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Hikaru, our private, beachfront home, is in a secluded section of Treasure Beach on Jamaica's South Coast. In (say this unspoiled area, homes are known by name rather than street address. We chose a Japanese word *he-CAR-oo*) that means "sparkling, shining."

That describes the climate well. From a sun-worshiper's viewpoint, it's ideal. Even the Jamaican "rainy seasons" (April-May, September-October) rarely produce more than a late-afternoon shower. It isn't even cloudy most of the time, even in shower season: A 2,000-foot mountain barrier behind us cuts off the cloud-bearing northeast trade winds. It's less humid than the touristy North Shore; in our semi-arid climate, cactus are prominent among the natural flora. Taking care not to be profligate with water is about the only price to be paid for dry sunshine and an ideal sea.

Hikaru sits on a sandy knoll, its wide shaded patio facing the sea and an almost-constant onshore breeze. Two terraces just below the house share that breeze: a wide sunny terrace that's perfect for tanning, but has a pool of shade under a sea-almond tree; and a smaller, shady terrace whose flowering cactus and birdbath draw visits from warblers, nightingales and three kinds of hummingbirds, among others.

Below the terraces are a 50-foot lap pool with a shallower ellipse and a sunning deck, a croquet court and a doubles tennis court (regulation save for a narrow sidecourt) with a Latexite surface. At the edge of the sea is a thatch hut, a cool place to lounge, watch children in the shallows or read and rest.

There's a fine-sand beach, and 30 yards of sheltered water, wading-deep, out to the barrier reef. Off the reef, the sea is full of coral and fish at depths of 8 to 12 feet, a snorkeler's delight when the sea is calm. When the breeze is up, a wide break in the reef about 300 yards west of our gate opens on a sandbar that makes fine body-surfing. Just 350 yards the other way, to our east, is the Billy's Bay fishing cove (picture, next page) where a dozen fishing captains beach their seagoing canoes and sell fish caught 50 miles out on the Pedro Banks.

Hikaru is furnished in hand-crafted Jamaican *maho* wood - but of course with modern baths and comfortable beds and a modern kitchen. We have a telephone, fax machine and Internet connection. Our cook-housekeeper will prepare your meals (superbly!), pick up after you and make it a real vacation. If your group is more than four, she'll be helped by a second maid.

You'll spend for groceries just a bit more than you would at home - less for tropical fruit and fish and lobster right from Billy's Bay, more for those processed foods that are, in Jamaica, imports. You'll send us grocery money that we transmit to our housekeeper, who will do the shopping before your arrival. (There are few small shops nearby where you can replenish some staples, beer, rum and soda pop.)

When you reserve, we'll send you our *Hikaru Hints*, a three-decade accumulation of our experience, and guests', of what to bring, what to expect, what to do, how much to pay, etc. We'll send a detailed map if you rent a car, or if you prefer will help you line up a veteran van driver to meet your flight and come back for you when it's time to start home. (There's no car rental agency in Billy's Bay, but our housekeeper can help you arrange to rent a neighbor's van and driver for day trips.)



View west across the fishing cove. Hikaru peeks through the feathery casuarina trees above horizon; seagate, center-left

Our *Hikaru Hints* will offer suggestions for day trips if you tire of just loafing on the beach or terraces. There are several scenic points - the Bamboo Avenue; Lover's Leap; a panoramic view of the Pedro Plains - just a half-hour away. The Black River, also a half-hour away, is a spectacular marine morass you can visit by boat. Just beyond that is YS Falls, fully the rival of the better-known Dunn's River Falls. Mandeville, a pretty mountain city, is an hour and a quarter away, worth a trip for magnificent views, a glimpse of the bauxite (aluminum) industry, a colorful and superbly-stocked farmer's market, a good golf course, and some interesting restaurants. And the Negril resort area, seven miles of beach and pond-placid water with sailing and scuba diving, is a day trip to the west end of the island.

Those are all auto trips. Right at Hikaru are swimming, body-surfing, reef-snorkeling when the weather's calm, sunbathing, and your private tennis court and croquet court - and just relaxing to the rhythm of the sea, the birds and flowers. For diversion, you can walk for miles along sparsely-populated beaches, scrambling occasionally over or around a reef headland. Our part-time gardener leads what he calls a "jungle walk" into the hills behind us, astonishingly lush despite the aridity, with orchids and bromeliads among the flora, and birds he can name for you. Right on our property, he'll introduce you to many Jamaican flowers and trees: guava, papaya, mango, lime, grapefruit, coconut and thatch palm, lignum vitae and more. You can spear crabs on the reef by torchlight, or try spin-casting off the reef. You can go out at dawn with a fisherman neighbor to see him draw his fish-traps - or hire one to take you for a boat ride up the coast, or trolling. A boat trip to - and up - the Black River is a picturesque half-day's outing, and avid fishermen can try for snook, wahoo and tarpon in season.

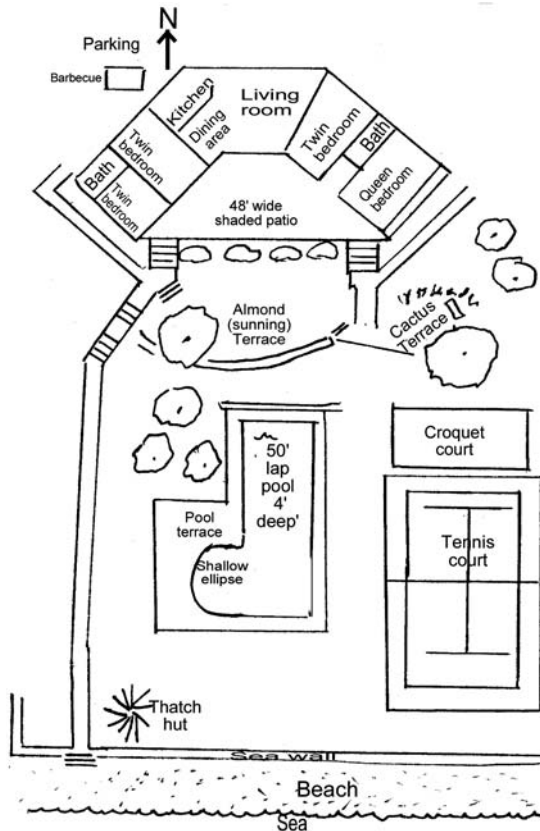
And few of our guests fail to mention the people. Treasure Beach is a series of fishing villages: sturdy, self-reliant people who make their living from the sea. The occasional reports of "unrest" in Jamaica are a bit distorted, applying mostly to a few urban areas. Treasure Beach has always been something apart from the rest of the country and the tourist areas. Our neighbors are friendly, open, honest; rather conservative, mostly church-going folk who will leave you alone if you want privacy, but are easy to talk with if you seek them out. Down at the cove, several evenings a week, you can watch the three-man fishing crews come in from their 100-mile voyage, weighing and selling the catch there on the beach - fine photographic subjects, as well as the source of supper!

One visitor wrote:

"The physical beauty of Hikaru, the unspoiled, uncorrupted environment, would be sufficient cause for our enthusiasm. It was the people, however, the warm, polite, generous people, who established the mood. I don't believe I have ever met a group of people with such dignity, generosity and intelligence."

To which we say: Amen!

You can visit a nearby bar and dominoes parlor, and hire a few local fishermen musicians to play on our terrace. But frankly, that's the extent of night life at Treasure Beach. If the hotel scene and shopping are your thing, you'll be happier on the North Shore. We built a house big enough for family and friends for quiet company, with places around the house to be alone, or with friends. It's ideal for a big family, two small families, three or four couples, or just a bunch of friends. But it's also comfortable for just one or two. We offer a small discount to honeymooners, who are likely to come back with their families a few years later!



Hikaru is on a 1 1/4-acre lot, heavily planted for privacy. Below the shaded patio are the sunny Almond Terrace, the shaded Cactus Terrace and the croquet court. Walk past the pool and tennis court to the beach or the thatched hut (picture, below) just inside the sea wall.

On satellite weather photos, you'll often see systems working from the Gulf across Cuba and the Bahamas - and Jamaica in the clear, or with North Coast afternoon clouds that seldom get past our mountain barrier. We must water daily.

January temps: overnight 72°, daytime high 87°. July is only 5° warmer. (All-time high: 92°. The reason: shorter days and longer nights.) Sea temperature: a constant 80°. We have an on-shore breeze all day, and the house is angled to maximize its benefit, with screened, louvered windows. All rooms have overhead fans. April and May usually calmest for snorkeling; July and August, the most surfing days. But most weeks will include some of each - and it will be sunny!



When the sea is calm, read at water's edge on a deserted beach. **Below:** From the dining area to the living room (the wide angle lens makes it look smaller than it really is). Game table under the window.



Above: Poinciana, the master bedroom. (Desk not visible, lower right). **Below:** The Allamanda Room (inside bedroom in west end)



WEEKLY RATES

[rates include Jamaica's General Consumption (sales) Tax]

(See current rates in other website pages)



CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR'S: rented as a flat two-week block at the full-house rate.

EXTRA NIGHTS, if available, pro-rated at 1/7 the weekly rate.

LONGER STAYS: 40% off for a third consecutive week.

OFF-OFF-SEASON BONUS! Jamaica has super weather in late spring and early fall. We offer nine nights for a week's rent for any period beginning *and* ending between May 1 - June 30, or after Labor Day week and before Thanksgiving week. You can fly midweek rates, or stretch a week's vacation to include both weekends.

Please make checks payable to Hikaru Company Limited

Our rates vary by season and size of group, with a minimum rate for four people. We normally rent Saturday evening through Saturday morning. Depending on the demand, we may be able to offer extra days, pro-rated on the weekly rate. If not, we can recommend some South Coast inns for your extra days, or can suggest inexpensive hotels in traditional tourist areas. It's a big, varied, friendly island (about the size of Connecticut) that's fun to travel about.

Call to see if the time you want is available; we'll hold that time for 48 hours while you make airline reservations and call back to confirm. We'll ask you to send half the rent on confirmation, with the balance to reach us a month before you fly. If you must cancel, we'll keep a \$75 forfeit fee, but will return the balance if you give us three months' notice (six months for Christmas and school vacation weeks); if you cancel on shorter notice, a refund or credit will depend on our ability to re-rent the time we'd held for you.

In peak season - Christmas, winter school vacation weeks, Jamaican Independence Week (in late July-early August) - airlines fill up early. We urge that you make a tentative airline reservation (into Montego Bay, which is an hour closer to us than Kingston) as early as possible, and then of course cancel any reservations you're not going to use to free up space for others.

And we encourage you to plan ahead. Most years we're occupied more than two-thirds of the year. Winter season usually fills up first, but even off-season months are sometimes booked well in advance. On the other hand, you may catch us with an open week on short notice; it's worth a phone call or e-mail.



View east from the surfing beach. Feathery casuarinas above horizon, upper left, mark Hikaru.

To book, or
for more detail,
contact
Don Noel and
(Elizabeth) Brad Noel
141 Ridgefield St.
Hartford CT
06112-1837
(800) 526-2432
(860) 247-2080
DonONoel@cs.com