

Jamaica

Also known as:

“Land of Wood and Water”
(Root: Xaymaca (Arawak)) (Source: Caribbean Islands Handbook (Footprint Handbooks), 8th edition)

Motto:

“Out of Many, One People”

Location:

In the Caribbean Sea, 145 km (90 miles) south of Cuba and 160 km (100 miles) west of Haiti.

Economic Summary:

Tourism is the main source of foreign exchange. The manufacturing sector is the second largest after distribution. Activities include the processing of sugar, food, beverages and tobacco, as well as production of chemicals, metals and construction material, and the assembly of electrical appliances and apparel. Bauxite, however, is the principal industry and Jamaica ranks as the third largest producer of bauxite, after Australia and Guinea. Agriculture, forestry and fishing also contribute to Jamaica's foreign exchange earnings.

Airports:

Norman Manley International
Donald Sangster International

Status:

Independent - 6 August 1962

Head of State:

**The Most Honourable Patrick Linton Allen, ON,
GCMG, CD - Governor General**



Head of Government:

**The Most Honourable Portia Simpson – Miller
Prime Minister**

Date of Birth: 12 December 1945

Marital Status: Married

Education:

Degree in Public Administration, Union Institute, Miami Florida

Diploma in Computing, Programming and Public Relations
Awarded Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the
Union Institute

Professional/ Political Life:

December 2011: Elected Prime Minister
September 2007 - December 2011:
Leader of the Opposition
March 2006 - September 2007:
Prime of Minister of Jamaica
February 2006 - Elected President of the People's National
Party and Prime Minister designate; Minister of Local
Government, Community Development & Sport
October 2002 - 2006:
Minister of Labour Government and Sports
February 2006: Elected President of the People's National
Party and Prime Minister designate ;Minister of Local
Government, Community Development & Sport
October 2002 – 2006: Minister of Local Government and
Sport
February 2002 – 2002: Minister of Tourism and Sport
February 2000: Minister of Labour, Social Security and
Sports
1993-1995:Minister of Labour and Welfare
1989 – 1993:Minister of Labour, Welfare and Sports
1983 – 1989:PNP Spokesperson on Women's Affairs,
Pension, Social Security and Consumer Affairs,
Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister
Parliamentary Secretary in the Minister of Local
Government, Member of Parliament for South West
St. Andrew.

Population: 2,644,600 (2004)

Currency: Jamaica Dollar

Date of CARICOM Membership: 1 August 1973

National Anthem: **Jamaica Land We Love**

Eternal Father bless our land,
Guard us with Thy Might Hand

Keep us free from evil powers,
Be our light through countless hours.

To our Leaders Great Defender,
Grant true wisdom from above.
Justice, Truth be ours forever,
Jamaica, Land we love.
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.

Teach us true respect for all,
Stir response to duty's call,
Strengthen us the weak to cherish,
Give us vision lest we perish.

Knowledge send us Heavenly Father,
Grant true wisdom from above.
Justice, Truth be ours forever,
Jamaica, Land we love.
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love

(Words by Hugh Sherlock; music by Robert Lightbourne)

Highest National Award:

Order of the National Hero

National Dish:

Ackee and Salt – fish

National Symbols:



Coat of Arms



National Flower



National Flag