

G u l f o f M e x i c o Falmouth

GENERAL INTEREST You might not think so at first glance, but little Falmouth was an economic and shipping powerhouse and center for dramatic social change during the English Colonial Period. Founded and named Martha Brae Point in 1769 by local English planter, Thomas Reid, Falmouth became the transshipment hub for the sugar plantations covering the hills of the North Coast of Jamaica. Edward Barrett, a wealthy English planter, strongly influenced the early development of Falmouth. From the wharfs of Falmouth, sugar, molasses, rum and coffee were sent to England while ships carrying African slaves and all the necessities of 18th century colonial life dropped anchor in the bustling port town.

Falmouth's Historic District is one of the few remaining English colonial-style areas to be found in the Caribbean. In order to protect historic buildings from demolition, in 1966 the government of Jamaica wisely declared the district to be a National Monument. In the intervening years the Falmouth Heritage Renewal Organization, the Falmouth Restoration Company, together with several U.S. and international universities, organizations and foundations have worked to preserve the architectural heritage and patrimony of Falmouth. The task is advancing slowly as international donations are received. Falmouth Heritage Renewal is thoughtfully training young local men in the arts of wood crafting, masonry and other long lost traditional skills in order to authentically restore historic buildings.

At its peak Falmouth was one of the busiest ports in Jamaica. Over time the harbor silted and shipping traffic relocated to Port Royal in Kingston Harbor on the south coast of Jamaica. Today Falmouth is a quiet town of 4,000 residents. The advent of a half-million visitors annually from cruise ships is bringing Falmouth to the attention of the world's historical societies. In 2009, for example, Charles, Prince of Wales visited Falmouth to explore and express his interest in and support of the historic preservation effort. The new cruise port was designed with a state-of-the-art infrastructure, while adopting Georgian-Era English architecture that blends seamlessly into historic Falmouth, Jamaica.

HISTORY On May 5, 1494 during the admiral's 2nd voyage to the New World Christopher Columbus and his men were the first Europeans to come ashore on Jamaica. Near the center of the island's north coast, originally named Santa Gloria Bay and now known as St. Ann's, Columbus and his men were first met by the Arawak Indians and their volley of spears and arrows. This was soon followed with peace offerings of fruit. Columbus thanked the Indians by promptly claiming their island in the name of Catholic Pope Alexander VI and King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. Though a small colony was later established, as Jamaica had no gold, the Spanish showed little real interest in the island.

In an effort to save face after a humiliating defeat in their attempt to drive the Spanish out of Hispaniola Island (modern Haiti and the Dominican Republic), on May 10, 1655 British Admiral William Penn (father to William Penn, founder of the Pennsylvania colony) and General Robert Venables sailed into what would later be named Jamaica's Kingston Harbor. The Spanish fled but first they freed their slaves who thereupon headed for the safety of Jamaica's mountains. The admiral and general quickly returned to England to give Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell and Parliament the good news. Cromwell was so impressed and grateful he ordered the two men immediately stripped of their commands and thrown into the Tower of London on charges of abandoning their posts. Coming to be called "Maroons", from their mountain redoubts the escaped slaves of Jamaica harassed and attacked English plantations and settlements late into the 1700s.



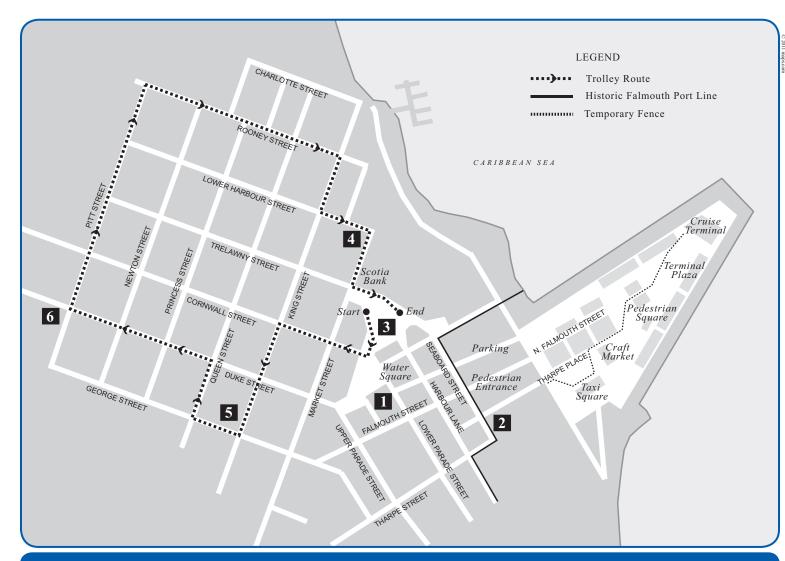
Falmouth



With the establishment of the English colony on Jamaica came the large sugar plantations, the importation of thousands of additional African slaves and eventually, English "privateers". It should be remembered; seen from the Spanish galleons trying to deliver gold and silver laden to the Spanish King, English privateers were in fact pirates funded by the English King in exchange for a percentage of the loot. The combination of sugar and piracy made Jamaica a tremendously valuable asset to the English Crown till nearly the middle of the 1800s. But as the Georgian Plantation Era evolved into the Victorian Industrial Age the Empire and Jamaica also evolved. The economics of the plantation

business was shrinking, especially when the slaves of Jamaica repeatedly rose in revolt against their masters.

On August 1, 1834 Britain's Parliament abolished slavery throughout the Empire. Transformation from bondage to freedom did not take place overnight. For the slaves of Jamaica a long, difficult and challenging transitional period followed. Over a century later, on August 6, 1962, Jamaica gained full independence from England and joined Britain's Commonwealth of Nations.



PLACES OF INTEREST

FALMOUTH PLACES OF INTEREST

Falmouth has one of the most intact historic districts in Jamaica as very little development occurred in the town over the past 100 years. A lack of government funds and other pressing social issues in Jamaica resulted in many years of benign neglect. In recent years work has fortunately been initiated to preserve and restore the Georgian-Era architecture which dates back to the 1700s. Much work remains to be undertaken but the growing interest and support of individuals, charities, organizations, corporate and governmental entities will slowly restore the patrimony of Historic Falmouth.

The Albert George Market was built in the late 1800s. Long before the physical structure was erected this was the area of town where slaves were first allowed to sell their extra produce. The cast iron structure was manufactured in the UK and delivered by ship. It did not take long for the town's merchants, artisans, local planters and visiting sailors to frequent the innovative new market. One of the interesting rules enforced by the "Clerk of the Market" was that up till 1:00 PM all fresh fish had to be sold on this site. After 1:00 fish could be sold in other parts of town.

The Tharp House was built by the most prominent local planter, John Tharp. Mr. Tharp was one of the wealthiest men in Jamaica

over charcoal. In Jamaica pork is often cooked in the same fashion. Curried Goat is marinated with chopped onions, garlic, fresh thyme, scallions, seeded and finely minced red Scotch Bonnet peppers and curry powder. Combined in a large pot and covered with a splash of vegetable oil and water, the meat is stirred and simmered until tender. Callaloo and Salt-fish is a tasty dish where the cod has been sautéed in a mixture of pepper, thyme, garlic, onion and olive oil and served with a helping of boiled callaloo, a large green leafy vegetable. Beef Patties are a filling of cooked onions, peppers, curry, chili sauce, garlic and ground beef wrapped and baked in dough. Blue Draws, sometimes called Duckunoos, is a desert which came over to Jamaica with The Barrett House belonged to one of the city's founding fathe slaves from West Africa. It is a combination of sweet potatoes, coconut, bananas, vanilla and brown sugar. It is cooked down into a thick pudding then individual portions are wrapped and tied in banana leaves and boiled.

having interests in many aspects of the sugar trade. This included his own wharf where ships (some of them his) arrived carrying merchandise and slaves while other ships sailed off to England with sugar and coffee grown on area plantations. 3 The Town Hall and Courthouse was originally built in the early 1800s. Not only did it serve as the seat of law and government, the elegance of the building provided the perfect setting for banquets and balls held for the entertainment of Falmouth's upper crust. The original structure was destroyed by fire and this accurate duplicate was built in the 1920s. thers, instrumental in the economic growth of Falmouth. Edward Barrett was a wealthy plantation owner with extensive business interests. Mr. Barrett was the great-grandfather of the famed 19th century

English Victorian Era poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Jamaica's Red Stripe beer was first brewed in the capital of Kingston The William Knibb Baptist Church was originally constructed in 1928. The cool, light and refreshing beer which so many enjoy toin the mid 1800s and rebuilt in the mid 1900s. William Knibb day was developed in the late 1930's. Ting Ginger Beer is popular for was an influential Baptist missionary and preacher from England its crisp, fresh taste. who, even under threat of arrest and death, did much towards securing SHOPPING FACILITIES The shops at the pier and the open market Britain's abolition of slavery in Jamaica and throughout the empire. Following complete emancipation in 1838 Rev. Knibb helped build in Falmouth have numerous vendors who offer a wide variety of handsettlements for newly freed slaves. When the country celebrated 150 made arts and crafts, jewelry and paintings. The fabrics and clothing years of freedom in 1988, William Knibb was posthumously awarded are colorful and of course there are always plenty of souvenirs. Many of the vendors will bargain with customers which is half the fun of Jamaica's Order of Merit, the nation's most distinguished civilian tribute. Reverend Knibb passed away at age forty-two. He and his family shopping in Jamaica. Remember, a smile and a friendly attitude will are laid to rest in the church cemetery. go a long way in helping to seal a nice deal.

St Peter's Anglican Church (England's State Church) was con-LOCAL CURRENCY The Jamaican dollar (JMD) is the country's • structed in the late 1700s. It was the first sanctuary to be built in currency. U.S. dollars and major credit cards are widely accepted. Falmouth and remains as one of the island's largest Anglican Churches. Until the mid 1830s no marriage could be ordained except by an POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE The Post Office is located at the Anglican minister and no slave could be baptized in the church withcorner of Cornwall and Market Streets. out the consent of the slave master.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Falmouth and the surrounding area we suggest you take one of our organized AT&T: 1.800.225.5288 Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pric-MCI: 1.800.888.8000 ing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Ex-TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Visitors Information facility cursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only available at the pier. necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

TRANSPORTATION The Falmouth tourist trolley offers a 30 minute LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Prices in stores are generally fixed. tour of Falmouth Town. Regular trolley departures leave from the Local craft vendors may bargain. Port Transportation Center. Please visit the Trolley kiosk at the Taxi Tipping: In restaurants you should add a 10-15% service charge. The Shelter building for departure times and to purchase tickets.

same percentage is appropriate for taxis or private guides, similar to the US.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES Jamaica's traditional cuisine is a combination of West African, English, East Indian, national highway connects with Ocho Rios (about 1 hour east), Mon-French and Chinese ... with a touch of Spanish mixed in for good meatego Bay (about 30 minutes west) and Negril (about 1 hour west). sure. A wide variety of delicious tropical fruit is grown on the island. LANGUAGE English is the official language of Jamaica. A local Jerk pork or chicken is undoubtedly the island's signature dish. There Creole dialect known as patois (a French word pronounced "pa-twa") are literally hundreds of different "jerk" recipes in Jamaica. Here are is widely spoken. Patois is a language which came about out of necessome favorite traditional dishes: Jerk Chicken has been marinated sity during the slave era of the 1600s. The language combines West in a mixture of chopped onions, garlic, red Scotch Bonnet peppers, and Central African dialects with English. It was the form of commupimento, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, salt and pepper then combined nication between African slaves and their English speaking masters. with orange and lime juice, soy sauce and olive oil and slowly grilled

Place a call with your personal calling card using the following access numbers:

Car rentals are available in port. Keep in mind; Jamaicans drive in the left lane, similar to the UK. Taxis are not always metered. Before heading to a specific destination agree with the driver on the fare. The