

Sporting Island

Jamaica raised newsreader Darren Jordon shares the islanders' passion for sport



The Cricket World Cup 2007 is the biggest sporting event the Caribbean has ever seen, and like modern day Conquistadores, England's Barmy Army is gearing up to invade. In March/April, thousands of fans will descend on the palm-fringed islands of the West Indies for cricket's greatest prize, and the party kicks off in Jamaica with a mighty jamboree. Cricket is not just a sport taken seriously here: it's a passion.

So it's not surprising that you'll find great sports facilities in Jamaica, and visitors are welcome to make the most of them. Try running the Negril Reggae Marathon in December – booming reggae music urges you on every mile of the way. Or play a round of golf on lush fairways framed by some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery. Water sports are second nature here – and there's everything from scuba diving and sailing to windsurfing and kayaking. For outstanding deep-sea fishing, head down to Port Antonio, where Blue Marlin is the prime catch.

There's excellent horse riding too – you can gallop through the surf at Braco or take a polo lesson at Chukka Cove. And with the Cricket World Cup around the corner, head for the beach and join a game of 'Catchy Shubby' – it's 'no rules' cricket, Jamaican style.

To find out more about the experiences Jamaica has to offer visit www.visitjamaica.com or call 020 7225 9090

JAMAICA

Once you go, you know.