

KINGSTON

Jamaica



USS MULLANY CD 528

THIS IS KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Kingston, capital of the British colony of Jamaica and largest city of the British West Indies, is a beaming cross-roads city having a metropolitan population of 225,000.

The city is a conglomeration of old native ways and modern European and American influence. The language of Kingston, and the island of Jamaica as a whole, is English; but with a strange twist which combines the slurred native tongue with a heavy British accent. In some of the more outlying sections surrounding the city, visitors may find difficulty understanding the natives unless close attention is paid to their speech.

The population is heavily native and only about 25,000 American or British residents live in the city. Natives for the most part fill jobs, with American and British having ownership.

The British influence is by far the heaviest in the city, and well it might be, for Jamaica has been a British colony since 1670. The island, discovered by Columbus on 3 May 1494, was first a Spanish possession for more than a century and a half. England invaded the island in 1655, and Spain recognized it as an English colony in 1670.

Kingston itself, located on gently sloping ground between the harbour and the mountains which jut up to 7,000 feet in the background, has been virtually destroyed four times by fire and earthquakes. In addition, seven hurricanes have ripped it apart since 1912 with the latest, last August, leaving damages totaling more than \$50,000. Because of the hurricane threat, most of the construction is of concrete or stucco similar to southern Florida.

.....
hardest hit by that hurricane. Fort Royal, principal city of

the island until destroyed by earthquake and fire in 1692, was at one time the stronghold for pirates who plundered shipping in the Caribbean.

The main commercial streets of the city are King, Queen, Port Royal and Harbour. On the former are found most of the modern government buildings and historical sports of interest. Most of the principal streets are paved and allow for two-way driving, but the side streets are one-way and without side-walks, forcing pedestrian traffic to the sides of the street.

Unlike driving in the States, traffic in Kingston moves forward on the left side of the street.

Commercially, Kingston is best known as a tourist mecca and shipping port for the island. It's principal income is from sugar production, with the tourist trade coming a close second, especially since World War II.

LIBERTY HOURS --- and A RULE or TWO

Liberty on Saturday will commence about ten hundred, depending on arrival and money exchange. Liberty will expire at 0100 after the dance (but check the plan of the day.) Sunday Liberty will expire at 1600 (Also check the plan of the day.)

RULE I -- Each man may take two packages of cigarettes ashore--no more. This is a Jamaican regulation -- strictly enforced, and entirely reasonable. If required, American cigarettes can be purchased in Kingston for about forty cents per pack.

HOTELS

Minning, Dining and Dancing.

Unlike New York, the most interesting eating seems to take place in the latter hotels, where the prices are reasonable and service excellent. In fact, the accommodations of some of the hotels are so complete that many a sailor has seen no more of Jamaica than the Myrtle Bank Hotel.

Night clubs are not too costly, in general provide good music and weak drinks. They are, however, totally uninteresting without female companionship, though this company is not to be found at these places.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

Myrtle Bank Hotel -- Close to the ship, on Harbour Street -- Kingston's tourist center -- Higher prices -- swimming pool, bar, open terraces, cocktail lounge, good food. A pleasant, active place.

Manor House Hotel -- Six miles out at the foot of the mountains -- moderate prices -- eighteen hole golf course -- tennis courts -- bar -- good food. Quiet and enjoyable.

Mona Great House Hotel -- Six miles from ship -- good eating and drinking -- Off the beaten track.

Courtleigh Manor Hotel -- Three miles away.

South Camp Hotel -- Kingston's oldest -- in the center of town.

NIGHT CLUBS

Buccaneer Club -- Colorful atmosphere including tables over the Bay -- Cover charge -- Native floor show -- Wining and Dancing.

Silver Slipper -- of the top three -- floor show -- cover charge -- dancing and drinking.

Colony Club -- Best in town -- no cover, no minimum, no floor show -- Good bank, good dancing -- 2 miles from town.

RESTAURANTS

Dixie Doodle Luncheonette -- King Street.
Esquire Restaurant
Peggy Brown's -- King and Harbour
The Green Bowl -- Harbour Street
The Oleanders -- 101-103 Harbour Street

DOLLARS TO POUNDS AND SHILLINGS

Jamaica is British, and hence, deals in Pounds, Shillings, Florin and Pence. An easy rule to lessen confusion: Two shillings are roughly thirty cents; a pound is about three U. S. dollars.

U. S. currency will be exchanged for Jamaican--on board-- Saturday morning. Sunday afternoon, the pounds (if any are left) will be re-exchanged for U.S. dollars.

Approximate Exchange Rates:

One Pound or Twenty Shillings	(Green Note)	\$2.85
Half Pound or Ten Shillings	(Blue Note)	\$1.42
Quarter Pound or Five "	(Orange Note)	\$.71

Silver Coins

Half Crown (2 shillings, 6 pence)	\$.35
Florin (2 shillings)	\$.28
One Shilling	\$.14
Half Shilling	\$.06

THE PARTY AT MORGAN'S COVE (SATURDAY)

At the intersection of Spanish Town Road and Hadley Road is Morgan's Cove. This night club will be for our use alone; so feel free to have the best time since leaving the States.

Mrs. Leo De Lisser, the most kind benefactress of many thousands of navy people, has arranged our parties, both the dance on Saturday and the picnic on Sunday.

The price of admission includes transportation to and from the MULLANY, sandwiches, mixed drinks, including whiskey, gin and rum, beer, coca cola. There will be an orchestra, of course, and many charming girls. So -- don't miss your party.

THE PICNIC AT THE BEACH (SUNDAY)

Includes beer, coke, sandwiches, and games. Girls will also be invited to this affair.

PERTINENT INFORMATION

- WHAT
1. Ship's Dance on Saturday.
 2. Ship's Picnic on Sunday.

- WHERE
1. Morgan's Cove.
 2. Beach.

- WHEN
1. Saturday (2000-2400)
 2. Sunday (1100-1600)

NOTE
Exact expiration of liberty will be on the Plan of the Day.

- TRANSPORTATION
1. Yes (Will leave from ship --)
 2. Yes (exact time to be announced)

ISLAND TOURS -- A SUGGESTION

Jamaica is a beautiful island, Kingston its biggest city. Behind Kingston rise the famous Blue Mountains and behind the Blue Mountains stretching West -- miles of white sand beaches and resort towns.

There is much to see for those who would like to come away knowing more of Jamaica than its biggest city. Hope Gardens, Spanish Town, Bog Walk, Stony Hill, and Ocho Rios are some names of historic and picturesque places.

These side trips can be easily arranged at little expense. Groups of five, six or seven travel together, renting a car and driver for roughly four dollars (\$4.00) per person for a 120 mile round trip. Such an excursion will take from four to six hours including stops for sightseeing, lunch, a drink or two, and possibly some swimming.

Although there are many independent taxis available, the most reasonable and satisfactory arrangements can be made with McCaulay's Motor Service. McCaulay's is at 34 Duke Street, Phone 2505, and makes this sort of trip a specialty.

If interested -- see your division officer for details.

SHOPPING CENTER

At the corner of King and Harbour Streets, the crossroads of Kingston, are one or two good department stores and several smaller shops. Here English woolens, Irish linen, cashmere sweaters and articles of similar nature may be bought at very reasonable prices. This type of merchandise is heavily taxed when imported into the U.S.A., and purchase in Kingston saves the tax.

