

Ocho Rios provides an inspiration

By ANNE WANSTALL
Ocho Rios, Jamaica — Noel Coward retired and died here. Ian Fleming dreamed up his fantastic James Bond novels within sound and sight of the blue waters and white silken sands. Harry Belafonte often drops in for a few days to give a benefit performance for the island's poor.

This is Jamaica the beautiful, the complex, the sun-stroked resort that offers so much tranquility to winter-weary Canadian vacationers. The fortune of independence struck a sour note to a once thriving tourist industry that kept Jamaica's economy as buoyant as a bottle tossed on its azure blue waters. Islanders who felt they had been dogged too long by what they felt was a second-class status in their own homeland, began to bite the hand of the tourist. Once bitten, tourists stayed away in droves.

Now things have changed and all the old courtesies have returned to these laughing, charming people whose

days are drenched with sunshine and the occasional fine rain that helps to keep the Blue Mountains the color of their name, sends the smells of the growing spices whirling through the air, and the tourist in a constant state of euphoria about the beauty around him.

Jamaica is truly a patch of vivid colors locked against a kindly sea, offering a range of vacations to suit the swinging single, the loving couple, the nature enthusiast, the amateur seaman, the rockhound, the history buff, and the weary worker who simply wants to get away from it all back home.

The least expensive vacations come in packages that encompass transportation, accommodation, and most meals. These too, offer holidays for a wide range of interests, from the hedonism of Negril Beach Village where there's something to be done every hour on the hour, to the relative quiet of the elegant Dragon Bay, or the suggestive Couples in Saint Mary where even



TRAVEL

your cigarettes are included in the package and children and singles are not allowed.

Those contemplating a package should make a thorough investigation of the wide range offered in consultation with a travel agency. Whatever you want, Jamaica has it, so a lot of thought before take-off can save expensive grief when you get there.

Travellers who prefer to get away from crowds and seek opulence on a smaller scale should take a look at places like Eaton Hall at Runaway Bay, Chabela Inn at Negril Beach, Trident at Port Antonio, and Sans Souci at Ocho Rios.

These elegant resorts are furnished like winter palaces, gain reputations

for their exceptional food and service, and offer the exquisite pleasures of personal attention to the needs of their visitors.

Prices are a lot less than one anticipates, but obviously higher than the built-in packages.

A holiday style that's rapidly gaining in popularity in Jamaica is the weekly villa vacation. The average weekly price for villa rental is something in the region of \$250 U.S. per bedroom during the summer and \$370 U.S. in the winter. This works out at about \$18 per night double occupancy, far below the cost of a hotel room.

Villas are available close to towns for those who seek the night life, or far away from everything but the sea for those who want to take it easy. All have a staff to keep guests away from the rudgergy of housekeeping.

Your travel agent will have a list of places and prices, or you can write to the Jamaica Association of Villas and Apartments Pineapple Place, Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

Renting a car in

Jamaica can be expensive and hazardous. The roads, battered by the occasional floods that stream down from the mountains, are often in a poor state of repair. Gasoline is expensive by our standards, but taxis, especially if several travellers band together, are relatively inexpensive and Jamaica is well set up with tourist buses to its many places of interest.

One of the most popular attractions is rafting the old routes used by the farmers to take their produce down to the hills to the towns below. The boatmen cheerfully pole their seemingly flimsy craft through the rapids, chattering all the while about the flora and fauna along the banks.

Another is a plantation tour aboard a tractor-drawn cart. On this one you are introduced to the skillful machete-wielding farmers who chop down the bunches of bananas, and crack a coconut in the hand with a single blow, to offer riders a taste of rum and coconut milk.

Of course there's even more — bobbing the

populated ocean in a glass-bottom boat, climbing into the heady air of the mountains, sailing, surfing, snorkelling, visiting historic, and sometimes haunted houses, or catching your breath at the beauty of internal nature in caves.

A vacation in Jamaica is a holiday you're guaranteed never to forget.

Don't procrastinate, but if you do, Seneca College will give you another chance.

Seneca College is sponsoring a course in energy conservation at Richmond Hill Public Library.

The day long program entitled "Practical Energy Conservation Techniques for the Consumer" will be held Saturday, November 24

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Areas such as home insulation, automobile tuning, furnace function, kitchen savings and creating your own energy supply, will be explored during the program.

Bill Humber, the Program Co-ordinator for Seneca College, said registration has been slow up until now, but he is optimistic.

"People don't start

thinking about saving energy, until the snow flies," he said.

The fee for the day long program is \$20 per person and pre-registration is required. Name, address and telephone numbers can be sent to Energy Conservation Course, c/o Seneca College, 2090 Jane Street, Downsview, M3M 3E3, and more information may be obtained by calling Mr. Humber at 247-8281.

Elevator installed at Langstaff S.S.

Twenty-five students at Langstaff Secondary School will now be able to use the gym, attend assemblies in the auditorium, and study such things as Business Education, Geography and Science.

The students are handicapped and each is confined to a wheelchair. They have been attending Langstaff and studying the basics, History, English and

Mathematics as well as therapy oriented special education classes, which have all been on the first floor.

Now the handicapped students can go anywhere in the building because of a new elevator recently installed.

The elevator will give the handicapped students the same opportunities for an all-round education as everyone else in the school.

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- Patricia Bridal & Dress Salon Ltd.
- Evergreen Cheese Market
- Eleven Joseph, Fashion, Antiques & Gifts
- Melba's Restaurant
- Hunter Galleries
- Markham Jewellers
- The Eyeglass Factory Ltd.
- Marine Supply
- Evex Luggage Centre
- Hansons Flowers
- The Building Centre
- Kristin Sales
- Savco
- Ziebart (Richmond Hill)
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