

Jamaica, for your family

Montreal departures, December 12-22, 2026
Two adults + one child aged 11 | Up to seven hotel nights

Research and live prices checked October 9, 2026. All totals are Canadian dollars for the three of you in one room. Seven nights means eight calendar days. I have interpreted your window as the departure window; later returns are allowed.

My recommendation

Riu Ocho Rios, Family Room, December 14-21: C\$5,955. It offers the best balance of package cost, family facilities and access to waterfalls, gardens and Jamaican culture. Budget about **C\$7,800-8,200** with private airport transfers, three excursion days including the Bob Marley Museum, and a modest spending allowance.

Choose **Moon Palace Jamaica, December 12-19**, if the resort experience for your 11-year-old matters more than the price. Choose **Riu Negril, December 14-21**, if Rick's Cafe is a priority. Aquarelle is the strongest modern resort compromise, with better guest scores and a shorter airport drive.

Rank / hotel	Room / dates	Verified family package	Guest scores
1. Riu Ocho Rios Mammee Bay	Family Room Dec 14-21	C\$5,955 Sunwing direct	TA 3.9/5 Expedia 8.4/10
2. Riu Palace Aquarelle Falmouth	Jr Suite Partial Oceanview Dec 14-21	C\$6,415 Tripcentral / Sunwing	TA 4.4/5 Expedia 8.8/10
3. Moon Palace Jamaica Ocho Rios town	Deluxe Resort View Dec 12-19	C\$7,215 Tripcentral / Sunwing	TA 4.4/5 Expedia 8.4/10
4. Riu Negril Bloody Bay	Garden View Dec 14-21	C\$5,935 Tripcentral / Sunwing	TA 3.9/5 Expedia 8.2/10
5. Iberostar Selection Rose Hall Suites	Junior Suite Dec 14-21	C\$7,735 Tripcentral / Sunwing	TA 4.4/5 Expedia 8.4/10
6. Grand Palladium Jamaica Lucea	Junior Suite Dec 14-21	C\$5,205 Tripcentral / Sunwing	TA 4.0/5 Expedia 8.0/10

All six are seven-night all-inclusive packages with nonstop WestJet flights to Montego Bay (MBJ). The final supplier price and 2-adult/11-year-old occupancy were checked in the booking flow, before entering names or payment. These are live quotes, not reservations or price holds.

Sources: [Sunwing family search](#) / [Ocho quote](#) | [Tripcentral family search](#)

Ranking favours price, guest feedback, age-appropriate facilities and the excursions you requested. It is a judgement about your family's value, not a numerical hotel quality score.

Dates, flights and what the quotes include

Option	Nights / calendar days	Nonstop flights, local times	Price / verification
Most finalists Dec 14-21	7 nights / 8 days	WS2914: YUL 07:55 - MBJ 12:55 WS2915: MBJ 13:25 - YUL 18:10	Five finalists priced on page 1; supplier checked.
Moon Palace Dec 12-19	7 nights / 8 days	WS2914: YUL 11:00 - MBJ 16:00 WS2915: MBJ 13:25 - YUL 18:10	C\$7,215; supplier checked.
Aquarelle Dec 14-19	5 nights / 6 days	WS2914: YUL 07:55 - MBJ 12:55 WS2915: MBJ 13:25 - YUL 18:10	C\$5,725; Sunwing checkout checked.
Aquarelle Dec 22-28	6 nights / 7 days	WS2914: YUL 09:00 - MBJ 14:00 WS2915: MBJ 13:25 - YUL 18:10	C\$8,585; search result only.
Aquarelle Dec 22-29	7 nights / 8 days	WS2914: YUL 09:00 - MBJ 14:00 WS2915: MBJ 15:00 - YUL 19:45	C\$8,635; search result only.

Outbound flight duration is 5 hours; inbound 4 hours 45 minutes. Both cities are on Eastern Standard Time in December. The December 14 morning arrival gives you a useful first afternoon; Moon Palace's December 12 arrival leaves less time after the longer transfer. Schedules may change.

Where the date flexibility pays off

Aquarelle's verified seven-night quote is only **C\$690 more for the family** than five nights: good value for two extra nights. December 22 seven nights is advertised C\$2,220 above December 14, while shortening that late trip to six nights saves just C\$50. I would choose December 14-21 if your calendar permits.

The Tripcentral nonstop calendar also tested December 12, 15, 16 and 17. Comparable adult Garden View headlines were C\$2,175 for Negril on the 14th, C\$2,205 on the 12th/15th and C\$2,285 on the 16th/17th; Aquarelle Partial Oceanview was C\$2,365, C\$2,385 and C\$2,475 respectively. These calendar prices are **per adult at double occupancy**, not family quotes. Moon Palace's room category changed across dates, so its price difference cannot be attributed entirely to the date.

Included and excluded

Included for all six: round-trip flights, specified all-inclusive room, taxes and booking fees, shared round-trip airport transfers, one personal item, one carry-on and one checked bag per traveller. WestJet's normal checked-bag limit is 23 kg and 157 cm combined dimensions. The checkout taxes/fees were C\$590 per person and are already in the totals. Tripcentral's displayed OPC contribution and offset netted to zero.

Extra: optional advance seat selection, travel insurance, excursions, private transfer upgrades, spa treatments and other optional purchases. No additional mandatory resort fee was disclosed in these package checkouts; recheck the final invoice. Sunwing offers free family seating efforts for children under 14, but this does not guarantee particular seats. No paid flight/room extras were selected.

Sources: [Sunwing package inclusions](#) | [Baggage and family seating](#) | [WestJet baggage limits](#)

Hotel comparison: the two strongest values

1. Riu Ocho Rios - the best base for your interests

Location / rating: Mammee Bay, west of Ocho Rios. RIU markets it as five stars; Tripcentral uses four and Expedia 3.5. These are inconsistent commercial classifications, not a government star certificate. Its guest scores are TA **3.9/5 (about 14,100 reviews)** and Expedia **8.4/10 (about 3,000)**.

For adults	For your 11-year-old	Beach / dining / trade-offs
Beach, six pools, fitness classes, nonmotorized water sports, evening entertainment. Spa treatments cost extra.	RIU Land 8-12 group; pools and Splash Water World. Large-slide eligibility at age 11 needs hotel confirmation; height alone may not settle access.	Broad beach and buffet plus Asian, Italian and grill specialties. Busy buffets and uneven food/service appear in reviews. Good excursion convenience offsets its lower TA score.

Verified room: Family Room, two double beds, maximum occupancy four; the Sunwing booking flow explicitly accepted 2 adults + child age 11. **December 14-21, C\$5,955:** 2 x C\$2,185 adults + C\$1,585 child. This is the successful Family Room quote. The cheaper C\$5,785 Garden View listing failed supplier validation across providers and is not an available quote.

Nearby: Dunn's River 10-15 minutes, Blue Hole 35-45, Konoko 25-35. Kingston's Bob Marley Museum is a feasible but long 2-2.5 hours each way. Rick's Cafe is roughly 3.5-4.5 hours each way: poor use of a short holiday. Direct MBJ transfer: 90-120 minutes.

Sources: [Official hotel](#) | [Sunwing verified Family Room](#) | [Tripadvisor](#) | [Expedia guest reviews](#)

2. Riu Palace Aquarelle - newer surroundings, higher guest scores

Location / rating: White Bay, near Falmouth. RIU/Sunwing five stars; Expedia four. TA **4.4/5 (about 1,630)**; Expedia **8.8/10 (about 3,150)**. It is a worthwhile C\$460 upgrade over the verified Ocho Family Room if resort quality and a short airport transfer take priority.

For adults	For your 11-year-old	Beach / dining / trade-offs
Four main pools (two swim-up pools are 18+), sports, fitness, themed dining and shows; gym/spa areas 18+, treatments extra.	RIU Land 8-12; family pools, children's pool/slides and Splash Water World. Swim-up rooms are adults only and excluded. Check large-slide age/height rules.	White Bay beachfront; buffet, Italian, Asian, fusion and steak/grill options. Reviews praise rooms/staff; some report rocky or cloudy sea entry and difficulty reserving specialties.

Verified room: Junior Suite Partial Oceanview, accepted for 2 adults + age 11 at checkout. Bed configuration is subject to the booked category/availability; obtain a written two-bed/child-bed confirmation. **December 14-21, C\$6,415:** 2 x C\$2,365 + C\$1,685 child.

Nearby: Luminous Lagoon 5-10 minutes; Falmouth history and local food 10-15. Dunn's River 75-100; Blue Hole around 1h45-2h. Rick's Cafe 2-2.5 hours each way. MBJ: 40-60 minutes.

Sources: [Official hotel](#) | [TUI pool/fitness age limits](#) | [Verified Tripcentral quote](#) | [Tripadvisor](#) | [Expedia guest reviews](#)

Hotel comparison: family upgrade or Negril adventures

3. Moon Palace Jamaica - the strongest family upgrade

Location / rating: central Ocho Rios waterfront; sold as five stars by vacation providers. I could not verify a government-issued star rating on its own site. TA **4.4/5 (about 7,890)**; Expedia **8.4/10 (about 2,170)**. The C\$1,260 premium over Ocho buys a richer indoor and resort activity mix with similar excursion access.

For adults	For your 11-year-old	Beach / dining / trade-offs
Four pools, water sports, several international restaurants, cafe/jerk food, 24-hour room service, shows and paid O Spa.	Playroom ages 4-12; Wired Lounge games; FlowRider wave simulator included. The Jamaica-specific FlowRider height/waiver limits were not verified: ask before promising participation.	Sheltered town beach and good pool choice. Harbour/cruise views and a small French balcony reduce the secluded-beach feel. Reviews mention membership sales approaches and variable service.

Verified room: Deluxe Resort View, 301 sq ft, maximum three people, king or two doubles subject to availability; French balcony, not a sit-out terrace. Package accepts 2 adults + age 11. **December 12-19, C\$7,215:** 2 x C\$3,115 + C\$985 child. Request two double beds; the low child fare is already included, not an additional discount to subtract.

Nearby: Dunn's River 10-15 minutes, Blue Hole 25-35, Konoko 10-15, museum in Kingston 1h45-2h30 each way. MBJ: 100-130 minutes. Choose this over Iberostar if your child's activities and Ocho excursions carry more weight than airport convenience.

Sources: [Hotel and amenities](#) | [Exact room](#) | [Playroom](#) | [Verified quote](#) | [Tripadvisor](#) | [Expedia](#)

4. Riu Negril - the most sensible choice for Rick's Cafe

Location / rating: Bloody Bay/Orange Bay, north of Negril; RIU/Sunwing five stars, with differing retailer classifications. TA **3.9/5 (about 9,000)**; Expedia **8.2/10 (about 1,000)**. Review counts are rounded, and the TA Negril index was older than the live booking quotes.

For adults	For your 11-year-old	Beach / dining / trade-offs
Renovated in 2024; five pools, eight dining outlets, six bars, beach sports, shows, paid spa.	RIU Land 8-12, family pools, beach play and nonmotorized sports. Small splash facilities, rather than Aquarelle's large water park.	Long sandy Bloody Bay frontage with shallow areas; seagrass/soft seabed varies. This is outside the central Seven Mile Beach strip. Reviews praise clean rooms/entertainment but food and AC are mixed.

Verified room: Garden View, accommodates the three of you (category maximum four, up to three adults), 2 adults + age 11 accepted. Oceanfront categories limited to two would not be suitable. **December 14-21, C\$5,935:** 2 x C\$2,175 + C\$1,585 child.

Nearby: Rick's Cafe 25-35 minutes; central beach/local food 15-25; YS Falls 2-2.5 hours. Ocho waterfalls are 3-4 hours each way; Kingston is 4.5-6. MBJ: 80-110 minutes. This option moves to first place if Rick's is a must-do and the Kingston museum is optional.

Sources: [Official hotel](#) | [Sunwing current facilities](#) | [Verified quote](#) | [Tripadvisor](#) | [Expedia](#)

Hotel comparison: short transfers or the lowest price

5. Iberostar Selection Rose Hall Suites - refined family stay

Location / rating: Rose Hall, east of Montego Bay; hotel five stars, vacation operators around 4.5. TA **4.4/5 (about 7,480)**; Expedia **8.4/10 (about 1,000)**. It is comfortable and convenient for arrival, but the verified quote costs C\$520 more than Moon Palace and C\$1,780 more than Ocho.

For adults	For your 11-year-old	Beach / dining / trade-offs
Beach, pools, lazy river, international specialities, Star Cafe, fitness, shows and limited daily nonmotorized sports. Paid spa treatments.	Star Camp Dolphin group ages 7-12 on the property's site; lazy river/Aquafun and family pool activities. Staff rules apply to water sports.	Good family beach/pool balance. Reviews praise staff and food, but September 2026 reports include some construction disturbance and room maintenance issues; December works status is unverified.

Verified room: Junior Suite; checkout explicitly accepted 2 adults + child 11. Request the two-double-bed/child-bed arrangement rather than assuming a king alone will work. **December 14-21, C\$7,735:** 2 x C\$2,895 + C\$1,945 child.

Age change that matters: the adjoining **Iberostar Waves Rose Hall Beach becomes adults only on November 1, 2026**. Selection Rose Hall Suites remains the family property. Do not count on your child accessing amenities next door, despite older package descriptions.

Nearby: Montego Bay culture/local food about 25-40 minutes, Luminous Lagoon 25-35, Dunn's River 90-110. Rick's Cafe 1h45-2h15 each way. MBJ: 25-40 minutes, the easiest airport journey on this shortlist.

Sources: [Official Selection Suites](#) | [Waves age change](#) | [Verified quote](#) | [Tripadvisor](#) | [Expedia](#)

6. Grand Palladium Jamaica - the lowest verified package cost

Location / rating: Point Lucea, between Montego Bay and Negril; hotel five stars, Sunwing/ACV four. TA **4.0/5 (about 19,180)**; Expedia **8.0/10 (about 1,590)**. Its C\$750 saving versus Ocho is useful, but more driving and less consistent guest feedback weaken the fit for your specific interests.

For adults	For your 11-year-old	Beach / dining / trade-offs
Large pool, tennis, mini-golf, pickleball, water sports, several buffets and specialities. Spa and room service are extra.	Mini club 4-12, children's water park and shared Lady Hamilton family facilities. Main pool is deep in places (about 1.55 m): assess swimming ability.	Several coves and variable rocky entry, rather than one uninterrupted long beach. Large resort entails walking/cart waits. Reviews are mixed on food, service and sales approaches.

Verified room: Junior Suite, 2 adults + age 11 accepted; spacious category, approximately 53 sq m. Confirm bedding. **December 14-21, C\$5,205:** 2 x C\$2,125 + C\$955 child. The earlier C\$5,185 headline increased by C\$20 on supplier confirmation; C\$5,205 is the usable quote.

Nearby: Rick's Cafe 70-90 minutes, Montego Bay 45-60, YS Falls 2-2.5 hours; Dunn's River 2-2.5 hours. MBJ: 45-65 minutes. Best for a lower-cost resort week with selected outings, accepting the location trade-off.

Sources: [Official hotel](#) | [2026 hotel factsheet](#) | [Verified quote](#) | [Tripadvisor](#) | [Expedia](#)

Airport transfers and practical local transport

The shared return airport transfer is included in every shortlisted package. A separate hotel transfer is unnecessary for these bookings. Shared coaches can wait for other passengers and stop at other resorts; allow an estimated extra 30-90 minutes beyond the direct driving times below.

Hotel	Direct drive from MBJ	Published private return fare, vehicle for 1-4	Recommendation
Riu Ocho Rios	90-120 min about 90 km	US\$200 = about C\$286	Private: worthwhile after the flight and for predictable return pickup.
Aquarelle	40-60 min about 36 km	US\$120 = about C\$172	Included shared shuttle is good value; private for convenience.
Moon Palace	100-130 min about 97 km	US\$200 = about C\$286	Private preferred, particularly with the later Saturday arrival.
Riu Negril	80-110 min about 70-80 km	US\$180 = about C\$257	Private preferred to avoid multiple stops.
Iberostar Suites	25-40 min about 16-20 km	US\$80 = about C\$114	Included shared transfer is reasonable; private is a modest upgrade.
Grand Palladium	45-65 min about 35 km	US\$120 = about C\$172	Included shared transfer for lowest price; private if timing matters.

Sources: [Dasani Tours published private vehicle fares](#) | [Package transfer inclusion](#)

Private fares above are published round-trip rates, not December reservations or confirmed all-in invoices. Obtain the tax-inclusive total, luggage allowance, cancellation terms, licensed/insured vehicle confirmation, three working seat belts, and pickup instructions. Supply hotel, flight numbers, dates and child age; request an appropriate booster if your child's size needs one. Private driving times are planning estimates, not live traffic measurements.

Compare the alternatives

Package shared shuttle: C\$0 additional; prearranged through the voucher, with the return pickup confirmed in destination. Standalone shared-shuttle tariffs were not verified and offer little reason to pay again. **Independent private vehicle:** book ahead for the three of you; the whole fare is additional, because opting out of the included coach does not automatically earn a refund.

Authorized airport taxi: MBJ identifies JUTA and JCAL at the desk outside Customs. A current tariff could not be verified. For planning, use the private one-way benchmark (about C\$57 Iberostar, C\$86 Aquarelle/Palladium, C\$129 Negril, C\$143 Ocho/Moon), then allow up to 25-50% more; this is an estimate, not a quoted taxi fare. Agree a fixed currency and full fare before boarding. A prebooked return avoids relying on another airport taxi.

Sources: [MBJ authorized taxis](#) | [Airport operator desks](#) | [Canada transport guidance](#)

Sunwing's displayed private upgrades were C\$290 per person return for Ocho (C\$870 family) and C\$160 per person for Aquarelle (C\$480 family). Compare the whole vehicle price carefully. For outings, a hotel-arranged JUTA/registered driver with a fixed return time is more practical than self-driving unfamiliar inland roads.

If booking the hotel separately

Moon Palace advertises complimentary return transfers for 4+ nights booked on its own website. RIU advertises conditional direct-booking transfers for eligible RIU Class members/hotels and qualifying stays; Aquarelle's exact eligibility was not verified at final checkout. Expedia transfer inclusion was not shown. The other hotels' hotel-only transfer benefits were not verified. Never assume that a hotel-only price includes the package coach.

Sources: [Moon Palace direct benefits](#) | [RIU conditional transfer offer](#)

Waterfalls near Ocho Rios

The figures below are for **two adults + an 11-year-old**. Admissions are published primary-source prices; complete outing totals are estimates, because no date-specific driver/tour booking was made. Water conditions can change: use guides, water shoes and fitted life jackets where required, and skip unsafe sections.

Dunn's River Falls - the classic climb, with a beach alternative

A guided climb through cascading water, or stairs and viewing areas if you prefer to watch. It is lively and active rather than a wilderness hike. Published visitor admission: **US\$25 adult + US\$17 child aged 4-12**, US\$67 family, about **C\$96**. The operator states a **36-inch/91-cm minimum height** for climbing; wear water shoes and follow the guide on slippery rocks.

From Ocho hotels: about 5-7 km, 10-15 minutes. Aquarelle: about 75 km, 75-100 minutes. Private hotel-driver return costs roughly C\$60-100 from Ocho; allow **C\$180-240 total** with small extras. Buy from the official site at least 24 hours ahead under its online terms, or arrange an operator ticket/driver; check cruise-day crowds and river conditions.

Sources: [Official park / booking](#) | [Operator admission and height FAQ](#) | [Online booking terms](#)

Island Gully Falls / Blue Hole - swimming and optional jumps

A guide leads you along rainforest waterfall paths and swimming holes. Rope swings/jumps are optional activities to discuss individually with the guide. This is the **Ocho Rios Blue Hole**, not Blue Hole Mineral Spring near Negril. Admission: US\$25 adults; the US\$15 child rate ends at age 10, so your 11-year-old pays the adult rate. **US\$75 / about C\$107 for all three**. The tourism board says life jackets are provided.

From Moon Palace: about 15-18 km, 25-35 minutes. Riu Ocho: about 23-27 km, 35-45. Aquarelle: roughly 90-100 km, 1h45-2h. Standalone Ocho outing: **C\$230-320** with transport and small extras. No published minimum jump age/height was verified; the child ticket policy does not establish jump eligibility. Confirm supervision, swim ability, jacket fit and current river/depth conditions, and book a driver/guide in advance.

Sources: [Jamaica Tourism Board / current admission](#) | [Operator tickets](#)

Konoko Falls - gardens, heritage and a gentler nature day

Guided botanical gardens, a small heritage museum with Taino history, animals/birds and a waterfall climb. It combines nature and culture with a less intense day than the two-site falls trip. Admission: US\$20 adult, US\$10 child aged 3-12: **US\$50 / about C\$72 family**. No additional climb age/height limit was published; use water shoes for climbing and sturdy shoes for uneven paths.

From Moon: about 4 km, 10-15 minutes; from Riu Ocho about 12-15 km, 25-35. Allow **C\$180-260** with private return transport, a modest lunch/tip allowance. Arrange the driver and guided visit; ordinary family visits can use admission rather than an expensive multi-stop tour. Ask about any limits before the waterfall portion.

Sources: [Official admission](#) | [Tours / practical details](#)

Efficient pairing

From Riu Ocho or Moon, combine Dunn's River + Blue Hole in one driver day, with a local jerk lunch. Published admissions total about C\$203; budget **C\$420-525 for the whole family**, including estimated driver C\$150-220 and meal/tip/shoe allowances. From Aquarelle or Iberostar, budget C\$650-800 for the longer private day. Do not also add Kingston to that day.

Negril: Rick's Cafe, waterfalls and local food

Rick's Cafe - visit, watch, dine and enjoy the sunset

Children are welcome and **admission is free**; open daily noon-10 pm. A family of three does not need a restaurant reservation under the published rule for groups below ten. It is a good outing for music, watching skilled jumpers and the West End scenery. From Riu Negril it is about 14-16 km / 25-35 minutes; from Palladium about 50-60 km / 70-90 minutes.

Budget: about **C\$200-300 from Riu Negril**, including estimated return taxi C\$70-115, food/drinks, tax and tip. From Palladium allow C\$350-480. From Aquarelle/Iberostar, a private day can reach C\$500-730 and requires roughly 2 hours each way. Book a driver with an agreed return pickup; avoid relying on a late walk back.

Jump participation is a separate decision. The venue lists 10-, 25- and 35-foot platforms and says jumping is at the visitor's own risk. It publishes **no minimum age/height**, so I cannot confirm eligibility for an 11-year-old. His experience is relevant, but ocean conditions, submerged hazards and impact risk remain. Get direct venue approval for his age and the exact platform; check conditions/swimming competence and your insurance exclusions. I recommend the family visit, but would not recommend the 25- or 35-foot jumps for your child.

Sources: [Rick's official hours](#), [child admission and jump FAQ](#) | [Menu](#) | [Adventure activity guidance](#)

YS Falls - the practical waterfall day from Negril

Seven cascading falls, natural pools, gardens and a tractor ride through the estate. It offers swimming plus scenic walking, with lifeguard direction. US\$25 adult and US\$16 child aged 3-15: **US\$66 / about C\$94 family**. Open Tuesday-Sunday; admission 9:30 am-3 pm, exit by 4:30 pm. Closed Mondays and public holidays; capacity can stop admissions early. **The canopy zipline is currently closed until further notice.**

From Riu Negril: roughly 110-125 km / 2-2.5 hours each way; Palladium similarly about 2-2.5 hours. Turner Taxi publishes US\$190 return for a private vehicle of up to three from Negril on its YS/Black River route: approximately C\$272, transport only. Its old admission/zipline figures are outdated; use YS's current rates. A YS-focused day with lunch and tips is approximately **C\$460-510 family**. Request the exact itinerary and fare in writing; do not assume optional Black River boat admission is included.

Wear water shoes; stay on paths, supervise children and swim only where a lifeguard approves and is present. YS prohibits diving into pools/waterfalls. No specific age/height minimum for the ordinary garden/visitor route was published. A family of three does not require the large-group booking, but reserve transport and arrive early.

Sources: [YS current rates / closure](#) | [YS safety rules](#) | [Published Negril vehicle rate](#)

A local food and beach outing

With a registered driver/guide, visit the central Seven Mile Beach area for jerk chicken or fish, patties, fruit and a beach stop. Budget **C\$150-200 family** for an estimated short guided drive and casual meal; menu/guide prices were not independently quoted. From Riu Negril, allow 15-25 minutes each way depending on the stop. This is a practical cultural addition without sacrificing another day to cross-island travel.

Sources: [Jamaican cuisine context](#)

Culture, hiking and an evening nature experience

Bob Marley Museum - the actual former home in Kingston

The **56 Hope Road museum** provides a 75-90 minute guided look at Marley's life, music and home. This is different from the Nine Mile mausoleum often sold on resort tours. US\$25 adult (13+) and US\$12 child (4-12): **US\$62 / about C\$89 family**. Tours run Monday-Saturday, hourly 10 am-4 pm; closed Sundays and major holidays. Reserve a timed tour ahead.

From Moon Palace, allow about 100-115 km / 1h45-2h30 each way; Riu Ocho about 110-125 km / 2-2.5 hours. Budget **C\$600-800 family** with an estimated private driver C\$430-600, admission and lunch/tips. Confirm tolls, parking and waiting in the vehicle quote. No age/height restriction affects an ordinary 11-year-old visitor; it involves walking and standing. From Negril the 4.5-6 hour drive each way is impractical for this trip.

Sources: [Official museum tours / pricing](#)

Ahhh Ras Natango - Jamaican art, gardens and a home-style lunch

A Jamaican family's hilltop gallery and terraced garden near Montego Bay offers birds, local art and a slower cultural experience. Published admission: US\$35 adult (12+), US\$20 child (3-11): **C\$129 family**. Lunch US\$15 each adds C\$64. Published transport is US\$30 each from Montego Bay, or US\$40 each from listed Falmouth/Palladium areas: roughly **C\$322 all-in from Montego Bay / C\$365 from those areas**, before extra tips.

Iberostar: about 35-45 km / 50-65 minutes; Aquarelle about 50-60 km / 60-90 minutes; Palladium about 45 km / 60 minutes. Book meals/transfers and exact hotel pickup in advance. Weekends require an appointment; terraces have steps and require sensible shoes. **Conditional option:** its website still describes Melissa damage and restoration; December full garden access was not independently confirmed. Obtain an operating/access confirmation before paying; use a local guided food/culture outing as a budget substitute if unavailable.

Sources: [Official admission, meals and transfers](#) | [Operator recovery notice](#)

Bunker's Hill - a genuine hike and rural culture option

The tourism board describes a Wakefield rainforest/cave walk with Taino and Maroon history, traditional wood-fire food and river experiences. It suits an active family seeking more than resort entertainment. Aquarelle is an estimated 35-50 km / 60-90 minutes away; Iberostar about 60 km / 90 minutes. **C\$350-550 family** is a planning allowance for guide, driver and food, not a published or confirmed quote.

December operation, minimum age/height, trail difficulty, swimming rules, footwear and guide/meal inclusions were not verified. Arrange directly in advance and ask for an 11-year-old-appropriate route; skip river swimming if conditions are unsuitable. Treat this as a promising substitute, not a guaranteed excursion.

Sources: [Jamaica Tourism Board community adventure listing](#)

Luminous Lagoon - easiest extra from Aquarelle

A 35-45 minute evening boat trip demonstrates bioluminescence; swimming is optional and you can stay aboard. Published US\$25 adult fare; the child discount stops at ten, so all three pay US\$75, about **C\$107**. From Aquarelle: roughly 3-5 km / 5-10 minutes; allow **C\$160-210 total** with a return taxi. From Iberostar: 20-25 km / 25-35 minutes, around C\$220-280 total. Reserve the boat and return driver; request a fitted life jacket. Darkness, muddy bottom and variable depth warrant caution; visibility varies with weather/light. No separate minimum boat age/height was published.

Sources: [Official adult tickets](#) | [Child fare rule](#) | [Tour details](#)

Which activities are actually close?

All distances and times below are **approximate one-way road planning estimates**, not live map measurements. Transfers quoted by operators can be optimistic. Inland roads, traffic, cruise arrivals and weather can extend a trip. A base on one coast will not make every attraction convenient.

Base	Waterfalls	Rick's Cafe	Kingston museum	Other practical interests
Riu Ocho	Dunn 5-7 km / 10-15 min Blue Hole 23-27 km / 35-45 min	200-220 km 3.5-4.5 h	110-125 km 2-2.5 h	Konoko 12-15 km / 25-35 min; local jerk lunch and town guide.
Moon Palace	Dunn about 5 km / 10-15 min Blue Hole 15-18 km / 25-35 min	200-220 km 3.5-4.5 h	100-115 km 1h45-2h30	Konoko about 4 km / 10-15 min; easier central Ocho outings.
Aquarelle	Dunn 70-80 km / 75-100 min Blue Hole 90-100 km / 1h45-2h	125-140 km 2-2.5 h	185-205 km 3-3.5 h	Lagoon 3-5 km / 5-10 min; Falmouth 5-7 km / 10-15 min.
Riu Negril	YS 110-125 km / 2-2.5 h Ocho falls 190-210 km / 3-4 h	14-16 km 25-35 min	320-350 km 4.5-6 h	Seven Mile Beach food, beach walking, West End views.
Iberostar	Dunn 80-90 km / 90-110 min YS about 130-150 km / 2.5-3 h	100-115 km 1h45-2h15	200-220 km 3.5-4 h	MoBay art/food, gardens; lagoon 20-25 km / 25-35 min.
Palladium	YS 110-130 km / 2-2.5 h Dunn 130-145 km / 2-2.5 h	50-60 km 70-90 min	250-280 km about 4 h	Lucea local food/history; MoBay art/garden route about 1 h.

Culture without losing a whole day in the car

From Aquarelle, choose a short guided Falmouth town outing: Georgian architecture, local history and patties/jerk food. Budget C\$130-210 for a driver/guide and casual meal; no current tour/menu quote was verified. From Ocho, pair a local market/history stop and jerk lunch with a waterfall driver day. From Palladium, a Lucea/Montego Bay guided food route makes more sense than Kingston.

Ask the guide about Jamaican history and daily life, choose locally owned food stops, and allow time to talk rather than filling the day with souvenir-store stops. For a proper rainforest hike, Bunker's Hill is the better research lead from the Falmouth area, subject to the operator checks on page 9. A Blue Mountains hike/coffee excursion would make an Ocho-Kingston museum day overly ambitious.

Water park and activity age checks

The 11-year-old is within the listed children's club age ranges at all six hotels. That does not guarantee access to every slide, swim-up pool, surf simulator or sport. Aquarelle's swim-up pools, gym and spa areas are listed as 18+. The binding December age/height rule for an 11-year-old on the large RIU slides was not verified. Confirm the exact slide policy and Moon Palace's FlowRider height/waiver requirements before basing the hotel choice on those facilities.

Guest scores reflect cumulative experiences, not a promise of December conditions. Expedia's verified-stay reviews help cross-check Tripadvisor. Recent comments received more weight for renovations, service and works; all scores/counts can change and the quoted counts are rounded. The higher-scoring Aquarelle does not remove the driving advantage of the Ocho hotels.

Sources: [RIU Ocho facilities](#) | [Aquarelle facilities](#) | [Moon water sports](#)

Realistic family budgets

These totals combine the **verified CAD package** with published private airport fares, **estimated complete outings** and C\$300 for tips, water shoes, small purchases and optional seating/FX costs. Excursion totals include their transport, admission and planned local meals. They are planning ranges, not tour-provider quotes.

Finalist	Package	Private airport return	Selected outings	Family total
Riu Ocho Dec 14-21	5,955	286	Dunn + Blue Hole C\$420-525 Konoko C\$180-260 Kingston museum C\$600-800	C\$7,800-8,200
Aquarelle Dec 14-21	6,415	172	Ocho falls day C\$650-800 Art/garden + food C\$365-430* Lagoon C\$160-210	C\$8,000-8,500
Moon Palace Dec 12-19	7,215	286	Ocho falls day C\$400-500 Konoko C\$150-230 Kingston museum C\$600-800	C\$8,900-9,400
Riu Negril Dec 14-21	5,935	257	Rick's visit C\$200-300 YS day C\$460-510 Local food/beach C\$150-200	C\$7,300-7,600
Iberostar Suites Dec 14-21	7,735	114	Ocho falls day C\$650-800 Art/garden + food C\$322-380* Lagoon C\$220-280	C\$9,300-9,700
Palladium Dec 14-21	5,205	172	Rick's visit C\$350-480 YS day C\$450-550** Art/garden + food C\$365-430*	C\$6,900-7,200

* Ras Natango full December access needs confirmation; substitute a guided local food/culture visit within the same allowance if unavailable. **Palladium YS transport is an estimate; the published US\$190 Turner vehicle price applies to Negril. Totals are rounded upward/downward as practical budget ranges, not exact invoices.

Useful budget changes

Keep the included airport coach: subtract the private transfer column. **Skip Kingston from Ocho:** save C\$600-800 and keep another beach day; Riu Ocho becomes approximately C\$7,100-7,400 with two outing days. **Keep Aquarelle outings local:** replace the long falls day with a C\$130-210 Falmouth food/history outing; budget about C\$7,400-7,900. **Shorter Aquarelle:** five nights saves C\$690 on the verified package, but provides less excursion/rest time.

Currency and expenses outside these totals

The Bank of Canada's October 9 rate is **US\$1 = C\$1.4271**; excursion/transfer conversions use rounded C\$1.43. Your card can add foreign exchange fees (often 2.5%, depending on the card), and December rates can change. The packages themselves were quoted directly in CAD.

Sources: [Bank of Canada October 9 exchange rate](#)

Not included: Montreal airport parking/transport, passports, and travel medical/cancellation insurance. For a more complete cash envelope, allow roughly **C\$150-350 for family insurance** only if needed, plus your actual Montreal transport costs. That insurance allowance is unquoted: adult ages, existing coverage and selected activities can change it substantially. Check coverage for jumps/water sports; cancellation add-ons are not automatically medical insurance.

Example: the recommended Ocho trip is about C\$7,800-8,200 before these home-side costs. A cautious planning envelope is **about C\$8,000-8,600 plus Montreal transport/parking**, depending on insurance needs. No deposit, booking or payment has been made.

Suggested weeks and final choice

Recommended: Riu Ocho Rios, December 14-21

Date	Plan
Mon 14	Nonstop morning flight; transfer, lunch/afternoon settling in.
Tue 15	Dunn's River + Blue Hole with a private driver and Jamaican jerk lunch. Jumps remain optional and subject to operator approval.
Wed 16	Resort beach/pools and age-appropriate activities.
Thu 17	Prebooked Bob Marley Museum in Kingston; local lunch and a guided cultural stop if timing permits. Keep the itinerary focused.
Fri 18	Konoko gardens/heritage/waterfall, or substitute a shorter local food/history outing.
Sat 19 / Sun 20	Two relaxed resort days; confirm return airport pickup.
Mon 21	Return WS2915 MJB 13:25 - YUL 18:10.

Alternative weeks

Moon Palace December 12-19: same Ocho excursion pattern, moving the museum to a weekday. Use the Playroom/games/water sports for rest days. It is the best family resort upgrade among verified quotes, with less first-day time because of the 16:00 arrival.

Riu Negril December 14-21: YS Falls on Tuesday (closed Monday), a rest day, Rick's Cafe with a West End/local food afternoon, another beach/culture outing and two relaxed resort days. It offers the best access to the cafe; I would omit Kingston and Ocho waterfalls.

Aquarelle December 14-21: Falmouth history/food plus the lagoon one day; Ocho waterfalls another; a confirmed art/garden or community hike on a weekday; the remaining time at the resort. It offers the easiest combination of a modern hotel, short transfer and local outings, at the cost of a longer waterfall day.

What to settle before paying

Reprice the exact **2 adults + child age 11**, room category and both nonstop flight legs. Confirm bedding in writing, any December works/closed amenities, the RIU slide or Moon FlowRider age/height rules, package baggage/transfers and cancellation terms. For excursions, obtain exact family prices, child participation rules and December access. For Rick's, require explicit age/platform approval separately from the cafe visit.

How I would choose

Best balanced value and easiest waterfall/museum access: Riu Ocho Family Room, December 14-21. **Best family resort experience:** Moon Palace, December 12-19. **Best guest-score/modern-resort compromise and low-hassle airport journey:** Aquarelle, December 14-21. **Best Rick's Cafe location:** Riu Negril, December 14-21. **Lowest verified package cost:** Grand Palladium Jamaica, December 14-21.

I would not try to fit Rick's Cafe, the Ocho waterfalls and the Kingston museum into the same one-week resort holiday. Decide whether Rick's or the museum is the more important geographic anchor; that choice is more consequential than the C\$20 difference between the two verified RIU Negril/Ocho packages.

Provider checks, availability limits and booking links

Provider / channel	What was actually checked	Implication
Tripcentral	Broad Montreal all-inclusive/nonstop family calendar, about 18 hotels; five shortlisted room/flight combinations reached supplier-priced booking steps.	Successful live family quotes in this report. Per-adult headlines were not multiplied by three.
Sunwing direct	Family searches for Dec 14 seven/five nights and Dec 22 six/seven nights; Ocho Family Room and Aquarelle five nights reached checkout.	Strongest cross-check; late December totals remain search-level only.
Redtag	Riu Ocho Garden View advertised cheaper than Tripcentral. Supplier request returned product unavailable.	Discarded the cheaper headline; no verified Redtag booking quote.
Air Canada Vacations	Family listings for Dec 12-19 and Dec 14-21; flight alternatives inspected. Examples: GP C\$6,197 and Moon C\$8,987 on Dec 14.	Inspected quotes used connections (including Toronto) and did not satisfy nonstop. Not comparable eligible alternatives.
Expedia hotel only	Aquarelle Dec 14-21, 2 adults + age 11: Partial Oceanview C\$5,924; standard Junior Suite C\$5,629, including displayed taxes/fees.	No flights/airport transfers included. Independent verified-stay reviews also checked.
RIU direct hotel only	Aquarelle same family/dates: standard Junior Suite C\$5,684; Partial Oceanview C\$5,983; sea view C\$6,322 with displayed taxes.	No flight quote combined. Transfer/membership offers conditional; exact eligibility unverified.

The same-category Aquarelle package at C\$6,415 is only C\$491 above Expedia's hotel-only Partial Oceanview total and C\$432 above RIU direct. The package already includes three return flights, baggage and shared transfers, so it is the clear value in the quotes inspected. Refund/cancellation conditions differ and must be compared before purchase.

Sources: [Tripcentral search](#) | [Sunwing](#) | [Redtag](#) | [Air Canada Vacations](#) | [Expedia actual family hotel search](#) | [RIU Aquarelle direct](#)

Broader hotel screen and important exclusions

Royalton Negril, Royalton Blue Waters, Ocean Coral Spring, Princess Grand and Beaches Negril were also screened. They did not beat the strongest verified price/quality/location combinations; no equivalent successful nonstop family checkout is asserted for them. Beaches appeared substantially more expensive, and the inspected ACV quote connected.

The tourism board lists Hyatt Ziva, Dreams Rose Hall and Jewel Grande reopening in 2027, so I excluded them for December 2026. Bahia Principe Grand/Explore Jamaica was listed for a December 1 reopening: too much reopening uncertainty to make this shortlist. Adults-only properties, including RIU Palace Jamaica and the November-converted Iberostar Waves Rose Hall Beach, do not fit your family.

Sources: [Official hotel reopening status](#)

Quote links

All checks were October 9, 2026. Booking links below may expire or reprice; use the exact dates, occupancy and room on pages 1-5 to reproduce them. A live supplier-priced checkout means availability was verified at that moment, not that inventory has been reserved. I did not exhaust every possible date/provider combination, so these are the strongest verified options found, not a guarantee of the island's absolute lowest price.

Riu Ocho: [Sunwing Family Room search](#)
Aquarelle: [Tripcentral quote](#)
Moon Palace: [Tripcentral quote](#)
Riu Negril: [Tripcentral quote](#)
Iberostar Selection Suites: [Tripcentral quote](#)
Grand Palladium Jamaica: [Tripcentral quote](#)