

Security

Kingston has an unfortunate and deserved reputation for violent crime. Although most areas of the city are safe during daylight hours, it is unwise to travel on foot anywhere in the city after dark. This includes the hotel area of New Kingston.

Other areas of the country pose no abnormal security threat.

Water

Water in Jamaica is normally safe to drink straight from the tap. Periods of drought or flood can cause the water supply to become contaminated. This condition is well publicized when it occurs.

Illegal Drugs

Ganja (marijuana) and cocaine are widely and often openly available in Jamaica. They are also illegal in any amount. Outgoing security at the airports is tight and there are frequent police roadblocks throughout the country where searches are made for drugs and weapons. Numerous Canadians and other foreigners are arrested by police every year for drug possession and penalties are stiff, most often including a jail sentence and a hefty fine. Jamaican jails are not pleasant and are to be avoided.