



Education and Evangelism Center Project  
Buff Bay, Jamaica  
February 21 - March 11, 2002

# Overview of Jamaica

Jamaica has long been known as the quintessential resort island, packed with white sandy beaches, sunny days by the pool, and the languid attitude of Caribbean culture. But while tropical beauty is certainly the country's defining characteristic, the average inquisitor has much more to learn about this small island in the West Indies. Looking beyond the tourist-friendly resorts will unveil a diverse land with a fascinating history.

Jamaica's first known inhabitants were the Arawak Indians, who named the peaceful island "Xaymaca," meaning woods and water. In 1494, Christopher Columbus landed on the island, and in 1510, the Spanish settlers arrived, introducing sugar and slaves to the island. By the end of the century, the Arawak Indians were wiped out by mistreatment and illness. The population was quickly replaced by Europeans and their African slaves.

But Jamaica's multi-cultured history has shaped a colorful society that has brought the country to the forefront as one of the world's most vibrant places. From reggae to Rastafarianism, Jamaica's culture is imbued with historical, religious and political references. Jamaica's art, music, and belief systems have all made distinct contributions to international culture.



There are approximately 2.7 million people living on the 4411 square mile island, which is the third largest in the Caribbean. More than 75 percent are of African descent, but there is also a mix of Afro-Europeans, Europeans, Middle Easterners, and Asians. English is the official language, but many Jamaicans speak Patois, a unique dialect that evolved from Creole English.

Jamaica is located 90 miles south of Cuba. As for the climate, like any other tropical island, Jamaica is warm all year round, although it has its share of sudden downpours during the rainy season, from May to December.

Jamaica's population is 80 percent Christian. Adventism was first introduced in 1889 or 1890 when a colporteur went to the West Indies and sold a book to a man named William Arnold, who lived on the Island of Antigua. Arnold then sent the book to his son, James Palmer, in Kingston, Jamaica. Inspired by what he read, Palmer obtained several more publications and began distributing them in the city. One copy fell into the hands of a public hospital doctor, who had little interest. He passed on the book to Margaret Harrison, an Englishwoman who often visited the sick and unfortunate. Soon, she began keeping the Sabbath. Meanwhile, Palmer had interested five more families to Adventism. When Harrison learned of these people, she opened her home for meetings. This constituted the first company of Sabbath-keepers on Jamaica.

## Overview (continued)

Today, one in every fourteen people is Adventist. There are 628 Adventist churches and many of them are bursting at the seams. They are in dire need of worship space. There is also a shortage of pre-schools (elementary) in Jamaica, and the Adventist educational system is highly regarded—thus, highly sought after. Unfortunately, like the church buildings, space is an issue and the waiting list for students is long. Maranatha is planning to build at least three churches and five education/evangelism centers. More buildings are needed, but the number of projects relies on available funding.

## About the Project

The community of Buff Bay is located near the northeast coast of Jamaica. Known for its truly Jamaican charm and rural beauty, Buff Bay is a frequently visited spot along the national highway. The Adventist Church in Buff Bay was started in the 1940's and has grown to nearly 500 members (250 active) throughout the community. Located directly next to the site for the new EEC, the church currently operates as a primary school for the 100 students. The demand for Christian education in Buff Bay continues, and with the new Maranatha Education and Evangelism Center (EEC) you are building, they can extend the class size and extend the grades into junior high and high school. The EEC is over 8000 square feet, built with concrete block reinforced by steel and rebar. Your job will be to lay block, tie in the rebar, and install plumbing and electrical services. This is a construction project so each volunteer needs to plan on bringing a hard hat to wear. Ted and Sadie Torrez will coordinate the project with the assistance of Merrill and Diane Zachary. Myron Stanley will lead the construction effort.

## Worship

Each morning and evening we will have group worship and prayer. Your participation is essential for the success of the project - and you will find it fulfilling! Each person should come prepared to sing, and if you feel comfortable, to share a short worship topic. If you play an instrument such as a guitar or violin please bring it along! For the preachers in the group, you may be asked to present a sermon on Sabbath. Don and Sylvia Crook will be coordinating the worships so you can expect to be asked to sign up!



A completed Education and Evangelism Center

# What to Expect

## Accommodations

We will be staying at the East Jamaica Conference camp-meeting facility called Camp Don. Located about 30 minutes from the project site in Buff Bay, the camp will be your home away from home on this project. Situated to accommodate several hundred people, the camp will give us plenty of room to spread out. You will be assigned to a cabin that can sleep up to 12 people, however there will be no more than 6 in each cabin, if not less. That way each person gets a bunk bed to themselves, and can choose to sleep on either the top or bottom bunk - it's completely up to you! The extra space in each cabin makes it easy to hang a sheet for privacy, or mosquito netting - choose to bring some. The beds in each cabin will have 4" soft foam mattresses. You will need to bring sheets, a pillow and blankets or a sleeping bag.

The bathroom and shower facilities are in a separate bath house - one for men and one for women. The following features are found in both mens' and womens' bath house: 13 showers (the water temperature is refreshingly cool to lukewarm depending on the time of day you shower), 9 toilets, and 4 sinks with mirrors. No power outlets are located in the bathrooms, but there are outlets in each cabin (110 volts - standard US plug). There are limited mirrors, and no clothes hooks or shelves in the bathrooms. **You'll need shower slippers or sandals because the floor is slippery when wet and you will need to walk back to your cabin.** The camp is spacious and well kept with expansive lawns, perennial flowers and a surrounding of lush forests. See the photo at the back of this packet.

## Laundry

You will be able to hand launder your clothes during the project. If a local laundry service is available we will employ their services. Plan on having clothes washed once or maybe twice a week. All clothing should be marked with a laundry pen. (It's amazing how many jeans and T-shirts will look the same.) Fine washables don't fare too well on mission projects so keep that in mind as you pack. It will help if you bring a little detergent.

## Meals & Water

Our breakfast and dinner will be prepared and served in the camp dining hall. Three vegetarian meals (not vegan) will be provided daily. The first meal provided to you will be dinner on February 21, and the last meal will be breakfast on Monday, March 11. You are encouraged to bring snacks for additional energy if you think you will need some. If you have special dietary concerns such as vegan or diabetic, please bring your own food to supplement the meals that are being prepared. If you want to coordinate with other vegans that may be attending, Janice Parker has volunteered to help coordinate that. You can call her at her home in Tennessee at: 423-236-4142. The water at the camp is pure and safe to drink. Each volunteer will need to bring a water bottle to keep with them at all times. **Purified water is the only water you should let enter your mouth while in Jamaica. When you're not at the camp, be careful to only drink purified bottled or public drinking water.** We will need volunteers to help prepare daily meals for our group. Please let us know on your application if you can help our Head Cooks, Melba Anderson and Maj-Britt Rusk in this area.

## Sunblock & Insects

Wear sun block any time you are outside, even if your skin is naturally dark. You'll be closer to the equator, so you'll react to the sun's rays much more quickly. Use insect repellent and take other personal protection measures (see CDC's guide to travellers) to reduce contact with mosquitoes, particularly from dusk to dawn.

# What to Expect *continued*

## Weather & Time Zone

The weather will be very warm and humidity will average 60 to 70 percent. Expect temperatures in the 80's and 90's during the day; dropping to 65-75 F at night. In Jamaica we will be on Eastern Standard Time (Miami).

## Outreach

The fact that you have come a long distance to volunteer your time to construct a school building for the people of Jamaica will in itself be the outreach. If you would like to bring clothes for donation, children's clothes and shoes are especially needed. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are popular as well. Used prescription eye glasses are in demand too. Many pharmacies and ophthalmologists recycle these and may be willing to donate them. The school in Buff Bay also needs visual teaching aids for the classroom.

Adventist Youth (AY) and VBS programs are very popular in Jamaica. Janice Parker has offered to help coordinate some of these programs. The first AY program will be on Sabbath afternoon of the 23rd. If you would like to offer your help with this program or VBS, contact Janice by E-mail at: <[janice\\_parker@juno.com](mailto:janice_parker@juno.com)> or by phone at: 423-236-4142

## Emergency Contact Number & Telephones

If someone needs to contact you during the project, instruct them to call the Maranatha office at (916) 920-1900. We will do our best to relay the message to you as soon as possible. This is the most effective way for people to contact you during the project. Please note that this is for emergency purposes only.

Depending on your long-distance carrier, you may be able to call home from pay phones in Jamaica. Come prepared to purchase phone cards since access to international operators is not possible from most locations in Jamaica. If you bring your calling card, make sure you know your international calling card access number for Jamaica as well as your authorization code. Expect poor connections. **There is no public phone at the camp.** Plan to not be in communication with your families during your stay.

## Currency

Jamaican currency is called the Jamaican Dollar, and the current exchange rate is 47 JD to 1 USD. Your personal spending money will be easiest to exchange if you bring cash, not traveller's checks. Major credit cards are accepted in many, although not all, stores and restaurants in Jamaica. An exchange office or bank typically gives a better rate of exchange than do stores or restaurants.

## Valuables

Since Maranatha cannot guarantee the safety of your valuables, we recommend that you not bring items that are expensive or of sentimental value. Personal items such as cash, cameras, passports, and watches should be kept on you as much as possible. There are several products on the market to assist the traveller in maintaining possession of their valuables.

# Itinerary

Because of the distance of this project from any international airport, the best scenario is to have all volunteers fly into Kingston, Jamaica on February 21, 2002. We have reserved several rooms at a hotel in Kingston. On the night of the 21st we will have a banquet dinner at the hotel. From there, we'll take care of getting you to the project and settled in your room for the duration of the project. On March 10, 2002 all volunteers will travel by chartered bus back down to Kingston for another banquet dinner and night in the same hotel. Following is a detailed itinerary of the project.

## Schedule

- February 21
  - Volunteers arrive into Kingston, Jamaica to be met by Maranatha
  - A chartered bus will transport you to the hotel. There may be some waiting as flights arrive and baggage is collected, so be prepared to settle in and exercise a little patience while others get their bags.
  - Buffet dinner and lodging at the Hotel Four Seasons in Kingston
  
- February 22
  - Breakfast buffet at the Hotel at 8 AM
  - Bus 4 hours north to Buff Bay and on to Camp Don in Robbins Bay
  - Check into your rooms at Camp Don
  - Orientation, dinner and worship!
  
- February 23
  - Sabbath - Worship at the Buff Bay church
  - Afternoon in nature or relaxing; AY program in evening.
  
- February 24 to March 1
  - Work on the project site (a 30 minute bus ride away)
  
- March 2
  - Sabbath - worship service
  
- March 3 - 8\*
  - Work on the project site
  - \* An optional one-day excursion may be planned during this week  
Details will be provided after you arrive
  
- March 9
  - Sabbath worship and EEC dedication service
  
- March 10
  - Travel from Camp Don to Kingston
  - Shopping or touring in Kingston
  - Buffet dinner and farewell
  
- March 11
  - Breakfast buffet
  - Bus to the airport in time for your departure!

# Jamaica Entrance Requirements

## Citizenship Documents

Canadian and U.S. citizens entering Jamaica do not need a passport or visa to enter Jamaica. However, you will need two pieces of identification, including proof of citizenship or permanent residency, such a birth certificate or driver's license - with a photo ID. All other visitors must arrive with a passport, but most western travelers do not need a visa. Maranatha recommends that you travel with a passport when travelling internationally.

Airlines operating to Jamaica will present you with a free tourist arrival card on your flight to Jamaica. Maranatha recommends filling out your tourist card prior to landing if possible. Your tourist card admits you to Jamaica for 30 days. The immigration officer will take your completed card when you pass immigration. When you are filling out the tourist card, it may require you to list the address where you will be staying in Jamaica. Use the following address: **Hotel Four Seasons, Kingston.**

When you arrive, the immigration official may ask you to show that you have at least \$400 or a major credit card on you. They may also ask to see your air tickets so they can determine your travel plans and length of stay. If they ask you what you will be doing, simply tell them you are a tourist and will be staying at the Adventist facility called Camp Don in Robbins Bay. They want to know this so they can make sure you have the means to take care of yourself while there. It is unlikely that you will have any problems here unless your appearance or demeanor gives them a reason to be suspicious.

## Exit Tax

You will be charged \$US 30.00 per person exit tax to depart Jamaica, and you will pay that at the airline counter when you check in for your departing flight. These fees are common in most foreign countries, and are used to generate funds for management of immigrations and tourism for the local government. It will be much simpler for you to have the exact change ready when you depart. Plan ahead and tuck the cash away in a safe place along with your tickets.

## Citizenship Documents

**Maranatha recommends that you make copies of your passport (or birth certificate and driver's license) before you depart.** Leave a copy at home with a friend or relative as well as a copy of your travel itinerary. It is also recommended that you place a copy of your passport in each piece of your luggage, including your carry on. In the event that your passport is stolen or lost the copy will expedite the process of your passport replacement. If you choose to travel with an original birth certificate - be sure not to lose it. Passports are replaceable, birth certificates are not so easy to replace. Photo copies of birth certificates are not valid for international travel so you must bring your original. Again, we emphasize that it is better to obtain a passport than to travel with a birth certificate. Contact your local post office for information on applying for a passport.

In the unlikely event that your luggage is lost, the airlines will need you to prove ownership of your luggage. Make sure your bags are clearly identifiable. Also, zipper locks are a cheap way to avoid losing the contents of your bags enroute. We recommend you invest in some, just in case.

# Health Requirements

## Your Health in Jamaica

Maranatha requires that each volunteer has a **current tetanus shot**. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has recommendations for travellers to Jamaica. Among other concerns, the CDC recommends that you protect against Hepatitis A and Typhoid. It's recommended that you follow CDC's recommendations, and that you check with your personal physician before traveling to Jamaica to determine what risks you may face. You can obtain an updated report of the CDC recommendations at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/caribbean.htm> or call the Centers for Disease Control hotline at: (404) 332-4559.

Because the climate and work routine may be different than you are accustomed to, Maranatha recommends that you check with your personal physician before travelling to Jamaica for the purposes of this project. Each person, in consultation with their physician, should make informed decisions regarding vaccinations, and whether your health is suitable for this project.

It is wise to review your health insurance policy before your travel. If your insurance policy does not cover you in Jamaica, it is strongly recommended that you purchase a policy that does. There are short-term health insurance policies designed specifically to cover travel. If you are in the market for this service, a company called TravMed has good rates and coverage specializing in overseas missionary travelers. You can reach them at 1-800-732-5309.



## Preventative Medicine

As a visitor, be aware of your new surroundings. Food and drinks from restaurants in Jamaica are not the same as back home. Getting dirt in your mouth affects you differently. So, please note the following precautions.

**Wash your hands** before you eat.

"Handy Wipes" or disinfectant hand gel are convenient to have to clean your hands.

**Drink lots of fluids**, especially when outside. Excessive physical exertion combined with prolonged exposure to the sun can dehydrate your body quickly. Drink only bottled water or public drinking water. Be aware of ice cubes in drinks. The ice cubes may not have been made with purified water. Bring a water bottle.

**Avoid eating food sold on the streets.** Proper sanitation is not typically used by street vendors and the food may contain a high level of bacteria. Vegetables and fruits must be washed in a purifying solution such as bleach or iodine. Generally, the more processed and packaged the food, the safer it is.

**Jamaica's public water is purified drinking water.** You can re-fill your water bottle at the camp. Gatorade powder will help you stay hydrated and healthy - as well as improving the taste of the water. It's not readily available in Jamaica so bring a several packets along with you. All food served to you by Maranatha will be cleaned and prepared with the necessary precautions.

# Safety Guidelines

## What Maranatha Does to Assure a Project is as Safe as Possible

Maranatha recognizes the value you add to our organization. You are instrumental in achieving Maranatha's mission to *"spread the gospel throughout the world as it builds people through the construction of urgently needed buildings."* In addition to providing written job descriptions and safety guidelines for project leaders, several measures have been implemented by Maranatha to help assure your safety on a project.

**SKILLED LEADERSHIP.** Maranatha is blessed with volunteers who have excellent leadership skills. These project leaders are acquainted with current regulations and effective ways for getting tasks accomplished because they focus the majority of their working time on the areas in which they are providing guidance. Maranatha leaders are instrumental in assuring you have a positive and safe experience while volunteering your time and abilities on a short-term mission project.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE.** A Safety Committee has been established (as a subcommittee of Maranatha's Construction Committee) to develop safety guidelines for Maranatha projects. These formalized safety guidelines have been reviewed and approved by Maranatha's legal counsel, Construction Committee and Board of Directors.

**TRAVEL ADVISORIES.** Maranatha staff keep updated on U. S. State Department and Consulate travel advisories in the areas where Maranatha is working. This information is communicated to you as it relates to projects in which you're participating.

## Safety for the visitor of Jamaica

When it comes to the issue of safety for the traveler to Jamaica there are several things that need to be considered. Generally, with good planning, educating yourself about the culture and awareness of where you are can keep you safe. You will find that you will be warmly welcomed in Jamaica. To make your trip as safe as possible, consider the following advice from the US State Department for travelers to Jamaica.

- \* Safety begins when you pack. Leave valuables at home. Dress conservatively, a flashy wardrobe attracts attention.
- \* Use a money belt or concealed money pouch for passports, cash and other valuables.
- \* Don't leave valuables unattended in open sight.
- \* Avoid marginal areas of cities, dark alleys and crowds. Don't stop if you are approached on the street by strangers, including street vendors. Watch your wallet closely.
- \* Use official taxi stands rather than cruising taxi's.
- \* Whenever possible, don't travel alone.
- \* Avoid travel at night - especially in Kingston.

If you were going to Jamaica without Maranatha, you'd no doubt take the time to learn about the history, culture, and environment before you go. We strongly recommend that you do this before your trip. Your local library is a good place to start, and many public libraries have Internet access. Invest some time in this and you will be thankful that you did. You'll appreciate the people and the culture much more. A couple of good sites are [www.brittanica.com](http://www.brittanica.com) and [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com) - simply navigate or search for Jamaica. There are several other good tour information sites for Jamaica, take time to learn before you go!

# ACCIDENT | INSURANCE

## Description

All volunteers are covered under an accident and endemic disease insurance policy for the dates that they participate on the Maranatha project. (This is not a general medical insurance policy.) The cost of the policy is included in your participation fee.

This policy covers any accident that may occur during your project, except if you are riding in an airplane. This includes weekends and excursions also. This policy does not cover you for travel to Jamaica before the project begins, or traveling back home after the project concludes.

This is a secondary policy. (Claims would be submitted first to your primary insurance carrier.)

This policy has a \$250 per occurrence deductible.

The following maximum coverage applies, in case of an accident:

\$75,000	Accidental death or dismemberment
\$75,000	Medical/dental expenses
\$20,000	Endemic disease

*(This policy includes diseases such as malaria, hepatitis, etc.; it does not cover AIDS.)*

## Why purchase accident insurance through Maranatha if you have your own insurance?

Maranatha mission projects are construction projects that require strenuous activity where people can get tired and hurt. Accident insurance is essential. It's not possible for Maranatha to analyze everyone's policy to see if their insurance is current and the coverage is in effect at the location of the mission project. The Maranatha Board of Directors decided that the safest route was to require everyone to purchase the simple coverage that we carry. That's why it is already included as part of your participation fee.

## Optional Traveler's Health Insurance

While on this project, you will be covered under Maranatha's **secondary** accident insurance policy, however **you should have a primary policy** that covers you while you are in Jamaica. If you are not sure if your insurance covers this, call your health insurance company to find out if you are covered while travelling in Jamaica.

If you do not have primary health coverage while travelling in Jamaica, you can purchase a short-term health policy for as low as \$4 per person per day. TravMed is a company that specializes in comprehensive short-term health policies for missionaries travelling abroad. They also offer optional trip cancellation insurance and lost baggage insurance. You can obtain a quote and learn more by calling TravMed at 1-800-732-5309 in the United States or by navigating to their web page at: <http://www.travmed.com/>

# What to Bring

## Work Gear

- Tape measure
- Level
- Masonry Trowel
- Mason Block and Line
- Several pair of good work gloves
- Hat for sun protection
- Good working shoes
- Blue jeans or painters pants
- Old long-sleeve cotton shirts
- Hard Hat (required)**

## Non-Work

- Socks
- Underclothes
- Slacks, lightweight and washable
- Casual shirts and blouses
- Dress shirt and tie for Sabbath
- Dresses and skirts for Sabbath
- Swimming suit (one piece)
- Light jacket for cool evenings
- Sleep wear
- Robe
- Flip-flops/shower shoes - important!!**

## Linens

- Sleeping bag or twin sized flat sheets & a light blanket
- Small pillow
- Towel and wash cloth

## Miscellaneous Items

- Passport (or Photo ID and Birth Certificate)
- Water Bottle
- Packets of powdered Gatorade mix
- Flashlight - important!**
- Personal toiletries
- Mirror
- Bible
- Clock
- Camera/film
- Sun block - SPF 30 or higher
- Handi-wipes or disinfectant hand gel
- Mosquito repellent - DEET 30 to 70 percent
- Sunglasses
- Money for personal spending
- USD \$30 for your departure tax
- Personal medication (charcoal, immodium, Pepto Bismol, etc.)\*\*

\*\* *If you fly to the project and are on daily medication, do not check your medicine into your luggage. Pack it on your carry-on luggage. If your luggage gets lost, you will still have your medicine.*

## Optional Items

- Lightweight day pack
- Visual teaching aids to give to the school
- Adventist Youth program material
- Bibles to give away
- Hymnals to give away
- Steps to Christ* to give away
- Snacks
- Board games/card games
- Outreach materials to give away
  - \* clothing (especially children's sizes)
  - \* medicines (aspirin, cough syrup, band-aids, etc.)
- Sporting Equipment (basketball, volleyball, etc.)

## What NOT to bring

- Anything of great value
- Radios, Walkmans, Gameboys, etc.
- T-shirts with slogans



The "Camp Don" campus where we will stay



The Buff Bay Church and EEC site