

Jamaica



About Jamaica

Capital City:

- Kingston

Monetary Unit:

- Jamaican Dollar (JMD)

Major Languages:

- English

Main Exports:

- Alumina
- Bauxite
- Sugar
- Bananas
- Rum
- Coffee

Our Immigration Services in Jamaica

Business Visas – Guidance and assistance with visa applications filed with the Jamaican Consulates abroad

Work Permits & Entry Visas – For foreign nationals who will transfer to Jamaica for purposes of engaging in employment

Permanent Residency – For foreign nationals who will transfer to Jamaica for extended assignments or permanent relocation filed with the Ministry of National Security & Justice

The Jamaican Economy

Located in the Caribbean Sea, Jamaica is home to approximately 2.8 million people. The Jamaican economy is heavily dependent on services, which now account for more than sixty percent of GDP. Other key sectors include tourism, bauxite/alumina and agriculture. In addition, remittances account for nearly twenty percent of GDP. Jamaica's main exports are alumina, bauxite, sugar, rum, coffee, yams, beverages, chemicals and mineral fuels. Jamaica is the fifth largest exporter of bauxite in the world.

In 2006, Jamaica became part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) as one of the pioneering members. In response to the global financial crisis and the resulting downturn in the global economy in 2008, the Jamaican economy has revealed a number of fundamental structural weaknesses, including a large persistent fiscal deficit. The government implemented a new Debt Management Initiative, the Jamaica Debt Exchange (JDX) on January 14, 2010. The initiative would see holders of Government of Jamaica (GOJ) bonds returning the high interest earning instruments for bonds with lower yields and longer maturities. Owing to the success of the JDX program, the Bruce Golding-led government was successful in entering into a borrowing arrangement with the IMF on February 4, 2010 for the amount of US \$1.27b.

Jamaica's main export partners are US, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Jamaica's main imports are food and other consumer goods, industrial suppliers, fuel, parts and accessories of capital goods, machinery and transport equipment, construction materials. Main sources of imports are US, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and Brazil.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/2stro8>;
<http://www.embassyofjamaica.org/>

Business Travel to Jamaica

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Jamaica for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months past the date of intended entry, have sufficient blank pages for any visa stamps, and possess a round-trip ticket. Unless exempt, foreign nationals wishing to travel to Jamaica as business visitors must first apply for an entry visa through the Embassy of Jamaica or Consulates.

Foreign and Commonwealth nationals entering the Jamaica to conduct short-term business, such as consultations, meetings, inspections, repairs, technical advice, are admissible as visitors, in accordance with the entry requirements applicable to visitors from their respective countries. Each visit should not exceed thirty (30) days and the cumulative number of days within a calendar year should not exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days. Business activities for compensation are strictly prohibited.

U.S. and Canadian citizens, as well as many EU-state passport holders, may enter Jamaica without a visa for business purposes as indicated above. If the stay will involve more than simple business meetings, a visa stamp may be required.

For more information about foreign entry requirements to Jamaica, please visit:

<http://mfaft.gov.jm/jod/>

Living in Jamaica

Jamaica is one of the three islands in the Northern Caribbean forming the Greater Antilles. It is the largest English-speaking country in the Caribbean Sea, stretching 146 miles from east to west. Jamaica is well placed on the world's major shipping and airline

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routes. The country's name is derived from an Arawak (aboriginal Indian) word "Xaymaca", meaning "land of wood and water". And so it is. With waterfalls, and springs, rivers and streams flowing from the forest-clad mountains to the fertile plains, Jamaica has one of the richest and most varied landscapes in the region.

While the official language of Jamaica is English, Jamaicans primarily speak an English-African Creole language known as Jamaican Patois, which has become known widely through the spread of Reggae music. Jamaican Patois was formed from a base of mainly English words with elements of re-formed grammar, together with a little vocabulary from African languages and Native American words. Some archaic features are reminiscent of Irish English.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/25njace>

Jamaican Work Permit Process

- 1 Test of the labour market to ensure qualified nationals are given notice of employment opportunity, followed by application for work permit with the Ministry of Labour
- 2 Jamaican Ministry of Labour issues official letter indicating approval for work permit or granting exemption from the work permit requirement
- 3 Application for Entry Visa at Jamaican Consulate to facilitate entry to Jamaica on work authorized status

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Jamaica

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Jamaica. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and

Jamaican Business Culture

While Jamaicans are outwardly warm and friendly, they often appear standoffish at the initial introduction because they are reserved until they get to know someone. Jamaicans can be direct communicators and are not afraid to say what they think. They expect others to be equally direct. At the same time, they value tact and sensitivity and dislike overt aggression. It is imperative to show deference and respect to those in positions of authority.

In contrast to North American customs, Jamaicans stand very close when conversing. A man may touch the arm or shoulder of another man. Bargaining is customary and expected. Expect to spend a great deal of time reviewing details before a contract is drawn up.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Jamaican Embassy or Consulate abroad and local agencies may be available.

The employment of non-Jamaicans in Jamaica is governed by the Foreign Nationals and Commonwealth Citizens (Employment) Act, 1964, which seeks to ensure that qualified Jamaicans are given first consideration in employment opportunities. Thus, if your company's office in Jamaica anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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