

Jamaica



Jamaica is a small country about 480 miles (772 km) south of Florida. It is the third largest island in the Caribbean Sea. When you look at a map of the Caribbean, you can see that the island of Cuba to the northwest and the island of Hispaniola to the northeast are larger. Jamaica's capital city of Kingston sits along its southeastern shore.

When Christopher Columbus arrived in Jamaica while he was exploring for Spain in 1494, he found the Arawak people living on the island. Spain took control of the island, and many of the Arawak died. Britain later took over Jamaica and used it as a base to launch attacks against Spain. In the 1700s, Jamaica became known for the vast amounts of sugar it exported. Today, Jamaica still exports sugar, as well as crops such as yams, coconuts, oranges, bananas, gourds, plantains, coffee, and grapefruits, but tourism is also a major part of the country's economy. People come from all over the world to enjoy Jamaica's beautiful beaches and warm climate. Mining is also extremely important, as Jamaica supplies valuable bauxite, which is the ore that we make aluminum from.

Jamaica became independent from the United Kingdom in 1962. Its flag, which was adopted the same year, reflects parts of the nation's past as well as its future. The gold represents sunlight and the money made from minerals. Black represents hardships that have been suffered in the past and may still lie ahead. Green represents the crops the country exports and hope for tomorrow.



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I hope you've enjoyed visiting four of the many amazing places in Jamaica! Before you leave to go home, could I ask you to do something special for the people here? Most of the people in Jamaica have heard of Jesus, and many say they follow Him. But some of those who say they love Jesus do not live like it, and crime and corruption are big problems in the country. Pray that everyone in Jamaica will know how much Jesus loves them, and that they will love and serve others the way Jesus did.

Will you remember to pray for the people of Jamaica? Here are a few more things you can pray for. You can add more prayer requests to the list as you think of them!



Pray that all people will understand how much Jesus loves them.



Pray for the people living in Kingston, Port Antonio, Ocho Rios, and Falmouth, plus every other city and town to believe in Jesus.

