

## Positive Tourism News for Countrystyle Community Tourism

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Publishers Remarks: "When hospitality is the focus of tourism and the first order of business, hoteliers, travel professionals and the destination always benefit. Read the story of a recent traveler to Jamaica reported in Tripadvisor." Let me start by telling you a little about us. We are in our early 50 and travel internationally at least 2 times a year. My husband loves cruises and all inclusives, and I like small quaint local. Our compromise is that he picks the resort or cruise and I pick the excursions. The trip to the Whitehouse was not bad, we were able to see the countryside and we were prepared for the hour and a half of bumpy roads. Once we arrived everything was well organized and check in was quick and easy. In our room there was a coffee maker but the coffee was terrible and undrinkable. Being on the 4th floor in the French section, we had quite a hike to the main resort and café area. Ordinarily not an issue but first thing in the morning for coffee was somewhat inconvenient. My suggestion would be to bring your own coffee and filters if you want to make decent coffee in your room and don't want to go for a hike each morning to get your coffee.

The beach was beautiful and the staff was great. The bartenders were fun and engaging. There are plenty of water sports available if that is something you are into. I spent most of my mornings in the dive shop. They were extremely patient instructors and taught me how to dive. I was able to go on 5 dives during my stay where and I saw something different and amazing each time I went. Lionfish, sting rays, and even a dolphin. I really want to commend the Dive shop staff. They were able to teach this lady a new trick or two. Zia and Roderick thanks for your kindness and patience.

The Food...Hmmm let's just say that "Cost Cutter" is doing a great job. The pot stickers at Jasmines, and the Jerk Chicken at Bluefield's were the best things we had. Otherwise we were not impressed. If there is an outdoor buffet for dinner I would suggest you skip the restaurants and eat there. We made the mistake of going to Eleanor's on Beach Party night and the service was really slow. They have 4 house wines, Berringer Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Merlot and a Cabernet. More of a variety would be nice. If you like mixed drinks you do need to try a Dirty Banana, that was a delicious frozen concoction.

After 4 days of "Resort food" I needed my fix of roadside local fare. I wanted a tour that was very local, like something you would see on Anthony Bourdains No Reservations. The standard resort sanctioned tourist excursions did not appeal to me. With a little searching I have to say that I hit a homerun. I set up a tour with Diana McIntyre-Pike. It's called Countrystyle Community Experience Vacations and I can only say that it was a wonderful and memorable experience. She provided a personalized, tailor made local tour for us bearing in mind our interests and budget. She set things

up so that we were able to experience the Jamaican culture, heritage, music, cuisine and general way of life. It was interesting visiting a local bee keeper, an organic farmer and a herbalist. The food was fabulous from the roadside stands. We laughed and danced in the middle of the day. It was the highlight of the trip. I am sure we will return.

Source:

[http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g1009314-d499965-r122181471-Sandals\\_Whitehouse\\_European\\_Village\\_and\\_Spa-Whitehouse\\_Jamaica.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g1009314-d499965-r122181471-Sandals_Whitehouse_European_Village_and_Spa-Whitehouse_Jamaica.html)