

20 Essential Jamaican Patois Phrases for Travelers

Understand common phrases, recognize possible responses and communicate respectfully. Listen first, speak naturally and never exaggerate an accent.

Greetings

01 **Wah gwaan?**

Meaning: What's going on? / How are you?

Pronunciation: wah gwaan

Visitor guidance: Friendly greeting; a visitor should use it naturally and never exaggerate an accent.

02 **Mawnin.**

Meaning: Good morning

Pronunciation: maw-nin

Visitor guidance: A polite greeting used in the morning.

03 **Tank yuh.**

Meaning: Thank you

Pronunciation: tank yuh

Visitor guidance: A straightforward, respectful way to say thanks.

04 **Likkle more.**

Meaning: See you later / Until later

Pronunciation: lik-kle more

Visitor guidance: Casual parting expression.

Transportation

05 **How much fi di ride?**

Meaning: How much is the ride?

Pronunciation: how much fi di ride

Visitor guidance: Confirm currency, total price and whether it is per person.

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Transportation

06 How long it tek?

Meaning: How long does it take?

Pronunciation: how long it tek

Visitor guidance: Travel time is contextual and not a promise.

07 Stop yah suh, please.

Meaning: Please stop here.

Pronunciation: stop yah suh please

Visitor guidance: Use only where stopping is safe and permitted.

08 Mi reach.

Meaning: I have arrived / This is my stop.

Pronunciation: mee reach

Visitor guidance: Useful for recognizing that someone has arrived or reached a stop.

Food and dining

09 Mi waan order.

Meaning: I would like to order.

Pronunciation: mee waan or-der

Visitor guidance: Standard English is also appropriate when ordering.

10 Wah yuh recommend?

Meaning: What do you recommend?

Pronunciation: wah yuh reh-koh-mend

Visitor guidance: Friendly in relaxed settings.

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Food and dining

11 It spicy?

Meaning: Is it spicy?

Pronunciation: it spice-ee

Visitor guidance: Useful for checking the level of heat before ordering.

12 Mi can get some wata?

Meaning: Can I get some water?

Pronunciation: mee can get some wah-tah

Visitor guidance: Polite request; standard English is equally appropriate.

Shopping

13 How much fi dis?

Meaning: How much is this?

Pronunciation: how much fi dis

Visitor guidance: Confirm whether price is Jamaican dollars.

14 Mi just a look.

Meaning: I'm just looking.

Pronunciation: mee just ah look

Visitor guidance: Useful for comprehension in markets and shops.

Directions

15 Weh di bathroom deh?

Meaning: Where is the bathroom/restroom?

Pronunciation: weh di bath-room deh

Visitor guidance: Standard English is equally appropriate when asking for a restroom.

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Directions

16 A which way fi go?

Meaning: Which way should I go?

Pronunciation: ah which way fi go

Visitor guidance: Use when asking for a direction; listen carefully to the response.

Understanding

17 Mi nuh understand.

Meaning: I don't understand.

Pronunciation: mee nuh un-der-stand

Visitor guidance: Clear request to repeat or slow down.

18 Say it again, please.

Meaning: Please say it again.

Pronunciation: say it again please

Visitor guidance: Standard English is respectful and effective.

Respectful responses

19 No problem.

Meaning: It's okay / You're welcome / No difficulty

Pronunciation: no prob-lem

Visitor guidance: Meaning follows context and tone.

20 Tek yuh time.

Meaning: Take your time / Take care / Be careful

Pronunciation: tek yuh time

Visitor guidance: Multiple meanings; context is essential.



Continue with the complete reviewed phrase guide
Meanings, pronunciation, possible responses and respectful-use guidance:
jamaicatravelatlas.com/learn-jamaican-patois

Editorial review: Every phrase in this sheet was reviewed by a Jamaican member of the Jamaica Travel Atlas editorial team. Spellings and usage can vary by speaker, community, age and region. No audio is included.