

**MARCH 2013** 

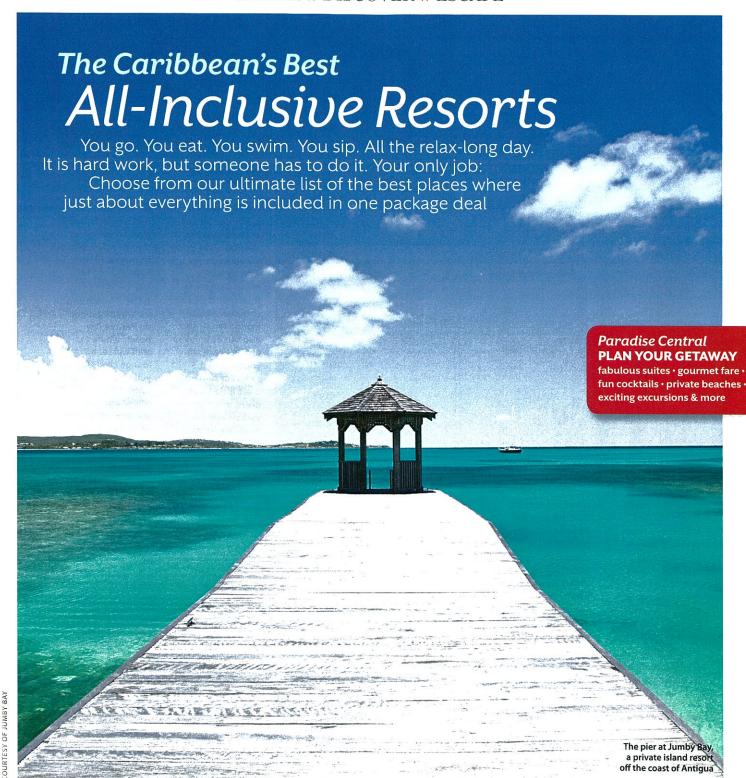
**OUTDOOR SHOWERS** 

The best part of any beach house

page 11

## COASTALTRAVEL

DREAM \* DISCOVER \* ESCAPE



## >> JAMAICA THE CAVES

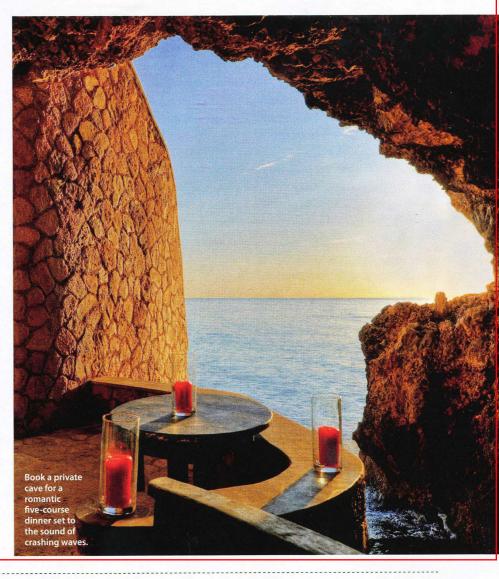
The limestone-and-coral walls and patios of The Caves sit atop Negril's craggy West End cliffs as if thrust out from the sea along with the volcano-formed cliff face itself. Steep stone stairways snake down to nooks set on rock, with chaises and umbrellas oriented to the immense blue.

There's no beach here, but you won't miss it: The rustic, romantic getaway trades sand grains for cozy grottoes. And you won't see crowds, only a scattering of blissed-out couples staying in the 12 royal blue or sky blue palm-topped cottages furnished with brightly painted wooden beds and louvered shutters.

You'll likely be inspired to drop everything, literally, and leap off 20- and 30-foot-high landings into the deep sea. But ocean dips are just as refreshing accessed by the short ladders that lead you more gently in. —Jennifer Brunnemer Slaton

DINE: The Caves bypasses the typical big buffets and instead serves fresh, organic food grown on local farms. Order the "combo" so you can try everything. (It's all good!) The banana pancakes and the Jamaican jerk chicken are musts. DON'T MISS: Go underwater with Paul, the resort's outdoors guide: He'll take you snorkeling in caves (including a bat cave!). Reserve the private hot tub at sunset for a fab view. RATES start at \$445; 800/688-7678 or

islandoutpost.com.





## CURTAIN BLUFF

The curved, white-roofed buildings of Curtain Bluff ascend a rocky promontory like clouds floating between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Here, all 72 rooms and suites have floor-to-ceiling windows for ultimate water views. The breezy interiors are Caribbean-chic, with white, coral, and shades of blue against pale marble flooring; spacious terraces with white trellised railings are the perfect spot to watch surfers catch some waves on Surf Beach.

The resort's waterside location is buzzing with options—snorkeling to nearby Cades Reef, waterskiing, deep-sea fishing, and scuba diving are some of the more adventurous inclusions. The four championship tennis courts are a single or doubles dream shaded by towering palms and overlooking the ocean. But there's also plenty of relaxation: Cushioned loungers on the beach will lure you in for some much-needed z's.—*M.L.F.* 

**DINE:** Breakfast and candlelight dinners are served in the breezy Tamarind Tree restaurant. **Barefoot buffet** lunches are far from ordinary, with plump barbecued shrimp and made-to-order gourmet sandwiches served in the open-air Beach Café & Bar. At night, a portion of this space is curtained off to become The Sea Grape Restaurant, a lively Italian bistro with a spicy cioppino. **DON'T MISS: Just** a few minutes from the property is Nelson's Dockyard, a national parkthe working marina is a great place to spend the afternoon admiring gleaming vachts and ships. It's also home to a collection of 18thcentury structures that now house great boutiques, art galleries, and restaurants.

RATES start at \$760; 888/289-9898 or curtainbluff.com.