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elena moiseeva/Shutterstock.com

Lucea's charm extends beyond its coastal white-sand beaches, private coves and picture-perfect sunsets, spreading into the tiny colonial town that serves host to a busy weekly Saturday market. Nestled between Montego Bay and Negril, Lucea is a pristine, tranquil pit stop spared - for now - from the relentless tourist crowds increasingly eyeing this uncharted Jamaican getaway.



Jo Ann Snover/Shutterstock.com



rickpilot_2000 / Flickr



Top 5

Fort Charlotte Fort Charlotte

Fort Charlotte was built in 1746 to protect Jamaica's northwest from naval a...



The Court House Lucea's most striking landmark

is the Court House, a grand clock tower its s...



Hanover Parish Church

The Hanover Parish Church was constructed in 1725 on the ruins of an older S...



Coleman K Jammin Jamaica Tours

Kevin Coleman and his staff provide guests with quality taxi



Reggae Horseback

A horseback tour through crystal blue waters is a once-in-a-lifetime experie...





THE CITY



H1nksy/Shutterstock.com

Rumored to have been named after Christopher Columbus' son Luis, Lucea has been historically heavily involved in the sugar trade, and remained a busy export hub well into the 20th century until the local port was eventually closed down.

Today, Lucea holds a few attractive sights - the compact Hanover Museum, historic Courthouse and well-preserved Fort Charlotte to name only a few. What most attracts visitors, however, are Lucea's splendid beaches - stretches of white sand that dominate the coastal bay area with plenty of active water pursuits to offer holidaymakers. Apart from those, Lucea is known for its several natural waterfalls.

A short drive outside of Lucea lie the larger towns of Negril (with it's not-to-be missed venue called Rick's Café) and Montego Bay (known, among others, for its famous Doctor's Cave Beach). Jamaica is a rather compact island, so exploring much of what it has to offer is very doable with Lucea as a point of departure.

DO & SEE



CREATISTA/Shutterstock.com

The tiny scenic town of Lucea is primarily a beach resort destination, with beach activities and water sports topping the list of things on most visitors' to-do lists. Try windsurfing, snorkeling or kite-surfing, or opt for a rather unique excursion where one gets to dash directly through the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean while on horseback (multiple local agencies offer guided tours). Elsewhere on the island stunning beaches, cascade waterfalls and multiple active pursuits await.

Fort Charlotte



Fort Charlotte was built in 1746 to protect Jamaica's northwest from naval attacks. It was given the name "Fort Charlotte" in honor of

King George III's marriage to queen Charlotte and enjoyed a reputation of being one of the best-kept forts in Jamaica.

Photo: Aleksey Stemmer/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lucea, Jamaica



The Court House



Lucea's most striking landmark is the Court House, a grand clock tower its signature aspect. It was dispatched to St. Lucia in 1817, but

an error in delivery saw it landing in Lucea. The residents grew fond of it and refused to send it on to St. Lucia, keeping it a local landmark to this day.

Photo: Paul Matthew Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: Main Square, Lucea

Hanover Parish Church



The Hanover Parish Church was constructed in 1725 on the ruins of an older Spanish church. The church's steeple was taken down after it

sustained serious damage from an earthquake in 1957. It is widely believed that an underground tunnel connects the church to Fort Charlotte.

Photo: PublicDomainPictures / pixabay.com

Address: Lucea, Jamaica

Coleman K Jammin Jamaica Tours



Kevin Coleman and his staff provide guests with quality taxi and tour services throughout the Lucea area. Apart from airport transfers, the

company offers a variety of tours, including a Bob Marley Nine Mile Tour, visiting the Dunn and Mayfield Falls, Blue Hole Mineral Spring (Negril) Tour, river rafting and more.

Photo: Steven Frame/Shutterstock.com

Address: West End, Negril Westmoreland

Phone: +1 876 378 8555

Internet: www.colemankjamminjamaicatours.com

Reggae Horseback



A horseback tour through crystal blue waters is a once-in-a-lifetime experience made possible by the Reggae Horseback . Even those who have

never ridden a horse before are welcome to join instructors will show you the ropes and provide professional guidance through land and sea.

Photo: Romiana Lee/Shutterstock.com

Address: Orange Bay, Lucea Phone: +1 878 834 3100 Internet: www.justoursja.com

Croydon on the Mountains



The working citrus and pineapple plantation of Croydon is nestled in the foothills of Catadupa Mountains, which makes for a breathtaking

panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. Journey into the majestic, mountainous country, where lush vegetation, wild flowers, and bubbling waterfalls await.

Photo: Kyle McDonald / Flickr (image cropped)

Address: Catadupa, Montego Bay

Phone: +1 876 979 8267

Internet: www.croydon plantation.com

More Info: BBQ lunch and fruit sampling included



Doctor's Cave Bathing Club



One of Jamaica's finest white sand beaches is the famous Doctor's Cave Bathing Club. The water here is high in mineral content and is claimed to

have curative properties - an observation first established by a reputable British osteopath in the early 20th century.

Photo: CO Leong/Shutterstock.com

Address: Gloucester Avenue, Montego Bay

Phone: +1 876 952 2566

Internet: www.doctorscavebathingclub.com

Dunn's River Falls



Dunn's River Falls, at
Ocho Rios, is one of
Jamaica's best-known
attractions located a 2
hour journey way from
Lucea. Visitors can swim

in the pool at the foot of the falls while the more daring guests can climb the waterfall in a human chain led by experienced Falls Guides.

Photo: CO Leong/Shutterstock.com Address: Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Opening hours: Daily: 8:30am - 4pm

Phone: +1 876 974 2857

Internet: www.dunnsriverfallsja.com Email: dunnsriver@udcja.com

Half Moon Golf Club



Designed by Robert Trent Jones, the spacious Half Moon Golf Course is known for its challenges. This one can be a tough nut for first-timers, so do

take advantage of the caddies' tips. The 535-yard 3rd hole and relatively short 362-yard 4th hole

are world-famous.

Photo: Konstantin Sutyagin/Shutterstock.com

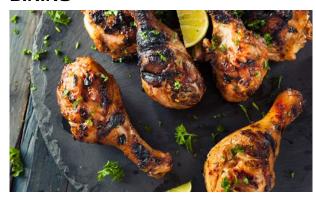
Address: Rose Hall, Montego Bay

Phone: +1 888 830 5974

Internet: www.halfmoon.rockresorts.com

More Info: Half Moon Resort

DINING



Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock.com

Savor the island's rich cultural history through its food. Lucea itself is scarce for dining venues, but venturing to nearby Negril and Montego Bay will provide a wealth of dining options, with the traditional Jamaican "jerk chicken" (as well as other meats and seafood prepared on grill) available at every corner at street food vendors' stalls and finer, sit-in establishments. Do not skip on the Jamaican patties - a variety of local fast food (coco bread stuffed with various fillings) and make sure to sample the local ackee fruit and saltfish.

Poseidon



Located at the Grand
Palladium Lady Hamilton
Resort & Spa, Poseidon is
an elegant restaurant
that serves a wide
selection of á la carte

dishes with a heavy emphasis on seafood. Enjoy their offerings in the breezy outdoor terrace with sweeping sea vistas.



Photo: svariophoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Building 27, Lucea

Opening hours: Daily: 5:30pm - 9:45pm

Phone: +1 876 620 0000

More Info: Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton Resort & Spa

Vitalital



The Vitalital restaurant right off Lucea's main road is run by Rastafarian owners who place special emphasis on food ingredients. The place is

a true heaven for vegetarians and vegans meat-free dishes reign king here and come in multiple delicious varieties.

Photo: HLPhoto/Shutterstock.com Address: Seaview Drive, Lucea Phone: +1 876 956 2218

Best in the West Jerk Chicken



This roadside shack-type establishment makes up in food quality for what it may lack in refinement.

Try the chicken or any other of the grilled meats

and/or seafood dishes, and order a drink at the stand bar to go along - all at very affordable prices. Open mid-morning until late at night.

Photo: Pressurepics/Shutterstock.com Address: Norman Manley Boulevard, Negril

Juici Patties



You can always count on a succulent patty from Jamaica's own Juici Patties. The chain is Jamaica's version of McDonald's, yet

quintessentially Jamaican and influenced by local

flavors. The patties themselves are a hot pocket-type food (layered dough with various stuffings).

Photo: Jason Lam / Flickr (image cropped) Address: Shop 4 Seaview Drive, Lucea

Phone: +1 876 956 3657 Internet: www.juicipatties.com

Murphy's West End Restaurant



Murphy's is a warm, family-run jerk restaurant in Negril that is heralded as one of the best eateries around. Enjoy a menu of barbecue,

Caribbean favorites, seafood, Jamaican soul food and more for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The restaurant offers some unusual takes on well-known Jamaican classics.

Photo: kuvona/Shutterstock.com Address: Lighthouse Road, Negril Opening hours: Daily: 8am - 10pm

Phone: +1 876 367 0475

The Houseboat Grill



The Houseboat Grill is nestled withing the waters of the Montego Bay Marine Park Fish Sanctuary. Try the legendary surf and turf of

lobster and beef tenderloin that come with a side of butter-roasted vegetables. Choice of seating ranges from a downstairs area to waterfront dining to open-air deck.

Photo: Alexander Raths/Shutterstock.com Address: Sunset Boulevard, Montego Bay Opening hours: Daily: 4:30pm - 11pm

Phone: +1 876 979 8845

Internet: www.thehouseboatgrill.com Email: houseboat@cwjamaica.com



Day O Plantation Restaurant



Day O Plantation Restaurant boasts a stunning location in the tropical hills 3 miles west of Montego Bay City, and serves some of the finest

examples of Jamaican and international cuisine.
The Restaurant is operated by well known
musician Paul Hurlock and is a popular venue for
larger celebrations.

Photo: Elena Elisseeva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Montego Bay, Jamaica Phone: +1 876 952 1825

Internet: www.dayorestaurant.com

Email: dayoplantationrestaurant@outlook.com

More Info: Lot 1 Fairfield

Mystic India



Embark on a mystical journey of authentic Indian cuisine at Mystic India. Considered to be the "ambrosia" (food of the gods) of Montego

Bay, the restaurant is always teeming with hungry guests. The restaurant's menu options present a pleasing alternative to omnipresent Jamaican classics.

Photo: Foodio/Shutterstock.com

Address: Whitter Village, Ironshore, Montego Bay

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 11pm

Phone: +1 876 422 4301

Internet: www.fingerprints.co.in/mysticindia

Email: mysticindia2009@gmail.com

Pier One on the Waterfront



Pier One on the Waterfront is Jamaica's hippest open-air seafood restaurant, bar, and entertainment center. A favorite with visitors and

locals, Pier One offers great Caribbean sunsets and tropical panoramic views of the bay. At night, the space is transformed into a lively dance party venue.

Photo: Thoom/Shutterstock.com

Address: Howard Cooke Boulevard, Montego Bay

Opening hours: Monday - Tuesday & Thursday: 11am - 12am; Wednesday & Friday: 11am - 4am; Saturday - Sunday: 11am -

11pm

Phone: +1 876 952 2452

Internet: www.pieronejamaica.com Email: info@pieronejamaica.com

The Pelican Restaurant



Located on the Hip Strip is The Pelican Restaurant - a dining establishment beloved by the locals. Try their steamed red snapper with okras and

bammy, ackee and salted codfish with boiled green bananas, as well as yam and fried johnny cakes. Desserts include sweet potato and bread pudding.

Photo: vsl/Shutterstock.com

Address: Gloucester Avenue, Montego Bay

Opening hours: Daily: 7am - 11pm

Phone: +1 876 952 3171

Internet: www.pelicangrillja.com



Pork Pit



Right in the heart of Montego Bay near Walter Fletcher Beach is Pork Pit: the best place to go for Jamaica's famous jerk pork and jerk chicken.

Many beach-goers head over at noon for a generous, reasonably priced lunch. The menu also includes steamed/roasted fish.

Photo: webandi/Pixabay.com

Address: Gloucester Avenue, Montego Bay

Opening hours: Sunday - Thursday: 11am - 10pm; Friday -

Saturday: 11am - 12am Phone: +1 876 940 3008

Sugar Mill Restaurant



Located at the Half Moon in Rose Hall, the Sugar Mill Restaurant serves Jamaican, Caribbean, and international cuisine. If you are staying at the

Sandals royal, Coyaba, Holiday Inn, Rose Hall Resort and Country Club, or the Ritz-Carlton, the restaurant will offer free shuttle service.

Photo: Sarah Marchant/Shutterstock.com Address: Rose Hall, Montego Bay, St. James

Opening hours: Daily: 6pm - 10pm

Phone: +1 876 953 2211

Internet: www.halfmoon.rockresorts.com

Email: concierge@halfmoon.com More Info: Located at Half Moon

CAFES



GongTo/Shutterstock.com

Cafés are rather scarce in Lucea itself, although local hotels do have a number of light dining establishments on premises. When in Jamaica, do not skip on sampling the locally grown Blue Mountain Coffee that ranks amongst the finest in the world and is known for its lack of bitterness and a fine, mild taste.

Scotchies



Those based in Lucea often opt for making the trip to Scotchies - a well-known, reputable local favorite, frequented by both residents and

visitors. The café (which some call a must-try) offers in- and outdoor seating and some of the finest jerk chicken/pork dishes around.

Photo: Foodio/Shutterstock.com Address: Montego Bay, Jamaica Phone: +1 876 953 8041

Just Natural



Serving barbecue and vegetarian delights for breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner, the cafe is nestled amongst garden greenery. Food served



includes traditional Jamaican delights which include meat, chicken and seafood accompanied with fresh vegetables and rice.

Photo: jreika/Shutterstock.com Address: Hylton Avenue, Negril Phone: +1 876 957 0235

Zimbali Retreats



Zimbali's "farm-to-table" Cooking Tour is a true cultural experience. A 20 minute drive from Negril, the mountain retreat is located on an Organic

Farm. They serve guests and visitors delightful creations such as: Coconut Sushi, Steamed Fish in Banana Leaves and Bananas Foster.

Photo: grafvision/Shutterstock.com Address: Canaan Mountain, Negril

Phone: +1 876 252 3232

Internet: www.zimbali-retreats.com

The Coffee-n-Crème Café



When in Whitter Village, the Coffee-n-Crème Café is the place to go for freshly brewed Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee and an assortment of

delicious treats. Light foods, such as salads, sandwiches and wraps are served, along with fruit smoothies and ice creams.

Photo: Nina Buday/Shutterstock.com

Address: Whitter Village Centre, Montego Bay

Opening hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am - 8pm; Friday -

Saturday: 9am - 10pm; Sunday: 12am - 8pm.

Phone: +1 876 953 4588

Internet: www.thecoffeencremecafe.vpweb.com

Email: in fo@the coffeencreme cafe.com

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Dasha Petrenko/Shutterstock.com

Most nightlife in Lucea revolves in and around the two major resort hotels - the Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton and Grand Palladium Jamaica. Each houses a number of bars and lounges (as well as in-house casinos) that cater to a potpourri audience of holiday-makers. If you don't mind venturing out to nearby Negril or Montego Bay, you'll be duly rewarded with a wider selection of establishments and a somewhat livelier nightlife scene.

Rick's Café



This local hot spot sits on the far west end of Jamaica and boasts incredible, breathtaking views. Jumping from the 30-foot cliffs down into

the crystal clear water is part of the fun and an activity many part take in. Serves food and a variety of drinks.

Photo: Cor Meenderinck/Shutterstock.com

Address: West End Road, Negril Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 2am

Phone: +1 876 957 0380

Internet: www.rickscafejamaica.com Email: info@rickscafejamaica.com



Miss Lou Bar



The Grand Palladium
Resort & Spa provides
much of the nightlife
action in Lucea, with Miss
Lou bar among others. Its
colonial style decor keeps

things classy for those looking to treat themselves to premium, top-shelf drinks. Offers a wide selection of board games.

Photo: Evgeny Starkov/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Point, Lucea

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 11pm

Phone: +1 876 620 0000

Internet: www.grandpalladiumjamaicaresort.com

Bar Sunset Cove



Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa continues its string of nightlife options with the Sunset Cove Bar. Located next to Sunset Cove beach, the

bar is a relaxed beach-side venue offering beautiful vistas of the crystal-blue Jamaican waters and an extensive selection of drinks.

Photo: Nan Palmero/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Point, Lucea

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 5pm

Phone: +1 876 620 0000

Sport Bar



For televised sports broadcasts stop by the Sport Bar located at the Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa. Enjoy an extensive selection of

drinks and whet your appetite with a variety of snacks. Please note the dress code (shirt and shoes mandatory, no wet swimwear allowed). Photo: BlueSkyImage/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Point, Lucea Opening hours: Daily: 9am - 7am

Phone: +1 876 620 0000

More Info: Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa

Infinity Saloon Bar



Grab a drink and head straight to the outdoor terrace at Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa's Infinity Saloon Bar. The seating area

offers unbeatable, 180-degree Caribbean sea vistas. Enjoy drink service and live music every night from 9:30pm to 12am.

Photo: GDmitry/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Point, Lucea

Opening hours: Daily: 10am - 12:30pm

Phone: +1 876 620 0000

Internet: www.grandpalladiumjamaicaresort.com

More Info: Located at Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa

SHOPPING



taki Lau/Flickr (image cropped)

Shopping in Lucea itself revolves around the Saturday market, when vendors set up stalls all through the town's streets. Items on sale include a variety of fruit and vegetables, local arts, crafts, and souvenirs. For a wider selection of goods head to the neighbouring settlements of Negril and Montego Bay, where crafts markets side with a few shopping malls. Local specialty



items include hand-made jewellery, wood carvings, original artwork, Blue Mountain Coffee, rum, Bob Marley memorabilia and cooking spices.

Lucea Market



For an authentic local shopping experience, hit the town streets on any given Saturday when a multitude of local vendors set up shop throughout.

Shop for fresh produce, seafood, fruit and vegetables, exotic snacks or even local crafts to bring home - all aplenty at the busy stalls.

Photo: Chubykin Arkady/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lucea

Time Square Mall



The Time Square Mall in Negril is known for its luxury goods and traditional souvenirs, including cigars and jewelry. Several duty-free

shops and multiple souvenir stores await you, and shopping breaks may be taken at a refreshing courtyard café. Prices may vary significantly from one store to the next.

Photo: wandee 007/Shutter stock.com

Address: Norman Manley Boulevard, Negril Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 9am - 6pm

Phone: +1 876 957 9263

The Boardwalk Village



The shops at The Boardwalk Village offer local products from artists who make their own souvenirs, carvings, jewelry, and clothing

using locally sourced materials such as wood, bamboo, and coconut husk. They are often seen carving or painting a new piece.

Photo: David Amsler/Flickr (image cropped) Address: Norman Manley Boulevard, Negril Internet: www.theboardwalkvillagenegril.com

More Info: The Boardwalk Village

Shoppes at Rose Hall



The beautiful Shoppes at Rose Hall beckon eager visitors. The array of goods includes local arts, crafts and souvenirs. Be sure to visit the Blue Café

for wonderful treats and free Wi-Fi. Many make this a destination after docking from cruise ships.

Photo: ms. Octopus/Shutterstock.com Address: Rose Hall, Montego Bay

Opening hours: Monday - Saturday: 10am - 6pm

Phone: +1 876 953 3245

Montego Bay Freeport Shopping Center



The shops at Montego
Bay Freeport Shopping
Center are frequented by
cruise ship passengers
during day-stops in
Jamaica. The type of

goods is similar from one store to the next - items on sale include arts, crafts, clothing, souvenirs, jewellery and the like. Local eateries abound.



Photo: Kar Tr/Shutterstock.com Address: Harbour, Montego Bay

The Craft Market at the Hip Strip



The Craft Market at the Hip Strip is filled with art, souvenirs, and crafts. Plenty an artistic gem are to be found here, including carved wood

pieces, paintings, handbags, jewellery, and much more. Respectful haggling is expected; shop around before making the final purchase.

Photo: Christina Xu/Flickr (image cropped) Address: Howard Cooke Boulevard, Montego Bay

City Centre Shopping Mall



For duty free shopping, head straight to City Centre Shopping Mall in Montego Bay. Over 20 shops offering perfumes, watches, jewellery,

figurines, leather goods, duty free liquors, souvenirs, and much more are housed within its walls. Despite the comparatively formal setting, haggling is often acceptable.

Photo: LuckyImages/Shutterstock.com Address: Fort Street, Montego Bay

Crafts Market



The Crafts Market in
Montego Bay is one of
many on the island
perfect for local
souvenirs. The vendors do
tend to be slightly

aggressive in their effort to sell, but don't hesitate to decline. As elsewhere in Jamaica, prices may be significantly reduced by negotiation.

Photo: GWImages/Shutterstock.com Address: Harbour Street, Montego Bay

TOURIST INFORMATION



Verena Matthew/Shutterstock.com

Sangster International Airport



The closest major airport to Lucea isthe Jamaican Sangster International Airport (MBJ). This airport in Montego Bay is located 47 km (30 miles)

away from the center of Lucea.

Getting to and from the airport is usually either offered by the resort and/or tour-operator, pre-arranged with a local transfer company or sorted out upon arrival. There are multiple stands offering transfer services inside the airport building (inquire about the prices for shared vans to particular destinations); the taxi stand can be found directly outside the airport.

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Montego Bay, Jamaica Phone: +1 876 952 3124

Internet: www.mbjairport.com



Public Transport



The most cost-efficient (yet least comfortable) way of getting around the island is using the public buses and minibuses ("coasters", with the

initials PPV or JUTA (for tourists only) clearly on display). These normally do not run on set time schedules and depart when full. Transportation generally passes through a town's/village's main market/station area, and most vehicles can be flagged down from the side of the road. Make sure to yell out a request for a stop when you wish to get off.

Route taxis (often white Toyota Corolla cars, with "route taxi" indicated on the door) are another way of getting around. They operate on a basis similar to minibuses but are smaller, faster and more comfortable. These start from a town's terminal and pick up passengers along the way, unless you clearly specify you wish to hire one for personal use - price will go up accordingly.

Alternatively, consider hiring a driver/transport service from a resort or hotel and let them do the driving; rates are comparable to a rental car company with insurance.

Photo: Jonathan Li

Taxi



There are two types of taxi service in Jamaica: charter taxis and route taxis. Charter taxis are privately hired taxis that take you directly to your

destination. Route taxis will stop and pick

up/drop off anyone along their route. Route taxis will have a sign on the side of the taxi listing their route. If you need to go to a location past the end of their route, you will need to transfer to a different taxi that goes to that location.

All officially registered taxis in Jamaica are marked with the PPV sign or are members of the Jamaican Union of Travellers Association (JUTA) - an indication of this will be normally displayed on each individual car.

Some companies based in Lucea that provide taxi services include:

Montego Bay Airport Transfers Jamaica +1 876 429 8664

Clive's Transport Service +1 876 956 2615

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post

Lucea Post Office



Photo: Andy Fuchs

Address: Main Street, Lucea

Opening hours: Monday - Friday: 8am - 5pm

Internet: www.jamaicapost.gov.jm



Pharmacy



Seaview Pharmacy Main Street Lucea, Jamaica +1 876 956 2537 Family Care Pharmacy Midtown Mall, Main Street Lucea, Jamaica +1 876 926 2454

Photo: Gemma Garner

Telephone



Country code: +1 Area code in Lucea: 876

Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity



Electricity outlets in Jamaica are 110-120 volts.

Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population

5,739

Currency

The currency of Jamaica is the Jamaican Dollar. 1J\$ = 100cents. The US dollar is widely accepted in most tourist locations.

Internet

Jis.gov.jm www.visitjamaica.com

Newspapers

Daily Star Jamaica Gleaner Jamaica Herald Jamaica Observer

Emergency numbers

119 or 911

Tourist information

Jamaica Tourist Board 64 Knutsford Boulevard Kingston, Jamaica + 1 876 929 9200 www.visitjamaica.com