

SOFF Caribbean Implementation and Regional Collaboration Workshop

5th-7th May 2025

Venue: Kingston, Jamaica

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Venue: Kingston

The SOFF Caribbean Implementation and Regional Collaboration Workshop will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 5th to 7th May 2025 at:

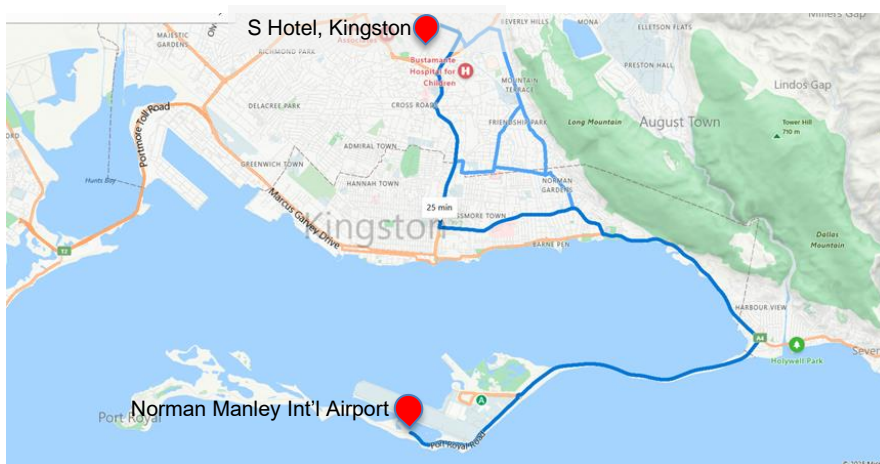
S Hotel

1 St Lucia Avenue,
Kingston 5
Jamaica

<https://www.shotelsjamaica.com/s-hotel-kingston/>

Phone: +1 844 486 4499

E-mail: info@shotelkingston.com



Accommodation

Accommodation rooms are available for stay at the S Hotel, Kingston. The hotel has designated rooms for SOFF Delegation during the conference period, which are to be paid by each delegate upon being assigned the respective rooms upon arrival. **S Hotel offers a rate of \$169 plus taxes (\$217.79) per room per night for single or double occupancy.** For room reservation assistance or information, please contact Joseph Perrin at jperrin@shotelkingston.com and cc reservations@shotelkingston.com.

Transportation from the Airport to the Hotel

JUTA Tours offers transportation from the airport to the hotel (and vice versa) for US\$40 each way. However, for persons arriving or departing between 11:30 pm - 5:30 am the cost will be US\$50 each way. Participants can contract this service via their website: <https://www.jutakingstonchapter.com/index.php> or their WhatsApp number: +1(876) 782 0563. Alternatively, the service can be hired either from Jamaica Co-operative Automobile and Limousine Tours (www.jcaltours.com), or the official taxis at the airport exit upon arrival.

Travel Health Notices

There are no notices currently in effect for Jamaica.

Yellow Fever Transmission

Yellow fever is endemic in Central and South America, including Suriname, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago (Trinidad only).

A yellow fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from these endemic countries.

Evidence of immunization may be requested during the immigration process.

Malaria Risks

Guyana and Haiti are endemic for malaria.

Travelers to malaria-endemic areas should take the appropriate malaria prophylaxis before, during, and after their trip to reduce the risk of infection.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

The requirement for persons traveling to Jamaica to present a negative COVID-19 test certificate for a test conducted no earlier than three days before the date of departure for Jamaica expired on April 15, 2022.

To travel, vaccinations may be required depending on where you're traveling from. The Jamaica destination page of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website currently offers the most comprehensive details on vaccination requirements for Jamaica and other health-related information. You can find the information at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/jamaica>.

Entry Arrangements

Please check Jamaica entrance requirements at <https://www.pica.gov.jm/immigration/entry-visa-requirements>. All visitors are required to travel with a return ticket or onward ticket for entry into Jamaica. All travellers entering Jamaica will be required to complete an Online Passenger Declaration (C5) Form. It can be completed up to 30 days ahead of your planned date of arrival. The form can be filled out at <https://enterjamaica.gov.jm/>.

Note to persons transiting through the USA:

Participants transiting through the USA will typically need a valid passport and either a transit visa, a visitors' visa or an approved Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) depending on your nationality and if you qualify for the Visa Waiver Program (VWP); ensure you check the specific requirements for your country before traveling and be prepared to present necessary documentation at immigration upon arrival. Further information on the VWP can be found at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html>.

Local Language

English is the official language of Jamaica – it is used in government, media, education, and business. Most of the local population speak an English-based creole.

Insurance

The workshop organizers cannot accept liability for personal injuries sustained, or for loss of, or damage to, property belonging to conference participants or their accompanying persons, either during or as a result of the workshop. Participants are advised to arrange for insurance to cover medical, travel, and personal effects while attending the meetings.

WMO's insurance coverage for non-staff members supported by WMO to participate in the event is as follows: "The Organization accepts limited responsibility for compensation in the event of death, illness or injury attributable to the attendance at meetings or the performance on behalf of the Organization of services by persons not belonging to the staff of the Organization but authorized to travel at its expense and/or receiving a daily subsistence allowance from it. These persons remain therefore fully responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of events which are not attributable to the attendance of meetings or the performance of services on behalf of the Organization and for arranging such life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate."

General Information About Kingston, Jamaica

Official information about Kingston and Jamaica can be found at <https://www.visitjamaica.com/resort-areas/kingston/>.

Currency and Banks

The official unit of currency is the Jamaican Dollar (JMD). One Jamaican Dollar is divided into 100 cents. ATMs are plentiful throughout the country, and banks, and most hotels will exchange foreign currency or travellers' checks. Banks are open Monday through Friday. Major credit cards are widely accepted at the main hotels and restaurants and may be used to draw cash from ATMs.

Although the exchange rate experiences daily fluctuations, the Universal Currency Converter currently has it at about:

1 US\$ = 157.60 JMD / 1 EUR = 165.80 JMD

Time Zone

EST (UTC-5)

Weather in Kingston in May

The National Meteorological Service of Jamaica website offers weather forecasts, climate data, hurricane updates, and early warning information. You can visit it at <http://www.metservice.gov.jm>.

Health and Safety

Emergencies:

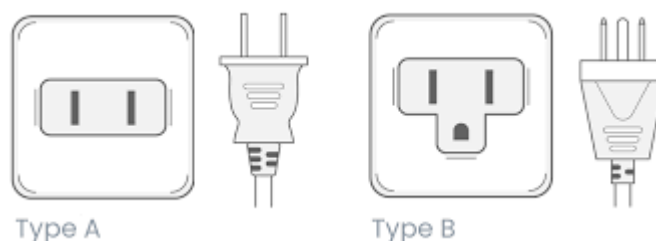
Ambulance: 112 or 119

Police: 112 or 119

Medical Associates Hospital +1 (876) 926-1400

Electricity

Jamaica supplies electricity at 110-volt AC with power plug/outlet types A and B. If you're plugging in an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.



Tipping

The tip and taxes are included in the bill, so tipping is not necessary. If you have a large group, or have excellent service, a 10-15 % tip would be appropriate but discretionary.

Contacts

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