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Oceans Discovery Foundation partners with Jamaican public and private sectors

Captain Henry Morgan's passage from Port Royal, Jamaica to the coast of Haiti will be reenacted, when the Oceans Discovery Foundation in association with UNESCO, Port Authority of Jamaica, the National Commercial Bank, CVM Television and the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO) collaborate to present a documentary series.



From Left Paul Pennicook (Director of Tourism);
Rick Haupt (Oceans Discovery Foundation);
Patricia Francis (JAMPRO);
Phillip Paulwell (Member of Parliament)

Other partners on the project include the Creative Production and Training Centre (CPTC); Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC); Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT); Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association (JHTA); Air Jamaica, the Jamaica Video and Music Producers Association, and the Jamaica Tourist Board. The project is expected to include the development of cultural soft adventure tours to the archaeological marine site of Port Royal and the implementation of a permanent training facility for television production personnel. Training will be coordinated by CPTC and CARIMAC in association with UNESCO. Once established, the location will also function as a testing site for newly developed underwater equipment - i.e. mini-sub, ROV's, dive gear, cameras and u/w search technologies. In a release from the Oceans Discovery Network (ODN), it states that the "location with the most potential is the Port Antonio Marina in Jamaica." The release also indicated that the Port Antonio Marina is on the way to become one of the most exclusive marinas in the Caribbean and already attracts investments from all over the world.

At the launch of the expedition Hon. Phillip Paulwell, who is also Member of Parliament for East Kingston and Port Royal indicated that the ODN has come at a critical juncture in the development of Port Royal as a major attraction in Jamaica. "The potential of Port Royal is well on its way to being realized and there are interest groups that have met and made decisions that will ensure that the town receives the boost it truly deserves," said the Minister. He announced that the major project, the one that will involve excursion to the sunken city, by way of an underwater escalator, "will happen in my lifetime, the investors are already onboard, so the additional investment by ODN is more than welcomed at this time," the Minister added. Rick Haupt of the ODN group endorsed the project and says that Port Royal will feature in one of the many underwater series that the ODN has shown over the last few years. He praised UNESCO for its support and sees Jamaica as a vital partner in this series to be filmed. "The potential of Port Royal beats any underwater excursion we have done anywhere in the world," he emphasized. The team will sail in a 85 ft. catamaran to Haiti and is scheduled to return to Jamaica within ten days.