

Understanding the Port

Falmouth drops you into the middle of Jamaica's north coast: a Georgian boomtown at the gangway, bamboo rafts and plantation estates minutes away, and the famous falls of Ocho Rios an hour east. This is an excursion port with history at the doorstep.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

Ships dock at the Historic Port of Falmouth, a gated Georgian-style complex of shops, restaurants, and craft stalls. The real Georgian town starts at the gates.

Cash & Currency

The Jamaican dollar is official, but USD is accepted virtually everywhere tourists go; expect change in Jamaican dollars. Small US bills help.

Getting Around

Licensed taxis and tour operators meet every ship. Agree the fare before you ride. Martha Brae is about 15 min; Ocho Rios about an hour east.

GOOD

The Port & Georgian Town

Best for: Short stops, easy days, minimal logistics

- ✓ Shops and jerk right inside the complex
- ✓ Georgian streets a guided walk away
- ✓ Back at the ship whenever you want

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

Martha Brae Rafting

Best for: Couples, relaxers, romantics

- ✓ Drift a bamboo raft down a jungle river
- ✓ Poled by a licensed raft captain
- ✓ The closest signature experience to the pier

About half a day, door to door.

BEST

Dunn's River Falls

Best for: First timers, families, bucket-listers

- ✓ Climb the famous terraced waterfall
- ✓ Hand-in-hand chains led by guides
- ✓ Jamaica's most celebrated excursion

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

Falmouth Itself

The town outside the gates is one of the Caribbean's best-preserved Georgian grids. A guided walking tour brings the courthouse, churches, and sugar-boom stories to life.

BETTER

The Martha Brae

Two to a raft, a captain on the pole, and three miles of green river gliding by. It is the north coast's most relaxing morning and only a short ride from the ship.

BEST

Dunn's River Falls

Six hundred feet of cool terraced limestone, climbed hand-in-hand from the beach up. Book it as an excursion with transport; bring water shoes and a change of clothes.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

Dunn's River Falls

The consensus pick and a true Jamaica classic. The drive is real, but nobody comes home disappointed.

Martha Brae Rafting

The favorite for travelers who want the memory without the marathon: peaceful, close, and unmistakably Jamaican.



Climbing Dunn's River Falls, Ocho Rios



The Georgian-style Historic Falmouth Cruise Port

Key Considerations

Falmouth is a book-your-plan port: the headline sights sit 30 to 60 minutes away, so ship excursions or licensed operators with port pickup are the reliable play. Outside the gates, vendors and freelance drivers are persistent; a friendly, firm no thank you works.

One tempting local wonder needs a reality check: the Luminous Lagoon glows only after dark, so it is off the table unless your ship stays late. Save it for a Jamaica land trip.



Bamboo rafting on the Martha Brae



Inside Green Grotto Caves, Discovery Bay



Gold sand on Jamaica's north coast

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Port Orientation

FROM THE PORT (FALMOUTH)

● Port complex shops	At the pier
● Georgian Falmouth	At the gates; best guided
~ 10 min by taxi	
● Burwood Beach	Closest sand
~ 15 min by taxi or tour	
● Martha Brae rafting	Bamboo raft river glide
~ 20–25 min by tour	
● Good Hope Estate	Zip lines, great house
~ 40–45 min by taxi or tour	
● Montego Bay / Doctor's Cave	Beach day west
~ 1 hour by tour	
● Dunn's River Falls (Ocho Rios)	The famous climb

DON'T FORGET

Confirm your all aboard time before you leave the ship.
Set a phone alarm. The ship will not wait for you.

Key Takeaway

Falmouth is Jamaica's middle door: history at the gangway, rivers and falls a ride away in either direction.

Pick one signature experience, book it properly, and the island does the rest.

ETA will help you choose the right experience based on your travel style.

steve.ernst@ernst.llc
ernst.llc | 814/602-1851

Did You Know?

Running Water Before New York. Falmouth had piped water around 1799, earlier than New York City — a Georgian boomtown ahead of its time.

A Georgian Time Capsule. Laid out in 1769 on sugar wealth, Falmouth is one of the Caribbean's best-preserved Georgian towns.

Sprint Country. Trelawny parish is the birthplace of Usain Bolt, raised in the village of Sherwood Content just up the road.

A Glowing Lagoon. The Luminous Lagoon beside Falmouth is one of only a handful of year-round glowing bays on Earth — and one of the few you can actually swim in.

Land of Wood and Water. Jamaica's name comes from the Taino Xaymaca — and the Martha Brae, named for a legendary Taino sorceress, still winds through it.