



OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA



Comments are by CruiseCritic.com members & friends
collected by 'DarryDFL' & 'PegEggFL'.
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[Dunn's River Falls](#)

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DUNN'S RIVER FALLS

- ▶ Website: <http://markstours.com/home.html> — Tour cost: \$55 per Adult, \$45 per child (under 11 years). Inclusive of total cover charge, entry to Dunn's River Falls & cost of tubing. Duration of tour 4.5 hours.
- ▶ 'Anonymous', Jun/5/08: Dunn's River Falls (by itself) is only 1.5 hrs long and is \$40 per person. The Falls & Tubing Combo is \$55 per person and is 4.5 hrs long.
- ▶ 'Dopey1956', Sep/23/09: I recommend Pete Taylor. We used him 4 years ago on a tour to Dunn's River Falls and the back roads tours in Jamaica. He stopped at a school, and we went in to see the kids. He was great.
- ▶ '10th Anniversary', Oct/4/09: We did [take a taxi to Dunn's River Falls]. We exited through the port center and paid to take the shuttle service in the secured area — about \$15 per person round-trip. The shuttle will leave when it gets full. We waited about 10 minutes. The shuttle driver was excellent. Drove us right there, told us he would pick us up in 2 hours and sure enough there he was. He drove us around a little then dropped off those who wanted to shop downtown and took the rest of us back to the port. We had no problems at all and plan to do the exact same thing this time.
- ▶ 'DarryDFL', Oct/24/09: Aqua ("water") shoes are required at Dunn's River Falls. They cost \$20 onboard the ship.

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- '10th Anniversary', Oct/28/09: In Ocho Rios, Jamaica, we did the Falls on our own by catching a taxi at the port for \$10 pp round-trip and then paying our own pay into the Falls.
- 'amcg96', Oct/26/09: What a beautiful place Ocho Ríos is. Yes, there is poverty but get off the ship and try to experience the place for everything that it has to offer. We had booked a great tour and went to the Dunn's River Falls and White River Tubbing, then took a tour through the city and saw the Fern Gully. Our guide took us to the market for some t-shirts — that is a place you do not venture alone.

MARK MORRIS TOUR

- 'Sky616', Oct/26/09: We did the Dunn's River Falls and River Tubing with Mark Morris in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Mark is a wonderful tour guide and very nice and, in fact, is one of the nicest people we have ever met. He is very knowledgeable of his home island of Jamaica and very proud of his heritage and homeland. He was born and raised there.

We are a family of three. My wife and my son, who is 8.

His assistant (can't think of her name) met us at the pier and we were told to wait for Mark there. They were waiting for another couple. When Mark came, he told us to wait inside his air-conditioned bus instead of out in the hot sun. The other couple came, and we were on our way to the falls.

When we got to the falls, he led us to the beginning where the falls guide took us up the falls. On the walk there, Mark told us where to exit back to the bus so we would not have to deal with the pushy and aggressive shopkeepers who are on you as soon as you exit the falls. The climb took about 45 minutes to an hour. After we got back to the bus, my son Logan remembered my Dunn's River Falls shirt that read, "I climbed Dunn's River Falls" I had at home from a previous climb there six years ago. I told Mark about it and he reassured me and Logan that he would get him one downtown after the narrative part of the tour was over.

After we left the falls, we headed to the river tubing area. It was great. The water was cool, but refreshing. That took about 40 minutes.

When we were done, Mark was waiting for us with the bus down-river. Then we drove around the island, and Mark explained many things. He was very thorough with his knowledge of the island.

After the tour, we drove downtown where there were many shops. He took us into some shops to find Logan his t-shirt. No luck. We went into some more shops and couldn't find one. Then he led us into the downtown Market-place where many vendors are pushy just like at the falls. He said he would never send any of us in there without him. He said when they see him, they are not pushy towards the tourists. They had a couple of shirts but not his size.

We were just about to give up when he single-handedly went into some more shops himself to find one and he did. So, basically, he went out of his way to help out.

Also I bought my wife a tennis bracelet in one of the jewelry shops, and it had to be resized not once but twice cause the girl did it wrong. He said, "No problem," and couldn't have been nicer while we waited for it to be finished.

So if you aren't sure want to do in Jamaica I would highly recommend Mark and his tour. He was very easy to reach. He always emailed me back in a day or two. My wife even said he was the best tour operator we ever had and this was our 5th cruise, so we've done some tours.

The next day, we had a tour in Grand Cayman with a company and it was a bit of a letdown because the tour operator was nothing like Mark.

One thing that was funny was that about 3 days before we left for our cruise, he emailed me and wondered if I could buy him some tire shine for his bus and he would reimburse me. I guess they don't have it down there. I said I would try to get some before we left. I did get some for him and he was so appreciative. I just told him to forget about paying me because the tour was so good. I just used that as part of his tip we gave him at the end of the tour.

► 'AMCG96', Oct/28/09: You can definitely add Mark as an excellent option for Ocho Ríos. We were with Shane and his family and can tell enough good things about that day.

► 'Ravenator', Oct/8/09: After seeing all of the favorable reviews on [Cruise-Critic], I booked a tour with Mark for this past Sep/17/09. I am a travel agent, and I had a group of 25 people who were cruising with me on board the Carnival Liberty. Mark was at the dock waiting, and he met us right outside the port. He and his assistant (Shakeera — I think) were very pleasant and courteous. Believe me, all the kind words and favorable compliments that Mark receives on this board are so well deserved! Mark picked up my group in comfortable air conditioned vans and we began our journey to the Dunn's River Falls. During our trek to the Falls, Mark provided us with very informative and interesting

facts about the Jamaican culture. Once at the Falls, Mark hand-picked a very knowledgeable guide (for a nominal fee) to assist us up the Falls, we had a lot of “first-timers” and some seniors so this option was very valuable to us! After the Falls, Mark got us all loaded back into the vans and then it was off to our River Tubing down the White River. What a blast this was! We had 3 guides floating down the river with us making sure that everyone was safe. Oh, I almost forgot, on the way to the Falls, my wife needed a camera, so Mark took us through the shopping district where his assistant, Shakeera, accompanied me into the store to make sure I got a great deal, and I did. I would highly recommend Mark Morris for this tour and can't wait to use him again the next time we are in Ocho Rios.

TRANOPY TOUR (AKA ZIPLINE)

- Website: <http://www.rainforestrams.com/jamicaintro.html> —
- ‘Daytona’, Jun/10/09: It included the Sky Explorer, Bobsled and Zipline. It was \$124. (The Tranopy was not offered by the ship.) The ship offered the Sky Explorer (\$45) and the Bobsled, including the explorer (\$62). The prices are the same if you book through the ship or go there on your own. We walked over to it (25 min). I think the bobsled is about ½ a mile long with lots of twists and turns. It actually seemed longer, but still not long enough.
- Sheldon, husband of ‘Dixie54’, Oct/14/09: We left the ship at 10:15 AM, and returned at 3 PM. It was a 20 minute ride to the site; 20 minutes to “suit-up”, a 20 minute (½ mile down “stairs”) hike to the zipline site, and a 20 minute hike back when it ended. There are 8 ziplines to traverse; one is 20-feet down. All are double strands of rope to secure you to the line. 90% of the time is waiting in line for the next zipline. I'd do it again.