The architecture of the Caribbean

Jamaica’s music, food and beaches are already famous. It’s time you discovered its most fascinating houses.

Words Melissa York

W hen the plane comes into land in Montego Bay, the view isn’t quite the Caribbean Iimagined during all those hours flying over the Atlantic. A line of pristine holiday resorts, uniform in their whiteness, bear down on the sea like a single glowing horizon.

At the end of the runway at Sangster International Airport guests drink a toast to the departing roar of yet another plane taking off. The first all-inclusive resort on the island, it pioneered the democratization of tourism in Jamaica, and many hotels like it followed with the dawn of cheap air travel. This led to the expansion of Sangster airport in 2005, and it now handles around 3.7m passengers a year. Jamaica itself only has a population of 3m. At the weekend, the airport is so busy that15 flights can depart an hour.

Many can pay an extra £10 to be escorted through security by Club Mobay, a VIP lounge that’s stocked with pillows and Red Stripe.

But there was a time when Jamaica was considered an exotic literary playground for the super-rich. In the 1930s, the British author Arnold Bennett was setting off to carry one of the West Indian immigrants to Britain’s coasts, aware of the famous figures who climbed aboard cruise ships to Jamaica looking for warmer climes and a calming sea. And they made just...
As the sun sets on the island of Jamaica, the last rays of golden light paint the sky. The sea shimmers, reflecting the colors of the sunset. We can almost hear the gentle sound of waves crashing against the shore. It's a peaceful moment, a perfect end to the day.

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The sun sets on the island of Jamaica, casting a warm glow over the beach. The sound of the waves is soothing, and the air is filled with the scent of salt and sand. It's a perfect evening for a swim, a stroll along the shore, or simply sitting on the beach and enjoying the view.

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Jamaica is a beautiful island, with its turquoise waters, white sand beaches, and lush green mountains. It's a perfect place to relax and unwind.

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