

LTC TIMES – JAMAICA

Jamaica will surprise you in many ways!

An Amazing Sport

Jamaica is famous for its champions in athletics such as Usain Bolt (world champion and record holder for the 100m and 200m) and Yohan Blake. And yet, Jamaica is famous for another one thing: Bobsleigh ! A sport normally practiced in countries where there is snow and yet Jamaica's team trains under a blazing sun.

Born from a bet between two businessmen on holiday on the island in 1980, after seeing a pushed race carts, these men were convinced that Jamaica may appear with a good preparation for the Calgary Olympic games planned in Canada in 1988. Dudley Stokes, Devon Harris and Michael White were the first members of the team. Caswell Allen, the fourth man was injured before the Olympic Games. He was therefore replaced by Chris Stokes, present in Canada to encourage his brother Dudley. These men were part of the Jamaican defence army force. The team appeared for the first time at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada. They participated in two-man and four-man bobsleigh. Unfortunately, in four-man bobsleigh, they

were eliminated from the competition after a famous and impressive fall; fortunately no one was wounded. In the two man bobsleigh, they preceded eleven teams before finishing 30 of 41. Then they participated in the following games: Albertville in 1992, Lillehammer in 1994, Nagano in 1994 and Salt Lake City in 2002. Their best performance was in Japan

(Nagano) where they placed 21st out of 32 in the four-man bobsleigh and 29th out of 39 in the two-man bobsleigh. They didn't qualify a team in 2006 and 2010 due to lack of means, but they came back this year in Sochi. Their leader was Winston Watts aged only 46 years! He had participated in 1994, 1998 and 2002. Crazy!

Noémie Danière

Cool Running

Cool Runnings is a 1993 American sports film directed by Jon Turteltaub. It's a movie inspired by a true story. Derice Bannock wants to qualify for the Summer Olympics in track and field, but he loses because a man falls in front him and two others. Disappointed, he searches for another way to be in the Olympics. He finds one: Bobsleigh. He asks the two men who had lost like him and a friend to be in his team to go to the Winter Olympics. After their positive answer, Derice and his friends go to Calgary. There, Irving (the coach) manages to acquire an old practice sled, as the Jamaicans have never been in an actual bobsled. They qualify for the finals, but are briefly

disqualified. Later, the judges overturn their decision and the Jamaicans re-enter the competition. The Jamaicans' first day on the track results in more embarrassment and a last place finish. For the first half of the final day's race it looks as though they will break the world bobsled speed record, until tragedy strikes: their sled, due to being old, has one of the blades fall off, and flips on its side coming out of a turn towards the end of their run, leaving them meters short of the finish line. However, the team lifts the sled over their shoulders and walks across the finish line to rousing applause from spectators.

Marine Boquet



Rastafarians

Dreadlocks, marijuana and reggae are three elements of what a lot of people think when they hear the term Rastafarian. Does this movement amount only to these three words? Stereotypes or reality?

Rastas from the Rastafari (rasta religion) are descendants of slaves brought by white slave ships to Jamaica. Descendants of the current Rastas, were taken by white Europeans to be sold in the U.S.A. The slave ships first stop was Jamaica, where slave traders got rid of the most turbulent. This is why we can say that Jamaica has a rebellious heritage. Rastas are men (women less often) who let their hair grow (by entangling it), the result is called dreadlocks. Having long hair is a commitment to the roots: roots or history. Rastas do not do it for fashion but for them-

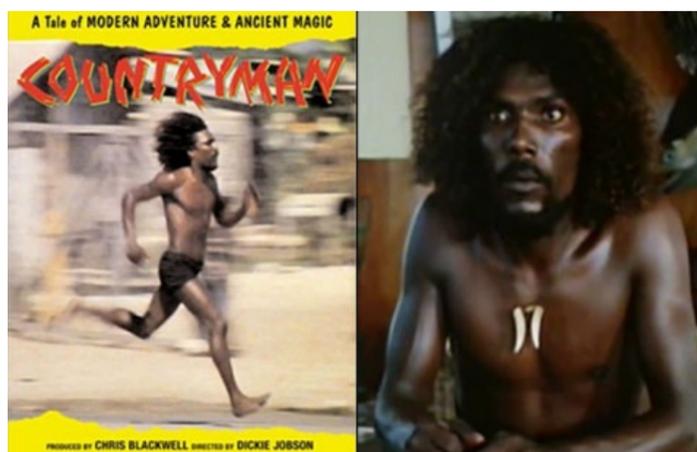
selves, for equal rights and peace. The majority of Rastafarians are vegetarians. They eat it, that is to say organic foods, simple, not industrial. They use Ganjah, which gives an "opening of consciousness".

Rastas are against the war, what they want first, is justice: equal rights and then peace. Rastas never consume alcohol, they should not lie, do not kill. They haven't got a country, they have their own music Reggae.

Rastafarians are discriminated, sometimes have a bad reputation, mistaken for thieves, thugs, murderers; they want to show that they are the opposite of what we think of them. Some Rastas are given the name of peaceful Rasta.

If you want to know a little more about Jamaica, and rastas, we suggest you watch the world renowned movie "Countryman," which also happens to have an amazing soundtrack.

Louise Duthilleul



Magical places

Jamaica is very famous for its music, its reggae festival, its colourful carnival, and finally for its sumptuous landscapes. If you are lucky enough to go there one day, you need to see these three sites ! First : the Rick's cafe in Negril. This emblematic place is a bar/restaurant where you can have the best view of the sea and of the sunset in Jamaica. You can also, if you want more thrills, dive/jump from the cliff of the restaurant. Sensations guaranteed ! If you think you need to get even more after these sensations, you can go to the Doctor's Cave Beach Club. It's situated next to the Marine Park (a wildlife reserve) in Montego Bay. This beach would have the virtue of treating diseases thanks to its high mineral content. At the end of your journey, when you are totally tired, you should go to the luminous lagoon in Falmouth. This lagoon is magical. You need to go there during the night, when it's completely dark to see a surprising phe-

nomenon. This lagoon has the peculiarity of being luminous. This phenomenon is caused by millions of microorganisms that emit light when they are touched. They are located where the fresh cold water from the Marta Brae River meets the salted water of the Caribbean Sea. There are only four places in the world where this phenomenon exists, the other three are in Indonesia, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico. Don't forget your water shoes though, the water is muddy !

Rose Coignet

