

Esquire

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THE BARBER DOSSIER

Jamaica

The birthplace of Bond, Bolt and Bob (Marley, naturally) offers good food, great music and stunning scenery

→ "My wife went on holiday to the Caribbean." "Jamaica?" "No, she went of her own accord." So goes the old gag, and after reading this paean to possibly the most interesting island in the West Indies we hope you'll go of your own accord, too. So, what a' gwaan? Well, rum, rastas and reggae are three reasons that Jamaica is irie, but there's much, much more, including proper mountain ranges to explore, a strong James Bond connection and some fabulous places to eat. As Usain Bolt and Chris Gayle — two of the island's finest sons — might say: Jamaica is "all fruits ripe", meaning everything is tippity-top.

Tom Barber is a founder of the award-winning originaltravel.co.uk

Why now?

Because the biennial Calabash Literary Festival cranks up in May 2016 at [Jakes Hotel](#). It's the other end of the island from GoldenEye but worth a visit to hear the likes of Zadie Smith recite in a fun atmosphere more haywire than Hay-on-Wye. calabashfestival.org

Get there

Virgin flies to Montego Bay daily; British Airways flies to Kingston three times a week. virgin-atlantic.com; britishairways.com