

ABOUT THE BOARDWALK

The Discovery Centre Boardwalk is a 300 metre path that leads through the Limestone Forest on the western side of the DBML property to a beach on the northern edge of the forest. Features of the boardwalk include interpretive displays of endemic flora and fauna. The boardwalk facilitates a demonstration of the possibilities for developing sensitive coastal ecosystems while conserving biodiversity to ensure environmental sustainability.

Tours are self-guided unless special arrangements are made.



*Take memories
leave only
Footprints*

PROJECT PARTNERS



The University of the West Indies operates the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory within the Discovery Special Fishery Conservation Area. The DBML is committed to supporting research and teaching of biology, chemistry, ecology, hydrology, geology and geography. The lab also seeks to apply the knowledge gathered to the management of natural resources in Jamaica's coastal zone.



The EFJ since its inception, firmly believes in nation building and is involved with funding projects which focus on child development in addition to environmental sustainability issues. Environmental grants have encouraged innovation in research and development as well as supported biodiversity, wetland and watershed management, just to name a few. Funding has been provided to governmental, community based and non-governmental

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You can also connect with us on social media!



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Discovery Centre Boardwalk



What is a Dry Limestone Forest?

Do you know what Limestone is?

It is a type of rock that that develops naturally from accumulated skeletons of sea creatures such as molluscs and corals over millions of years.

...So what are Limestone Forests?

These are distinct assemblages of trees; with very few tall trees and a number of small trees, shrubs and herbs growing over limestone hills (karst).

These forests are sometimes referred to as Woodland or Scrub, and even though they are not lush as wet forests, they are a significant component of Jamaica's Forest Ecology and also help to maintain limestone aquifers which are an important source of ground water.

Dry Limestone Forests are extensive within the Portland Bight Protected Area which includes the Portland Ridge in Clarendon and the Hellshire Hills in St. Catherine. These areas are a few of the most well studied Jamaican dry limestone forests.

A few species you might see while on the Boardwalk...

Swallowtail Butterfly (*Papilio demoleus*)

This species is a common and widely distributed swallowtail butterfly. Its widespread range indicates its tolerance and adaptation to diverse habitats including savannas, evergreen and semi evergreen forests. Unlike most swallowtail butterflies, it does not have a prominent tail.



Red-Billed Streamertail (*Trochilus polytmus*)

Otherwise known as the Doctor bird, Streamer Tail, Western Streamer Tail, found only in Jamaica, this species is named for their greatly elongated outer tail feathers (retrices) of the male. They feed on the nectar of brightly coloured scented flowers of trees, herbs and shrubs.



Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Smallest member of eight in the Pelican family; the Brown Pelican is a large marine bird characterized by a large body short legs, webbed feet, and a large gray bill. Even though they are heavy birds, they are exceptionally buoyant, due to the internal sacs beneath their skin and in their bones. These birds may appear clumsy on land but move effectively in water and swim well.



Walk, Look & Listen!

Walk quietly...

And *look* along the sides of the boardwalk for animals or signs that they were there. Also check out the interpretive signs, to learn about species you might not see...

Ensure you *listen* keenly for different bird sounds.

Jamaica Boa (*Epicrates subflavus*)

This species is an endemic, non-venomous snake that lives primarily in Limestone areas but can be found in dry scrubland forests on the South coast. It is the largest native terrestrial predator feeding on rodents, birds and bats, and kills its prey by constriction.



Common Orchid (*Broughtonia sanguinea*)

Native to Jamaica, this plant can be found growing in a wide range from 0 to 800 metres, and shows tolerance to varying light conditions and able to bloom twice per year or more.

