

## The Legend of Lovers Leap

The beauty spot known as Lovers' Leap emerges where the Santa Cruz mountains come to an abrupt end at Jamaica's south coast, exposing a 1,700ft vertical drop down to the waves crashing on Cutlass Bay below.

The lookout provides a fantastic vantage point to look for miles out to the Caribbean Sea. Along the coast the view stretches as far as Rocky Point (Clarendon) to the East and to Treasure Beach in the West. You will be reminded of how high you are standing when you notice birds, clouds and light aircraft flying below you! The view is awesome, breathtakingly beautiful, and only eyes can describe it best.

Lovers' leap is named after two slave lovers from the 18th century. During the days of slavery, two young lovers used to meet secretly on the property near to what is now called Lovers leap. Legend has it that their master took a liking to the girl and, in a bid to have her for himself, arranged for her lover to be sold. Hearing of the plot the young lovers fled. They were eventually chased to the edge of the cliff. Rather than face being caught and separated, the pair chose to end their lives by jumping together. However, the exact details of the story vary depending on who is telling it!

The legend provided the inspiration for the novel "Lover's Leap", written by Jamaican author Horane Smith who grew up nearby. The legend is also remembered by a wooden carving of the two lovers at the site.

The area grows most of the mellons, peppers, scallions, tobacco and corn for the rest of Jamaica. Yet it has low rainfall, so they mulch the ground with grass to retain the water.

Have you ever visited Lover's Leap? If not, probably you should. Thousands of people from across the globe have set eyes on one of the most picturesque scenes on earth.

There are several other points of interest at Lovers' Leap;

Lovers' Leap lighthouse - This lighthouse is famous for two reasons. One is that this is the most recently constructed lighthouse in Jamaica; the other reason is that it is actually powered by three power sources (electricity, generator and battery).

Relics of the past - A range of domestic instruments are on display to give visitors a taste of Jamaica in days gone by.

Trail - a three mile trail leads down to Cutlass Bay below, however, the rough waters at the bottom make swimming inadvisable.