

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.

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.

4 The **Barrett House** belonged to one of the city’s founding fathers, 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.

5 The **William Knibb Baptist Church** was originally constructed in the mid 1800s and rebuilt in the mid 1900s. William Knibb was an influential Baptist missionary and preacher from England who, even under threat of arrest and death, did much towards securing Britain’s abolition of slavery in Jamaica and throughout the empire. Following complete emancipation in 1838 Rev. Knibb helped build settlements for newly freed slaves. When the country celebrated 150 years of freedom in 1988, William Knibb was posthumously awarded Jamaica’s Order of Merit, the nation’s most distinguished civilian tribute. Reverend Knibb passed away at age forty-two. He and his family are laid to rest in the church cemetery.

6 **St Peter’s Anglican Church** (England’s State Church) was constructed in the late 1700s. It was the first sanctuary to be built in Falmouth and remains as one of the island’s largest Anglican Churches. Until the mid 1830s no marriage could be ordained except by an Anglican minister and no slave could be baptized in the church without 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 Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Prices in stores are generally fixed. Local craft vendors may bargain.

Tipping: In restaurants you should add a 10-15% service charge. The 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, French and Chinese ... with a touch of Spanish mixed in for good measure. A wide variety of delicious tropical fruit is grown on the island. Jerk pork or chicken is undoubtedly the island’s signature dish. There are literally hundreds of different “jerk” recipes in Jamaica. Here are some favorite traditional dishes: Jerk Chicken has been marinated in a mixture of chopped onions, garlic, red Scotch Bonnet peppers, pimento, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, salt and pepper then combined with orange and lime juice, soy sauce and olive oil and slowly grilled

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 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.

Jamaica’s Red Stripe beer was first brewed in the capital of Kingston in 1928. The cool, light and refreshing beer which so many enjoy today was developed in the late 1930’s. Ting Ginger Beer is popular for its crisp, fresh taste.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The shops at the pier and the open market in Falmouth have numerous vendors who offer a wide variety of handmade arts and crafts, jewelry and paintings. The fabrics and clothing 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 shopping in Jamaica. Remember, a smile and a friendly attitude will go a long way in helping to seal a nice deal.

LOCAL CURRENCY The Jamaican dollar (JMD) is the country’s currency. U.S. dollars and major credit cards are widely accepted.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE The Post Office is located at the corner of Cornwall and Market Streets.

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

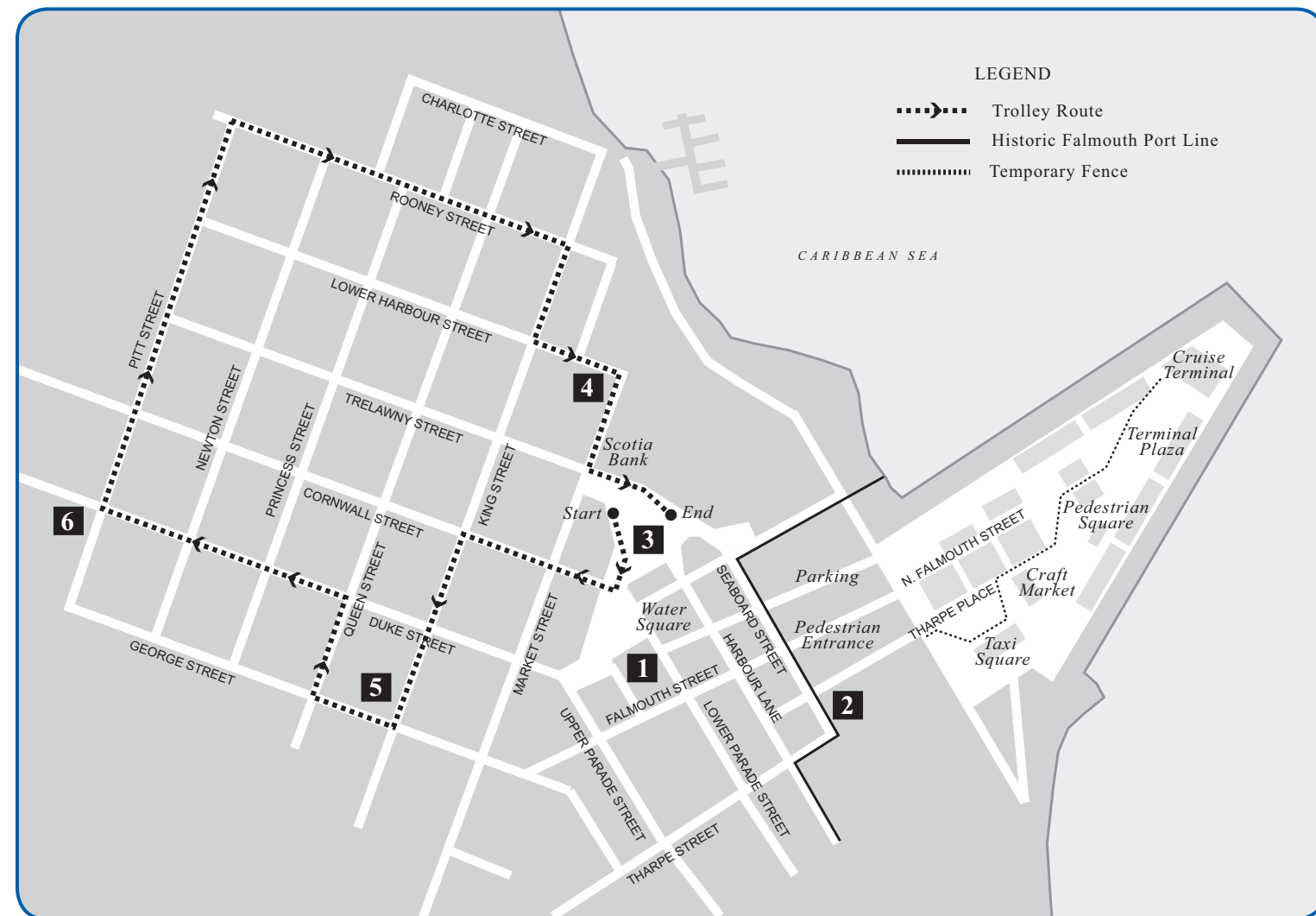
AT&T: 1.800.225.5288
MCI: 1.800.888.8000

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Visitors Information facility available at the pier.

TRANSPORTATION The Falmouth tourist trolley offers a 30 minute tour of Falmouth Town. Regular trolley departures leave from the Port Transportation Center. Please visit the Trolley kiosk at the Taxi Shelter building for departure times and to purchase tickets.

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 national highway connects with Ocho Rios (about 1 hour east), Montego Bay (about 30 minutes west) and Negril (about 1 hour west).

LANGUAGE English is the official language of Jamaica. A local Creole dialect known as patois (a French word pronounced “pa-twa”) is widely spoken. Patois is a language which came about out of necessity during the slave era of the 1600s. The language combines West and Central African dialects with English. It was the form of communication between African slaves and their English speaking masters.



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.

1 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.

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