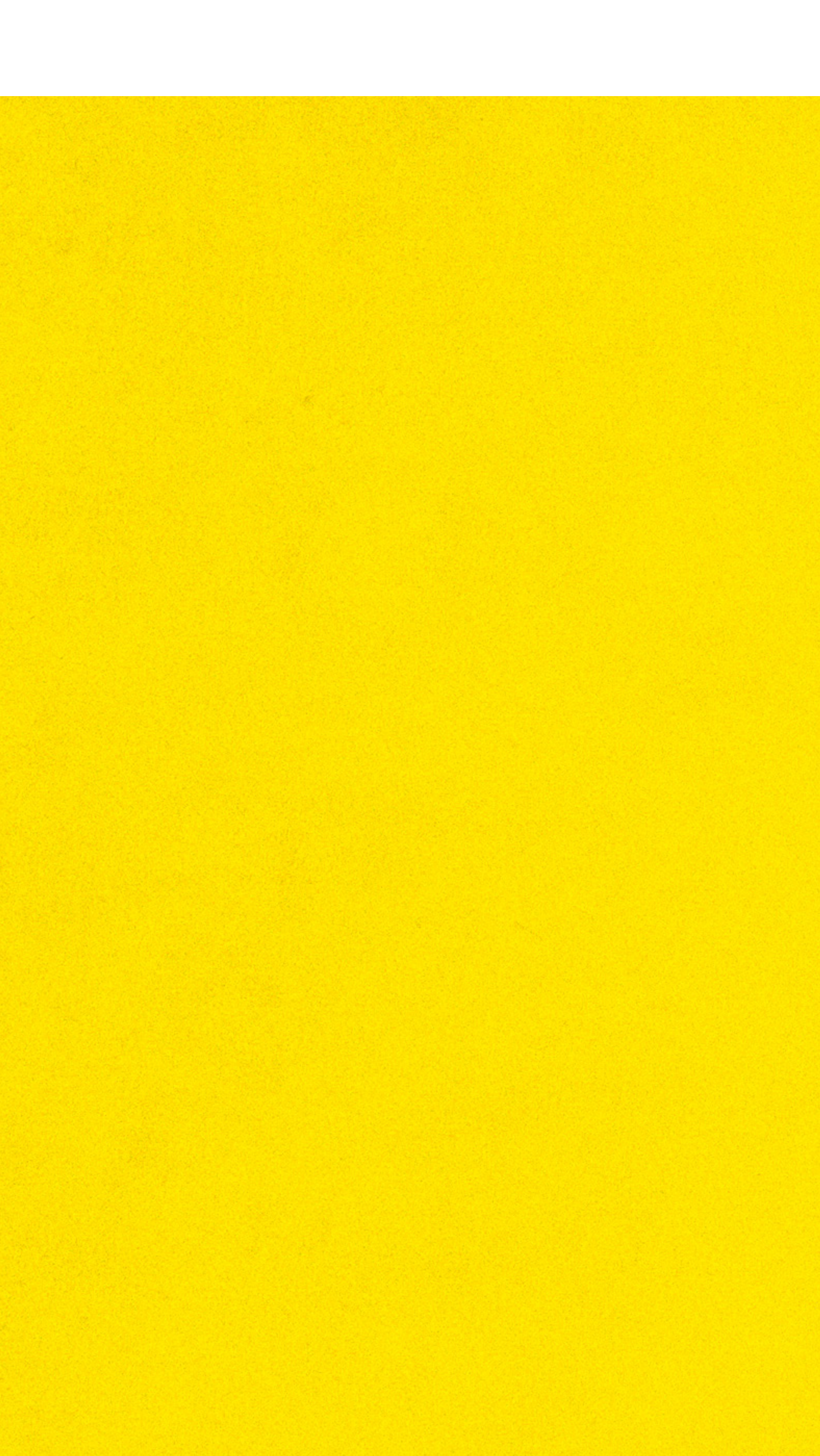


# OCHO RIOS

## Insider Guide & Map

This guide is packed full of tips and advice on how to get the most from your visit, from those who know the island best.

This PDF guide is best viewed in [Acrobat Reader](#).  
Buttons not working? Please scroll down.





Once a sleepy fishing village, Ocho Rios or “Ochi” as it is known by locals, is now a bustling town, home to approximately 16,000 people.



Located in the northern parish of St. Ann, it offers a wide variety of experiences and has something for everyone. Come explore Ochi and find out the best things to see and do.



- 1 Reynolds Pier
- 2 Cruise port
- 3 Ocho Rios Craft Market
- 4 Olde Market Craft Shoppes
- 5 Ocho Rios Fishing Village
- 6 Turtle River Park
- 7 Post Office
- 8 Ocho Rios clock tower
- 9 Ocho Rios Transport Centre
-  Shopping plazas (including duty free)



# PLACES OF INTEREST

## **TAKE A SCENIC DRIVE THROUGH FERN GULLY**

This winding stretch of road starts in Ocho Rios and runs for three miles south. The roadway through Fern Gully was established in 1907 when an earthquake destroyed one of the rivers in the Ocho Rios area. The river bed was subsequently paved and the roadway was established. The area showcases approximately 300 species of ferns which grow on both sides of the road, creating a shady tunnel-like scene.



**“Nature and wildlife can be experienced by visiting our beautiful gardens, tropical rainforests, farms and local communities. You would be surprised how warm and friendly our people are”**

– Omar Edwards – Store Supervisor

# PLACES OF INTEREST

## JAMAICAN MONGOOSE

Have you noticed those furry animals, looking like a ferret, darting across the road? That is the Jamaican Mongoose. It was imported from India in the 1800's to assist in culling a booming snake and rat population in the sugar cane fields. Local lore says that if the mongoose turns back in the middle of the road, bad luck will follow you around!



## CLOCK TOWER OCHO RIOS

The centre of all Jamaican Towns is denoted by a Clock Tower. Look out for ours in Ochi.



# FAMOUS LINKS

Famous English playwright Noel Coward's home "Firefly" is located just outside of Ocho Rios. It is now listed as a national heritage site by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust.



A scene in the 007 movie, Dr. No, was filmed right here at the Reynolds Pier, one of two piers in Ocho Rios. Additionally, many of Ian Fleming's 007 books were written at his estate, Golden Eye, located on the outskirts of Ocho Rios.

The birth and burial place of world-renowned reggae musician, Bob Marley, is located in the district of Nine Mile in St. Ann, 45 km from Ocho Rios.

# FAMOUS LINKS

**St. Ann's Bay, the capital of the parish of St. Ann, is believed to be the first landing site of Christopher Columbus when he arrived in Jamaica in 1494. You can pay a visit to the site, located near the St. Ann's Bay Hospital. While there, view what the locals believe is the actual anchor of his ship, as well as the statue of Columbus erected on the grounds.**





# THINGS TO DO WHILE IN OCHI



## VISIT A GARDEN

To escape the 'hustle and bustle' of the town, visit any of the many gardens that are set in the mountainside overlooking Ocho Rios. They offer bird watching, viewing of exotic animals, river-based activities and picnic areas for relaxing.

## ATTEND A FESTIVAL

Ocho Rios is the hub for a variety of cultural and heritage festivals that take place annually:

**Rebel Salute Music Festival** – started in 1994 to commemorate the birthday of Jamaican reggae icon, Tony Rebel. This festival features reggae music and an authentic Jamaican roots cultural experience. It is held annually in mid-January.

**Kite Festivals** – exciting kite flying and Family Fun Day events, held in April (around Easter) each year.

**Emancipation Jubilee** – a celebration of the proclamation of Emancipation in Jamaica. It features cultural activities such as song, dance, drumming and local food. This event is held as an overnight vigil on the grounds of the Seville Heritage Park on July 31 to August 1, annually.

# THINGS TO DO WHILE IN OCHI



**“We have many famous festivals such as Rebel Salute in January, Emancipation Jubilee on July 31st, Kite Festival at Easter and Seafood Festival in August”**

- Levenne Beckford - Car Rental Operator

## EXPERIENCE THE NIGHT LIFE

After having your fun in the sun... Bask in the electrifying and culturally invigorating nightlife of the town. There are various hot spots showcasing events and offering a very diverse entertainment scene.



**“The money spent by visitors helps support the economy enabling it to grow and also helps shop owners to enhance their businesses”**

- Conway Buchanan - Driver

**“Visitors can experience our culture and heritage at different churches, heritage sites and parks in the area”**

- Dwight Soares - Tour Operator



# THINGS TO DO WHILE IN OCHI

## VISIT A WATERFALL

The name Ocho Rios is a corruption of the Spanish word "Las Chorreras" meaning "the waterfall". Climb one of the many falls while visiting Ochi, including the world-famous Dunn's River Falls. Towering at 180 feet (55m) high and 600 feet (180m) long, Dunn's River Falls is one of few travertine waterfalls in the world that empty directly into the sea. **Dunn's River Falls: open daily 8:30 am to 4:00pm. Please note there is an entrance fee.**



## SHOPPING

**Craft** - There are five craft markets in the Ocho Rios Resort Area, four of which are located on Main Street. Find authentic local craft items, woven baskets, wooden carvings and souvenirs at these shops. **Open daily 9am to 5pm.**

**Looking to purchase duty free items?** Ocho Rios boasts a number of shopping plazas with duty free shops, right on Main Street.

# GENERAL TIPS

In Ochi, you'll find us vibrant, fun-loving and naturally expressive. A bright smile, a warm touch or animated chatter are ways we welcome visitors and express that we appreciate your presence.



Feel free to barter at our local Craft Markets, to get the best prices while enjoying a wide range of our local art and craft.

Getting around our town is easy: use approved vehicles with red plates only as these are licensed to transport public passengers.



Always negotiate and set a price with your approved driver prior to travel.

Our night life is very exciting, walk in well-lit areas and look out for our warm and helpful District Constables who can give advice on events and activities.

# FOOD AND DRINK

## MUST HAVES WHILE VISITING:

**Jerk** refers to a popular way that Jamaicans cook their meat. Enjoy jerk chicken, jerk beef, jerk pork, jerk fish, and even jerk vegetables or fruit at many restaurants in Ocho Rios. The typical cooking style uses a marinade that includes pimento, which is often called allspice, and scotch bonnet peppers. The meat is then slow smoked (jerked) over pimento wood. The cooking method originates from runaway slaves called Maroons who dug pits in the earth and laid meat on wood covered with pimento leaves so that the smoke would not be seen by the British soldiers chasing them.

For an even more authentic dish, order your jerk meat with **fried, roasted or steamed bammy** (a flat, round bread made from dried and pounded cassava) and **festival** (a cornmeal dough which is deep fried).



**“Our local pastries, both savoury, like beef patty, and sweet like gizzada, or grater cake (made with coconut) are must-haves”**

Novelett Llewellyn-Clarke - Craft Vendor

# FOOD AND DRINK MUST HAVES WHILE VISITING:



**Jelly Coconut:** a young water coconut with soft juicy flesh; Jamaicans believe the water from the coconut “washes the heart”

## **Pan chicken:**

For a truly Jamaican experience, try ‘pan’ chicken. Dating from the 1960s, the pan style (drum pan) was developed by Jamaicans as a

quicker and more convenient way of recreating jerk without using the jerk pit and pimento wood. You’ll find “pan” chicken vendors operating from roadsides all around Ocho Rios, mainly in the evenings. Stop by the Clock Tower one evening and sample a taste of pan chicken from one of the many vendors there.



# FOOD AND DRINK

## MUST HAVES WHILE VISITING:

**Ackee & Saltfish** is the national dish of Jamaica and is a very common and well-loved breakfast item. Ackee was brought to the Caribbean from West Africa, but it is more widely eaten in Jamaica than anywhere else.



**Fun Fact:**  
Did you know that Ackee is actually a fruit?

**Curry Goat:** although often associated with India, curry is popular in Jamaica. It was introduced to the island by East Indian indentured workers. Popular in many local restaurants in Ocho Rios, curry goat is definitely high on the list of favorites.

### Local Produce

**“Enjoy our local produce, most of which are grown in the parish of St. Ann. These items can be purchased from our local food markets. Tasty fruits such as naseberries, guineps, otaheite apples, sweet sugar cane”**  
- Marvin Gayle - Tour Operator



# FOOD AND DRINK MUST HAVES WHILE VISITING:



**“Ochi is renowned for various types of local food such as Jerk, Rice and Peas, and Curry Goat – these are the most popular. Red Stripe beer is the preferred drink, as is sorrel (non-alcoholic drink made from the Hibiscus Sabdariffa flower) and fresh coconut water”**

– Kadian Cole – Tour Supervisor

**Red Stripe:** Any discussions about bottled or draft beers in Jamaica must start with Red Stripe. This local beer is best enjoyed ice cold and is available throughout the island. It is more than a beer, it’s “Jamaican pride in a bottle”. Get it at any local bar in Ocho Rios.



**Rum:** (Appleton or “Whites” – very strong over-proof rum) Jamaica has the enviable and celebrated reputation of being one of the best producers of rum in the world. Jamaicans use white over-proof rum, mixed with honey and lime as a remedy to cure colds. They also rub it on the body to cool a fever.



# PATOIS

**As well as English, Jamaicans also speak Patois (pronounced Patwah). Here are some of the words and phrases you are likely to hear as you go out and about in Ocho Rios:**

**Irie** - (pronounced EYE-ree) Alright, used to indicate that all is well. Also a greeting.

**No Problem, man** - The standard reaction to a request for help, or for service. Also exemplifies the general hospitable attitude.

**Brawta** - An 'extra' given for free (often added to your shopping in the markets and elsewhere).

**Bredren (male)/Sistren (female)** - means friend.

**Mi fren** - also means friend.

**Tun up di ting** - step up your game.

**Chaka Chaka** - messy, disorderly, untidy.

**Raatid!** - A common mild expletive of surprise or vexation - "to raatid!".

**Lef mi nuh** - leave me alone.

# PATOIS

**Pree Dis** – Watch this or check this out.

**Wha a gwaan** –What's going on? How are you?  
Mainly used as a greeting.

**Likkle more** – see you later. A popular goodbye expression.

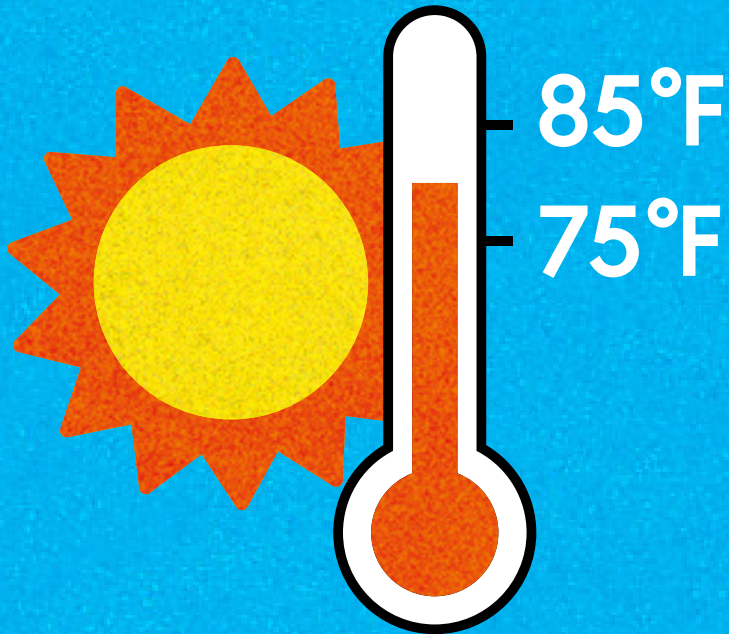
## **Terms by which you may be addressed:**

**Mums or Mummy (female) / Dads or Daddy (male)** – You may be addressed by this term, especially from the young men on the street. Don't be offended, it is simply a form of respect.

We have a tropical marine climate between

**JAMAICA**

is mountainous with valleys and coastal plains



# JAMAICA FACTS

There are

**120**

**RIVERS**

We are the

**LARGEST  
ENGLISH  
SPEAKING  
ISLAND**

This guide has been produced as part of our Warm Welcome campaign to promote the very best of Ocho Rios.



**We would love to know what you think of this guide and your visit to Ocho Rios?**

Please take a moment to share your thoughts in this short survey.

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YQKM6N2](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YQKM6N2)

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