



# NOT YOUR ORDINARY HUT



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Photo from Janeen Johnson

Anyone that knows me will know I love things and places that are unique. There is nothing more exciting than finding an unknown gem and feeling you've been let in on a well kept secret. My friends would also know that Portland is my favorite parish in Jamaica and it was only a matter of time before I share my love with the world. When someone tells me that they have limited time in Jamaica and ask for a recommendation of where to go my answer is always the same, "If you have a single day in Jamaica go to Portland. I guarantee you will love it unless you are a big party lover

because it's made for relaxation and connecting with nature". When they ask the next question, "Where can we stay?" the answer is always "Great Huts!" My couch-surfers can attest to my shameless plugs for Great Huts. You would think it's the only place in Jamaica that I know or that I was on their payroll. When you love somewhere so much you tend to do one of two things, either you keep it to yourself and hope no one else discovers your secret spot or you tell everyone you meet because you want them to share your passion and grow to love it as much as you do. Obviously I choose the latter. So, what is this Great Huts place? Oh my darlings I thought you'd never ask.

Great Huts is this beautiful off the beaten path eco-resort that I discovered a few months ago. While browsing the internet for affordable accommodations I stumbled on their website and it was love at first click. Portland is my go to location for a weekend escape as it is only a two hour drive from Kingston and in my humble opinion, it's one of the most beautiful unspoiled place in Jamaica. The area is filled with picturesque villas and guest houses but none quite as unique as Great Huts. The resort is literally perched on the edge of a cliff overlooking Boston Bay in Portland. Its simple yet brilliant design captivates you from the moment you open the bamboo gates and you may find yourself planning your next visit before you leave.

If you're a lover of animals and of the outdoors you will feel totally at home. The huts all have different designs and themes but are primarily made of bamboo, straw and stones with sand or gravel floors. Though some huts have private bathrooms nothing connects you more with nature than showering under the open sky with birds chirping, parrots squawking and the faint sound of waves crashing against rocks. Think mini rainforest with beautiful turquoise Caribbean waters at the edge of it. The dangerous thing about Great Huts is that you may be tempted to spend your days curled up in a hammock on their private beach sleeping or enjoying a good book and you may miss out on exploring the rest of Portland. Hut prices start at US\$60 per night which is for 2 persons and inclusive of breakfast but prices can go up to \$250 for a more luxury type hut that may have a jacuzzi and a view to die for. Whether you are planning a romantic getaway or a relaxed weekend with friends it can be the ideal place.

It is such a place where words and pictures do little justice to fully capture its essence but you can check out their website [www.greathuts.com](http://www.greathuts.com) for a better feel of the place. Great Huts provide a treat from the ordinary 4 star, air conditioned hotel room vacation. It is undoubtedly a once in a lifetime experience that you shouldn't pass up when you visit Jamaica. I'm just waiting on the right moment to lure another group of unsuspecting friends to go with me.

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