

Traveling Abroad to Jamaica

1. Required to enter Jamaica: A U.S. passport.
2. Two pieces of luggage may be checked. See your team's luggage requirements document for more details and specifics. Check at time of flights.
3. Immigration. On the flight to Jamaica, passengers will receive one document to fill out.
 - Remember to sign the back of your customs form as well as the front and fill in the departure information on the immigration form.
 - Fill in the place of stay, length and purpose of the trip. NOTE: For Mission Jamaica, the purpose of the trip is **vacation**.
 - The immigration officer will give you the bottom portion of the immigration document. DO NOT LOSE THIS CARD.
4. Customs. Some passengers' bags may be inspected. If asked the purpose of the contents, explain that you have some **donations** (*not gifts*), and you are with Mission Jamaica and that you will be volunteering at (*your team project site*). Avoid the word "WORK" when explaining your reason for visiting the country. We do not have "work" visas and we are not paid to be there.
5. Store all valuables, money, passports, airline tickets and Immigration card in the safety deposit box at the hotel(s).
6. Money. It is recommended to have the majority of your money in small bills or credit cards. Jamaicans do accept US dollars. Keep the exchange receipts to change Jamaican currency back into U.S. currency at the end of your trip if you exchange money. Before leaving, write down the numbers of your credit cards and airline tickets. Leave a copy at home and carry a copy with you, separate from the checks and cards.
7. Currency is in Jamaican dollars. The exchange rate is about \$151 Jamaican to \$1.00 U.S. This number does fluctuate and you can check current rates using online currency converters noting USD to JMD. Currency can be exchanged at the Jamaican airports or at some hotels if desired.
8. Be careful with your money as you would traveling anywhere in the world. Fanny packs money pouches or belts or neck holders may be used.
9. JUTA is the safest and preferred taxi on the island. Arrangements can be made to site-see on the "play days" at the resort guest services. Mission Jamaica ground transportation team offers "play day" tours as well.
10. The water is safe to drink. Some of the food is quite spicy (jerk chicken, pork, lobster, etc.) and may upset your stomach. Bring Imodium or Pepto Bismol.
11. Carry eyeglasses, contact lenses and medications with you on the plane. Prescription drugs must be in their original containers- not in a med. box or unlabeled container.