

two Hearts one Love



Wedding venues in Jamaica can accommodate a quiet ceremony for the couple alone or a pull-out-the-stops extravaganza for hundreds of guests. Regardless of size you can choose from an array of properties ready

to accommodate your needs. From barefoot seaside ceremonies to lavish, flower-strewn gazebos, your dreams of a perfect wedding venue will become reality.

Yearn for a sunset ceremony at water's edge, perhaps? Many resorts offer this option, as well as flower-strewn gazebos looking out to sea and intimate chapels on resort properties. Make a few simple choices; the resort's wedding coordinator will do the rest. Professional wedding planners eliminate much of the hassle and guesswork

in your arrangements. Some resorts offer all-inclusive marriage packages, including discounted hotel rates for the wedding party.

The island has a wealth of stunning villas available for rent, including once owned by Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond. Jamaica's Association of Villas and Apartments (JAVA/1-800-Villas6) will let you know which private villas are available and the cost. JAVA has wedding coordinators on call. These coordinators, similar to those in the larger resorts, handle paperwork



GETTING MARRIED

and find the perfect clergyman, decorator, caterer and musicians for your ceremony. Spacious villas have rooms for wedding guests to stay on and continue celebrating. Comparing the cost of accommodations for your guests in a resort, renting a villa may be quite economical.



Perhaps you've been dreaming of a sunset ceremony on a deserted beach. Negril, in southwest Jamaica, with its seven miles of pristine white beaches, awaits your pleasure. You can also go further out into the waters. Sailboats offer sunset ceremonies in the waters off Negril, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay. "Timing is everything," one experienced captain explains, referring to reaching a full sunset just as vows are exchanged. Some catamarans are large enough to accommodate

25-100 persons and a band comfortably, with room to dine as well. Your hotel or inn has a wedding coordinator happy to make arrangements.

You may want to wed in a cool and mountainous verdant setting with spectacular views. The Gap Café offers such a setting. So does music mogul Chris Blackwell's Strawberry Hill Resort.

What about taking your vows in the mist of a waterfall? Several spectacular cascades in Jamaica include Dunn's River Falls in Ocho Rios, Reach Falls in Port Antonio and YS Falls on the South Coast. You and your party can stay perfectly dry at a land-based area nearby. If it suits your mood, you can wade right out into the falls.

Dream of yet another picture-perfect venue. Begin your life together walking through gardens sloping down to the sea at Frenchman's Cove in the Port Antonio area.

Then there are Jamaica's botanical gardens, which are

Opening pages: Jamaica is for lovers. Heavenly sunsets and saying "I do" by the sea heighten the romance of the moment. A magical Caribbean setting is the key to unforgettable memories. Photos courtesy of Ritz-Carlton Golf & Spa Resort, Jamaica Tourist Board, Rose Hall Resort & Country Club and Robert Ulrich. This page: The beach is an idyllic place to have your wedding ceremony. Photo courtesy of Ron Chapple.

so extensive, some say this island must be made of flowers. Several of the most extraordinary gardens — all available to you — are Hope Botanical Gardens in Kingston, Cranbrook Flower Forest outside of Ocho Rios, and Shaw Park Gardens and Coyaba River Gardens in Ocho Rios.

If your dream is for a stately ceremony, great houses — former homes of plantation lords and sugar barons — bring you centuries back in time. Devon House in Kingston is splendid. So are the Greenwood Great House in Montego Bay and Good Hope east of Montego Bay. Rose Hall Great House may be the grandest, but the ghost of former owner Annie Palmer is said to whisper sweet nothings into the ears of guests.

You can go further back in time and create your own fairy tale. Port Antonio's Trident Castle is not actually a very old castle, but its designer was clever enough to fool us all.

Jamaica has gems of restaurants scattered across the island. Get married in one or dine there after the ceremony. The Ruins in Ocho Rios is very nearly in a waterfall. Evita's offers a classic wedding setting with a perfect Caribbean view. Sea Splash in Negril is smack dab on the beach. Xtabi and Rick's Café on Negril's cliffs overlook the sea. Built on an old sugar plantation, the Victorian-style Sugar Mill Restaurant overlooks Half Moon Golf, Tennis & Beach Club in the Montego Bay area.

Just choose your dream. Jamaica will make it come true. 🌺

Here's what you need to know before saying I do in Jamaica:

Waiting Period: Visitors can be married 24 hours after arriving in Jamaica, providing that prior application has been made for a marriage license.

Cost of a license is approximately US\$65-70 (4000 Jamaican dollars).

Non-denominational Marriage Officers are available to perform weddings at their offices or homes, or at a place chosen by the couple. The fee for their services varies from US\$100 to several hundred dollars depending on their involvement and travel time. They can provide witnesses for the ceremony as well.

Arrangements: Nearly all hotels will make arrangements for you. Special package prices include performance of ceremony, government tax, transportation costs and expenses incurred through other special requests. Check with your hotel, as these packages vary.

Documentation needed: (1) Proof of citizenship — certified copy of birth certificate, which includes father's name. (2) Written consent from parents if under 18. (3) Original certificate of divorce, or original certificate of annulment if applicable. (4) Certified copy of death certificate for widow or widower. (5) Italian nationals celebrating their marriage in Jamaica must notify their embassy; a certified copy of their marriage certificate must be forwarded to their embassy to be legalized and translated. (6) French Canadians celebrating their marriage in Jamaica need a notarized, translated English copy of all documents and a photocopy of original documents in French.

Blood Test: None.

For further information, contact Mr. Roy Jones in Kingston: Tel/Fax (876) 927-2522, eMail: royjones@cwjamaica.com or any Jamaica Tourist Board office worldwide.



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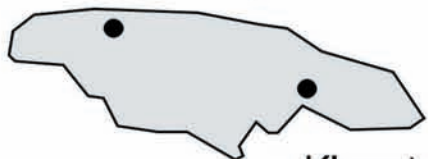
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