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## Jamaica: livin' is easy


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JAMAICA — Reggae is the rhythm, rum is the refreshment and relaxation is the reason. Add to that, lush vegetation, friendly people with a charming leave-it-till-tomorrow outlook on life and you've got all the reason you need to take a vacation in Jamaica.

Some 90 miles off the south coast of Cuba, Jamaica covers 4,411 square miles of semi-flat to hilly to mountainous terrain. A nearly two million population inhabits this 50 by 150 mile tropical paradise.

Discovered in 1494 by Christopher Columbus, Jamaica has crossed many hurdles in its development and final step to complete independence on August 6, 1962. Recent political problems, which have been less public since December's election, did cause problems for the tourist industry, but visitors to the island will find that nothing happening politically will keep them from enjoying a happy, fun-filled vacation.

The most important thing to remember is while in Jamaica, do as the Jamaicans do. For the most common expression heard among Jamaicans is: "Soon come, mon," which means, roughly, "I'll be there as soon as I can," and that could mean anywhere from five minutes to five hours, depending on a dozen factors.

But visitors shouldn't

be upset over the slowed-down way of living. After all, you're on holiday so what's the hurry? And, when temperatures climb the scale to 80 degrees Fahrenheit in winter and 90 plus in summer, you won't much feel like hurrying anyway.

There's another thing visitors should be aware of if they intend to rent a car. Driving is on the left and roads are narrow; curvy and get hillier as you go inland. A gentle reminder to "remember to drive on the left" comes in the form of road signs spaced along all major routes. A short blast on the horn when snaking around some of the more pronounced curves on country roads, is a good rule of thumb. And remember — don't

try to negotiate the roads at the same pace the Jamaicans do — they're used to it.

Jamaica is an island which honestly and truly has something to offer everyone. Accommodation throughout runs the gamut from exclusive, luxury hotel resorts, which can cost \$50 to \$65 per day per person in winter, \$30 to \$40 in summer, to smaller, cozier guest houses and hotels. These can be as low as \$11 per day per person in summer to twice that in winter. One very charming way of spending a vacation there, is to rent a small grass hut, some of which are available near the village of Negril, the western most point of the island.

## King Tut exhibition awe-inspiring

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Now through March 15, the highlight of Washington sight-seeing is the Treasures of Tutankhamen at the National Gallery of Art, 6th street and Constitution Avenue, and admission is free.

Somewhat more restricted than the exhibition held in London a few years ago, it is still awe-inspiring to think that more than 3,000 years ago artisans had achieved such a level of creative ability.

Tutankhamen, a boy king who died in his late teens reigned from 1334 to 1325 B.C. and the discovery of his complex burial site was one of the world's greatest archaeological achievements.

In the 20s, the announcement of the discovery of the grave site and the opening of the tomb made this country Tut-mad — even fashion was influenced with Tut-this and Tut-that. There was even multi-colored Tut knitting wool that knitted up in stripes.

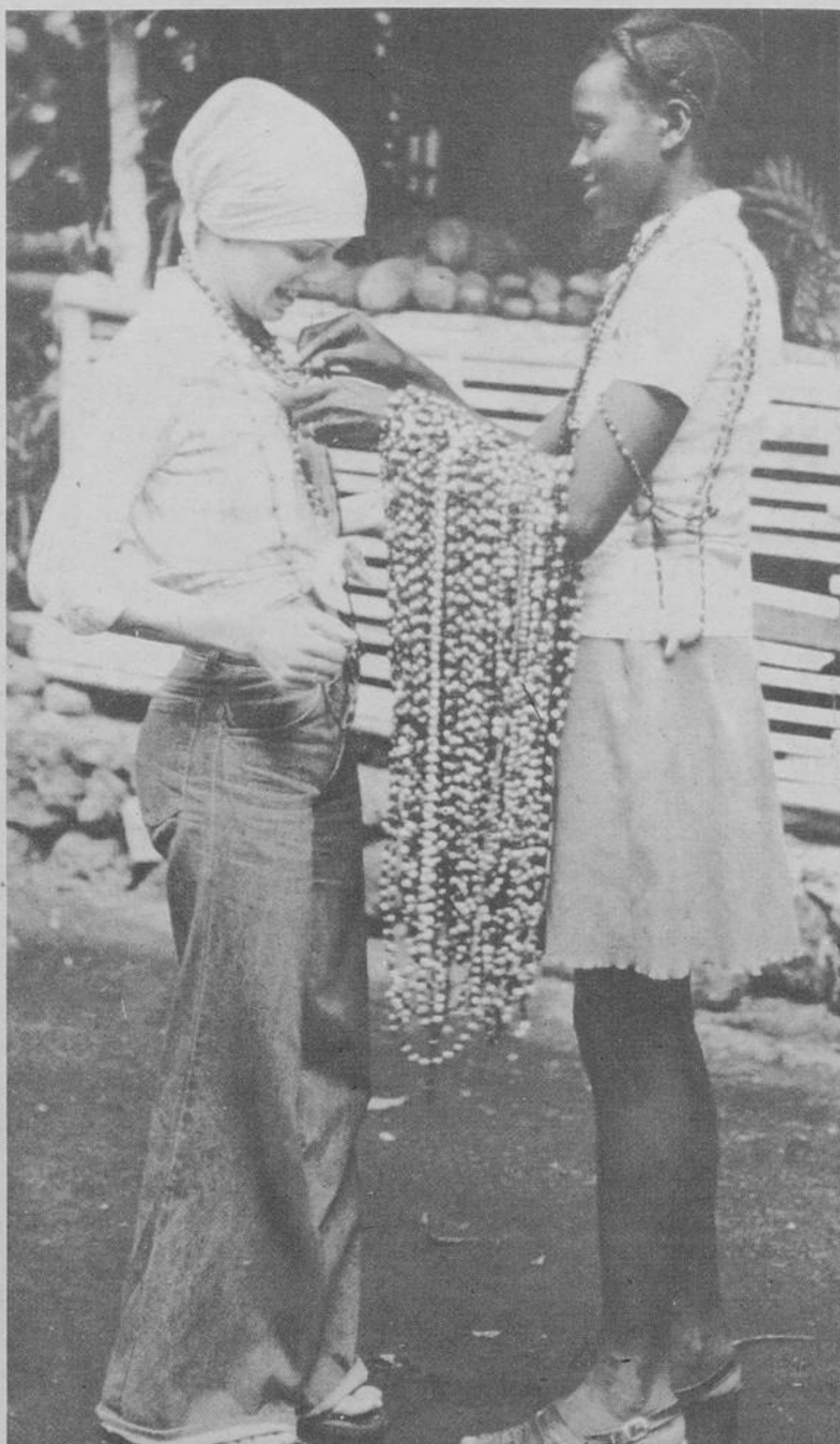
Observers are astonished that the photos showed what great quantities of goods had been stacked in the chambers — they seemed to be piled helter-skelter — foods, statues of gods and goddesses, drinking cups, a sword patterned in hieroglyphics, hunting equipment, a chair inlaid in ebony and ivory in the pattern of a leopard's skin, another entirely inlaid with ivory and overlaid with gold. Even statuettes called Shawabtyts were there to serve the dead pharaoh in the after-life.

Although most Egyptian sculpture of this period is highly stylized, there are some delightful small sculptures of Tutankhamen, as the teenager that he was, spearing fish and hunting with a bow.

Perhaps the most touching of all the sculptures was that of the goddess Selket who stands, arms spread, defending the gilded shrine which held the boy king's viscera.

Youngsters, on the whole, are fascinated. But, a word of warning: the display cabinets are chest-high for an adult, which means that six to eight year olds have to be lifted up. Many smaller children become tired and meddlesome.

The lineups seem endless; at least two hours, the guides warn.



## Jamaica souvenirs

Buying beads and other souvenirs is a favorite activity for visitors and, in Jamaica, roadside art and craft stands make it an enjoyable adventure. This Jamaican girl ties up a string of coffee bean beads for a visitor to Fern Gully, near Ocho Rios.

## Don't miss the tour

BARBADOS — No trip to Barbados would be complete without a tour of the island.

Pear-shaped, measuring 21 miles long by 14 wide, Barbados is an island packed with sight-seeing delights.

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## Clans to meet in Edinburgh this spring

EDINBURGH — the annual May Dawn Edinburgh is a beautiful city with its ancient castle atop a sheer cliff. service of worship at 5:30 a.m.

Obviously with thousands pouring into Edinburgh, it will be impossible to get tickets to all the reserved seat events a visitor might wish to attend.

But there's lots of free daily outdoor entertainment such as music and dancing in Princess Street Gardens and the traditional evening ceremony Beating Retreat, on the castle esplanade.

The castle and other important buildings will be flooded every night. Just to roam the streets any hour of the day or evening will be exciting.

The Clan Club in the handsome Assembly Rooms will be open every day for visitors to gather and meet friends. Daily admission is around \$1.25 (based on the British pound at \$1.70 Canadian), or \$4.25 for the week.

Major events will include performances in Usher Hall, a Fiddlers' Rally and also a fiddlers' concert with Scottish country dancing, choral and orchestral concert church choirs.

One event is certain to raise the roof — the ceremony, those with good lungs and legs will have climbed the steep rise to Arthur's Seat for performances.

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\*Prices shown are per person based on two sharing accommodations. Note: Certain departure dates and hotels may not be available at the time of booking. Prices shown for Aruba apply to the Tamarin Beach Hotel for February 11 through April 8, 1977 departures only. Other departure dates and hotels are available at higher prices.

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