

How to Plan a Family Vacation to Jamaica on a Budget

If you have ever wanted to take an amazing tropical vacation, consider the paradise that is Jamaica for your next family getaway. You don't have to be rich to explore the pleasures of this island; you just need to find the best deals so that you can plan your Jamaican family vacation even if you are on a budget.

If you are ready to take a great trip to Jamaica, your best bet is to search for discounted airline tickets. Many people cruise to Jamaica, but this can get prohibitively expensive if you are on a budget. Further, a flight to Jamaica from most places in the United States takes mere hours, leaving you free to explore the island at your leisure for the remainder of your vacation. There are a number of websites that you can explore to find your least expensive tickets at different seasons throughout the year.

To travel inexpensively you must plan early. You may need to do some searching, but you can find good budget travel planning web sites to assist you. If your children are very young, an overnight flight may be a good idea for them, so don't overlook the cost saving benefits of a redeye flight if you live far enough away to make this a viable option.

Frequent flyer rates can help decrease or even negate the price of your flight, but don't underestimate their power at the hotel as well. Did you know that some hotels or motels give you discounts for your miles? Prices at hotels change by the season, so check out the hotel prices during the off season for your best deal. While you may wish to travel during the summer when your kids are out of school, consider that this is also a prime vacation time for college students and many others, and prices may increase dramatically. If you look for off-season vacation specials, and travel either to or from the hotel during the week instead of the weekend, the rates will tend to drop a bit.

Online, you can use a travel website to find deals, or check out hotel guides to Jamaica online. This can offer an advantage over a direct call to the hotel's front desk, because many of them post better prices online as they are trying to encourage customers to use their online booking services. Conversely, you may want to double-check with the hotels directly after you see a rate quoted on an unrelated discount travel site, to see if the rates that the actual hotel quotes you are better than those offered on the online travel websites.

If you are truly feeling adventurous, check out some of the many bed and breakfast inns Jamaica has to offer. You will find a wonderful way to vacation with your family in a comfortable and exciting atmosphere. B&Bs, as they are typically called, allow you to room in private, usually quite 'homey' quarters while having home-cooked meals with all of the other guest residents of the bed and breakfast. Breakfast, as the name implies, is included and sometimes other meals can be purchased as well. You can learn much more about the Jamaican culture by mingling with the Jamaican people, and there is no better way to do this than at a B&B in Jamaica.

Finding the best places to shop can be a challenge without the aid of a local guide. Ask around for the best stores, the best deals, and even a local grocer. If you are willing to prepare basic meals for your family, even just one meal a day, then you may be able to save a great deal of money on your Jamaica vacation as well. Of course, your lodging accommodations will determine whether you have the flexibility to prepare meals. If you are in an apartment or a condo you can take advantage of this cost-saving option rather than staying in a hotel.

Take time, also, to consider what area of the island attracts you, and where you want to spend your vacation. The places that are often crowded with tourists may have more amenities, but they are also likely to have higher prices. Visit some of the smaller local towns to get a true Jamaican flavor and a taste of paradise for your whole family without breaking the bank. You can have a wonderful vacation without visiting one of the resort towns; just think of all the things that there are to do in your own hometown and the surrounding areas outside of your nearest major metropolitan area!

There are plenty of activities for you and your family to enjoy in Jamaica without spending a penny. Enjoy the beach and swim in the sea for hours - or even days on end - if that is what your family loves to do to relax. You can listen to local musicians play (tips are appreciated) and take walks through the town to see all of the local points of interest. Check ahead of time to find out if any local museums are operating in the area - some of them may have free admission!

Planning is essential. If you plan ahead, you can get a great deal on a Jamaican vacation for your entire family that will offer you sunshine, sand, beautiful waters, culture, cool evening breezes and a unique flavor that is only Jamaica.

About the Author

Stephanie Larkin is a freelance writer who writes about topics pertaining to vacations and the travel industry such as [Jamaica Travel | Holidays in Jamaica](#)

