

THE SUNDAY TIMES

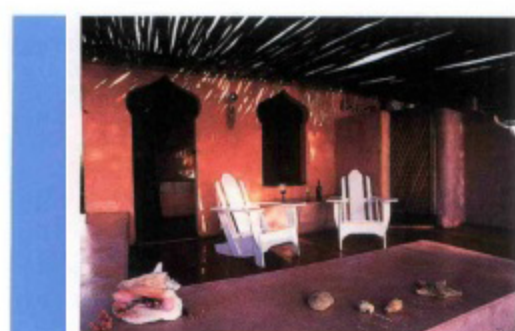
travel

magazine

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Best beds: *Jamaica*

Location, vibe or price? Whatever you want, we've got it sussed. Here's the how and why



The hippie one: *Jakes*

PRICE

Double rooms with garden views from £72, room only (best for families, as they can be connected), up to £265 suites **so close to the sea, you could dangle your toes in it** (001876 965 3000, jakeshotel.com).

LOCATION

On hippie *Treasure Beach*

on the island's undeveloped south coast.

THE VIBE

Lounging around the central pool you'll find **honeymooners, older hippies, and Jamaican veterans** after a more 'local' experience.

ROOMS

Think 'beach-reclaimed-luxe' — shells, sand-beaten bits of glass and **floaty fabrics lend a laid-back, artsy vibe to the decor**. But in the surf-side Octopus cottages, rooftop sunloungers provide a spot of glam.

FOOD & DRINK

Chilled-out Jack Sprat Shack does passable pizzas — and **phenomenal jerk crab**. The main restaurant has a changing menu of locally sourced delights (expect fish).

BEST THING

A zippy speedboat ride over to the Pelican Bar, on stilts out in the ocean. It's £60 for a transfer, but **drinking rum waist-high in the blue** can't be beat.



WORST THING

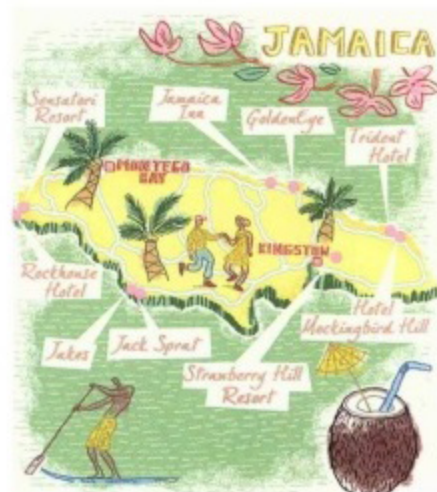
The blissfully remote location also means **you're darn far from just about everything else on the island**. Also, Treasure Beach is a misnomer — for sand, you have to walk down the coast.

TRAVEL'S TIP

Wi-fi is dodgy or non-existent in most rooms, so prepare to switch off — or hang out in the lobby or restaurant to get online.

Get me there

BA (ba.com) flies from Gatwick to Kingston, from £691 return. **Thomson** (thomson.co.uk) flies from Manchester, Birmingham and Gatwick to Montego Bay, on the northwest coast, from £619 return.



Or try...

£19 Jack Sprat

Because: This hostel off-shoot of **Jakes** in Treasure Beach gives you access to **Jakes'** spa and restaurant but at backpacker prices. Twin rooms from £68, shared bunks from £19, room only (001 876 965 3000, jackspratshack.com).