Devon House: Where Jamaica's History, Culture and Flavours Come Together



When you think of Jamaica, what comes to mind? Perhaps it's the rhythm of reggae music, the irresistible aroma of jerk chicken, or the island's breathtaking beaches. But beyond these familiar attractions lies another side of Jamaica, one where history, culture, food and leisure come together in a single destination. With its magnificent architecture, beautifully manicured lawns, inviting restaurants, and famous ice cream, Devon House offers visitors a delightful blend of history and modern Jamaican leisure.

Nestled along Hope Road in the bustling city of Kingston, Devon House offers just that. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a food lover, or simply searching for a relaxing afternoon, this iconic Jamaican landmark is truly something special.

A Mansion With a Remarkable Past

Behind the elegant architecture of Devon House lies a story of ambition, achievement and Jamaican heritage. Built in 1881, the mansion was once home to George Stiebel, widely recognized as Jamaica's first Black millionaire. Having accumulated his wealth through gold mining ventures in South America, Stiebel returned to Jamaica and commissioned the construction of a magnificent residence. Today, the mansion stands as one of Jamaica's most celebrated historical landmarks, having been declared a national monument in 1990.

Visitors can take a guided tour of the mansion, admire its Caribbean and Georgian architectural influences, and explore rooms furnished with antique pieces as the tour guide shares the history behind it. For history lovers, Devon House is more than an architectural attraction. It is a place where the stories of Jamaica's past remain part of the present.

A Taste of Jamaica

Of course, no visit to Devon House would be complete without indulging in its culinary offerings. Perhaps its most famous attraction is Devon House I-Scream, a beloved Jamaican ice cream brand that has earned international recognition. With a variety of delicious and unique flavours, visitors are sure to find a favourite.

But the culinary experience extends far beyond dessert. Designated Jamaica's first Gastronomy Centre in 2017, Devon House features a variety of dining establishments offering Jamaican and international cuisine. Whether you're craving a hearty meal, a light snack, or a sweet treat, there are options to satisfy different tastes. I would certainly recommend visiting the Devon House Bakery to try their patty. With flavours such as beef, curry goat, BBQ pork, and ackee and saltfish, there is something to satisfy every palate.

Discover Jamaican Creativity and Culture

Beyond its historical and culinary attractions, Devon House also offers visitors a chance to appreciate Jamaican craftsmanship and creativity. The property's collection of shops features locally made jewellery, clothing, crafts and souvenirs, providing opportunities to discover products that reflect the island's artistic identity. For international visitors, these shops offer more than keepsakes. They provide a chance to take home a tangible reminder of Jamaica while supporting local creativity and enterprise.

A Green Escape in the Heart of Kingston

Sometimes, the best travel experiences involve slowing down. Amid Kingston's busy streets, Devon House offers a refreshing change of pace with its expansive lawns, towering trees and beautifully maintained gardens. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely stroll, spend quality time with family and friends, or simply settle into a quiet spot with a scoop of ice cream. The grounds also provide a picturesque setting for photographs, casual outings and moments of relaxation. Whether you're visiting alone, with friends, or with family, Devon House offers a welcoming environment to unwind.

Why Devon House Deserves a Place on Your Itinerary

What makes Devon House particularly special is its versatility. Few destinations allow visitors to explore a nineteenth-century mansion, sample celebrated Jamaican ice cream, browse locally made products and relax in lush gardens without travelling between multiple attractions. It is this combination of heritage, gastronomy, culture and recreation that makes Devon House appealing to a wide range of visitors.

For first-time travellers to Kingston, it provides an accessible introduction to several aspects of Jamaican life. For locals, it remains a familiar destination where new memories can be made against the backdrop of history. So, whether you're planning a cultural excursion, a culinary adventure, or a laid-back afternoon, consider adding Devon House to your itinerary. After all, some destinations offer a glimpse of Jamaica. Devon House invites you to experience several sides of it, all in one place.

Planning Your Visit: Admission Fees and Opening Hours

One of the appealing aspects of Devon House is that you don't have to spend a fortune to enjoy its charm. Admission to the grounds is free, allowing visitors to explore the gardens, browse the shops, and soak up the atmosphere without purchasing an entrance ticket. However, visitors wishing to explore the historic mansion can enjoy a guided tour, with admission fees varying for local and international guests.

Mansion Tour Admission Fees

Visitor Category	Admission Fee
Jamaican adults (12 years and older)	J$2,300
Jamaican children (under 12)	J$1,495
International adults (12 years and older)	US$24
International children (under 12)	US$16
Kidz Zone (per child)	J$850

These rates include General Consumption Tax (GCT) and are subject to change.

Opening Hours

The Devon House property welcomes visitors daily from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., while guided mansion tours are available during the following hours:

- **Monday–Friday:** 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Saturday:** 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** No guided mansion tours.

Visitors should also budget separately for meals, ice cream, shopping, and other purchases.

Whether you're planning a budget-friendly afternoon on the lawns or a more immersive historical and culinary experience, Devon House offers the flexibility to tailor your visit to your interests and spending preferences.

For the latest tour prices and reservations, visit the official Devon House website.

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