

SEVILLE HERITAGE PARK

ST. ANN, JAMAICA

A visit to Seville Heritage Park on Jamaica's north coast will take you on a journey through centuries, to the very beginning of the island's history and culture.

Located just outside the parish capital of St. Ann's Bay, and 11 km from the tourist mecca of Ocho Rios, Seville is known for its beauty and historical authenticity. Here you will find evidence of Jamaica's rich culture revealed in artifacts from our Taino, Spanish, British and African ancestry.

Seville is the site of the town of Maima which was established by Tainos, the first inhabitants of Jamaica. Here as well as at other settlements across the island, the Tainos fashioned their canoes, built their houses, fished in the rivers and the blue Caribbean Sea while leading their peaceful lives. An exhibition of artifacts at Seville will help you to understand how these first Jamaicans lived.



THE FIRST ENCOUNTER

On the evening of May 5, 1494, Christopher Columbus, the Spanish Explorer, landed at Seville and became the first European to tread upon Jamaican soil. *"The most beautiful place I have ever set eyes"* is how Columbus described the island. He lived here for over a year after he was shipwrecked.

In 1509 the Spaniards under Esquivel began building Sevilla la Nueva in the middle of the village of Maima. They subsequently abandoned it in 1534.

On your tour of this historic site, you'll discover the ruins of the Spanish Church of Peter Martyr, the ruins of the Spanish fortified castle (Governor's House) and the base of the Spanish Sugar Mill. Most recent excavations have revealed a Spanish artisan workshop estimated to be one of the earliest so far discovered in the new world.

THEN CAME THE BRITISH

In 1655 the British came, capturing the island from the Spanish. Building on the remains of Sevilla, they established a sugar plantation that they called -- as we still do today-- Seville.

Sugar became King in the mid 18th century. Enslaved Africans were imported to work the plantation. We can still see the remains of the estate in the plantation house, overseer's house, bookkeeper's house, warehouse by the sea, an aqueduct, a stone finger wharf, a water powered sugar mill as well as the African settlement area.



1. **Earthenware Jug** made by Taino potters for the Spanish; 1509-1534
2. **Smoking pipe** made of Kaolin clay, from one of the English merchant ships found during the search for the Columbus caravels.
3. **"Lion"** - also found during the excavations.
4. **"Griffin"** - stone carving found in in the artisan's workshop during recent excavations.
5. **Waterwheel** used to power cane grinding operations on the sugar estate.

At Seville, there are replicas of the African and Taino houses. Learn about the variety of foods our ancestors ate, grown in the beautifully laid out kitchen garden.

See also the site where the remains of four of our African ancestors were reburied in 1997 in a ceremony marked by ritual and respect of their ancestry. One was later repatriated to Ghana for reburial.

SITE OF THE ENCOUNTER

It was here at Seville that the cultures of three worlds - Amerindian, African and European had their first encounter and, through good times and bad, gave birth to modern Jamaica.

It was an encounter that brought turbulence, sorrow and tragedy. The Amerindians and their civilization were virtually destroyed, the Africans were enslaved and the Spanish and English battled for supremacy. It was here that the ingredients of our culture were first put together creating the unique blend that is Jamaica's national heritage.



Model of **African house** on the property.



For a small admission fee you can enjoy a guided tour of the interpretive exhibition, the African/Jamaican site, the Planter's House and its environs.

Visit our gift shop for a lovely array of souvenir items and snacks for your pleasure.

Seville Heritage Park is also available for rental for special events such as: weddings, birthday and tea parties, family reunions, luncheons and picnics.

The Jamaica National Heritage Trust is responsible for the management of Seville Heritage Park.



Visitors viewing **artefacts** inside the Seville Heritage Park



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The Seville Planter's House built circa 1745.