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Amalah On Tour

January 27, 2010

So I have a real-life friend (SHUT IT. I DO.) whom I've known for a pretty long-ish time. She's known me since before we had babies, since before this blog was the crowning achievement of my life's work, since back when I wore terrifically large and misguided flower pins. She may or may not have played a central part in the Very Last Time I Was Allowed To Play a Board Game With Other People. Although thinking back to that last one, some of my aggression may have had to do with JELUSY, as my friend has a pretty awesome job working PR and marketing for hotels, namely resorts. Beautiful, tropical resorts that she gets to visit and see firsthand. Plus, she's way prettier than I am.

ANYWAY. Right before Thanksgiving, she sent me a message on Facebook: Hey Amy, do you want to go to Jamaica?

I messaged back something jackassy like UH, HELL YES. DURR.

Her reply: Great! Do the boys have their passports? They'd like to send you pretty much right away.

Me: Wait. You were serious?

At that point, I admit I slammed on the breaks, because WHOA. WHAT. I get super-nervous about this sort of thing: there's always the inevitable wank-y fallout, as people grumble over who does and does not merit getting Free Stuff, plus what were "they" expecting from me, as I'm not a travel writer or...or...well, anything other than someone who writes funny stories about dumb stuff but certainly takes this dumb stuff fairly seriously, and my dumb stuff is not for sale! You keep your free stuff out of my dumb stuff! And that's a POLICY.

Turns out that "they" were a local DC family who own a cluster of villas in one of the more far-flung areas of the island -- a fishing village that has only had phone lines since the late 1990s, a village that they are passionate about providing opportunities for, either through employment or helping to provide early childhood education. They also cater to families, providing full-time nannies and such during your stay. My friend asked the owner, after visiting with her husband and baby boy, if they'd thought about reaching out to a mommyblogger. The owner said sure, did she know any?

And the moral of the story is: *Wait until your friends are too drunk to remember anything before you backhand them across the face over a game of Cranium.*

So the deal was, for full disclosure: We pay for airfare and staff gratuities. Bluefields provides the lodging and meals for a week. I bring my laptop and post during the trip, but only about things I want to post about, would usually post about, and no expectation that I'm there to be some bloggy travel-brochure for them.

I continued to hem and haw about it until late December, when I looked around at my little family, my stressed-out and overworked husband, Noah, who has never seen anything more exciting than the beach in his own home state and begs to go to the airport for fun, and Ezra, who I would not want to leave for a week of vacation but who admittedly makes it hard to enjoy a vacation that involves diapers and naps and water safety all by ourselves. I finally thought: Screw it. Screw everything. Let's go on a damn VACATION.

All that stood between us and paradise were passports. Jason's had expired, and neither of the boys had one. And we'd stupidly neglected to ever order Ezra's official birth certificate. This is a problem, for my fellow travel neophytes. And Dear Lord in Heaven: Do not ever attempt to get passports at the last minute, even if everyone assures you that three or four weeks is not technically last minute. We paid a fooldamn fortune to get all three passports expedited, spent an entire Saturday in a quest for an open passport office and then waited in a Line Of The Damned, and very nearly purposely abandoned a child or two at Fed Ex Kinkos in our attempt to get photos taken. (Seriously, though: Ezra looked away from the camera in the first two shots the guy tried, as he is A BABY, and the guy SLAMMED THE CAMERA DOWN on a nearby counter and walked away with his hands over his hard while saying, "THAT'S IT, I'M DONE." Oh...okay?)

In the end, we got everything gathered and out and applied for. And Noah's and Jason's passports arrived after two weeks or so. We assumed Ezra's would arrive the next day. Or the day after that? Shit. Where is it? With DAYS to go, we started calling, and kept getting the same message: It's processing. Finally: It's been shipped.

More days go by.

The U.S. Postal Service: Uh. We dunno. Weird.

You guys, as of YESTERDAY, we still did not have Ezra's passport. You have never, ever seen a more hysterical person. Than me. Every night I laid awake, wide awake, panicking over something I had less than zero control over, because you can yell at people on the phone all you want but that isn't going to make anyone head out and start searching postal trucks for lost express envelopes for you.

(Whenever I did get to sleep, I kept having the same nightmare over and over again, involving these giant alien robots from Neptune invading earth, while I was trapped in this constant scenario of needing to hide while in a room full of hundreds of people who I KNEW would soon be...shot? eaten? stepped on?...but I knew if I could just find a closed space and not move, I might just make it. But then I was always stuck with these two other people, one of whom always failed to grasp the gravity of the GIANT ALIEN ROBOTS FROM NEPTUNE SITUATION and would do something stupid like forget to close a set of vertical blinds or start spinning around in an chair or answer his phone right when the robots showed up, and at this point I would finally wake myself up because I was that terrified, so I have no idea if my plan to hide under office furniture was indeed the correct way to deal with giant alien robots from Neptune.)

Ezra's passport arrived today. We leave tomorrow morning.

(Please don't hate me. Much.)

Posted at 11:16 AM in Travel | Permalink

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Comments

Is it OK if I hate you just a little? :)
Have a super time anyway!

Posted by: Deanna | January 27, 2010 at 11:20 AM

Wow, have a great trip!

Posted by: Amy K | January 27, 2010 at 11:22 AM

I'd have died of anxiety over the passport before yesterday, and then it would have taken me the entire week of the trip to wind down and start enjoying myself, so I can't hate you even a tiny bit. So fun! Will there be pictures?

Posted by: JennyMoo | January 27, 2010 at 11:23 AM

ohmyg-d, just have fun! So much fun!

Posted by: jodifur | January 27, 2010 at 11:23 AM

Have a fabulously awesome time!!!! (And yes, I'll try to keep my jealousy at bay... you're going to Jamaica, my coworkers are in the Bahamas this week and Mexico the next... thbbbbbt)

Posted by: Darcey | January 27, 2010 at 11:24 AM

Ooh! Have so much fun. And now my novel to make you feel better:

In 2007 I decided to fly to Ireland to visit this guy I barely knew because, well, I don't know. We emailed a lot and had a great night on the town before he left for Ireland? So I went to renew my passport and long story short it never came, ALONG WITH MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. The US Postal service "lost" it all. (Before you ask why it was all in the envelope, it was because the passport people told me to.)

The day before my trip I had to call my local Congressman and CRY on the phone and as it turns out- your Congressman gets a certain number of "same day" passport freebies for their constituents. So I got a new, replacement passport and went on the most disastrous trip ever that I spent gchatting with my now husband, back at home.

A few months later a tattered package arrived with all of my stuff in it - no identity theft!

A month after that the Department of Homeland Security called me and informed me I was breaking about 200,001 laws by having two passports & invalidated both of them as punishment.

So there's that.

Posted by: Daisy | January 27, 2010 at 11:25 AM

Ooooh! Looks beautiful and relaxing and peaceful and serene...I'm sure you will fix all that! Can't wait to read all about it.

Seriously, you needed a vacation.

Posted by: MommiePie | January 27, 2010 at 11:27 AM

Oh, hells yes! I am jealous! Damn, I need better friends.

But, you guys totally deserve a vacation. I can't wait to read about it!

Have fun! Wear sunscreen! And please post lots o' pics!

Posted by: Kailee | January 27, 2010 at 11:27 AM

Not sure if I should hate you for this or love you for that video yesterday.

Baby passport photos are the BEST

Posted by: Hillarie | January 27, 2010 at 11:30 AM

WOW! Amazing.

Posted by: BOSSY | January 27, 2010 at 11:30 AM

I had no idea that little kids needed passports now; I thought they could still travel on a parent's passport (makes mental note to apply

for passport for son). Kids change so much so fast; I wonder how their dealing with the picture issue...

The resort sounds great. Have a wonderful time and take lots of pictures!

Posted by: Kate | January 27, 2010 at 11:34 AM

I'm with JennyMoo - I would have shrivelled up and died of anxiety over the passport issue. seriously. Have a great time!

Posted by: Kathi | January 27, 2010 at 11:35 AM

I can't believe I just committed the cardinal sin (their instead of they're). I blame the teething infant and consequent lack of sleep.

Posted by: Kate | January 27, 2010 at 11:35 AM

OMG, Daisy. Oh my God!

(And yeah, they still make you put Every Important Identification Document Ever in the same envelope, which only helps to up the terror that is a lost passport application.)

Posted by: Amalah | January 27, 2010 at 11:37 AM

Dude, you MORE than paid for this trip with that kind of close-call passport drama.

Posted by: Operation Pink Herring | January 27, 2010 at 11:39 AM

Dood. You deserve this trip. You all do. It's been a loooooong year. Go and whoop it up. And remember to share a romantic dinner with the man. Take advantage of every opportunity in the sun. And please do not "pull a Monica" and get your hair in braids.

Posted by: Devon | January 27, 2010 at 11:40 AM

Holy crap, that was close! And yes, you and your family desperately need a vacation - have fun!

Posted by: Megan@Blueberry Scones | January 27, 2010 at 11:41 AM

My first thought was, why would I ever hate you for your good fortune? That would just be sad and petty and rotten.

Then I looked at the website for the villas.

Sorry! I have to hate you now!

But srsly, I hope you have a completely divine vacation.

Posted by: Amy | January 27, 2010 at 11:42 AM

"SLAMMED THE CAMERA DOWN on a nearby counter and walked away with his hands over his hard"

...wow!

Posted by: m. | January 27, 2010 at 11:46 AM

This was so hilarious! The dream is priceless! What an interesting life you do lead. :)

Posted by: Cristy | January 27, 2010 at 11:46 AM

Wow! Have a great time. I'm really happy for you and I'm looking forward to reading about it. Get lots of pictures!

Posted by: Kristin | January 27, 2010 at 11:55 AM

JELUS.
have so much fun!!

Posted by: chatty cricket | January 27, 2010 at 11:56 AM

Damn! You need a vacation from that dream! 'AND I hate you just a little, too. I expect a FULL report on EVERYTHING you do down there and I expect PICTURES A PLENTY of nom-able baby flesh slathered in sunblock and big floppy hats. Mmmmkay?

Posted by: martha | January 27, 2010 at 11:57 AM

I am really excited to see your post as our family is just back from and preparing to go on another Free Blog Travel Trip. Keeping free stuff out of dumb stuff is well said. Enjoy your trip.

Posted by: Daddy Brad | January 27, 2010 at 11:59 AM

So jealous!! Can't wait to read your normal non-travel-brochure-y posts about Paradise!

And what is with the passport photo guy? Dude. Take a chill pill.

Safe travels!

Posted by: Mrs. D | January 27, 2010 at 12:01 PM

Have a great time! Don't hate you. Much.

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | January 27, 2010 at 12:01 PM

Dude!!!!!! Have a great time!!! Remember to lotion up.

Posted by: Ulla | January 27, 2010 at 12:10 PM

I love the flash-back links. Enjoy Jamaica. (As I cry frozen tears...the high tomorrow is 5. Just 5.)

Posted by: kate | January 27, 2010 at 12:11 PM

Ok, I just checked out the villas and now I need to know which one you're staying in! Have fun!

(Oh, and I also have some passport drama. They told me I didn't need to do the expedited service, so I didn't, then it was like a week before I was supposed to go to Amsterdam. I called and they were all "MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE THE EXPEDITED SERVICE." BAH!)

Posted by: LaurenK | January 27, 2010 at 12:13 PM

WOW that looks like a nice place for a holiday! Go forth and enjoy, why not!

Posted by: Jennie | January 27, 2010 at 12:17 PM

Can't hate you. You all really deserve this time away. Looking forward to the photos.

Posted by: Chris H | January 27, 2010 at 12:18 PM

Oh my! I shivered with horror over the passport thing. Gawd. Have a great time and I can't wait to read about it!

Posted by: Liz | January 27, 2010 at 12:20 PM

Have fun!

My brother didn't get to go on his Peace Corps assignment to Thailand because of the stupid passport office. He didn't have it in time and the Peace Corps wouldn't let him come late. Sucks!!

Posted by: Monica | January 27, 2010 at 12:20 PM

Wow, I can't believe how perfect the timing was for him to get his passport! Have a lovely time, I promise I won't hate you because I'm having a baby soon and I'm more excited about that than I would be about a trip.

Take loads of pictures and share your exploits!

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | January 27, 2010 at 12:21 PM

Okay, I am jealous. Even though it doesn't snow where I live or rarely get below freezing, today's the first day I've seen the sun since 2009...

Also, wanted to point out that I worked for my local congresswoman and had to put in all the requests for expedited passports. Really annoying when someone wants a passport tomorrow for something cool like going to the finals of the World Cup in Germany, but I still got appointments for them. So yeah. Don't forget that it's your elected official's responsibility to help out, but you got Ezra's passport in time, so score!

And those villas look to die for!

Posted by: Stephanie | January 27, 2010 at 12:29 PM

You are too damned funny for me to ever hate you. Have a wonderful trip!

However, as punishment for getting to go on such an awesome trip, I think we all need to see your passport pics.

Posted by: Kristin | January 27, 2010 at 12:31 PM

I totally support anyone getting free stuff for any reason, and anyone who doesn't is just jelus. ANYWAY. When we got my son's passport photo taken the photographer was all, "MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SHOW HIS TEETH," which is apparently a new rule. I wasn't allowed to show my teeth either. The thing was, though, that my kid was about 1 month old.

Yeah.

Posted by: Erin | January 27, 2010 at 12:37 PM

have a ton of fun!!! Lucky girl! :)

Posted by: Julie | January 27, 2010 at 12:41 PM

Definitely JELIS and full of hate.

Posted by: Leah | January 27, 2010 at 12:43 PM

Amalah, I think you and your family deserve a special trip and I'm SO glad you get to go! And I promise not to be jealous at all AS LONG AS you post regularly while you are gone. Because I am addicted to your blog. And if you cut me off I will be cranky as well as jealous.

Posted by: Kathi | January 27, 2010 at 12:43 PM

Awesome! You totally deserve it. I can't wait to read about it.
Have fun!

Posted by: Monkey | January 27, 2010 at 12:44 PM

Yeah Amalah and Family! You go get your vacation!

Posted by: Katrina | January 27, 2010 at 12:52 PM

Have a fanTASTic time. And, consider it your goal to try to make us all a little (or a lot) jealous.

Posted by: Marnie | January 27, 2010 at 12:54 PM

Have so much fun!

I went to Jamaica in September and it was so lovely. You are going to have a fantastic time. The only thing was all the weed smoke that everyone was partaking in. (and I was at a Sandals!) I couldn't wait to get home away from it, so here's hoping that your resort is away from the reggae wannabes.

Posted by: Mary Lou | January 27, 2010 at 12:55 PM

Super super jealous, and my family had a vacation earlier this month! Looks fantastically luxurious, dying of envy over here!

Posted by: Jessica | January 27, 2010 at 01:01 PM

Have a ton of fun. And a beer for me, please.

Posted by: One of the Amy's | January 27, 2010 at 01:02 PM

how wonderful! enjoy; can't wait to hear how it goes.

Posted by: Sarah | January 27, 2010 at 01:16 PM

You suck, but in a good way I guess.
Have loads of fun!!

Posted by: samantha jo campen | January 27, 2010 at 01:28 PM

no hate. have a great time! can't wait to hear stories.

Posted by: jennifer | January 27, 2010 at 01:38 PM

Have a wonderful, wonderful time!
You'll be flying via the UK to pick me up, right?

Posted by: Sarah | January 27, 2010 at 01:55 PM

I have a similar story about my visa. Wherein I could leave the country but wasn't allowed to return.
Come to think of it, I should have taken that offer. Hmm...
Have so much fun, lovelies!

Posted by: Heather B. | January 27, 2010 at 01:55 PM

Too late. Got the full-on hate for you right now, since we are about to be BURIED UNDER THE WINTER STORM OF THE APOCALYPSE and you're going to be on a nice warm beach.

Posted by: Tracy | January 27, 2010 at 01:58 PM

No hate here! Enjoy your vacation!

Posted by: kelly | January 27, 2010 at 01:58 PM

Take that trip and LOVE IT! I mean, hell, if there's a good place to go WITH MY KID, like with sitters that won't kill or lose her, I wanna know. . so hell yes that that trip!
x,
Paula
www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | January 27, 2010 at 02:04 PM

Of fuck. That was close.

Posted by: Heidi | January 27, 2010 at 02:08 PM

OMG that place looks like heaven. Enjoy. I shall live vicariously through you!

Posted by: Helen | January 27, 2010 at 02:08 PM

Oh my gosh! Awesome ending! Have so much fun.
Also, when you mentioned vertical blinds in your dream... I definitely felt like you were giving me a shout out (my family owns a window covering business). Just let me think that, k? K.

Posted by: Belle | January 27, 2010 at 02:09 PM

Have a great vacation. I cannot believe how close of a call this was! I would have wine now to calm down.

Posted by: Megsie | January 27, 2010 at 02:23 PM

Say hi to my Grampappy over there, ok? He's the old dud sitting on his stoop just outside Montego Bay (No joke. He's cool. And if you want feeding? Go find my Auntie Vie. You won't need to eat for days after.) Also? Those Villas? Are. The. SHIZZLE. True true.

Make sure you say "Irie" a lot.

Have a freaking AWESOME TRIP!!!

PS Not everyone over there who smokes weed is a reggae wannabe. Some just like to smoke weed ;)

Posted by: Jay | January 27, 2010 at 02:26 PM

Lorena: Is jelus.

Just don't...don't let the boys listen to reggae.

Posted by: Lorena | January 27, 2010 at 02:28 PM

Ummm, kinda hating you, right now. Couldn't you have linked to some shacks or something to make us feel a little better? Those villas are amazing! Seriously though, relax and have fun (I guess)

Posted by: Maggie | January 27, 2010 at 02:45 PM

Wow, that's awesome! I need a vacation and I'm a mommy blogger.. Maybe one day I'll have the same luck! lol :) HAVE a great time!

Posted by: kris | January 27, 2010 at 02:49 PM

Have a fabulous time!

Posted by: Jenn | January 27, 2010 at 03:12 PM

So excited to read about your trip. SO excited for you. We're (hopefully!!) going back to Jamaica this year for our anniversary, and as I look at their website I'm wondering how all the nannies and kid-menus and such will be as good as they sound. Thinking maybe next time we would consider a place like this with the kids. Just maybe. Hope you guys have a great time!!

Posted by: Brooke | January 27, 2010 at 03:15 PM

No way. I would have been equally freaked out!!!
Have a blast!

Posted by: LD's Mom | January 27, 2010 at 03:28 PM

Can I swear? Fuck the naysayers. This is in effect, a business trip, you are a business, you've more than adequately disclosed = go for it. Y'all have a good time!
Also, Line Of The Damned" is fucking brilliant!

Posted by: JRM | January 27, 2010 at 03:32 PM

Have a wonderful time!!!

Posted by: Amy J | January 27, 2010 at 03:52 PM

Totally jealous!!! You will have a blast!

Posted by: AmazingGreis | January 27, 2010 at 04:01 PM

These villas are beautiful - pls negotiate a discount rate for loyal readers of your blog (seriously - I'd consider hauling my husband and kids for a week!)

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 04:06 PM

Have fun!

Posted by: Heather Ben | January 27, 2010 at 04:06 PM

That reminds me, if I ever want to go to Canada again, I have to order an official birth certificate for myself so that I can get an updated passport because mine is long since expired, and then I have to get myself and three kids passports. Which will almost certainly involve notaries and photographers, two kinds of people who scare me for some reason.

Maybe I'll just never go to Canada again. But you have a super time!

Posted by: Kendra | January 27, 2010 at 04:31 PM

Duuuuude! I'm totally jealous, but I cannot hate. If I were offered a free trip to freaking prardise I would take it! Have fun! I can't wait to read your posts and see pics!

Oh, and in regards to the passport photo guy, I repeat what I said about the woman at the party: Wow, what an asshole.

Posted by: Brandi | January 27, 2010 at 04:33 PM

Not jealous, because....I'm going to Jamaica on Saturday!!!! But we'll be at Sandals Whitehouse. Can't wait to go!

Posted by: Debbie | January 27, 2010 at 05:01 PM

Very jealous. And cold. Send us ur warms.

I got my infant's passport photo taken at the post office.. they put him on a white sheet on the floor. It's one of his cutest pics! They're probably the only people who do enough kids to have a clue.

Posted by: Kathleen | January 27, 2010 at 05:20 PM

Jamaica should take care of those dreams for you. I got to go with a friend when they got hitched. Never thought we would be those resort-type people but OMG, we loved every minute in Jamaica and would go back in a heartbeat. (Funny, but I almost didn't have my passport. We knew that Jamaica would let me in, weren't sure that the US would let me back in and I was okay with that after a week in paradise!) Have fun for all of us!

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 06:07 PM

Jamaica should take care of those dreams for you. I got to go with a friend when they got hitched. Never thought we would be those resort-type people but OMG, we loved every minute in Jamaica and would go back in a heartbeat. (Funny, but I almost didn't have my passport. We knew that Jamaica would let me in, weren't sure that the US would let me back in and I was okay with that after a week in paradise!) Have fun for all of us!

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 06:07 PM

Sorry to double comment. I'll be more patient in future.

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 06:09 PM

I pretty much think my passport story trumps every passport story.

Basically, I applied 2 or 3 months before I was supposed to leave the country... plenty of time to get one without expediting. Well, this was back when they closed the Bahamas and Canada and you had to have a passport to travel... so EVERYONE and their mother decided to apply that the same time.

I had to leave to go to North carolina for training before leaving the country so I left and didn't have my passport. I was in nc for 3 days and the morning I was supposed to leave the country, my passport arrived, at home, in TN 12+ hours from where I was. I had to have my parents drive to nashville and put it in air cargo and mail it to me in chicago's airport. I flew from nc to chicago and had to race and pick up my passport in order to fly out of the country... and I only had 2 hours to do so. I barely made it.

I definitely broke down and cried for days before then... it's too stressful, damn system!

Posted by: Becca Sanborn | January 27, 2010 at 06:17 PM

Awesome! Will wave to you -- we're leaving for Negril in the morning! We're lucky enough to have Grammy and Auntie coming to watch our little ones, so mom and dad are going to lounge on the beach and vegetate in a way that hasn't been possible in the last 2.5 years. Hooray!!

Posted by: Nancy | January 27, 2010 at 06:33 PM

Awesome!!!! I hope you enjoy the crap out of this vacation - take full advantage of every amenity, and just relax.

I follow your every post, but rarely comment, and my overriding take-away is that you are overworked, underpaid and need more childcare!

Enjoy, luxuriate, drink lots of rum.

Posted by: Kate | January 27, 2010 at 07:04 PM

Whatever! Enjoy your vacation Amy! You need/deserve it. I'm happy for you guys.

Posted by: Nina | January 27, 2010 at 07:33 PM

I'm inclined to utter a mean, mean thing that starts with a b and rhymes with the word that follows wicked and precedes 'of the west' but that's just JELUSY talking.

Have fun!! And don't forget the sunscreen, bitch!

(Oops, I did it after all, didn't I????)

(And now I shall apologize because I'm from the midwest - I'm SO sorry... I was just trying to be playful and funny but you're probably all "Who IS she and why is she acting like she knows me??" SORRY!)

Posted by: JustLinda | January 27, 2010 at 07:55 PM

So funny...we almost went there on a recommendation from these super cool people we know. The owners seem really awesome. WE WILL make it there someday. I have four monsters aged 10, 6 1/2, 4 1/2. & 16 months so the nanny part wins me over! Have FUN! In the meantime, I look forward to reading all about it.

Posted by: Michelle | January 27, 2010 at 08:41 PM

Hooray! Enjoy Jamaica. We get free entertainment from you on a regular basis, nothing wrong with you getting a little love too.

Posted by: Jillian | January 27, 2010 at 08:52 PM

First of all, have an amazing vacation, because you deserve it, and this sounds AMAZING.

How do *I* know that you need a vacation?

Because you inadvertently typed "with his hands over his HARD" when you were writing about the photo guy.

Also, I have had that EXACT same passport drama, only it was me that was going to have to stay behind. Woo!

Posted by: ElizaBeth | January 27, 2010 at 09:10 PM

Wow! Fun! Except for the anxiety dreams, of course.

(needs to get baby's birth certificate, thanks for the reminder)

Posted by: Brigid Keely | January 27, 2010 at 09:39 PM

Oh! How fun! What a fantastic opportunity. And, you know, given that you remember to bring the kids home and all, maybe you could try to leave your guilt in Jamaica. Cuz you're an awesome blogger and you fully deserve the love that gets you.

Have fun! Remember the sunscreen!

Posted by: Jessica (@ It's my life...) | January 27, 2010 at 09:50 PM

Hooray hooray hooray!! Have a great time.

Posted by: lizneust | January 27, 2010 at 09:51 PM

Awesome! Enjoy your trip. Can't wait to hear all about it -- and see all the photos. Yay sunshine!

Posted by: M.Bailey | January 27, 2010 at 10:52 PM

ack. phew. you almost freaked me out there. this passport business is crazy - the waiting...the hope...the OMG is it going to arrive on time.

ENJOY your vacation!

Posted by: kat | January 27, 2010 at 11:00 PM

Wow! Have fun! (soooooo jealous!)

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | January 27, 2010 at 11:12 PM

Shoot, girl! Anyone who begrudges you a free vacation shouldn't be blogging or reading blogs! That's AWESOME. Glad the passport got there! Would have been really sad to leave Ezra home alone, you know?

Have fun! Be safe! Take lots of beautiful pictures of your boys in Jamaica!!

Posted by: Tracey | January 27, 2010 at 11:56 PM

Okay, I am SOOOO jealous, but also really excited for you! Take lots of pictures to make it easy for us to live vicariously through you ;)

Posted by: Heather | January 28, 2010 at 01:02 AM

I AM SO JEALOUS! We went to BLUEFIELDS on our honeymoon, it is FABULOUS! You will love it, the food, the catering to you (they do your laundry!) the 3:30 p.m. Daiquiri's (tell Ricardo Hello!).

Posted by: jill | January 28, 2010 at 01:03 AM

Holycrap! Have an awesome time, Amalah-family! I will soon be having the baby-passport-photo adventure myself, though there is no planned travel in our future, just because I am that particular sick type of planning ahead person. I'm always ready for a trip to Jamaica! Hint, hint! Srsly, have a great time - I can't wait to read about it!

Posted by: Laura | January 28, 2010 at 01:19 AM

I do hate you a little bit - No seriously have a brilliant time

Posted by: Alison C | January 28, 2010 at 04:24 AM

AWESOME!!!!!!
Have a great time!!! I am THRILLED for you!
:-)

Posted by: stacy | January 28, 2010 at 06:46 AM

no hatin her, just mild dislikin'...you can make it up by posting pics of some braids and some yummy noah/ez on the beach...so, we need a discount as loyal readers, taht place looks amazing, have a BLAST you lucky little chick!

Posted by: lynn | January 28, 2010 at 08:36 AM

and I cannot type this am..

Posted by: lynn | January 28, 2010 at 08:37 AM

I won't hate you as long as you bring back some Jamaican Gold. ;)

Posted by: Big Gay Sam | January 28, 2010 at 08:49 AM

[MORE COMMENTS»](#)

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Landed

January 28, 2010

I didn't even go to bed last night. I took a packing break and a nap at some point between 2 and 2:30 am; we left for the airport at 3. (And yes, that was THREE TO THE A TO THE M.) We got on a plane. Two planes. However many planes. I put "writer" as my occupation on my customs form and the officer was all, "SO WHAT DO YOU WRITE, AMY STORCH?" And I was all, "Uhhhhmmmmonlineparentingcolumns?" He let me into the country. Some guy tried to hustle an iPhone from my four-year-old. We drove across Jamaica and saw orange groves and burning sugar cane and poverty and cook shacks and beautiful children in their spotless school uniforms. We stopped at a roadside stand and ate the most incredible jerk chicken I have ever tasted while talking with kind people who were easy to talk to. Ezra also ate a ridiculous amount of that chicken, then gnawed on a drumstick before giving up and just dipping his hands in the hot sauce and licking it straight off his fingers. Noah saw a rooster. He is still talking about that unbelievable, real-life, amazing, cock-a-doo-ing-damn rooster.

We are indeed here in Bluefields, and oh, but I am so tired. I will leave you with some photos, and a promise to post again tomorrow and the day after that and so on and so forth until we go home OH GOD THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE US GO HOME NOOOO.



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Call me an optimist, but I think this is going to be a pretty good week.

Posted at 06:09 PM in Travel | Permalink

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LIVING



I can't believe I can type through all this RAGING ENVY. But it looks beautiful!

Posted by: kirida | January 28, 2010 at 06:11 PM

Yippee! You deserve an awesome week!!

Posted by: Elizabeth_K | January 28, 2010 at 06:12 PM

Why would you think that???
P.S., Ezra is a CHUNK.

Posted by: Belle | January 28, 2010 at 06:12 PM

I hate you. (Not really, just in case you were worried about such a thing. Which I'm sure you're not. Because you're too busy swimming and enjoying the sun. Again, I hate you.)

Posted by: C @ Kid Things | January 28, 2010 at 06:14 PM

Amy, it is FREEZING here. And it is supposed to snow this weekend. I promise to forgive you, but we must, must hang out when you get back. I can't believe how big Ez is. And look at Noah swim.

Posted by: jodifur | January 28, 2010 at 06:15 PM

I am sooo excited for you (and maybe a leetle jelus too)! Have a blast - you all deserve it.

Posted by: Jessica | January 28, 2010 at 06:16 PM

optimist.
and EZRA'S AAAAAAARMS. I love baby arms. LOVE THEM. How do you refrain from snacking on those shoulders?!

Posted by: chatty cricket | January 28, 2010 at 06:22 PM

Please post a lot of pictures, it's snowing here and wind chills are going to be below zero tomorrow morning and I'm ready to start punching total strangers, I'm so sick of winter.

Posted by: Jenn | January 28, 2010 at 06:22 PM

Holy COW woman! That is beautiful. You escaped just in time because it is really cold here. ENJOY!!!!

Posted by: Kristin J | January 28, 2010 at 06:23 PM

Amalah! I'm so jealous of your Jamaican vacation, as well as your beautiful children. I hope this does not come off as negative, but I do just have one thing to suggest. Please try to stay away from water wings... I know that they are ubiquitous but they teach the complete wrong things to your child. That is to say, they teach your child that if they fall in the pool, they should go vertical and they will float. Bubbles, life jackets, or those suits with the inserts in them are better because they at minimum teach kids the feeling of having their backs or fronts floating to the surface. I'm sorry to say this, and totally hope that you don't mind me spreading advice to the internet in general because I am sure your child is being supervised at all times, and sometimes water wings are most convenient to pack because they are the smallest, and deflate, and I hope you aren't mad that I said this (RUN ON SENTENCE). As a lifeguard for several years, I pulled many kids out of the pool who were used to wings but fell or jumped in on their own when their parent wasn't watching and they tried to just put their arms out to float up and it did not work, because no wings. so weird rant over!! I sometimes give this whole spiel to strangers, hope it came off in the helpful but non-judgmental way I meant it. Have fun and come back tan!

Posted by: Em | January 28, 2010 at 06:23 PM

Ooooooh, have fun!

Posted by: alison | January 28, 2010 at 06:33 PM

I swear I can hear Ezra saying, "Yes! This is what I'm talking about! I knew you were holding out on me, but I forgive you. Nice work. Home at last. Carry on."

And Noah just floating. No words necessary.

Posted by: LPC | January 28, 2010 at 06:33 PM

I am SUPER excited to live vicariously through your vacation. The weather in CO today: 'Ice fog.' So yeah for you in the warmth! Have a great time!

Posted by: Ellyn B | January 28, 2010 at 06:38 PM

I want. Like a lot, I want.
(Have such a great time!)

Posted by: Mrs Chaos | January 28, 2010 at 06:40 PM

you deserve a nap! traveling with kids is not my favorite thing, but for a place like that it'd be SO worth it. have fun!

Posted by: HolyMama! | January 28, 2010 at 06:44 PM

I promised myself I wouldn't get envious, but MAN that water looks

inviting after a billion days of Washington winter dreariness.

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | January 28, 2010 at 06:53 PM

Wow. So pretty. That last photo really did me in. What a way to lay back and relax, with THAT VIEW! Holy cow, Amy Storch, onlineparentingcolumnwriter, you are SO LUCKY!

Posted by: A | January 28, 2010 at 07:14 PM

Precious! I can just picture him sticking his hands in the sauce. That would SO be me.

Posted by: Beth | January 28, 2010 at 07:17 PM

From weather.com today "Temperature: 12. Feels like: -17." More pics please. I will turn the space heater on high and pretend it is a warm tropical breeze.

Posted by: Maren | January 28, 2010 at 07:37 PM

That looks amazing! SO JEALOUS!!!! And we are about to get dumped on with more snow in the DC area again!!!!

Posted by: Dawn | January 28, 2010 at 07:40 PM

So effing jealous I cannot stand it. GAAHH I WANT TO BE IN THE ISLANDS!!!!

Posted by: Anna Marie | January 28, 2010 at 07:45 PM

OMG Amy...we're all so jealous here stateside, and it's incredibly beautiful and perfect and I checked out the website and...OMG Amy...OPEN BAR ALL WEEK. Including wine. WINE. And people to make your delicious tropical meals and just WHOA.

Sorry, got carried away. God, just ENJOY, and pleeeeeease post lotsa pix and videos!

Posted by: Cyn | January 28, 2010 at 07:53 PM

OH MY. I will dream of warm waters tonight.

When I told my husband about this vacation of yours, he said "yeah but you still have the kids and you have to cook or go out to restaurants all the time and it's NOT A VACATION." And then I pointed out the spot on the website about included nannies and chefs and HE ABOUT LOST HIS MIND.

WANT TO GO. WANT TO GO BAD.

Enjoy, for our sakes if not your own.

Posted by: Jenna | January 28, 2010 at 07:56 PM

La la la la Bossy can't hear you.

Posted by: BOSSY | January 28, 2010 at 08:00 PM

The only thing making me feel better for being here in the cold cold COLD midwest while you are there in Jamaica is the fact that it was sunnier here today than it was where you were. So nana-nana-boo-boo.

Posted by: MichelleR | January 28, 2010 at 08:02 PM

I want to go to there!

Posted by: Kelli | January 28, 2010 at 08:13 PM

Ok. I wasn't jealous until I saw those pics. Now? Now, I'm feeling a bit green. But happy for you! Oh. So. Happy. For you and your warm water and sand and floaties and....

sigh. I'm frozen.

Posted by: Tracey | January 28, 2010 at 08:17 PM

Am jealous. Have fun!

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | January 28, 2010 at 09:06 PM

I would comment but I'm not speaking to you because I'm mute with envy.

Harumph!

Posted by: JustLinda | January 28, 2010 at 09:16 PM

Looks like heaven.

Posted by: Megsie | January 28, 2010 at 09:22 PM

Jeeeeeeuuuuuuuus!
Noah is the cutest thing EVER in his arm floaties! Have a blast!

Posted by: Jen L. | January 28, 2010 at 09:23 PM

Oh my stars, I can't believe you thought about saying no to this!

Posted by: Kristin H | January 28, 2010 at 09:32 PM

I wish I were there. Oh so much. Iowa is nice and all but I haven't seen my son and his sweet chunk arms in a tank top in months and months.

Posted by: Monkey | January 28, 2010 at 09:32 PM

That's funny, I'm in Iowa, too. I agree, Jamaica would be much better right now.

Posted by: Katie | January 28, 2010 at 09:45 PM

NIIIIIIIIIIIICE! So jealous! It was 9 when I took my kids to school this morning and 12 when I picked them up. Degrees. Fahrenheit. Sucks dude!

Posted by: Jill | January 28, 2010 at 09:59 PM

It's the weirdest thing. I don't know you, but I read everything you write and I adore your little family and it makes me happy to know you're going to have a good week. You're that good of a writer, dammit.

Posted by: Trish | January 28, 2010 at 10:01 PM

Shoutout from freezing cold Illinois--Wow! Enjoy yourselves!

Posted by: Cincy | January 28, 2010 at 10:04 PM

So, let me get this straight. You get a gorgeous view, a private pool, sunshine, and roosters?!

What more does one need in life?

Posted by: Kailee | January 28, 2010 at 10:05 PM

I hate you.

/jealous

Posted by: Whimsi | January 28, 2010 at 10:50 PM

It's snowing here.

Bite me.
(But have tons of fun.)

Posted by: Zak | January 28, 2010 at 11:55 PM

Delurking to say...I don't know what that I am so happy for you that you get to enjoy this and also so very very envious! Can't wait for updates!

Posted by: Amy Uncensored | January 29, 2010 at 12:14 AM

Mmmmm. Jerk chicken.
The photos are awesome but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't sitting here looking at the cold and windy outside (knowing I have to go out in it tomorrow) and thinking "no fair, mommy bloggers have all the fun."
Have a great time!

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | January 29, 2010 at 12:23 AM

I am so incredibly jealous. Its gonna be snowy and icy and frigid this weekend. That sun looks wonderful.

Posted by: Kristin | January 29, 2010 at 12:35 AM

It looks beautiful there. I am so JELUS! The boys are adorable though, and I hope it really is an awesome week for you all!

Posted by: Ivie | January 29, 2010 at 02:06 AM

Ezra looks like he smoked a fatty. I love Jamaica.

Posted by: hstath | January 29, 2010 at 04:50 AM

Go eat sugar cane. And yams. And dumplings. And jerk chicken. And jerk pork. And steamed fish. And Sky Juice. And drink rum. And cocktails. And drink rum. And eat pineapples. And mangos. And did I mention rum?

Why the hell did I choose to live in the UK, exactly?

not at all jealous and not showing it too much or whatever

Posted by: jay | January 29, 2010 at 06:06 AM

Looks fantastic! I hope you all enjoy the break and the pampering and the pool. And my goodness, that second pic makes Ezra look like he's going to grow up to be a trucker!

Posted by: Elaine | January 29, 2010 at 06:12 AM

Their ploy worked. Saving the pennies now.

Posted by: the Moira | January 29, 2010 at 06:19 AM

I can't wait to read all about your trip. I am living vicariously through you because I can't get my husband on a damn plane to go anywhere. And! I so need a vacation. Plus you will keep me laughing.

Posted by: Erica | January 29, 2010 at 07:51 AM

i am jealous!

Posted by: jeni | January 29, 2010 at 09:01 AM

Last time I was in Jamaica.....5yrs ago for our destination wedding. After my morning commute in 17 degree weather & looking at your pics, I'm looking up prices right now for a now, family of 3... You guys are gonna have soooo much fun!!!

Posted by: Jaidnoire | January 29, 2010 at 09:09 AM

Jealous! Especially since it is 9 degrees here today in the tundra AKA Michign.

Posted by: Maggie | January 29, 2010 at 09:21 AM

My husband and I went to Jamaica for our honeymoon, and I thought the people who lived there were some of the kindest people I'd ever met. And when a monster hurricane (Category 5) was being predicted to roll over the island the day after we left for home, I was so, so afraid for everyone in Jamaica. Thank God, the hurricane pulled a last minute move away from the island, but all I could think about when I saw the pictures of Haiti was that that would've been what Jamaica would've looked like post-hurricane. And I cried a little, because Jamaicans seemed so kind, so lovely, but there is so much poverty there, so many people suffering. *sigh*

Sorry to be Debbie Downer; your post just brought all of that back to me. I hope you have a wonderful, relaxing vacation.

Posted by: Gaby | January 29, 2010 at 09:33 AM

I'm so happy for you! My head would have totally exploded over the passport situation, so congrats on making it there in one piece. That water looks heavenly!

Posted by: Elizabeth | January 29, 2010 at 09:37 AM

I'm jealous!

Posted by: wm | January 29, 2010 at 10:16 AM

That looks lovely.

I wish more affordable resorts would send bloggers to check 'em out though. I looked at the photos and started daydreaming so I clicked over.

Six nights for two adults and two children in their lowest priced villa in mid-season would be \$5330. Yikes! I know it is all inclusive and includes nannies and food and whatnot but that is still crazy expensive, especially when you add in airfare.

Still, it looks beautiful.

Posted by: Melissa | January 29, 2010 at 10:25 AM

so....what youre saying is onlineparentingcolumn writer = jamaica? must research career change.

Posted by: meIV | January 29, 2010 at 10:35 AM

We are so going next February/March after checking out how awesome it is. Is it wrong to spend the last week of December/first week of January in Hawaii only to head to Jamaica a month or so later? I hope you all have an incredible time!

Posted by: Jacqueline | January 29, 2010 at 10:52 AM

Which one of their cottages (and I think from the photos that is a loose term for MANSION) are you guys staying in? It looks lovely. (Also now that I've asked that I'm going to add that I do not work for the resort and am not fishing for further advertising, I'm just curious about which one).

P.S. Just as an aside, when my 18 month old took his official Starfish swimming lessons they put water wings on him. So I figure if the registered life guard thinks it's good enough for an 18 month old then it's good enough for Noah.

Posted by: Anna | January 29, 2010 at 11:52 AM

Want pictures of romantic dinner with hubby--- hoping you get a chance for some quiet time alone.

Posted by: Kim | January 29, 2010 at 12:11 PM

Yes, add me to the list of "jelus" and "not speaking to you" (but obviously, "speaking" to you). Also, after you nap, please post details like, how long the flight was, how the boys did on the flight, what the place looks like, etc. etc. DETAILS, Amy Storch, onlineparentingcolumnwriter, DETAILS. Oh, and pictures, too, of course.

LOVE the picture of Ezra. He is just so beautiful. I just want to squeezeeeeeeeze him. Please don't cut his hair...I love the way his hair is growing out! And Noah, a big swimmer ALONE in the pool - YAY for Noah!

Posted by: Heather | January 29, 2010 at 12:26 PM

Wow, this is a stellar experiment in the power of the mom blogstresses. These people are super-smart to send you there; I am totally listening to your report! You are venturing to this paradise-sounding place at the precise moment that I -- 22 weeks pregnant with a wee tiny girl, our first baby -- am contemplating what is to become of our luxurious vacays in our post-baby life, and this feels very much like an answer! Can't wait to hear/read/see more about your adventure and how you guys all enjoy it!

Posted by: Holly | January 29, 2010 at 12:38 PM

Snackbox had his first taste of pineapple in Hawaii, and he was chowing down on it. I told DH -"wow, he really likes pineapple!" and he said, "Or the rum, since it was the garnish on your mai tai". Mommy of the Year, right here.

Have a wonderful vacation and take every advantage of the nannies and the cooks - you know, for research sake...

Posted by: Susan | January 29, 2010 at 01:03 PM

Oh my god it looks so fricken warm there. I have been inside all day and my fingers are so cold they feel like they are going to crack off. jealous.

Posted by: Crystal D | January 29, 2010 at 01:11 PM

I am jealous. Looks amazing. Have a great time!

Posted by: sharon | January 29, 2010 at 01:18 PM

I've only been to Jamacia from a cruise ship and we took a taxi to Dunns falls. pretty place, but not kid friendly. ENJOY. it's a beautiful place.

Posted by: Brenda | January 29, 2010 at 01:58 PM

Love the pictures, love hearing about the trip. I'm not in a place right now where I can take my own vacation, but I do really enjoy have a little mini-vicarious vacay through your posts. That first one of Noah in the pool cracks me up. Looking forward to reading the next installment!

Posted by: kellyannecat | January 29, 2010 at 03:21 PM

looks amazing. their webiste looks like a fairy tale. bookmarked!

Posted by: jennifer | January 29, 2010 at 03:37 PM

Liek the kids say: OHH EMM GEEE..so pretty.

ok..so I'm rallying 12 ladies together from work (Oh God, we'll kill each other) to plan a vacay to this place..we've named the guy by the pool on the website "Dexter" and we've made up about 10 fantasies about how inappropriate we will be with "Dexter" when he serves us lunch each day..we're whores..and proud of it thankyouverymuch. HAVE FUN!!!

Posted by: linka72 | January 29, 2010 at 08:00 PM

There is jealousy seeping from all of my pores and it's ugly and I'm not afraid to admit it. I hope you're having a BLAST!

Posted by: Karen Chatters | January 30, 2010 at 03:09 PM

amy, i don't ever comment because i am nowhere NEAR as funny as you, but i thought you might get a charge out of this: in google reader, the line about the beautiful children and the jerk chicken are right on top of each other. and at first read i thought it said that you ate the most wonderful jerk children.

um.

amy. stop eating children. even if they are jerks. cannibalism is just as jerky.

Posted by: raeleigh/big sky girl | January 31, 2010 at 01:15 AM

I can't think of a family more deserving of a great vacation than the Storches. Have a blast!

Posted by: Bachelor Girl | February 01, 2010 at 11:56 AM

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Shut Up

January 29, 2010



I did not buy this magazine. They have like, every magazine on the planet out in the living room and it was there when we got here. It was THERE WHEN WE GOT HERE. Whatever. I'm reading it for the Obama articles and stuff. I barely even noticed the five-page spread about whas-his-abs there. I'm totally going to read the latest issue of *The Atlantic* next.

Or maybe whatever has Lady Gaga on the cover.

Posted at 04:51 PM in Travel | Permalink



Comments

By the pool. I love you, and yet I hate you.
 I R JUS JELUS. sigh.

Posted by: Sweetney | January 29, 2010 at 04:54 PM



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Honestly, I care more about how much I want to swap places with you just for the Red Stripe by the pool. :)

Posted by: Miriam | January 29, 2010 at 04:55 PM

I am wondering what I did to piss off karma so much that I am in freeeeezing PA sick as a DAWG...
...and you have smut and beer and Jamaica? Yet further evidence for the canonization of Amalah. ;)

Posted by: txtingmrdarcy | January 29, 2010 at 04:58 PM

What a pretty picture. Enjoy yourselves Storch fam!

Posted by: Laura | January 29, 2010 at 04:59 PM

Is that your private fucking pool? Fuck.

Posted by: Ulla | January 29, 2010 at 05:07 PM

Love it! Have fun!

Posted by: AmazingGreis | January 29, 2010 at 05:07 PM

Whatever - I want the Red Stripe!

Posted by: Stephanie | January 29, 2010 at 05:30 PM

Ooooooooooooooooooh Red Stripe, my favorite lager! I drank about a million of those with my Dad when we were in Jamaica :)

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | January 29, 2010 at 05:33 PM

What? Did you say something? I was a little distracted...

Posted by: JustLinda | January 29, 2010 at 05:38 PM

It is friggin FREEZING up here.
But yeah, go ahead and enjoy your beer and mancake mag by the pool. I'm not bitter.

Posted by: *m* | January 29, 2010 at 05:52 PM

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Thanks for the giggle. I needed that today. And I need that magazine too, when you're finished drooling, er, reading it.

Posted by: Sarah | January 29, 2010 at 05:56 PM

Red Stripe...I remember Red Stripe. I didn't HAVE to go to Jamaica to get one though. Just "New Horizons" in Richmond.

And seriously...Rolling Stone has Obama articles? Why? He doesn't play in a rock band that I'm not aware of, does he?

Posted by: Martha | January 29, 2010 at 06:23 PM

I choked a little when I saw the magazine . . . and then promptly googled "Rolling Stone Taylor Lautner" and drooled over the pics and excerpts. SERIOUSLY, is he really still just 17?!?!? gaaah. Some of those pics do NOT look 17. mmm.

Posted by: Katie | January 29, 2010 at 06:24 PM

I have NEVER understood the Taylor Lauther love. Maybe it's because deep, deep down, I'm really a Pattinson girl? Who knows. Anyway, I'm glad you're enjoying your vacation! Do you have pics of the hotel room?

Posted by: Megan@Blueberry Scones | January 29, 2010 at 06:34 PM

Megan, she had a link to Bluefields yesterday, or you can google it. She's not in a hotel room, she's in a PRIVATE FREAKING VILLA with her own NANNY and HEADMAN and CHEF and I am so JELUS I am ready to cash in my retirement savings and go rent the villa next door!

Posted by: Syko | January 29, 2010 at 06:50 PM

Thanks @Katie for the Google hint. I'll be off now...

Posted by: Pamela | January 29, 2010 at 06:59 PM

Oh my god, whats-his-abs. I may never stop laughing.

Posted by: Kayleigh | January 29, 2010 at 07:15 PM

I owned that magazine. I don't remember any articles. :)

Posted by: Amy | January 29, 2010 at 08:00 PM

You are slowly making us all hate you--one post at a time. J/k. Have fun!

Posted by: Lindsay | January 29, 2010 at 08:14 PM

Jealous. Of everything. (I spend a fortune on magazines while on vacation.)

Posted by: Suzanne | January 29, 2010 at 08:28 PM

Am so enjoying my vicarious trip.

Posted by: egplnt21 | January 29, 2010 at 08:56 PM

Haha what the heck, you're on vacation, enjoy your fluff ;)

Posted by: Heather | January 29, 2010 at 09:31 PM

Ooooooh, sexxy! Definite eye candy there!

Posted by: Kristin | January 29, 2010 at 11:53 PM

Everyday I look at the website with the prices. I like to look at how much it would cost for 12 people! I'm so happy you are there.

Posted by: amymarie | January 30, 2010 at 08:02 AM

I'm desperate for more photos of the villa and the beach. I'd also love to know how safe it is for small children. The photos in their promotional website look like there are a lot of cliffs and drop offs. Has that been a problem or does it look worse than it is in the photos?

Posted by: angie | January 30, 2010 at 09:46 AM

Does it make me a cougar that i'm 30 years old and think that a 16 year old is like... SO TOTALLY HOT. Whatever, I'm down with it. :-)
Have an amazing vacation and while everyone else is complaining about the freezing cold back east, we're enjoying 70 degrees out here in SoCal *grin*. But it's still not freaking JAMAICA. Awesomeness.

Posted by: Ashley F | January 30, 2010 at 12:03 PM

If you squint hard (damn Jamaican sun), he almost doesn't look like jail bait. So there. Take comfort.

Posted by: Kate @ And Then I Was a Mom | January 30, 2010 at 12:07 PM

Totally googled Bluefields and that place looks amazing!!! More pictures pleeeeeeeze. In Jamaica, I have only been to the cheesy places, Breezes, Grand Lido and Hedo.

Posted by: KG | January 30, 2010 at 12:28 PM

WTF is in the pool? A dog on a raft?? Am I the only one who saw that over the magazine??
IMnop

Posted by: M | January 30, 2010 at 02:27 PM

I'm so jealous! Its snowing here. Lucky.

Posted by: G | January 30, 2010 at 02:32 PM

It's cold and snowing here in the metro DC area..I am jealous of your sun and warmth.

Posted by: kris | January 30, 2010 at 03:49 PM

I am at the beach too. Unfortunately it is covered with 6 inches of snow and counting! Enjoy your work:)

Posted by: cs | January 30, 2010 at 03:58 PM

I want to know what on earth is floating on that raft??? dead chicken?
and here in Annapolis....we have 4" of snow. and it is still coming.
youpicked a fabulous time to get away.
green with envy

Posted by: Amber | January 30, 2010 at 06:00 PM

It is freezing here, I wanna be there damnit! Have fun!

Posted by: Tonya | January 31, 2010 at 12:49 AM

RE: What's in the pool...
Seriously. What IS that? Did you bring Ceiba?

Puhleeeez tell us more about what you are seeing and eating and doing and not doing and stuff.

I'm lobbying my husband for Bluefields, but I must begin slowly and

carefully. In the meantime...if you have time, of course...tell us moremoremoremore and even more than that.

Posted by: Cyn | January 31, 2010 at 01:43 AM

thanks a lot for abandoning us here with all this snow and stuff!!!!

Posted by: Tina C. | January 31, 2010 at 08:18 AM

I find it highly suspicious, considering the fact that you knew the exact number of pages in the spread about whats-his-abs ... didn't you ever learn that, with lying, less is more? ;) enjoy :).)

Posted by: vallartamami | February 01, 2010 at 03:05 AM

"the five-page spread about whats-his-abs there" made me snort orange juice.

ok embarassing admission: i went to go see that movie WITH MY POOR HUSBAND and even so every time whats-his-abs showed up I said PURRRRRR. OUT LOUD.

Poor my hubs.

Posted by: Della | February 01, 2010 at 11:17 AM


Could you read the Taylor Lautner article just long enough to find out if he's 18 yet? I'm waiting for him to be legal so I can lust after him without being a perv. kthxbai !

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 01, 2010 at 06:33 PM

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« Weekend Photo Round-Up | Main | When It Snows It Blizzards »

The Basics

February 02, 2010

I get the sense the staff here is worried that we are bored. We are not bored. We are, most likely, the boringest guests they've ever had. They keep reminding about about the hiking and snorkeling and fishing and kayaking and tubing over waterfalls, and we smile blissfully from our chair/chaise/hammock/other-place-where-we-have-planted-our-sedentary-butts and assure them that WE ARE FINE. WE ARE HAVING THE TIME OF OUR LIVES. RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE. WITH THE SITTING.

(We did massages. In our room. Practically rolled off the bed onto the table and back again. It was delicious.)

Every morning we wake up with the boys, cuddle for a bit before throwing open the windows and doors to survey the view and remember OH YEAH, we're in heaven, still. We pour ourselves some strong coffee our night watchman makes before he heads home. (I actually feel safer here than at any tourist-y peddler-targeted resort, but because we're so out in the middle of relative nowhere there are guard dogs and round-the-clock staff on the properties.) (And by "guard dogs" I mean a couple docile lumps of *snuffully wuffully who's-a-good-boy-who-wants-a-scratchin'* furbags.) The nanny makes the boys' breakfast (bananas and cereal for Noah; eggs, fruit and French toast for Ezra) while we head down to eat ours a bit closer to the water. (We've had just about everything you can imagine, from typical American grub to "real" Jamaican breakfasts like ackee and saltfish and callaloo omelets, all of which we've Hoovered up while being all, "OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD.")

After we eat, the tough decisions start: What do we do first? Beach or pool?

IT'S VERY STRESSFUL.

Yesterday, though, we did finally leave the villa property. We visited the local preschool, the Bluefields Basic School.



The Jamaican government offers zero early childhood education, so it is up to communities and businesses and private donors to set up these tiny little places for three-, four- and five-year-olds to attend.

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(The family who owns the Bluefields Bay Villas -- who, for full disclosure again, comped our stay here; we paid for airfare and staff gratuities [and those massages, heh] -- sponsor the three-year-old classroom. Other organizations and business support the other rooms. They pay for the teachers, supplies, food for the children and tuition for families who need help paying.)



Most of the families need help. Tuition is 2,000 Jamaican dollars a semester. That's about 25 bucks.



Noah came along. The kids were delighted by their exotic visitor; they stroked his hair and swarmed him with tickles. Shrieking is the universal language of preschoolers, it turns out.

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He sat in on a lesson about proteins and shared some peanuts. Here, they are discussing sardines.



(After disrupting everything, he at least attempted to restore order to the three-year-old room.)



Then he made himself right at home among the four-year-olds. "IT'S TIME TO WASH YOUR HANDS," a little girl is bossily instructing him off-camera.



The five-year-olds were working in their composition books, carefully writing out the months of the year. Then we showed up and the pose-off started.



Using push pins and rubber bands to make shapes. Behind him: assorted Spider-Man, Disney Princess and Dora the Explorer backpacks.



After we got back in the car, I told Noah we'd go to the beach. "Okay," he shrugged. He waved goodbye to the ramshackle buildings and sighed. "I love that school. Can we go back tomorrow?"

Posted at 10:12 AM in [Travel](#) | [Permalink](#)

```
if (typeof LJT_executeCB == 'function') {
LJT_executeCB(lwp_ad_zoneid); } else { var
ljt_ad_tag_buf = "; var m3_u =
LJT_AP_ADDRESS +'ajs.php'; var m3_r =
Math.floor(Math.random()*9999999999);
ljt_ad_tag_buf += "</scr"+"ipt>";
document.write(ljt_ad_tag_buf); }
```

Comments

Oh, wow. When are you moving to Jamaica then?

Posted by: [Fi](#) | February 02, 2010 at 10:17 AM

So great that you got to visit that school and how sweet that Noah enjoyed it so much!

Great post.

Posted by: [Beth](#) | February 02, 2010 at 10:18 AM

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Great post.

Posted by: Beth | February 02, 2010 at 10:18 AM

What an incredible school and incredible people to fund it. Thanks for linking.

Posted by: She Likes Purple | February 02, 2010 at 10:19 AM

Ok, now my heart is squeeing all over the place. Still totally jealous. Happy vacation!

Posted by: tutugirl1345 | February 02, 2010 at 10:20 AM

Very cool!

Posted by: Jane Cato | February 02, 2010 at 10:22 AM

Love it!

Posted by: Starbuck | February 02, 2010 at 10:22 AM

That school does look like an awful lot of fun :D Looks like the people at Bluefields are doing a good thing :)

Posted by: Heather | February 02, 2010 at 10:29 AM

I am patiently waiting for all of your posts from this vacation and then im going to forcibly make my husband read each on in succession and whine until he takes us. Im specifically going to highlight the part about the nanny and the cooking of the breakfast. What an amazing trip!
Also, go Noah! Were you worried about his reaction to the chaos of school upsetting him or is he just doing that great now??

Posted by: MeIV | February 02, 2010 at 10:30 AM

OMG. You just reminded me that life is wonderful.

Posted by: LPC | February 02, 2010 at 10:36 AM

That's it. I'm totally moving to Jamaica. I love that you guys are doing this. Can't wait to see more!

Posted by: Christina | February 02, 2010 at 10:43 AM

How does one donate to the school? I can spare a tuition!

Posted by: Ulla | February 02, 2010 at 10:43 AM

OMG Noah's comment when you left the school makes my heart swell. Awesome

Posted by: Gwen | February 02, 2010 at 10:45 AM

So glad you're having such a good vacation!
And I'm not sure there is a sweeter boy on Earth than Noah :)

Posted by: Myranda | February 02, 2010 at 10:58 AM

Yes, can you put up a link where they can donate to the school please? I am happy for you. Have tons of fun, while I work.

Posted by: Nelia | February 02, 2010 at 11:05 AM

Excellent post. Is it weird that I'm enjoying your vacation so much? :)

Posted by: kellyannecat | February 02, 2010 at 11:07 AM

omg, this place is gorgeous! Someday we're going to have the \$ to spend on a real vacation like this!

Posted by: Angela | February 02, 2010 at 11:15 AM

SO AWESOME. love the pictures, Amy.

Posted by: Marianne | February 02, 2010 at 11:16 AM

I would also like to know how to donate tuition. I want to come with you next time!!

Posted by: lisa | February 02, 2010 at 11:20 AM

I kinda love that school, too.

Posted by: kalisa | February 02, 2010 at 11:20 AM

I love this post, especially the end. Kids are the best. Thank you for posting this, you know, when we visit other countries and see these buildings from the outside it is impossible to have a glimpse of the LIFE inside.

Posted by: Sara | February 02, 2010 at 11:20 AM

What an amazing adventure!

Posted by: Tracy H | February 02, 2010 at 11:25 AM

Awww I just love it! When we lived in Africa people would come up to my sister (who is shockingly blond) and ask her if her hair was made of straw.

Posted by: Ris | February 02, 2010 at 11:36 AM

WARM AND FUZZY.

wipes away a tear

Posted by: jennifer | February 02, 2010 at 11:41 AM

Amazing that Noah tolerated it so well. This whole post just gives me shivers... I echo the need to donate money to the school. I am a huge early childhood education advocate and it just looks like they are really trying to do some great stuff.

Posted by: Wendy | February 02, 2010 at 11:43 AM

Everything was so bright and colorful at that school... I love it! Looks like you guys are having a great time.

When my family lived in Japan, my sister used to get mobbed so that people could stroke her long blonde hair. She usually had that deer in headlights look but was pretty understanding for a 6 year old.

Posted by: Jennifer | February 02, 2010 at 11:43 AM

I was completely sold on this resort (nannies? hello!?) - but (shouldn't known better)I checked the rates and came crashing back down to earth. Fail. Glad you are having a good time. Am so jealous.

Posted by: Amanda | February 02, 2010 at 12:02 PM

(For everybody asking about donating...I'll be talking with the Proper People about fundraising once we get back. It will take just a bit of organizing, as it's not like the schools around here have PayPal accounts, but rest assured that I'm on it.)

Posted by: Amalah | February 02, 2010 at 12:13 PM

Funny story, ackee is actually poisonous if it's not cooked properly. Also, an observation - no rampant peanuts allergies among Jamaican schoolchildren, apparently. Hmmmm....

Posted by: Sarah | February 02, 2010 at 12:16 PM

What a wonderful travel experience! So great to see the smiles on everyone's faces. That's awesome!

Posted by: LesleyG | February 02, 2010 at 12:17 PM

Sweet, sweet post. The school children smiling? Contagious, I tell you! Thanks for sharing!

Posted by: Kailee | February 02, 2010 at 12:23 PM

Uh, different Beth here. Looks like you guys are having a ton of fun! That preschool looks so cheerful :)

Posted by: Beth | February 02, 2010 at 12:28 PM

Oh, the children - those BEAUTIFUL Jamaican faces!

Posted by: Katie Kat | February 02, 2010 at 12:28 PM

Awww, how cool is that?! I love watching little kids from different countries play together. I think perhaps we should replace all delegates to the UN with preschoolers.

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | February 02, 2010 at 12:35 PM

I'm living vicariously right now. Keep the pictures and details coming.

Posted by: Kristin | February 02, 2010 at 12:36 PM

Ha. Pose off! Classic. Hilarious picture. also, JEALOUS! whoooo

Posted by: Amy | February 02, 2010 at 12:59 PM

What a brilliant and happy comment from Noah! You done good, Mom. :-)

Posted by: meowlam | February 02, 2010 at 01:02 PM

I've already told my husband about this place! I figure it's the same cost as a Disney cruise, depending on when we'd go...It sounds great! Lucky, talented, you! I bet they're asking you if you want to hike/kayak/etc. so that you can take pictures and talk about it on your blog too -- more advertising for them, I guess. Throw 'em a bone and go for a hike! Think of the pictures you'll get. :)

Posted by: Ami | February 02, 2010 at 01:17 PM

Oh and also, Jamaican me crazy with jealousy with the awesome pictures of awesome holiday.

Sorry about the stolen pun from B&J but really someone had to go ahead and say it.

Posted by: Ulla | February 02, 2010 at 01:38 PM

Noah is adorable. I bet he loved those kiddies.

Posted by: Natballs | February 02, 2010 at 01:53 PM

Would you please provide contact information for the school so we can donate tuition?

Posted by: Nette | February 02, 2010 at 01:56 PM

ohmygod the awesome.

Posted by: Mrs. Flinger | February 02, 2010 at 01:57 PM

hmm what hormonal rages am I having right now - this made me bawl, and seeing Noah in the picture at the end killed me. Sooo amazing!

Posted by: Sara | February 02, 2010 at 02:06 PM

I, too, am looking forward to donating!

That frock you're wearing in that picture is gorgeous! Is it a shirt? Dress? What brand is it? I looooooove it!

Posted by: Jae | February 02, 2010 at 02:20 PM

This post made me giddy. I can just hear the squeals of delight when they met Noah, and I love that Noah fell in love with all of them.

Posted by: Nanette | February 02, 2010 at 02:45 PM

I. MUST. HONEYMOON. THERE. I am emailing them today. Holy heavens, I think I'm in love.

Posted by: Haley | February 02, 2010 at 02:56 PM

Um, wait. Nanny? As in, included nanny?
Ohmygodneedtobookticketsnow.

The school looks great; I'm glad you told us all about it.

Posted by: Kate @ And Then I Was a Mom | February 02, 2010 at 03:10 PM

One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me and my brother is the chance to see how people in other countries really live, not just to see how other tourists live when we go on vacations. We went to visit schools (often bringing school supplies to poor ones), churches, homes, local markets, etc. I am so proud that you are introducing Noah to that same blessing!

Posted by: maria | February 02, 2010 at 03:34 PM

That is so, so awesome. Kids are great.

Posted by: JennyM | February 02, 2010 at 03:35 PM

Also, it looks like you can contact the Bluefields Villas folks about how to contribute to the community:

<http://www.bluefieldsvillas.com/community.php>

Posted by: JennyM | February 02, 2010 at 03:38 PM

How wonderful

Posted by: Wendi | February 02, 2010 at 03:40 PM

Oh my gosh. The cuteness of Noah at that preschool seems worth the ENTIRE trip! What a wonderful, amazing experience.

Posted by: Rachael | February 02, 2010 at 03:58 PM

I see the economy is going good for you. How lucky you are, to not have to work, and be a world jet setter.. Wish we could all afford to have comped vacations for writing a blog. Oh Well. Real people have REAL jobs I guess.

Posted by: Sally | February 02, 2010 at 04:10 PM

Love that you posted about the local schools - a great way to raise awareness about a situation where a small donation can make a big difference for a child.

And those kids are adorable!

Posted by: Jessica | February 02, 2010 at 04:15 PM

Wonderful, Amy! What an awesome time for your family and for the school when your readers can donate to them--to a place we probably never would've heard of if you hadn't taken the vacation. I'm really glad you decided to visit & blog about the kids.

Posted by: schoolofmom | February 02, 2010 at 04:29 PM

This is amazing! The Bluefields people rule!
I vote you enroll Noah in that school post haste.

Posted by: Bachelor Girl | February 02, 2010 at 04:54 PM

what an amazing experience for Noah! right on mom ;)

Posted by: ndc | February 02, 2010 at 05:03 PM

Just wanted to say this, Amy.

Your blog is the *only* one that I read faithfully. I enjoy each and every entry and I ALWAYS look forward to new ones. You are funny and wry and your observations are always so spot-on, and I admire you for having the courage to share so much of yourself with the online world.

So yes, we are all jealous, but because you provide all of your readers with so much joy, laughter, and sometimes tears, why *shouldn't* you get comped to something so wonderful? In other words, you completely deserve this. And because of this post in particular, it looks like this school will be getting donations from a good number of us (I know they'll get one from me!)...so don't be surprised if you're invited back!

So enjoy this paradise to the fullest, and we, your readers, will enjoy it vicariously right along with you.

Enjoy!

Posted by: Cyn | February 02, 2010 at 05:36 PM

next year, my bffs and i turn 40- i have sent the link and asked them to think about it. which villa are you guys in?

Posted by: kara | February 02, 2010 at 05:51 PM

Amy, you're killin' me. I so want to be there. What kind of activities do they have for the older kid crowd? (9 to 16 year olds, of which I have 4!)

Posted by: Tracy | February 02, 2010 at 06:41 PM

If you haven't, try the bun and cheese. It's not real cheese but it's our equivalent of a grilled cheese (kind of). I studied abroad (I know) in Kingston and miss the food so much. There is nothing like it!

Posted by: Stinkey Pete | February 02, 2010 at 07:01 PM

looks fantastic :-)

Posted by: MommyNamedApril | February 02, 2010 at 07:41 PM

love it ALL!

Posted by: Erin | February 02, 2010 at 08:52 PM

Well played, Bluefield Bay Villas, well played. How many of Amy's readers are looking into a stay at your paradise right now? (Including me.) MUST find a way to visit soon! Enjoy, Amy and fam!

Posted by: Tami | February 02, 2010 at 10:15 PM

very cool Amy! love Noah in the school, such an awesome experience for him! enjoy the sun for me, more rain and wintry mix on the horizon here. you're in paradise so soak it up!

Posted by: Brandi | February 02, 2010 at 10:22 PM

Hi Amy,

Another touching post. Thank you for taking the time out of your vacation to visit the preschool. I'm another that would love to get information on how to donate to sponsor tuition. Keep us updated!

Posted by: Christina Q | February 03, 2010 at 02:17 AM

This post makes me so happy for you guys! What a great vacation

you're having!

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | February 03, 2010 at 02:51 AM

Aww! What a gorgeous school!

And it's so fitting really, with everything that is happening in Haiti that we remember that these countries **DEPEND** on our tourist dollars to survive. I've read a bunch of articles on the hand-wringing people are doing over their Caribbean vacation plans. If people cancel their vacations then the **LOCALS SUFFER!** Fisherman who sell their fish to feed you, artisans who sell their crafts for your souvenirs, local people who work in the resort itself.

I am glad you are there! I am glad you have a family vacation!

Seriously anyone could be in your position to get a reduced-price vacation (plane tickets ain't cheap) and they could be a horrible selfish person who wouldn't have even cared about seeing a local school. So frankly I'd much rather you were there than whoever else might have gone! I mean, they were going to send **SOMEONE THERE ANYWAY.** hello!

Posted by: stacy | February 03, 2010 at 03:31 AM

You had me at Nanny.

Posted by: Miss Britt | February 03, 2010 at 07:53 AM

I too would like to donate a tuition or two. Those children are so beautiful.

I too was a little shocked at the cost of the villas - but when you remember that the cost is for an entire week and includes food, other amenities and **YOUR OWN HEADMAN** who makes sure that everything is perfect for you, the cost slides from "in my dreams" to "possibly doable someday". Especially if you go during hurricane season.

Posted by: Judy | February 03, 2010 at 09:06 AM

Amy, woooooooooooooo! Looks like you're all having a ball. But what, no piccies of DH? I guess he's taking all the lovely photos! I await donation info on the school! Bluefields looks fantabulous - the publicity your blog is generating for the place beats any mag editorial! Clever them.

As for the earlier poster, geeee, could you be more bitter?

Posted by: She-Hulk | February 03, 2010 at 09:08 AM

Me? I certainly didn't mean to sound bitter, but I went back and read all the comments, and nobody else did either, so I'm not sure who that comment was aimed at. Everyone seems happy for the Storch family, albeit a little jealous that they are not there in the villa next door, enjoying right along with them.

Posted by: Judy | February 03, 2010 at 10:19 AM

am I the only one anticipating a little blonde baby girl with a Jamaican accent in oh... 9 months... give or take?

Posted by: rachael | February 03, 2010 at 12:32 PM

um i LOVED this post. those photos of the smiling kiddos? love. tear. seeing this and knowing how it's funded and cared for is truly awesome.

Posted by: kat | February 03, 2010 at 12:36 PM

@Judy - I think the bitter poster referred to is sad, bitter Sally from 4:10pm yesterday. Poor, poor Sally, who is so miserable in her own life that she can't take a moment and be happy for someone else's good fortune.

Posted by: Wendy | February 03, 2010 at 12:46 PM

Thank you, Wendy, I'm always so paranoid. I missed the 4:10 post and yes, it does seem a little hateful. But one out of 80 or so isn't too bad, huh?

I keep going to the Bluefields website and dreaming. *sigh*

Posted by: Judy | February 03, 2010 at 01:49 PM

Cool school.
Oh how I long to be a boring guest.
x,
P
www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | February 03, 2010 at 02:24 PM

I'm echoing the sentiments of wanting to sponsor a kid or two every semester. It looks like a great school, and I'm a sucker for adorable children.
Also, Go Noah! No fits pitched then, eh? Good for him! *shakes pom-poms*

Posted by: College At Thirty | February 03, 2010 at 03:03 PM

Will be pitching this to husband as our honeymoon destination. Or perhaps, the primer to our honeymoon, seeing as we have another 2 years maybe until we can leave both kids that long, and heck, I don't think I could wait that long!

Posted by: Twwly | February 03, 2010 at 03:12 PM

I am totally for just sitting on your bums during the entire vacay!!!
Soak it up!
Love the pics of Noah with the school children. What a great experience for him.

Have fun!

Posted by: Heather | February 03, 2010 at 03:20 PM

Great pictures!!! You are missing on on MORE snow here in THE DC area. Which is crazy because in the four years I've lived here its never snowed more than once (okay, maybe twice) a year. Somewhere a polar bear is crying.

Posted by: AJE | February 03, 2010 at 04:28 PM

That's one crazy commute Noah's going to have to his new school!
As for your beachy, massage-y, time-means-nothing induced state of bliss, I might have to unsubscribe Amalah fan club until you're back somewhere gray and drizzly with a baby throwing up on you. That's where I am today.

Posted by: mrsmouthy | February 03, 2010 at 05:22 PM

I've heard such unsavory things about visiting Jamacia that it's turned me off from visiting. After reading about your vacation, I think I've changed my mind!
I love that school too. All the kids look so stinkin' happy. Smiles all around!
Love it!

Posted by: MommiePie | February 03, 2010 at 06:00 PM

I'm so totally sold on this place. Luxury and philanthropy! If I had some money (or something to sell to get some money) I would definitely vacation there :-)

Posted by: beccado | February 03, 2010 at 07:21 PM

So happy for you, genuinely happy -- not even the slightest bit envious or jealous -- enjoy and keep on sharing...

Posted by: barbara | February 03, 2010 at 09:40 PM

Oh, Amy! I was worried you were going to say that Noah got completely overwhelmed by all the attention and noise at the school. I'm so happy that he had a great time and wanted to go back!
Count me in for a tuition donation too.

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 04, 2010 at 11:18 AM

I'm with Noah - that school was rad. They sure know how to treat a preschooler right.

Posted by: Becca | February 04, 2010 at 11:19 AM

The RFSB Awards are back- get your nominations in!

Posted by: christie | February 04, 2010 at 01:12 PM

Love all those smiles and Noah fitting right into it all. Awesome.

Can I say that for the little amount of money each family can afford to pay, that school is brighter, cleaner and looks more joyful than some US schools. I also absolutely love the little uniforms. Those kids are adorable.

Posted by: Fairly Odd Mother | February 04, 2010 at 04:06 PM

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Posted by: Fairly Odd Mother | February 04, 2010 at 04:06 PM

Such is the sad state of my life that I have checked about 5 times today for a new posting from you. (And I am at WORK!!!) Come on, I know you're on vacation and everything, but could we at least have more beautiful pics???

Posted by: Katherine | February 04, 2010 at 04:08 PM

Yes, Sally from 4:10 seems to be having a bit of a rough go of it.

Someone else pointed out that, when looking at the rates on the website, it may seem high...but LOOK at all you get for that. All your delicious meals? Someone to clean up after you and watch your kids? OPEN BAR?! Holy mackerel, you're saving a lot right there. Consider taking a weeklong vacation, with your family, at a US resort where these things are NOT included. You'll spend at least as much as you will at these villas. For all the amenities, really, the cost is not THAT bad. Relatively speaking, anyway.

Posted by: Cyn | February 04, 2010 at 04:14 PM

Cute! But, I still want to see the bathroom.

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 04, 2010 at 04:32 PM

I hope you all aren't planning to fly home this weekend. Big storm coming!

Posted by: kris | February 05, 2010 at 09:12 AM

No one has gone all "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" on your asses have they?!

Hope you're having a blast and soaking it all in, love reading and seeing all about it!

Posted by: Jo | February 05, 2010 at 12:30 PM

I share your joy of Bluefields. I was there in November with a beautiful fun loving group. My travel buddy Paul could match you toe to toe with sand crab photos. Race you back!

Posted by: may pariseau | February 05, 2010 at 03:32 PM

We receive periodic updates on Bluefields from Debbie Moncure. My husband and I stayed at Bluefields for our honeymoon almost 7 years ago, in the same house as you all, and have been dreaming of going back and taking our family -now a family of 6- ever since. The thing we remember the most, well next to the absolute beauty of that part of Jamaica, is all of the sweet faces of the kids on the beach next door to the house. Thanks for taking me back!

Was introduced to your blog through the e-mail we got from Debbie. Awesome, I love it!

Posted by: 4outthedor | February 07, 2010 at 12:00 PM

What a wonderful experience for Noah.

"Shreiking is the universal language of preschoolers" Love it!

Posted by: Nila | February 09, 2010 at 02:23 AM

The comments to this entry are closed.

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When It Snows It Blizzards

February 05, 2010

I woke up in the wee small hours of the morning today, just barely awake enough to wonder WHY AM I SO COLD, a thought that semi-occurred to me as I padded off in the general direction of the bathroom, right before I collided with the hard, unyielding edge of my closet door.

Oh. We're back home. The bathroom's a bit more to the right.



We're back home, where it is snowing, where it will apparently be snowing FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES, or at least the rest of the weekend. The villa staff did all of our laundry for us in Jamaica, so our suitcases are full of fresh clean..shorts. T-shirts. Tanks and sundresses. Bathing suits. I am tempted to just zip everything back up, shove it in a closet (I know just the one!) and sort it all out in June.

This weekend I am going to go through the roughly 40,000,000 photos we took and dust off my old expired Flickr account and upload them there, just to spare you the boredom of looking at 25 virtually identical shots of my preschool cavorting in the sand, dozens of sunset pictures, and there was this one day that I got really overly obsessed with getting photos of sand crabs. I have an ungodly number of sand crab photos.

THIS JUST IN: Sand crabs are ugly, kind of creepy.



PUT ME IN A SHELLACKED SEASHELL FRAME! PUT ME ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND! LET ME RUN ACROSS YOUR FACE WHILE YOU

SLEEP!

In the meantime, if you are also stuck in the snow and would like to dream of a warmer climate (or, alternately, if your body temperature is soothed and warmed by feelings of burning hot jealousy), please to enjoy another batch of vacation photos. What? It's not like I invited you over for dinner and then set up the slide projector while you weren't looking. *Oh Irving, remember the sand crabs? Here's a photo of a sand crab. Here's another one. Here's a photo that would have been of a sand crab if the sand crab hadn't run back into his hole right before Mabel snapped the picture. See that dot right there? Yep. That's another fucking sand crab, can you fucking believe it.*



The most private public beach in the world.



Noah, post-beach-post-nap.



Contemplating the Jonas Brothers. Quite seriously, I may add. That Nick one sounds very driven! (NOTE: I have no idea which one is Nick.)

[Girlfriend Beach Getaway](#)

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BLUE STEEL.



Oh! So funny story. After contemplating the terrible state of my toenails here, I decided to get a pedicure. And after finishing this beer here, I decided to open another. You know, to sustain me through the terrible ordeal of a spa treatment. Except that instead of the bottlecap coming off, the entire lip of the bottle went with it. And I stood there for a minute, contemplating this hunk of jagged glass attached to the bottle opener, when our housekeeper was all, OH HONEY! and pointed out that I had gashed my entire index finger open. Then I was all, huh. She bandaged me up and said something like, TSK! AND THIS IS WHY YOU ASK SOMEONE ELSE TO OPEN BEERS FOR YOU.

Anyway. My finger was fine. I skipped the manicure, though.

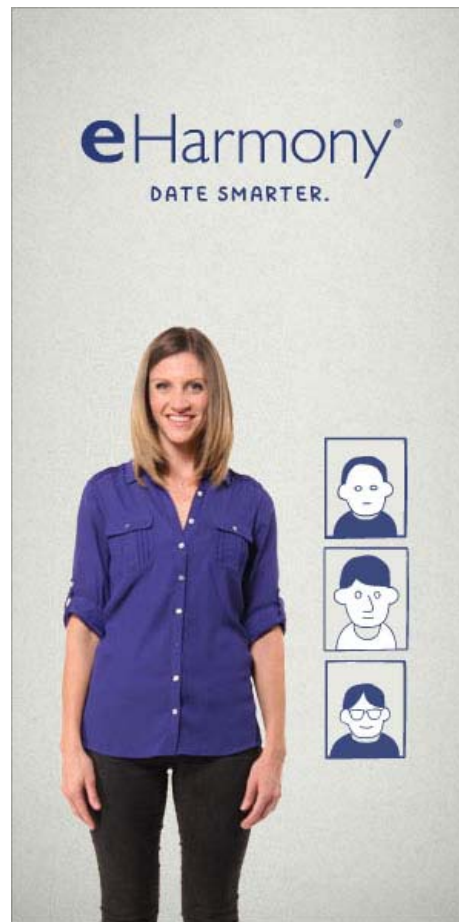


On Wednesdays, James makes jerk chicken for everybody. (And a hunk of jerk tofu for any vegetarians.) The cooking demonstration was, for Jason, about the equivalent of a teenager getting hair-styling secrets from the Jonas Brothers. The secret is to smoke it over pimento leaf. You know, FYI, if you were wondering what to do with that pimento tree in your backyard. I know I sure was. Lousy freeloading tropical climate tree.



Yeah. I miss it already. It was really, really nice.

Posted at 02:30 PM in [Travel](#) | [Permalink](#)



Comments

So jealous! So, so jealous!

Posted by: [Jill](#) | February 05, 2010 at 02:34 PM

Snow in Ohio too, Ames. And your pics make me burn with jealousy... over warm weather, Red Stripes... and baby snuggles on a floaty in the pool overlooking the ocean... That one really burns...

Posted by: Jen | February 05, 2010 at 02:35 PM

Oh that last picture killed me dead. DEAD. Send flowers. Or? Jamaican rum.

Posted by: Pammer | February 05, 2010 at 02:37 PM

That last picture is beautiful.
I am so tired of DC and snow! Winter, you can go now!!
You missed a few smaller storms while you were on the island in heaven. Thanks for posting while you were gone and for the lovely pics.

Posted by: Sheila | February 05, 2010 at 02:40 PM

Years ago we had a trip to a deserted island, where my baby fell asleep on me just like that, as I floated in the water. It is one of my all-time favorite memories.

Posted by: Lauren | February 05, 2010 at 02:43 PM

Glad you made it home before SnOMG but don't you kinda wish your vacation was supposed to last a day longer so you could've gotten stuck there??

Posted by: Laura | February 05, 2010 at 02:44 PM

Welcome home! Sorry about your gashed finger though.
And yes, those sand crabs are way too creepy. Why would you take so many pictures of such a creepy creature?

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | February 05, 2010 at 02:45 PM

Please tell me the sand crab running across your face is a joke, because I think it might be, but I'm also really gullible and now will be haunted by that thought and may never get to Jamaica.

Posted by: Bekki | February 05, 2010 at 02:46 PM

Glo. ri. ous. That last picture is priceless.
And when I read about the jerk chicken, I thought it said to smoke it over pimento IOaf. That sounds.... delicious?

Posted by: all things BD | February 05, 2010 at 02:52 PM

the last photo is stunning. It just makes me happy.

Posted by: Jen | February 05, 2010 at 02:59 PM

I love that last picture. Makes me want to find a pool, any pool, and do some of my own baby-snuggling.

Sounds like a heavenly trip. Good luck with the Snowpocalypse!

Posted by: Stephanie | February 05, 2010 at 02:59 PM

Sounds so so wonderful!

But my jealousy is somehow not keeping the cold, cold winter weather at bay...? Huh.

Posted by: Mrs. D | February 05, 2010 at 03:01 PM

Wow. Just wow.

Posted by: Springsteen fan | February 05, 2010 at 03:06 PM

Jerk Tofu???? OMG I want to GO!!!!

Posted by: Wife to a Vegan | February 05, 2010 at 03:10 PM

Amy Dearest...

Here in the land of 10,000 Lakes and 10 Foot Snow Piles, lives a little 'ol business knowns as Pimento Wood.

Yes, here in the Great White North, you can buy genu-wine Jamaican Pimento Wood for all your jerking needs.

http://www.pimentowood.com/Pimento_Wood/Pimento_Wood.html

(Jerking needs. hahahahaha)

Posted by: Baileyswedishfish | February 05, 2010 at 03:14 PM

That last shot is perfect. :-)

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | February 05, 2010 at 03:15 PM

That last shot is frame-worthy. How did you get Ezra to lay on you like that? Am JELUS again. I can never get my now 16-month old to do that.

I watched the Weather Channel this morning and thought of you. (no, I'm not obsessed or think that we're BFFs or anything..lol) I was hoping that you were still there, and would have to delay your flight home because of the winter storm! Too bad.

Welcome home! Love the photos (Noah post-nap = ah, sweet).

Posted by: Heather | February 05, 2010 at 03:21 PM

That last picture? Like honey and butter on a warm buttermilk biscuit.

Posted by: Kris | February 05, 2010 at 03:28 PM

Wow- so I went to the site and did some calculations about how much it would cost for us to go (it will take years to save, but whatevs). I'm going to be rude now and ask you how much you tipped everybody and if the nanny put up much of a fight when you tried to jam her into your suitcase.

Posted by: kara | February 05, 2010 at 03:28 PM

Oh, that last photo made me sigh out loud.

Posted by: LPC | February 05, 2010 at 03:31 PM

All of that almost makes me want to go back to Jamaica. Almost. (Our Jamaican experience was only, say, 1/1,000,000 as nice as yours.)

Posted by: Blanche | February 05, 2010 at 03:33 PM

I want to go to there.

I am thinking this place looks perfect for our maiden vacation with our baby. You know, after she is born and stuff. I am sure I never would have found it without your test-driving it for us out here in the Interwebs, so hooray for smart bloggic marketing!

Oh, and incidentally, why does immigration suck so loudly in Jamaica? When we went there a few years ago (to a way less swank resort), I thought we were going to spend the rest of our lives in that freaking line.

Posted by: Lawyerish | February 05, 2010 at 03:52 PM

Holy crap! Could Noah look any taller?

Posted by: becks | February 05, 2010 at 03:57 PM

Everyone keeps saying it, but that last picture is amazing.

Posted by: Chris | February 05, 2010 at 04:03 PM

Even after washing all your vacation clothes, I promise when you open that suitcase in a few weeks (months?) they will still smell of sunscreen and sand and sun. When we got back from Mexico this fall, it was a couple weeks before all my husband's white t-shirts stopped smelling so heavenly. He was thrilled to put a shirt on the

other day (that he had only worn once since our trip) and smell, ever so faintly, that resort scent. So definitely don't unpack...maybe just go in that suitcase every other day and pull out another article of clothing and smell it for a while...

Posted by: Maren | February 05, 2010 at 04:25 PM

I agree with Lawyerish.
I want to go to there.
Or anyplace that resembles there.

Posted by: Diana | February 05, 2010 at 04:31 PM

So.darned.awesome.

Posted by: Marianne | February 05, 2010 at 04:43 PM

omg, i live on florida and i'm STILL jealous.
by the way, this made me laugh so fucking hard:
PUT ME IN A SHELLACKED SEASHELL FRAME! PUT ME ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND! LET ME RUN ACROSS YOUR FACE WHILE YOU SLEEP!

Posted by: Natballs | February 05, 2010 at 04:50 PM

I think I'd like to go there just so I could have that moment in the last picture. With my totally non-cuddly baby who would be much more interested in seeing how much water she could consume.

Posted by: Kati | February 05, 2010 at 05:00 PM

I'd just like to join the chorus on how awesome that last picture is. Actually, this whole little series of posts from your time at Bluefields has been awesome. Thank you for sharing it!!!

Posted by: Annie | February 05, 2010 at 05:16 PM

I just can't get over how much Ezra looks like you! (says the woman whose husband's baby pictures are identical to her son's baby pictures)

Posted by: Kate | February 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

I am now doubly jealous of you. First the resort, then you come home to snow! And here in NC all i've gotten is rain. I hope you had a great time! And I for one, LOVE the sand crab photo! I would totally put him in frame and put him next to my bed! But maybe that's because i'm a Cancer and the crab is my sign or my all consuming love of all things beachy.

Posted by: Brandi | February 05, 2010 at 05:57 PM

As the White Death currently pummels us here in Ohio, "jealous" doesn't quite do this feeling justice. :) But still, what an awesome vacation. I could do without more sand crabs, though.

Posted by: D. | February 05, 2010 at 06:07 PM

Yep, you called it. Warm with the jellus....

Posted by: Crystal | February 05, 2010 at 06:11 PM

Blue Steel!! Haahaaaa! Too funny. Glad you had a good time! Now you are just going to have to rough it and open your own beer from here on out.

Posted by: Kristin J | February 05, 2010 at 06:22 PM

sigh It looks heavenly there. I would like to go back in time and live vicariously through you please.

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | February 05, 2010 at 07:15 PM

Wow. Bad timing. The storm is supposed to get really bad. I hope you stocked up for the winter. :P

Posted by: Big Gay Sam | February 05, 2010 at 07:15 PM

Your last picture made me get all teary. So sweet. Blue steal is gorgeous. And Noah, post-nap? Num nummies. I'm incredibly jealous of your trip and actually made a sad sound when I read that you're back. Boo.

Posted by: Julie | February 05, 2010 at 07:57 PM

So glad you guys had a good time!
But at the same time, SO JEALOUS.
Internal conflict, it sucks so much.

Posted by: Bachelor Girl | February 05, 2010 at 08:03 PM

I can't decide which photo is my favorite: Blue Steel (HAHAHA!) or the Baby on Board while floating (Awwwww!).

So glad you had a great getaway. We're supposed to go to Arizona on Sunday at 10 am.

Out of Dulles.

What do you think our chances are??

Posted by: Jenna | February 05, 2010 at 08:10 PM

I am widowed and hope that, one day, I may find another wonderful husband. And I am saving your beautiful Jamaican resort for my honeymoon with my, to date, imaginary husband!! And while I wait for the man to show up, I will be saving up for Bluefields. It looks FABULOUS . . .and all the personal service, wow!

Posted by: Kathi | February 05, 2010 at 08:34 PM

Oh. Oh! Color me JELUS. That last picture is killer, and your babies are SO precious.

Sand crabs, however, are creepy.

Posted by: nonsoccermom | February 05, 2010 at 09:02 PM

Yay. I was thinking about you during our meeting for another evaluation. We have the opportunity for a free one through UNC Chapel Hill. That was a kill joy, no? Nothing like the word Evaluation to snap you back to reality! I just wanted to ask how Noah did, although the pics seem to answer that one for me. FABULOUS! Glad you enjoyed the restful trip and am very anxious to read more.

Posted by: Karen | February 05, 2010 at 09:37 PM

Looks like you had a wonderful trip! :)

Posted by: Heather | February 05, 2010 at 10:22 PM

Loved loved loved the pictures! As for the snow, well, just remember if not for global warming think how much snow there'd be!

Posted by: Starbuck | February 05, 2010 at 10:40 PM

My Jamaica photos are almost as good. Yay, Jamaica!

Posted by: Helen | February 06, 2010 at 06:25 AM

Re-entry must have SUCKED - to leave all that and return to the real world, and the real world with snow, no less.

What if we could live like that all the time? Or even half of the time?

I love the last photo of you and the wee boy.

Posted by: Rebekah | February 06, 2010 at 09:10 AM

Don't comment a lot on here because I am usually chasing around two girls but just wanted you to know that I really enjoyed your vacation with you even though it was through a computer screen!!! I will agree that it burned a little but it was worth it!

Posted by: Stephanie | February 06, 2010 at 09:57 AM

OMMYGODDDDD. That last picture a)is adorable and b)looks like heaven on earth. I may just have to go there and play on a beach with my family alone as well.

Sorry you are back home to snow. It is snowing in New York as well. Boo.

Thanks for the photos.

Sadie at heyMamas

Posted by: Sadie at heyMamas | February 06, 2010 at 10:10 AM

ok..the Blue Steel pic made me laugh SO loud at work..people stood up to stare...HA!!!
Can I just come over and gnaw on his cheeks for a few minutes?..ok, that was weird...

Posted by: linka72 | February 06, 2010 at 10:17 AM

Uhm, Nick is the cute one. DUH!

Posted by: Shana in Texas | February 06, 2010 at 10:33 AM

Jealously aaaaaah, toasty!

Now excuse me while I turn my heater off and weep.

Posted by: charlotte | February 06, 2010 at 10:55 AM

Holy snow batman! I live in your ugly stepsister of a city (Bmore) and we have, what looks like, a ski resort out our front door! And we don't even own a damn sled. Life sucks. ;)

Posted by: AJE | February 06, 2010 at 11:53 AM

I'm pretty sure that bed is the one I've imagined for Edward and Bella on their honeymoon. Yes, I'm a dork.

Posted by: jenny | February 06, 2010 at 02:06 PM

Gorgeous pics. Sleepy Noah and Ezra-lander are too cute for words.

We got Blizzarded here in southcentral PA, so your pics today were a nice break after shoveling. GAH. I think some smut and alcohol are in order for recovery.

Posted by: txtingmrdarcy | February 06, 2010 at 03:27 PM

Oh! That last shot of you and Ezra... THAT is what a vacation should be.

Posted by: jenn | February 06, 2010 at 03:35 PM

Blue Steel just killed me dead with the cuteness!! That boy is just too stinkin' adorable.

Posted by: Amanda Brown | February 06, 2010 at 05:40 PM

I LOOOVE the Blue Steel. It's such a perfect description of that face! Ya know, he's never really been a fan of smiling in pictures. Haha..

Posted by: Becca | February 06, 2010 at 07:08 PM

oh man... i miss it and i wasn't even there.

Posted by: MommyNamedApril | February 06, 2010 at 08:16 PM

OH, that last photo. .. sweetness and jealousy are fighting inside of me but I think sweetness wins.

Posted by: Fairly Odd Mother | February 06, 2010 at 10:34 PM

That last picture? So sweet...

Posted by: Rachel | February 07, 2010 at 03:42 AM

The last photo!!!! I love the last photo!!! That is, like, my ideal heaven right there. Pool, float, baby. The end.

I am soooo warm inside from the JEALOUSY. MMmm, toasty toasty envy.

:~)

Posted by: stacy | February 07, 2010 at 03:54 AM

I was ok right up until that last pic. Pardon me while i go book my trip....

Posted by: MeIV | February 08, 2010 at 10:40 AM

Even at an all-inclusive resort, I'd have a hard time handing a beer to someone and saying "open this for me". But that nanny thing? Someone to take the kids on nature walks and to the pool and read them stories? That sounds like my idea of a vacation!

"Blue Steel" - ha!

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 08, 2010 at 02:36 PM

Checked out the villas online and I am desperately trying to convince my husband that we NEED to take a family vacay there ASAP!!! Love it! Glad you had a great trip!

Posted by: Carol | February 08, 2010 at 03:39 PM

I bet your wishing you'd stayed right where you were or your flight had been canceled. And instead of watching your vacation pictures and being all, "Oh, remember when the sand crab did that, honey?" you're sitting in the dark and freezing your ass off.

Welcome home!!

Posted by: Karen Chatters | February 08, 2010 at 04:29 PM

Yes please, dust off the Flickr account.

We live right below ya'll, in the mountains of NC.

Forecast for Wednesday. BLIZZARD.

I would like to look at your beach photos. And crab photos. Because this winter SUCKS.

Posted by: HMFT | February 08, 2010 at 07:18 PM

Awesome pictures. But before you crack another Irving joke, I should tell you that Irving was my grandpa and yes, he's dead. Way to go.

I also posted pictures of my son on the bed today and I hate to say it, but he might win the centerfold-off. I'm not proud.

Posted by: mrsmouthy | February 08, 2010 at 09:58 PM

I am almost physically ACHING here looking at those photos.

It?

Is cold as fuck in Utah.

:)

Posted by: Lorelee | February 08, 2010 at 11:46 PM

Went to the islands once. I'm such a jerk - because I had a hard time relaxing, cause um, those crabs freaked me the hell out.

x

P


www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | February 10, 2010 at 02:23 PM

The comments to this entry are closed.

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and also probably hamsters, tubes and duct tape

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Weekend Photo Round-Up

January 31, 2010



A typical early morning pile-up.



Checking out the view from the master bedroom.



Checking out the view from....um. There.



Slightly skeptical, sandy.



Only complaint so far: It's just OH SO CROWDED AROUND HERE.



Climbing his first tree.

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And getting appropriately contemplative about it.



Exploring, or possibly on a deranged quest to get back to the house kitchen WHERE ALL THE FOOD IS NOM NOM NOM PAPAYA PINEAPPLE CHICKEN FRITTERS SCRAMBLED EGGS HOT SAUCE



Taking time from my busy schedule to sit upright. Slightly.



Bushed babies.

Posted at 08:55 AM in [Travel](#) | [Permalink](#)



Comments

You realize that I will never be happy until I go to that exact same resort.

It really looks heavenly. I'm glad ONE OF US got to go.

Posted by: Judy | January 31, 2010 at 09:02 AM

Sigh. It looks incredible.

Posted by: Christine | January 31, 2010 at 09:04 AM

Only one word to describe all of this: WOW!

Posted by: Mariana Perri | January 31, 2010 at 09:10 AM

As I sit here, in bed, in my Born to Blog shirt...I am insanely jealous! and I adore the last picture, it sparked an audible sigh!

Posted by: Brittany | January 31, 2010 at 09:20 AM

Where is this? Oh my gosh its beautiful!

Posted by: Emily | January 31, 2010 at 09:25 AM

As I sit watching my husband shovel the 6 inches of snow we got in DC yesterday I'm beyond jealous of you.

I want to pile my family into our own poster bed with mosquito netting and balcony overlooking paradise.

Le Sigh...

Posted by: Ouiser B | January 31, 2010 at 09:32 AM

I'll be shoveling show today too. {sigh}

It looks beautiful, and warm. Very warm.

Posted by: JustLinda | January 31, 2010 at 09:41 AM

Whatever, Amalah. You're totally missing the wet sleety snow stuff that froze overnight in DC, SO THERE

Wait...

Posted by: Liz | January 31, 2010 at 09:45 AM

Your posts on this are so wonderful! I look forward to them each day. (Emily, there's a link to this resort in Bluefields Jamaica on the Jan. 28th post).

Posted by: Rachel | January 31, 2010 at 10:06 AM

1. wow, that's the reddest you hair has looked. I dig it.
2. Ez is really starting to look just like you. Just like you.

Posted by: Jessi | January 31, 2010 at 10:23 AM

Amy, was the complaint meant to be sarcastic or were the pictures just strategic enough that the mass amounts of people were not shown??

Posted by: Caitlin | January 31, 2010 at 10:33 AM

Just tell us. Are you having fun?

Posted by: LPC | January 31, 2010 at 11:05 AM

I am now officially VERY jealous! Looks like you are having a great time!

I'm sure you are very jealous of the pile of snow we got at home again!?! (sigh)

Posted by: workout mommy | January 31, 2010 at 11:09 AM

I love that last picture; so poignant...

Posted by: Jen. | January 31, 2010 at 11:10 AM

Loved those last pictures. There is nothing that tires kids out more than fresh air and swimming. I believe that is a scientifically proven fact or something.

Posted by: Wendy | January 31, 2010 at 11:20 AM

Ezra's got a pretty sweet downward facing dog, there! Go yoga baby, go!

Beautiful pics. Looks like, um, paradise, for lack of a better expression. Enjoy!

Posted by: DiaryofWhy | January 31, 2010 at 12:10 PM

Caitlin, it was VERY sarcastic...that picture was from Friday, and there was just us and another local couple on the beach. Today, it's a little more crowded. Perhaps, 20 or so people on the beach and mostly locals.

Posted by: Jason | January 31, 2010 at 12:19 PM

Jelllluuuusssss. And yes, I totally want to go to that resort now. So whatever it is that was supposed to work, it worked.

I took a pretty walk in the snow today, but would MUCH rather be bobbing in the ocean sipping a Red Stripe.

you go woman!

Posted by: stacy | January 31, 2010 at 12:25 PM

You lucky, lucky barstewards. Glad you're enjoying it, I'm quite jealous.

Posted by: Jennie | January 31, 2010 at 01:08 PM

My GOD. That looks like heaven.

Posted by: HMFT | January 31, 2010 at 01:26 PM

My son used to put his head upside down on the sand like in Ezra's pic... he would say "hat!"

Well, from a toddler's perspective, anything that goes on your head is a hat, so...

Posted by: Leah | January 31, 2010 at 02:15 PM

Oh, so amazing! I now want babies (even more). And a Caribbean vacation (even even more).

Posted by: Shannon | January 31, 2010 at 02:34 PM

One day... long in the future... when things are crazy and you are having "one of those days" think back to THIS day... when your biggest concern was how to get sand out of toddler parts. You deserve this.

Posted by: Kari Weber | January 31, 2010 at 02:40 PM

Going to get my passport, BRB...

Posted by: Michelle | January 31, 2010 at 03:02 PM

Yesterday I looked this place up on TripAdvisor. Am now trying to convince husband that WE MUST GO.

Can't wait to see and hear more about it. Have a wonderful time!

I'm so freakin' jealous. :)

Posted by: Tam. | January 31, 2010 at 03:55 PM

That bed is incredible!
What an amazing location. You know this but I will say it anyway...you are a LUCKY lady!

Posted by: Sheila | January 31, 2010 at 04:24 PM

Looks like a great time. Glad you have your boys there with you.

Posted by: Janssen | January 31, 2010 at 04:29 PM

Oh my god, I so want to go there! Luccckkkkyyyyyyy!

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | January 31, 2010 at 04:36 PM

so impossibly jealous of your family right now!!

Posted by: kelleyd | January 31, 2010 at 06:12 PM

<http://roostershamblyn.wordpress.com/> would you please spend a few minutes and check out my blog. I am a farmer who has been raising more than 50 breeds of chickens for forty years.

Posted by: Rooster Shamblyn | January 31, 2010 at 06:45 PM

Looks like you're having a great time! Glad you got to have such a nice family vacation.

Posted by: Starbuck | January 31, 2010 at 06:55 PM

Need to go there. NOW. Looks AMAZING. Can't wait to read all about it.

Posted by: Pam | January 31, 2010 at 07:21 PM

Absolutely beautiful! Enjoy the rest of your time! The snow can take care of itself while you're gone!

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | January 31, 2010 at 07:29 PM

I am not even jealous. I am just happy that you are getting to have a much needed vacation. This blog brings me much happiness, and you deserve some posh style relation! It looks amazing! More pix please.

Posted by: peanutmama | January 31, 2010 at 07:43 PM

lucky duck... I hate you just a pinch

Posted by: Lauri | January 31, 2010 at 08:10 PM

So gorgeous! I love the last one of Ezra... too cute.

Posted by: Jennifer | January 31, 2010 at 08:12 PM

So beautiful, everything. That last pic of Ez is really beautiful.

Posted by: Nina | January 31, 2010 at 08:24 PM

These pics of Ezra are just killing me. He is so gorgeous and I love the skeptical, frowny and tired looks...so adorable!!! (and I have my own adorable 15 month old son, so I feel slightly weird cooing over yours!). This place looks fab and I love that bed...need a bed and view just like that for myself. Yes! I am jealous! But, you deserve it all.

Posted by: Heather | January 31, 2010 at 09:47 PM

That looks so miserable...Ha! :)

Posted by: Jennifer Kelley | January 31, 2010 at 11:26 PM

I love vacations....yours, mine, everyones. These are the moments you capture and take with you forever.

PS - I'm typically not this cheesy, but it's so true.

Posted by: KTSchoger | February 01, 2010 at 12:15 AM

your hair is red!
life looks grand for you and your little family!
post more photos - must live vicariously! :-)

Posted by: mamabell | February 01, 2010 at 03:14 AM

That place looks bloomin fantastic and am now thinking I shouldn't have booked Vegas in July for my 40th but should have gone there instead...oh well, there's always next year and maybe the £ will be better against the \$ then too....

Posted by: Matt in London | February 01, 2010 at 07:57 AM

The first one is my fave! I might be breaking that commandment about thou shalt not covet or something or other.

Posted by: Liz | February 01, 2010 at 08:14 AM

omfg, i am SO JEALOUS! that looks AMAZING!

Posted by: Natballs | February 01, 2010 at 08:46 AM

That bed is to die for! I want to go to there! Right now!

Posted by: Miss Britt | February 01, 2010 at 09:17 AM

Yeah, it looks REAL crowded. Like you really had to use some elbow

to find a spot for your lounge chair. WOW - That place looks truly amazing. Glad you are having such a great time.

Posted by: Mary Lehrman | February 01, 2010 at 09:52 AM

No, really, I'm REALLY happy for you and I'm glad you got a getaway in Jamaica and all. No, REALLY. Not jellus at all. Ahem... really.
:)

Posted by: Katie Kat | February 01, 2010 at 10:09 AM

Ok Amy, after dealing with the snow and the ice and all that crap the past few days, I have to say I'm starting to hate you just a teensy bit. But mostly I just wish I was there. That bead is dreamy! Enjoy it for those of us in the cold!

Posted by: Brandi | February 01, 2010 at 10:56 AM

I think the Bluefields folks made a VERY wise decision inviting you and your NOMable family there - I have already forwarded the website to DH with a note "when you finish grad school and get your new fancy pants job and signing bonus, we are going HERE" - and for me to want to go somewhere other than Kauai it has to be pretty damn spectacular. I have already starting researching flights from Denver...

I've heard that baby powder is effective at getting sand out of toddler (and adult) parts. Carry on with your amazing vacation (have you used the nannies yet?)

Posted by: Susan | February 01, 2010 at 11:16 AM

Beautiful pictures!

Posted by: kellyannecat | February 01, 2010 at 11:32 AM

Beautiful! What fantastic pictures. The one of Ezra laying on the bed is adorable. What a fantastic vacation.

Posted by: jenn | February 01, 2010 at 12:00 PM

Have I mentioned? SO JEALOUS! Oh and I love the rooster guy's comment above. Nice and appropriate.

Posted by: Sarahd | February 01, 2010 at 12:17 PM

I could NOT BE any more jealous than I am. I want to go to there.

Posted by: Kori | February 01, 2010 at 01:12 PM

Wow, that looks like heaven!!

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | February 01, 2010 at 03:46 PM

I've changed my mind. I do hate you.

Posted by: sheilah | February 01, 2010 at 04:21 PM

Breathtaking! I am DESPERATE to go here now! Wow!
Which villa are you staying in?

They mention being able to do outreach while you stay there on their website. Do you know if you can work in the local orphanage?

Posted by: Lancelot and Lady's Mom | February 01, 2010 at 04:42 PM

Also....is that bed as fluffy and comfy as it looks or is it really rock hard like most hotel/resort beds?

Posted by: Lancelot and Lady's Mom | February 01, 2010 at 04:47 PM

You should refuse to leave the hotel. Just REFUSE TO LEAVE.
x,
Paula
www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | February 01, 2010 at 04:48 PM

Sooooo jelus.

Please show us pictures of the indoor/outdoor shower. Pretty please?
I have a thing for nice bathrooms.

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 01, 2010 at 05:00 PM

PS: ALL the weather in the States sucks right now.

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 01, 2010 at 05:01 PM

Must. Fight. Horrible. Jealousy...
Very cute!

Posted by: Rachael | February 01, 2010 at 05:07 PM

Happy for you and want to cry out of jealousy all at the same time.

Posted by: Jamie | February 01, 2010 at 05:34 PM

Aw, little Ezra's ribs are all stick-outy in that last pic. Don't you feed him?

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 01, 2010 at 05:38 PM

Oh really?
Not jealous at all. Very happy for you.

Posted by: 6512 and growing | February 01, 2010 at 06:16 PM

That bed is gorgeous. Beautiful pictures of the kids, glad you're having so much fun!

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 01, 2010 at 06:35 PM

At first I'd forgotten you were on vacation and I was like "Is that her BED IN HER HOUSE???" and was insanely jealous. Okay I am still insanely jealous. But you work hard and you deserve the break. Longtime reader finally delurking--have a blast with the boys!!

Posted by: Jenny | February 02, 2010 at 12:37 AM

Amy, I'm SO happy you and your little family got to take this amazing trip! It's so regenerative and beautiful to spend a week doing nothing but worrying about where to place your beach towel and how much sand is too much for your little one to have eaten :-)) I also think we all get to live vicariously through your reports and echo the other posters - if I get to Jamaica anytime soon, only Bluefields will do!

Posted by: Sirena | February 02, 2010 at 10:10 AM

Your kids are so beautiful and that Ezra is all 'not quite a baby, not yet a boy'. Gorgeous.

Posted by: Joanne | February 02, 2010 at 11:32 AM

Amy, that photo of Ez under the tree? The one of him on his little knees?

ART. Gorgeous, gorgeous ART.


sigh

Posted by: Cyn | February 02, 2010 at 05:06 PM

The comments to this entry are closed.

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and also probably hamsters, tubes and duct tape

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The Basics

February 02, 2010

I get the sense the staff here is worried that we are bored. We are not bored. We are, most likely, the boringest guests they've ever had. They keep reminding about about the hiking and snorkeling and fishing and kayaking and tubing over waterfalls, and we smile blissfully from our chair/chaise/hammock/other-place-where-we-have-planted-our-sedentary-butts and assure them that WE ARE FINE. WE ARE HAVING THE TIME OF OUR LIVES. RIGHT NOW, RIGHT HERE. WITH THE SITTING.

(We did massages. In our room. Practically rolled off the bed onto the table and back again. It was delicious.)

Every morning we wake up with the boys, cuddle for a bit before throwing open the windows and doors to survey the view and remember OH YEAH, we're in heaven, still. We pour ourselves some strong coffee our night watchman makes before he heads home. (I actually feel safer here than at any tourist-y peddler-targeted resort, but because we're so out in the middle of relative nowhere there are guard dogs and round-the-clock staff on the properties.) (And by "guard dogs" I mean a couple docile lumps of *snuffully wuffully who's-a-good-boy-who-wants-a-scratchin'* furbags.) The nanny makes the boys' breakfast (bananas and cereal for Noah; eggs, fruit and French toast for Ezra) while we head down to eat ours a bit closer to the water. (We've had just about everything you can imagine, from typical American grub to "real" Jamaican breakfasts like ackee and saltfish and callaloo omelets, all of which we've Hoovered up while being all, "OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD.")

After we eat, the tough decisions start: What do we do first? Beach or pool?

IT'S VERY STRESSFUL.

Yesterday, though, we did finally leave the villa property. We visited the local preschool, the Bluefields Basic School.



The Jamaican government offers zero early childhood education, so it is up to communities and businesses and private donors to set up these tiny little places for three-, four- and five-year-olds to attend.

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(The family who owns the Bluefields Bay Villas -- who, for full disclosure again, comped our stay here; we paid for airfare and staff gratuities [and those massages, heh] -- sponsor the three-year-old classroom. Other organizations and business support the other rooms. They pay for the teachers, supplies, food for the children and tuition for families who need help paying.)



Most of the families need help. Tuition is 2,000 Jamaican dollars a semester. That's about 25 bucks.



Noah came along. The kids were delighted by their exotic visitor; they stroked his hair and swarmed him with tickles. Shrieking is the universal language of preschoolers, it turns out.

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He sat in on a lesson about proteins and shared some peanuts. Here, they are discussing sardines.



(After disrupting everything, he at least attempted to restore order to the three-year-old room.)



Then he made himself right at home among the four-year-olds. "IT'S TIME TO WASH YOUR HANDS," a little girl is bossily instructing him off-camera.



The five-year-olds were working in their composition books, carefully writing out the months of the year. Then we showed up and the pose-off started.



Using push pins and rubber bands to make shapes. Behind him: assorted Spider-Man, Disney Princess and Dora the Explorer backpacks.



After we got back in the car, I told Noah we'd go to the beach. "Okay," he shrugged. He waved goodbye to the ramshackle buildings and sighed. "I love that school. Can we go back tomorrow?"

Posted at 10:12 AM in [Travel](#) | [Permalink](#)

```
if (typeof LJT_executeCB == 'function') {
LJT_executeCB(lwp_ad_zoneid); } else { var
ljt_ad_tag_buf = ""; var m3_u =
LJT_AP_ADDRESS + 'ajs.php'; var m3_r =
Math.floor(Math.random()*9999999999);
ljt_ad_tag_buf += "</scr"+"ipt>";
document.write(ljt_ad_tag_buf); }
```

Comments

Oh, wow. When are you moving to Jamaica then?

Posted by: [Fi](#) | February 02, 2010 at 10:17 AM

So great that you got to visit that school and how sweet that Noah enjoyed it so much!

Great post.

Posted by: [Beth](#) | February 02, 2010 at 10:18 AM

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Great post.

Posted by: Beth | February 02, 2010 at 10:18 AM

What an incredible school and incredible people to fund it. Thanks for linking.

Posted by: She Likes Purple | February 02, 2010 at 10:19 AM

Ok, now my heart is squeeing all over the place. Still totally jealous. Happy vacation!

Posted by: tutugirl1345 | February 02, 2010 at 10:20 AM

Very cool!

Posted by: Jane Cato | February 02, 2010 at 10:22 AM

Love it!

Posted by: Starbuck | February 02, 2010 at 10:22 AM

That school does look like an awful lot of fun :D Looks like the people at Bluefields are doing a good thing :)

Posted by: Heather | February 02, 2010 at 10:29 AM

I am patiently waiting for all of your posts from this vacation and then im going to forcibly make my husband read each on in succession and whine until he takes us. Im specifically going to highlight the part about the nanny and the cooking of the breakfast. What an amazing trip!
Also, go Noah! Were you worried about his reaction to the chaos of school upsetting him or is he just doing that great now??

Posted by: MeIV | February 02, 2010 at 10:30 AM

OMG. You just reminded me that life is wonderful.

Posted by: LPC | February 02, 2010 at 10:36 AM

That's it. I'm totally moving to Jamaica. I love that you guys are doing this. Can't wait to see more!

Posted by: Christina | February 02, 2010 at 10:43 AM

How does one donate to the school? I can spare a tuition!

Posted by: Ulla | February 02, 2010 at 10:43 AM

OMG Noah's comment when you left the school makes my heart swell. Awesome

Posted by: Gwen | February 02, 2010 at 10:45 AM

So glad you're having such a good vacation!
And I'm not sure there is a sweeter boy on Earth than Noah :)

Posted by: Myranda | February 02, 2010 at 10:58 AM

Yes, can you put up a link where they can donate to the school please? I am happy for you. Have tons of fun, while I work.

Posted by: Nelia | February 02, 2010 at 11:05 AM

Excellent post. Is it weird that I'm enjoying your vacation so much? :)

Posted by: kellyannecat | February 02, 2010 at 11:07 AM

omg, this place is gorgeous! Someday we're going to have the \$ to spend on a real vacation like this!

Posted by: Angela | February 02, 2010 at 11:15 AM

SO AWESOME. love the pictures, Amy.

Posted by: Marianne | February 02, 2010 at 11:16 AM

I would also like to know how to donate tuition. I want to come with you next time!!

Posted by: lisa | February 02, 2010 at 11:20 AM

I kinda love that school, too.

Posted by: kalisa | February 02, 2010 at 11:20 AM

I love this post, especially the end. Kids are the best. Thank you for posting this, you know, when we visit other countries and see these buildings from the outside it is impossible to have a glimpse of the LIFE inside.

Posted by: Sara | February 02, 2010 at 11:20 AM

What an amazing adventure!

Posted by: Tracy H | February 02, 2010 at 11:25 AM

Awww I just love it! When we lived in Africa people would come up to my sister (who is shockingly blond) and ask her if her hair was made of straw.

Posted by: Ris | February 02, 2010 at 11:36 AM

WARM AND FUZZY.

wipes away a tear

Posted by: jennifer | February 02, 2010 at 11:41 AM

Amazing that Noah tolerated it so well. This whole post just gives me shivers... I echo the need to donate money to the school. I am a huge early childhood education advocate and it just looks like they are really trying to do some great stuff.

Posted by: Wendy | February 02, 2010 at 11:43 AM

Everything was so bright and colorful at that school... I love it! Looks like you guys are having a great time.

When my family lived in Japan, my sister used to get mobbed so that people could stroke her long blonde hair. She usually had that deer in headlights look but was pretty understanding for a 6 year old.

Posted by: Jennifer | February 02, 2010 at 11:43 AM

I was completely sold on this resort (nannies? hello!?) - but (shouldn't known better)I checked the rates and came crashing back down to earth. Fail. Glad you are having a good time. Am so jealous.

Posted by: Amanda | February 02, 2010 at 12:02 PM

(For everybody asking about donating...I'll be talking with the Proper People about fundraising once we get back. It will take just a bit of organizing, as it's not like the schools around here have PayPal accounts, but rest assured that I'm on it.)

Posted by: Amalah | February 02, 2010 at 12:13 PM

Funny story, ackee is actually poisonous if it's not cooked properly.
Also, an observation - no rampant peanuts allergies among Jamaican schoolchildren, apparently. Hmmmm....

Posted by: Sarah | February 02, 2010 at 12:16 PM

What a wonderful travel experience! So great to see the smiles on everyone's faces. That's awesome!

Posted by: LesleyG | February 02, 2010 at 12:17 PM

Sweet, sweet post. The school children smiling? Contagious, I tell you! Thanks for sharing!

Posted by: Kailee | February 02, 2010 at 12:23 PM

Uh, different Beth here. Looks like you guys are having a ton of fun! That preschool looks so cheerful :)

Posted by: Beth | February 02, 2010 at 12:28 PM

Oh, the children - those BEAUTIFUL Jamaican faces!

Posted by: Katie Kat | February 02, 2010 at 12:28 PM

Awww, how cool is that?! I love watching little kids from different countries play together. I think perhaps we should replace all delegates to the UN with preschoolers.

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | February 02, 2010 at 12:35 PM

I'm living vicariously right now. Keep the pictures and details coming.

Posted by: Kristin | February 02, 2010 at 12:36 PM

Ha. Pose off! Classic. Hilarious picture. also, JEALOUS! whoooo

Posted by: Amy | February 02, 2010 at 12:59 PM

What a brilliant and happy comment from Noah! You done good, Mom. :-)

Posted by: meowlam | February 02, 2010 at 01:02 PM

I've already told my husband about this place! I figure it's the same cost as a Disney cruise, depending on when we'd go...It sounds great! Lucky, talented, you! I bet they're asking you if you want to hike/kayak/etc. so that you can take pictures and talk about it on your blog too -- more advertising for them, I guess. Throw 'em a bone and go for a hike! Think of the pictures you'll get. :)

Posted by: Ami | February 02, 2010 at 01:17 PM

Oh and also, Jamaican me crazy with jealousy with the awesome pictures of awesome holiday.

Sorry about the stolen pun from B&J but really someone had to go ahead and say it.

Posted by: Ulla | February 02, 2010 at 01:38 PM

Noah is adorable. I bet he loved those kiddies.

Posted by: Natballs | February 02, 2010 at 01:53 PM

Would you please provide contact information for the school so we can donate tuition?

Posted by: Nette | February 02, 2010 at 01:56 PM

ohmygod the awesome.

Posted by: Mrs. Flinger | February 02, 2010 at 01:57 PM

hmm what hormonal rages am I having right now - this made me bawl, and seeing Noah in the picture at the end killed me. Sooo amazing!

Posted by: Sara | February 02, 2010 at 02:06 PM

I, too, am looking forward to donating!

That frock you're wearing in that picture is gorgeous! Is it a shirt? Dress? What brand is it? I looooooove it!

Posted by: Jae | February 02, 2010 at 02:20 PM

This post made me giddy. I can just hear the squeals of delight when they met Noah, and I love that Noah fell in love with all of them.

Posted by: Nanette | February 02, 2010 at 02:45 PM

I. MUST. HONEYMOON. THERE. I am emailing them today. Holy heavens, I think I'm in love.

Posted by: Haley | February 02, 2010 at 02:56 PM

Um, wait. Nanny? As in, included nanny?
Ohmygodneedtobookticketsnow.

The school looks great; I'm glad you told us all about it.

Posted by: Kate @ And Then I Was a Mom | February 02, 2010 at 03:10 PM

One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me and my brother is the chance to see how people in other countries really live, not just to see how other tourists live when we go on vacations. We went to visit schools (often bringing school supplies to poor ones), churches, homes, local markets, etc. I am so proud that you are introducing Noah to that same blessing!

Posted by: maria | February 02, 2010 at 03:34 PM

That is so, so awesome. Kids are great.

Posted by: JennyM | February 02, 2010 at 03:35 PM

Also, it looks like you can contact the Bluefields Villas folks about how to contribute to the community:

<http://www.bluefieldsvillas.com/community.php>

Posted by: JennyM | February 02, 2010 at 03:38 PM

How wonderful

Posted by: Wendi | February 02, 2010 at 03:40 PM

Oh my gosh. The cuteness of Noah at that preschool seems worth the ENTIRE trip! What a wonderful, amazing experience.

Posted by: Rachael | February 02, 2010 at 03:58 PM

I see the economy is going good for you. How lucky you are, to not have to work, and be a world jet setter.. Wish we could all afford to have comped vacations for writing a blog. Oh Well. Real people have REAL jobs I guess.

Posted by: Sally | February 02, 2010 at 04:10 PM

Love that you posted about the local schools - a great way to raise awareness about a situation where a small donation can make a big difference for a child.

And those kids are adorable!

Posted by: Jessica | February 02, 2010 at 04:15 PM

Wonderful, Amy! What an awesome time for your family and for the school when your readers can donate to them--to a place we probably never would've heard of if you hadn't taken the vacation. I'm really glad you decided to visit & blog about the kids.

Posted by: schoolofmom | February 02, 2010 at 04:29 PM

This is amazing! The Bluefields people rule!
I vote you enroll Noah in that school post haste.

Posted by: Bachelor Girl | February 02, 2010 at 04:54 PM

what an amazing experience for Noah! right on mom ;)

Posted by: ndc | February 02, 2010 at 05:03 PM

Just wanted to say this, Amy.

Your blog is the *only* one that I read faithfully. I enjoy each and every entry and I ALWAYS look forward to new ones. You are funny and wry and your observations are always so spot-on, and I admire you for having the courage to share so much of yourself with the online world.

So yes, we are all jealous, but because you provide all of your readers with so much joy, laughter, and sometimes tears, why *shouldn't* you get comped to something so wonderful? In other words, you completely deserve this. And because of this post in particular, it looks like this school will be getting donations from a good number of us (I know they'll get one from me!)...so don't be surprised if you're invited back!

So enjoy this paradise to the fullest, and we, your readers, will enjoy it vicariously right along with you.

Enjoy!

Posted by: Cyn | February 02, 2010 at 05:36 PM

next year, my bffs and i turn 40- i have sent the link and asked them to think about it. which villa are you guys in?

Posted by: kara | February 02, 2010 at 05:51 PM

Amy, you're killin' me. I so want to be there. What kind of activities do they have for the older kid crowd? (9 to 16 year olds, of which I have 4!)

Posted by: Tracy | February 02, 2010 at 06:41 PM

If you haven't, try the bun and cheese. It's not real cheese but it's our equivalent of a grilled cheese (kind of). I studied abroad (I know) in Kingston and miss the food so much. There is nothing like it!

Posted by: Stinkey Pete | February 02, 2010 at 07:01 PM

looks fantastic :-)

Posted by: MommyNamedApril | February 02, 2010 at 07:41 PM

love it ALL!

Posted by: Erin | February 02, 2010 at 08:52 PM

Well played, Bluefield Bay Villas, well played. How many of Amy's readers are looking into a stay at your paradise right now? (Including me.) MUST find a way to visit soon! Enjoy, Amy and fam!

Posted by: Tami | February 02, 2010 at 10:15 PM

very cool Amy! love Noah in the school, such an awesome experience for him! enjoy the sun for me, more rain and wintry mix on the horizon here. you're in paradise so soak it up!

Posted by: Brandi | February 02, 2010 at 10:22 PM

Hi Amy,

Another touching post. Thank you for taking the time out of your vacation to visit the preschool. I'm another that would love to get information on how to donate to sponsor tuition. Keep us updated!

Posted by: Christina Q | February 03, 2010 at 02:17 AM

This post makes me so happy for you guys! What a great vacation

you're having!

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | February 03, 2010 at 02:51 AM

Aww! What a gorgeous school!

And it's so fitting really, with everything that is happening in Haiti that we remember that these countries **DEPEND** on our tourist dollars to survive. I've read a bunch of articles on the hand-wringing people are doing over their Caribbean vacation plans. If people cancel their vacations then the **LOCALS SUFFER!** Fisherman who sell their fish to feed you, artisans who sell their crafts for your souvenirs, local people who work in the resort itself.

I am glad you are there! I am glad you have a family vacation!

Seriously anyone could be in your position to get a reduced-price vacation (plane tickets ain't cheap) and they could be a horrible selfish person who wouldn't have even cared about seeing a local school. So frankly I'd much rather you were there than whoever else might have gone! I mean, they were going to send **SOMEONE THERE ANYWAY.** hello!

Posted by: stacy | February 03, 2010 at 03:31 AM

You had me at Nanny.

Posted by: Miss Britt | February 03, 2010 at 07:53 AM

I too would like to donate a tuition or two. Those children are so beautiful.

I too was a little shocked at the cost of the villas - but when you remember that the cost is for an entire week and includes food, other amenities and **YOUR OWN HEADMAN** who makes sure that everything is perfect for you, the cost slides from "in my dreams" to "possibly doable someday". Especially if you go during hurricane season.

Posted by: Judy | February 03, 2010 at 09:06 AM

Amy, woooooooooooooo! Looks like you're all having a ball. But what, no piccies of DH? I guess he's taking all the lovely photos! I await donation info on the school! Bluefields looks fantabulous - the publicity your blog is generating for the place beats any mag editorial! Clever them.

As for the earlier poster, geeee, could you be more bitter?

Posted by: She-Hulk | February 03, 2010 at 09:08 AM

Me? I certainly didn't mean to sound bitter, but I went back and read all the comments, and nobody else did either, so I'm not sure who that comment was aimed at. Everyone seems happy for the Storch family, albeit a little jealous that they are not there in the villa next door, enjoying right along with them.

Posted by: Judy | February 03, 2010 at 10:19 AM

am I the only one anticipating a little blonde baby girl with a Jamaican accent in oh... 9 months... give or take?

Posted by: rachael | February 03, 2010 at 12:32 PM

um i LOVED this post. those photos of the smiling kiddos? love. tear. seeing this and knowing how it's funded and cared for is truly awesome.

Posted by: kat | February 03, 2010 at 12:36 PM

@Judy - I think the bitter poster referred to is sad, bitter Sally from 4:10pm yesterday. Poor, poor Sally, who is so miserable in her own life that she can't take a moment and be happy for someone else's good fortune.

Posted by: Wendy | February 03, 2010 at 12:46 PM

Thank you, Wendy, I'm always so paranoid. I missed the 4:10 post and yes, it does seem a little hateful. But one out of 80 or so isn't too bad, huh?

I keep going to the Bluefields website and dreaming. *sigh*

Posted by: Judy | February 03, 2010 at 01:49 PM

Cool school.
Oh how I long to be a boring guest.
x,
P
www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | February 03, 2010 at 02:24 PM

I'm echoing the sentiments of wanting to sponsor a kid or two every semester. It looks like a great school, and I'm a sucker for adorable children.

Also, Go Noah! No fits pitched then, eh? Good for him! *shakes pom-poms*

Posted by: College At Thirty | February 03, 2010 at 03:03 PM

Will be pitching this to husband as our honeymoon destination. Or perhaps, the primer to our honeymoon, seeing as we have another 2 years maybe until we can leave both kids that long, and heck, I don't think I could wait that long!

Posted by: Twwly | February 03, 2010 at 03:12 PM

I am totally for just sitting on your bums during the entire vacay!!!
Soak it up!

Love the pics of Noah with the school children. What a great experience for him.

Have fun!

Posted by: Heather | February 03, 2010 at 03:20 PM

Great pictures!!! You are missing on on MORE snow here in THE DC area. Which is crazy because in the four years I've lived here its never snowed more than once (okay, maybe twice) a year. Somewhere a polar bear is crying.

Posted by: AJE | February 03, 2010 at 04:28 PM

That's one crazy commute Noah's going to have to his new school!
As for your beachy, massage-y, time-means-nothing induced state of bliss, I might have to unsubscribe Amalah fan club until you're back somewhere gray and drizzly with a baby throwing up on you. That's where I am today.

Posted by: mrsmouthy | February 03, 2010 at 05:22 PM

I've heard such unsavory things about visiting Jamacia that it's turned me off from visiting. After reading about your vacation, I think I've changed my mind!
I love that school too. All the kids look so stinkin' happy. Smiles all around!
Love it!

Posted by: MommiePie | February 03, 2010 at 06:00 PM

I'm so totally sold on this place. Luxury and philanthropy! If I had some money (or something to sell to get some money) I would definitely vacation there :-)

Posted by: beccado | February 03, 2010 at 07:21 PM

So happy for you, genuinely happy -- not even the slightest bit envious or jealous -- enjoy and keep on sharing...

Posted by: barbara | February 03, 2010 at 09:40 PM

Oh, Amy! I was worried you were going to say that Noah got completely overwhelmed by all the attention and noise at the school. I'm so happy that he had a great time and wanted to go back!
Count me in for a tuition donation too.

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 04, 2010 at 11:18 AM

I'm with Noah - that school was rad. They sure know how to treat a preschooler right.

Posted by: Becca | February 04, 2010 at 11:19 AM

The RFSB Awards are back- get your nominations in!

Posted by: christie | February 04, 2010 at 01:12 PM

Love all those smiles and Noah fitting right into it all. Awesome.

Can I say that for the little amount of money each family can afford to pay, that school is brighter, cleaner and looks more joyful than some US schools. I also absolutely love the little uniforms. Those kids are adorable.

Posted by: Fairly Odd Mother | February 04, 2010 at 04:06 PM

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Posted by: Fairly Odd Mother | February 04, 2010 at 04:06 PM

Such is the sad state of my life that I have checked about 5 times today for a new posting from you. (And I am at WORK!!!) Come on, I know you're on vacation and everything, but could we at least have more beautiful pics???

Posted by: Katherine | February 04, 2010 at 04:08 PM

Yes, Sally from 4:10 seems to be having a bit of a rough go of it.

Someone else pointed out that, when looking at the rates on the website, it may seem high...but LOOK at all you get for that. All your delicious meals? Someone to clean up after you and watch your kids? OPEN BAR?! Holy mackerel, you're saving a lot right there. Consider taking a weeklong vacation, with your family, at a US resort where these things are NOT included. You'll spend at least as much as you will at these villas. For all the amenities, really, the cost is not THAT bad. Relatively speaking, anyway.

Posted by: Cyn | February 04, 2010 at 04:14 PM

Cute! But, I still want to see the bathroom.

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 04, 2010 at 04:32 PM

I hope you all aren't planning to fly home this weekend. Big storm coming!

Posted by: kris | February 05, 2010 at 09:12 AM

No one has gone all "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer" on your asses have they?!

Hope you're having a blast and soaking it all in, love reading and seeing all about it!

Posted by: Jo | February 05, 2010 at 12:30 PM

I share your joy of Bluefields. I was there in November with a beautiful fun loving group. My travel buddy Paul could match you toe to toe with sand crab photos. Race you back!

Posted by: may pariseau | February 05, 2010 at 03:32 PM

We receive periodic updates on Bluefields from Debbie Moncure. My husband and I stayed at Bluefields for our honeymoon almost 7 years ago, in the same house as you all, and have been dreaming of going back and taking our family -now a family of 6- ever since. The thing we remember the most, well next to the absolute beauty of that part of Jamaica, is all of the sweet faces of the kids on the beach next door to the house. Thanks for taking me back!

Was introduced to your blog through the e-mail we got from Debbie. Awesome, I love it!

Posted by: 4outthedor | February 07, 2010 at 12:00 PM

What a wonderful experience for Noah.

"Shreiking is the universal language of preschoolers" Love it!

Posted by: Nila | February 09, 2010 at 02:23 AM

The comments to this entry are closed.

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Amalah On Tour

January 27, 2010

So I have a real-life friend (SHUT IT. I DO.) whom I've known for a pretty long-ish time. She's known me since before we had babies, since before this blog was the crowning achievement of my life's work, since back when I wore terrifically large and misguided flower pins. She may or may not have played a central part in the Very Last Time I Was Allowed To Play a Board Game With Other People. Although thinking back to that last one, some of my aggression may have had to do with JELUSY, as my friend has a pretty awesome job working PR and marketing for hotels, namely resorts. Beautiful, tropical resorts that she gets to visit and see firsthand. Plus, she's way prettier than I am.

ANYWAY. Right before Thanksgiving, she sent me a message on Facebook: Hey Amy, do you want to go to Jamaica?

I messaged back something jackassy like UH, HELL YES. DURR.

Her reply: Great! Do the boys have their passports? They'd like to send you pretty much right away.

Me: Wait. You were serious?

At that point, I admit I slammed on the breaks, because WHOA. WHAT. I get super-nervous about this sort of thing: there's always the inevitable wank-y fallout, as people grumble over who does and does not merit getting Free Stuff, plus what were "they" expecting from me, as I'm not a travel writer or...or...well, anything other than someone who writes funny stories about dumb stuff but certainly takes this dumb stuff fairly seriously, and my dumb stuff is not for sale! You keep your free stuff out of my dumb stuff! And that's a POLICY.

Turns out that "they" were a local DC family who own a cluster of villas in one of the more far-flung areas of the island -- a fishing village that has only had phone lines since the late 1990s, a village that they are passionate about providing opportunities for, either through employment or helping to provide early childhood education. They also cater to families, providing full-time nannies and such during your stay. My friend asked the owner, after visiting with her husband and baby boy, if they'd thought about reaching out to a mommyblogger. The owner said sure, did she know any?

And the moral of the story is: *Wait until your friends are too drunk to remember anything before you backhand them across the face over a game of Cranium.*

So the deal was, for full disclosure: We pay for airfare and staff gratuities. Bluefields provides the lodging and meals for a week. I bring my laptop and post during the trip, but only about things I want to post about, would usually post about, and no expectation that I'm there to be some bloggy travel-brochure for them.

I continued to hem and haw about it until late December, when I looked around at my little family, my stressed-out and overworked husband, Noah, who has never seen anything more exciting than the beach in his own home state and begs to go to the airport for fun, and Ezra, who I would not want to leave for a week of vacation but who admittedly makes it hard to enjoy a vacation that involves diapers and naps and water safety all by ourselves. I finally thought: Screw it. Screw everything. Let's go on a damn VACATION.

All that stood between us and paradise were passports. Jason's had expired, and neither of the boys had one. And we'd stupidly neglected to ever order Ezra's official birth certificate. This is a problem, for my fellow travel neophytes. And Dear Lord in Heaven: Do not ever attempt to get passports at the last minute, even if everyone assures you that three or four weeks is not technically last minute. We paid a fooldamn fortune to get all three passports expedited, spent an entire Saturday in a quest for an open passport office and then waited in a Line Of The Damned, and very nearly purposely abandoned a child or two at Fed Ex Kinkos in our attempt to get photos taken. (Seriously, though: Ezra looked away from the camera in the first two shots the guy tried, as he is A BABY, and the guy SLAMMED THE CAMERA DOWN on a nearby counter and walked away with his hands over his hard while saying, "THAT'S IT, I'M DONE." Oh...okay?)

In the end, we got everything gathered and out and applied for. And Noah's and Jason's passports arrived after two weeks or so. We assumed Ezra's would arrive the next day. Or the day after that? Shit. Where is it? With DAYS to go, we started calling, and kept getting the same message: It's processing. Finally: It's been shipped.

More days go by.

The U.S. Postal Service: Uh. We dunno. Weird.

You guys, as of YESTERDAY, we still did not have Ezra's passport. You have never, ever seen a more hysterical person. Than me. Every night I laid awake, wide awake, panicking over something I had less than zero control over, because you can yell at people on the phone all you want but that isn't going to make anyone head out and start searching postal trucks for lost express envelopes for you.

(Whenever I did get to sleep, I kept having the same nightmare over and over again, involving these giant alien robots from Neptune invading earth, while I was trapped in this constant scenario of needing to hide while in a room full of hundreds of people who I KNEW would soon be...shot? eaten? stepped on?...but I knew if I could just find a closed space and not move, I might just make it. But then I was always stuck with these two other people, one of whom always failed to grasp the gravity of the GIANT ALIEN ROBOTS FROM NEPTUNE SITUATION and would do something stupid like forget to close a set of vertical blinds or start spinning around in a chair or answer his phone right when the robots showed up, and at this point I would finally wake myself up because I was that terrified, so I have no idea if my plan to hide under office furniture was indeed the correct way to deal with giant alien robots from Neptune.)

Ezra's passport arrived today. We leave tomorrow morning.

(Please don't hate me. Much.)

Posted at 11:16 AM in Travel | Permalink

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Comments

Is it OK if I hate you just a little? :)
Have a super time anyway!

Posted by: Deanna | January 27, 2010 at 11:20 AM

Wow, have a great trip!

Posted by: Amy K | January 27, 2010 at 11:22 AM

I'd have died of anxiety over the passport before yesterday, and then it would have taken me the entire week of the trip to wind down and start enjoying myself, so I can't hate you even a tiny bit. So fun! Will there be pictures?

Posted by: JennyMoo | January 27, 2010 at 11:23 AM

ohmyg-d, just have fun! So much fun!

Posted by: jodifur | January 27, 2010 at 11:23 AM

Have a fabulously awesome time!!!! (And yes, I'll try to keep my jealousy at bay... you're going to Jamaica, my coworkers are in the Bahamas this week and Mexico the next... thbbbbbt)

Posted by: Darcey | January 27, 2010 at 11:24 AM

Ooh! Have so much fun. And now my novel to make you feel better:

In 2007 I decided to fly to Ireland to visit this guy I barely knew because, well, I don't know. We emailed a lot and had a great night on the town before he left for Ireland? So I went to renew my passport and long story short it never came, ALONG WITH MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. The US Postal service "lost" it all. (Before you ask why it was all in the envelope, it was because the passport people told me to.)

The day before my trip I had to call my local Congressman and CRY on the phone and as it turns out- your Congressman gets a certain number of "same day" passport freebies for their constituents. So I got a new, replacement passport and went on the most disastrous trip ever that I spent gchatting with my now husband, back at home.

A few months later a tattered package arrived with all of my stuff in it - no identity theft!

A month after that the Department of Homeland Security called me and informed me I was breaking about 200,001 laws by having two passports & invalidated both of them as punishment.

So there's that.

Posted by: Daisy | January 27, 2010 at 11:25 AM

Ooooh! Looks beautiful and relaxing and peaceful and serene...I'm sure you will fix all that! Can't wait to read all about it.

Seriously, you needed a vacation.

Posted by: MommiePie | January 27, 2010 at 11:27 AM

Oh, hells yes! I am jealous! Damn, I need better friends.

But, you guys totally deserve a vacation. I can't wait to read about it!

Have fun! Wear sunscreen! And please post lots o' pics!

Posted by: Kailee | January 27, 2010 at 11:27 AM

Not sure if I should hate you for this or love you for that video yesterday.

Baby passport photos are the BEST

Posted by: Hillarie | January 27, 2010 at 11:30 AM

WOW! Amazing.

Posted by: BOSSY | January 27, 2010 at 11:30 AM

I had no idea that little kids needed passports now; I thought they could still travel on a parent's passport (makes mental note to apply

for passport for son). Kids change so much so fast; I wonder how their dealing with the picture issue...

The resort sounds great. Have a wonderful time and take lots of pictures!

Posted by: Kate | January 27, 2010 at 11:34 AM

I'm with JennyMoo - I would have shrivelled up and died of anxiety over the passport issue. seriously. Have a great time!

Posted by: Kathi | January 27, 2010 at 11:35 AM

I can't believe I just committed the cardinal sin (their instead of they're). I blame the teething infant and consequent lack of sleep.

Posted by: Kate | January 27, 2010 at 11:35 AM

OMG, Daisy. Oh my God!

(And yeah, they still make you put Every Important Identification Document Ever in the same envelope, which only helps to up the terror that is a lost passport application.)

Posted by: Amalah | January 27, 2010 at 11:37 AM

Dude, you MORE than paid for this trip with that kind of close-call passport drama.

Posted by: Operation Pink Herring | January 27, 2010 at 11:39 AM

Dood. You deserve this trip. You all do. It's been a loooooong year. Go and whoop it up. And remember to share a romantic dinner with the man. Take advantage of every opportunity in the sun. And please do not "pull a Monica" and get your hair in braids.

Posted by: Devon | January 27, 2010 at 11:40 AM

Holy crap, that was close! And yes, you and your family desperately need a vacation - have fun!

Posted by: Megan@Blueberry Scones | January 27, 2010 at 11:41 AM

My first thought was, why would I ever hate you for your good fortune? That would just be sad and petty and rotten.

Then I looked at the website for the villas.

Sorry! I have to hate you now!

But srsly, I hope you have a completely divine vacation.

Posted by: Amy | January 27, 2010 at 11:42 AM

"SLAMMED THE CAMERA DOWN on a nearby counter and walked away with his hands over his hard"

...wow!

Posted by: m. | January 27, 2010 at 11:46 AM

This was so hilarious! The dream is priceless! What an interesting life you do lead. :)

Posted by: Cristy | January 27, 2010 at 11:46 AM

Wow! Have a great time. I'm really happy for you and I'm looking forward to reading about it. Get lots of pictures!

Posted by: Kristin | January 27, 2010 at 11:55 AM

JELUS.
have so much fun!!

Posted by: chatty cricket | January 27, 2010 at 11:56 AM

Damn! You need a vacation from that dream! 'AND I hate you just a little, too. I expect a FULL report on EVERYTHING you do down there and I expect PICTURES A PLENTY of nom-able baby flesh slathered in sunblock and big floppy hats. Mmmmkay?

Posted by: martha | January 27, 2010 at 11:57 AM

I am really excited to see your post as our family is just back from and preparing to go on another Free Blog Travel Trip. Keeping free stuff out of dumb stuff is well said. Enjoy your trip.

Posted by: Daddy Brad | January 27, 2010 at 11:59 AM

So jealous!! Can't wait to read your normal non-travel-brochure-y posts about Paradise!

And what is with the passport photo guy? Dude. Take a chill pill.

Safe travels!

Posted by: Mrs. D | January 27, 2010 at 12:01 PM

Have a great time! Don't hate you. Much.

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | January 27, 2010 at 12:01 PM

Dude!!!! Have a great time!!! Remember to lotion up.

Posted by: Ulla | January 27, 2010 at 12:10 PM

I love the flash-back links. Enjoy Jamaica. (As I cry frozen tears...the high tomorrow is 5. Just 5.)

Posted by: kate | January 27, 2010 at 12:11 PM

Ok, I just checked out the villas and now I need to know which one you're staying in! Have fun!

(Oh, and I also have some passport drama. They told me I didn't need to do the expedited service, so I didn't, then it was like a week before I was supposed to go to Amsterdam. I called and they were all "MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE THE EXPEDITED SERVICE." BAH!)

Posted by: LaurenK | January 27, 2010 at 12:13 PM

WOW that looks like a nice place for a holiday! Go forth and enjoy, why not!

Posted by: Jennie | January 27, 2010 at 12:17 PM

Can't hate you. You all really deserve this time away. Looking forward to the photos.

Posted by: Chris H | January 27, 2010 at 12:18 PM

Oh my! I shivered with horror over the passport thing. Gawd. Have a great time and I can't wait to read about it!

Posted by: Liz | January 27, 2010 at 12:20 PM

Have fun!

My brother didn't get to go on his Peace Corps assignment to Thailand because of the stupid passport office. He didn't have it in time and the Peace Corps wouldn't let him come late. Sucks!!

Posted by: Monica | January 27, 2010 at 12:20 PM

Wow, I can't believe how perfect the timing was for him to get his passport! Have a lovely time, I promise I won't hate you because I'm having a baby soon and I'm more excited about that than I would be about a trip.

Take loads of pictures and share your exploits!

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | January 27, 2010 at 12:21 PM

Okay, I am jealous. Even though it doesn't snow where I live or rarely get below freezing, today's the first day I've seen the sun since 2009...

Also, wanted to point out that I worked for my local congresswoman and had to put in all the requests for expedited passports. Really annoying when someone wants a passport tomorrow for something cool like going to the finals of the World Cup in Germany, but I still got appointments for them. So yeah. Don't forget that it's your elected official's responsibility to help out, but you got Ezra's passport in time, so score!

And those villas look to die for!

Posted by: Stephanie | January 27, 2010 at 12:29 PM

You are too damned funny for me to ever hate you. Have a wonderful trip!

However, as punishment for getting to go on such an awesome trip, I think we all need to see your passport pics.

Posted by: Kristin | January 27, 2010 at 12:31 PM

I totally support anyone getting free stuff for any reason, and anyone who doesn't is just jelus. ANYWAY. When we got my son's passport photo taken the photographer was all, "MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SHOW HIS TEETH," which is apparently a new rule. I wasn't allowed to show my teeth either. The thing was, though, that my kid was about 1 month old.

Yeah.

Posted by: Erin | January 27, 2010 at 12:37 PM

have a ton of fun!!! Lucky girl! :)

Posted by: Julie | January 27, 2010 at 12:41 PM

Definitely JELIS and full of hate.

Posted by: Leah | January 27, 2010 at 12:43 PM

Amalah, I think you and your family deserve a special trip and I'm SO glad you get to go! And I promise not to be jealous at all AS LONG AS you post regularly while you are gone. Because I am addicted to your blog. And if you cut me off I will be cranky as well as jealous.

Posted by: Kathi | January 27, 2010 at 12:43 PM

Awesome! You totally deserve it. I can't wait to read about it.
Have fun!

Posted by: Monkey | January 27, 2010 at 12:44 PM

Yeah Amalah and Family! You go get your vacation!

Posted by: Katrina | January 27, 2010 at 12:52 PM

Have a fanTASTic time. And, consider it your goal to try to make us all a little (or a lot) jealous.

Posted by: Marnie | January 27, 2010 at 12:54 PM

Have so much fun!

I went to Jamaica in September and it was so lovely. You are going to have a fantastic time. The only thing was all the weed smoke that everyone was partaking in. (and I was at a Sandals!) I couldn't wait to get home away from it, so here's hoping that your resort is away from the reggae wannabes.

Posted by: Mary Lou | January 27, 2010 at 12:55 PM

Super super jealous, and my family had a vacation earlier this month! Looks fantastically luxurious, dying of envy over here!

Posted by: Jessica | January 27, 2010 at 01:01 PM

Have a ton of fun. And a beer for me, please.

Posted by: One of the Amy's | January 27, 2010 at 01:02 PM

how wonderful! enjoy; can't wait to hear how it goes.

Posted by: Sarah | January 27, 2010 at 01:16 PM

You suck, but in a good way I guess.
Have loads of fun!!

Posted by: samantha jo campen | January 27, 2010 at 01:28 PM

no hate. have a great time! can't wait to hear stories.

Posted by: jennifer | January 27, 2010 at 01:38 PM

Have a wonderful, wonderful time!
You'll be flying via the UK to pick me up, right?

Posted by: Sarah | January 27, 2010 at 01:55 PM

I have a similar story about my visa. Wherein I could leave the country but wasn't allowed to return.
Come to think of it, I should have taken that offer. Hmm...
Have so much fun, lovelies!

Posted by: Heather B. | January 27, 2010 at 01:55 PM

Too late. Got the full-on hate for you right now, since we are about to be BURIED UNDER THE WINTER STORM OF THE APOCALYPSE and you're going to be on a nice warm beach.

Posted by: Tracy | January 27, 2010 at 01:58 PM

No hate here! Enjoy your vacation!

Posted by: kelly | January 27, 2010 at 01:58 PM

Take that trip and LOVE IT! I mean, hell, if there's a good place to go WITH MY KID, like with sitters that won't kill or lose her, I wanna know. . so hell yes that that trip!
x,
Paula
www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | January 27, 2010 at 02:04 PM

Of fuck. That was close.

Posted by: Heidi | January 27, 2010 at 02:08 PM

OMG that place looks like heaven. Enjoy. I shall live vicariously through you!

Posted by: Helen | January 27, 2010 at 02:08 PM

Oh my gosh! Awesome ending! Have so much fun.
Also, when you mentioned vertical blinds in your dream... I definitely felt like you were giving me a shout out (my family owns a window covering business). Just let me think that, k? K.

Posted by: Belle | January 27, 2010 at 02:09 PM

Have a great vacation. I cannot believe how close of a call this was! I would have wine now to calm down.

Posted by: Megsie | January 27, 2010 at 02:23 PM

Say hi to my Grampappy over there, ok? He's the old dud sitting on his stoop just outside Montego Bay (No joke. He's cool. And if you want feeding? Go find my Auntie Vie. You won't need to eat for days after.) Also? Those Villas? Are. The. SHIZZLE. True true.

Make sure you say "Irie" a lot.

Have a freaking AWESOME TRIP!!!

PS Not everyone over there who smokes weed is a reggae wannabe. Some just like to smoke weed ;)

Posted by: Jay | January 27, 2010 at 02:26 PM

Lorena: Is jelus.

Just don't...don't let the boys listen to reggae.

Posted by: Lorena | January 27, 2010 at 02:28 PM

Ummm, kinda hating you, right now. Couldn't you have linked to some shacks or something to make us feel a little better? Those villas are amazing! Seriously though, relax and have fun (I guess)

Posted by: Maggie | January 27, 2010 at 02:45 PM

Wow, that's awesome! I need a vacation and I'm a mommy blogger.. Maybe one day I'll have the same luck! lol :) HAVE a great time!

Posted by: kris | January 27, 2010 at 02:49 PM

Have a fabulous time!

Posted by: Jenn | January 27, 2010 at 03:12 PM

So excited to read about your trip. SO excited for you. We're (hopefully!!) going back to Jamaica this year for our anniversary, and as I look at their website I'm wondering how all the nannies and kid-menus and such will be as good as they sound. Thinking maybe next time we would consider a place like this with the kids. Just maybe. Hope you guys have a great time!!

Posted by: Brooke | January 27, 2010 at 03:15 PM

No way. I would have been equally freaked out!!!
Have a blast!

Posted by: LD's Mom | January 27, 2010 at 03:28 PM

Can I swear? Fuck the naysayers. This is in effect, a business trip, you are a business, you've more than adequately disclosed = go for it. Y'all have a good time!
Also, Line Of The Damned" is fucking brilliant!

Posted by: JRM | January 27, 2010 at 03:32 PM

Have a wonderful time!!!

Posted by: Amy J | January 27, 2010 at 03:52 PM

Totally jealous!!! You will have a blast!

Posted by: AmazingGreis | January 27, 2010 at 04:01 PM

These villas are beautiful - pls negotiate a discount rate for loyal readers of your blog (seriously - I'd consider hauling my husband and kids for a week!)

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 04:06 PM

Have fun!

Posted by: Heather Ben | January 27, 2010 at 04:06 PM

That reminds me, if I ever want to go to Canada again, I have to order an official birth certificate for myself so that I can get an updated passport because mine is long since expired, and then I have to get myself and three kids passports. Which will almost certainly involve notaries and photographers, two kinds of people who scare me for some reason.

Maybe I'll just never go to Canada again. But you have a super time!

Posted by: Kendra | January 27, 2010 at 04:31 PM

Duuuuude! I'm totally jealous, but I cannot hate. If I were offered a free trip to freaking prardise I would take it! Have fun! I can't wait to read your posts and see pics!

Oh, and in regards to the passport photo guy, I repeat what I said about the woman at the party: Wow, what an asshole.

Posted by: Brandi | January 27, 2010 at 04:33 PM

Not jealous, because....I'm going to Jamaica on Saturday!!!! But we'll be at Sandals Whitehouse. Can't wait to go!

Posted by: Debbie | January 27, 2010 at 05:01 PM

Very jealous. And cold. Send us ur warms.

I got my infant's passport photo taken at the post office.. they put him on a white sheet on the floor. It's one of his cutest pics! They're probably the only people who do enough kids to have a clue.

Posted by: Kathleen | January 27, 2010 at 05:20 PM

Jamaica should take care of those dreams for you. I got to go with a friend when they got hitched. Never thought we would be those resort-type people but OMG, we loved every minute in Jamaica and would go back in a heartbeat. (Funny, but I almost didn't have my passport. We knew that Jamaica would let me in, weren't sure that the US would let me back in and I was okay with that after a week in paradise!) Have fun for all of us!

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 06:07 PM

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Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 06:07 PM

Sorry to double comment. I'll be more patient in future.

Posted by: Christina | January 27, 2010 at 06:09 PM

I pretty much think my passport story trumps every passport story.

Basically, I applied 2 or 3 months before I was supposed to leave the country... plenty of time to get one without expediting. Well, this was back when they closed the Bahamas and Canada and you had to have a passport to travel... so EVERYONE and their mother decided to apply that the same time.

I had to leave to go to North carolina for training before leaving the country so I left and didn't have my passport. I was in nc for 3 days and the morning I was supposed to leave the country, my passport arrived, at home, in TN 12+ hours from where I was. I had to have my parents drive to nashville and put it in air cargo and mail it to me in chicago's airport. I flew from nc to chicago and had to race and pick up my passport in order to fly out of the country... and I only had 2 hours to do so. I barely made it.

I definitely broke down and cried for days before then... it's too stressful, damn system!

Posted by: Becca Sanborn | January 27, 2010 at 06:17 PM

Awesome! Will wave to you -- we're leaving for Negril in the morning! We're lucky enough to have Grammy and Auntie coming to watch our little ones, so mom and dad are going to lounge on the beach and vegetate in a way that hasn't been possible in the last 2.5 years. Hooray!!

Posted by: Nancy | January 27, 2010 at 06:33 PM

Awesome!!!! I hope you enjoy the crap out of this vacation - take full advantage of every amenity, and just relax.
I follow your every post, but rarely comment, and my overriding take-away is that you are overworked, underpaid and need more childcare!
Enjoy, luxuriate, drink lots of rum.

Posted by: Kate | January 27, 2010 at 07:04 PM

Whatever! Enjoy your vacation Amy! You need/deserve it. I'm happy for you guys.

Posted by: Nina | January 27, 2010 at 07:33 PM

I'm inclined to utter a mean, mean thing that starts with a b and rhymes with the word that follows wicked and precedes 'of the west' but that's just JELUSY talking.

Have fun!! And don't forget the sunscreen, bitch!

(Oops, I did it after all, didn't I????)

(And now I shall apologize because I'm from the midwest - I'm SO sorry... I was just trying to be playful and funny but you're probably all "Who IS she and why is she acting like she knows me??" SORRY!)

Posted by: JustLinda | January 27, 2010 at 07:55 PM

So funny...we almost went there on a recommendation from these super cool people we know. The owners seem really awesome. WE WILL make it there someday. I have four monsters aged 10, 6 1/2, 4 1/2. & 16 months so the nanny part wins me over! Have FUN! In the meantime, I look forward to reading all about it.

Posted by: Michelle | January 27, 2010 at 08:41 PM

Hooray! Enjoy Jamaica. We get free entertainment from you on a regular basis, nothing wrong with you getting a little love too.

Posted by: Jillian | January 27, 2010 at 08:52 PM

First of all, have an amazing vacation, because you deserve it, and this sounds AMAZING.

How do *I* know that you need a vacation?

Because you inadvertently typed "with his hands over his HARD" when you were writing about the photo guy.

Also, I have had that EXACT same passport drama, only it was me that was going to have to stay behind. Woo!

Posted by: ElizaBeth | January 27, 2010 at 09:10 PM

Wow! Fun! Except for the anxiety dreams, of course.

(needs to get baby's birth certificate, thanks for the reminder)

Posted by: Brigid Keely | January 27, 2010 at 09:39 PM

Oh! How fun! What a fantastic opportunity. And, you know, given that you remember to bring the kids home and all, maybe you could try to leave your guilt in Jamaica. Cuz you're an awesome blogger and you fully deserve the love that gets you.

Have fun! Remember the sunscreen!

Posted by: Jessica (@ It's my life...) | January 27, 2010 at 09:50 PM

Hooray hooray hooray!! Have a great time.

Posted by: lizneust | January 27, 2010 at 09:51 PM

Awesome! Enjoy your trip. Can't wait to hear all about it -- and see all the photos. Yay sunshine!

Posted by: M.Bailey | January 27, 2010 at 10:52 PM

ack. phew. you almost freaked me out there. this passport business is crazy - the waiting...the hope...the OMG is it going to arrive on time.

ENJOY your vacation!

Posted by: kat | January 27, 2010 at 11:00 PM

Wow! Have fun! (soooooo jealous!)

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | January 27, 2010 at 11:12 PM

Shoot, girl! Anyone who begrudges you a free vacation shouldn't be blogging or reading blogs! That's AWESOME. Glad the passport got there! Would have been really sad to leave Ezra home alone, you know?

Have fun! Be safe! Take lots of beautiful pictures of your boys in Jamaica!!

Posted by: Tracey | January 27, 2010 at 11:56 PM

Okay, I am SOOOO jealous, but also really excited for you! Take lots of pictures to make it easy for us to live vicariously through you ;)

Posted by: Heather | January 28, 2010 at 01:02 AM

I AM SO JEALOUS! We went to BLUEFIELDS on our honeymoon, it is FABULOUS! You will love it, the food, the catering to you (they do your laundry!) the 3:30 p.m. Daiquiri's (tell Ricardo Hello!).

Posted by: jill | January 28, 2010 at 01:03 AM

Holycrap! Have an awesome time, Amalah-family! I will soon be having the baby-passport-photo adventure myself, though there is no planned travel in our future, just because I am that particular sick type of planning ahead person. I'm always ready for a trip to Jamaica! Hint, hint! Srsly, have a great time - I can't wait to read about it!

Posted by: Laura | January 28, 2010 at 01:19 AM

I do hate you a little bit - No seriously have a brilliant time

Posted by: Alison C | January 28, 2010 at 04:24 AM

AWESOME!!!!!!
Have a great time!!! I am THRILLED for you!
:-)

Posted by: stacy | January 28, 2010 at 06:46 AM

no hatin her, just mild dislikin'...you can make it up by posting pics of some braids and some yummy noah/ez on the beach...so, we need a discount as loyal readers, taht place looks amazing, have a BLAST you lucky little chick!

Posted by: lynn | January 28, 2010 at 08:36 AM

and I cannot type this am..

Posted by: lynn | January 28, 2010 at 08:37 AM

I won't hate you as long as you bring back some Jamaican Gold. ;)

Posted by: Big Gay Sam | January 28, 2010 at 08:49 AM

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Landed

January 28, 2010

I didn't even go to bed last night. I took a packing break and a nap at some point between 2 and 2:30 am; we left for the airport at 3. (And yes, that was THREE TO THE A TO THE M.) We got on a plane. Two planes. However many planes. I put "writer" as my occupation on my customs form and the officer was all, "SO WHAT DO YOU WRITE, AMY STORCH?" And I was all, "Uhhhhmmmmonlineparentingcolumns?" He let me into the country. Some guy tried to hustle an iPhone from my four-year-old. We drove across Jamaica and saw orange groves and burning sugar cane and poverty and cook shacks and beautiful children in their spotless school uniforms. We stopped at a roadside stand and ate the most incredible jerk chicken I have ever tasted while talking with kind people who were easy to talk to. Ezra also ate a ridiculous amount of that chicken, then gnawed on a drumstick before giving up and just dipping his hands in the hot sauce and licking it straight off his fingers. Noah saw a rooster. He is still talking about that unbelievable, real-life, amazing, cock-a-doo-ing-damn rooster.

We are indeed here in Bluefields, and oh, but I am so tired. I will leave you with some photos, and a promise to post again tomorrow and the day after that and so on and so forth until we go home OH GOD THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE US GO HOME NOOOO.



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Call me an optimist, but I think this is going to be a pretty good week.

Posted at 06:09 PM in Travel | Permalink

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LIVING



I can't believe I can type through all this RAGING ENVY. But it looks beautiful!

Posted by: kirida | January 28, 2010 at 06:11 PM

Yippee! You deserve an awesome week!!

Posted by: Elizabeth_K | January 28, 2010 at 06:12 PM

Why would you think that???
P.S., Ezra is a CHUNK.

Posted by: Belle | January 28, 2010 at 06:12 PM

I hate you. (Not really, just in case you were worried about such a thing. Which I'm sure you're not. Because you're too busy swimming and enjoying the sun. Again, I hate you.)

Posted by: C @ Kid Things | January 28, 2010 at 06:14 PM

Amy, it is FREEZING here. And it is supposed to snow this weekend. I promise to forgive you, but we must, must hang out when you get back. I can't believe how big Ez is. And look at Noah swim.

Posted by: jodifur | January 28, 2010 at 06:15 PM

I am sooo excited for you (and maybe a leetle jelus too)! Have a blast - you all deserve it.

Posted by: Jessica | January 28, 2010 at 06:16 PM

optimist.
and EZRA'S AAAAAAARMS. I love baby arms. LOVE THEM. How do you refrain from snacking on those shoulders?!

Posted by: chatty cricket | January 28, 2010 at 06:22 PM

Please post a lot of pictures, it's snowing here and wind chills are going to be below zero tomorrow morning and I'm ready to start punching total strangers, I'm so sick of winter.

Posted by: Jenn | January 28, 2010 at 06:22 PM

Holy COW woman! That is beautiful. You escaped just in time because it is really cold here. ENJOY!!!!

Posted by: Kristin J | January 28, 2010 at 06:23 PM

Amalah! I'm so jealous of your Jamaican vacation, as well as your beautiful children. I hope this does not come off as negative, but I do just have one thing to suggest. Please try to stay away from water wings... I know that they are ubiquitous but they teach the complete wrong things to your child. That is to say, they teach your child that if they fall in the pool, they should go vertical and they will float. Bubbles, life jackets, or those suits with the inserts in them are better because they at minimum teach kids the feeling of having their backs or fronts floating to the surface. I'm sorry to say this, and totally hope that you don't mind me spreading advice to the internet in general because I am sure your child is being supervised at all times, and sometimes water wings are most convenient to pack because they are the smallest, and deflate, and I hope you aren't mad that I said this (RUN ON SENTENCE). As a lifeguard for several years, I pulled many kids out of the pool who were used to wings but fell or jumped in on their own when their parent wasn't watching and they tried to just put their arms out to float up and it did not work, because no wings. so weird rant over!! I sometimes give this whole spiel to strangers, hope it came off in the helpful but non-judgmental way I meant it. Have fun and come back tan!

Posted by: Em | January 28, 2010 at 06:23 PM

Ooooooh, have fun!

Posted by: alison | January 28, 2010 at 06:33 PM

I swear I can hear Ezra saying, "Yes! This is what I'm talking about! I knew you were holding out on me, but I forgive you. Nice work. Home at last. Carry on."

And Noah just floating. No words necessary.

Posted by: LPC | January 28, 2010 at 06:33 PM

I am SUPER excited to live vicariously through your vacation. The weather in CO today: 'Ice fog.' So yeah for you in the warmth! Have a great time!

Posted by: Ellyn B | January 28, 2010 at 06:38 PM

I want. Like a lot, I want.
(Have such a great time!)

Posted by: Mrs Chaos | January 28, 2010 at 06:40 PM

you deserve a nap! traveling with kids is not my favorite thing, but for a place like that it'd be SO worth it. have fun!

Posted by: HolyMama! | January 28, 2010 at 06:44 PM

I promised myself I wouldn't get envious, but MAN that water looks

inviting after a billion days of Washington winter dreariness.

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | January 28, 2010 at 06:53 PM

Wow. So pretty. That last photo really did me in. What a way to lay back and relax, with THAT VIEW! Holy cow, Amy Storch, onlineparentingcolumnwriter, you are SO LUCKY!

Posted by: A | January 28, 2010 at 07:14 PM

Precious! I can just picture him sticking his hands in the sauce. That would SO be me.

Posted by: Beth | January 28, 2010 at 07:17 PM

From weather.com today "Temperature: 12. Feels like: -17." More pics please. I will turn the space heater on high and pretend it is a warm tropical breeze.

Posted by: Maren | January 28, 2010 at 07:37 PM

That looks amazing! SO JEALOUS!!!! And we are about to get dumped on with more snow in the DC area again!!!!

Posted by: Dawn | January 28, 2010 at 07:40 PM

So effing jealous I cannot stand it. GAAHH I WANT TO BE IN THE ISLANDS!!!!

Posted by: Anna Marie | January 28, 2010 at 07:45 PM

OMG Amy...we're all so jealous here stateside, and it's incredibly beautiful and perfect and I checked out the website and...OMG Amy...OPEN BAR ALL WEEK. Including wine. WINE. And people to make your delicious tropical meals and just WHOA.

Sorry, got carried away. God, just ENJOY, and pleeeeeease post lotsa pix and videos!

Posted by: Cyn | January 28, 2010 at 07:53 PM

OH MY. I will dream of warm waters tonight.

When I told my husband about this vacation of yours, he said "yeah but you still have the kids and you have to cook or go out to restaurants all the time and it's NOT A VACATION." And then I pointed out the spot on the website about included nannies and chefs and HE ABOUT LOST HIS MIND.

WANT TO GO. WANT TO GO BAD.

Enjoy, for our sakes if not your own.

Posted by: Jenna | January 28, 2010 at 07:56 PM

La la la la Bossy can't hear you.

Posted by: BOSSY | January 28, 2010 at 08:00 PM

The only thing making me feel better for being here in the cold cold COLD midwest while you are there in Jamaica is the fact that it was sunnier here today than it was where you were. So nana-nana-boo-boo.

Posted by: MichelleR | January 28, 2010 at 08:02 PM

I want to go to there!

Posted by: Kelli | January 28, 2010 at 08:13 PM

Ok. I wasn't jealous until I saw those pics. Now? Now, I'm feeling a bit green. But happy for you! Oh. So. Happy. For you and your warm water and sand and floaties and....

sigh. I'm frozen.

Posted by: Tracey | January 28, 2010 at 08:17 PM

Am jealous. Have fun!

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | January 28, 2010 at 09:06 PM

I would comment but I'm not speaking to you because I'm mute with envy.

Harumph!

Posted by: JustLinda | January 28, 2010 at 09:16 PM

Looks like heaven.

Posted by: Megsie | January 28, 2010 at 09:22 PM

Jeeeeeeuuuuuuuus!
Noah is the cutest thing EVER in his arm floaties! Have a blast!

Posted by: Jen L. | January 28, 2010 at 09:23 PM

Oh my stars, I can't believe you thought about saying no to this!

Posted by: Kristin H | January 28, 2010 at 09:32 PM

I wish I were there. Oh so much. Iowa is nice and all but I haven't seen my son and his sweet chunk arms in a tank top in months and months.

Posted by: Monkey | January 28, 2010 at 09:32 PM

That's funny, I'm in Iowa, too. I agree, Jamaica would be much better right now.

Posted by: Katie | January 28, 2010 at 09:45 PM

NIIIIIIIIIIIICE! So jealous! It was 9 when I took my kids to school this morning and 12 when I picked them up. Degrees. Fahrenheit. Sucks dude!

Posted by: Jill | January 28, 2010 at 09:59 PM

It's the weirdest thing. I don't know you, but I read everything you write and I adore your little family and it makes me happy to know you're going to have a good week. You're that good of a writer, dammit.

Posted by: Trish | January 28, 2010 at 10:01 PM

Shoutout from freezing cold Illinois--Wow! Enjoy yourselves!

Posted by: Cincy | January 28, 2010 at 10:04 PM

So, let me get this straight. You get a gorgeous view, a private pool, sunshine, and roosters?!

What more does one need in life?

Posted by: Kailee | January 28, 2010 at 10:05 PM

I hate you.

/jealous

Posted by: Whimsi | January 28, 2010 at 10:50 PM

It's snowing here.

Bite me.
(But have tons of fun.)

Posted by: Zak | January 28, 2010 at 11:55 PM

Delurking to say...I don't know what that I am so happy for you that you get to enjoy this and also so very very envious! Can't wait for updates!

Posted by: Amy Uncensored | January 29, 2010 at 12:14 AM

Mmmmm. Jerk chicken.
The photos are awesome but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't sitting here looking at the cold and windy outside (knowing I have to go out in it tomorrow) and thinking "no fair, mommy bloggers have all the fun."
Have a great time!

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | January 29, 2010 at 12:23 AM

I am so incredibly jealous. Its gonna be snowy and icy and frigid this weekend. That sun looks wonderful.

Posted by: Kristin | January 29, 2010 at 12:35 AM

It looks beautiful there. I am so JELUS! The boys are adorable though, and I hope it really is an awesome week for you all!

Posted by: Ivie | January 29, 2010 at 02:06 AM

Ezra looks like he smoked a fatty. I love Jamaica.

Posted by: hstath | January 29, 2010 at 04:50 AM

Go eat sugar cane. And yams. And dumplings. And jerk chicken. And jerk pork. And steamed fish. And Sky Juice. And drink rum. And cocktails. And drink rum. And eat pineapples. And mangos. And did I mention rum?

Why the hell did I choose to live in the UK, exactly?

not at all jealous and not showing it too much or whatever

Posted by: jay | January 29, 2010 at 06:06 AM

Looks fantastic! I hope you all enjoy the break and the pampering and the pool. And my goodness, that second pic makes Ezra look like he's going to grow up to be a trucker!

Posted by: Elaine | January 29, 2010 at 06:12 AM

Their ploy worked. Saving the pennies now.

Posted by: the Moira | January 29, 2010 at 06:19 AM

I can't wait to read all about your trip. I am living vicariously through you because I can't get my husband on a damn plane to go anywhere. And! I so need a vacation. Plus you will keep me laughing.

Posted by: Erica | January 29, 2010 at 07:51 AM

i am jealous!

Posted by: jeni | January 29, 2010 at 09:01 AM

Last time I was in Jamaica.....5yrs ago for our destination wedding. After my morning commute in 17 degree weather & looking at your pics, I'm looking up prices right now for a now, family of 3... You guys are gonna have soooo much fun!!!

Posted by: Jaidnoire | January 29, 2010 at 09:09 AM

Jealous! Especially since it is 9 degrees here today in the tundra AKA Michign.

Posted by: Maggie | January 29, 2010 at 09:21 AM

My husband and I went to Jamaica for our honeymoon, and I thought the people who lived there were some of the kindest people I'd ever met. And when a monster hurricane (Category 5) was being predicted to roll over the island the day after we left for home, I was so, so afraid for everyone in Jamaica. Thank God, the hurricane pulled a last minute move away from the island, but all I could think about when I saw the pictures of Haiti was that that would've been what Jamaica would've looked like post-hurricane. And I cried a little, because Jamaicans seemed so kind, so lovely, but there is so much poverty there, so many people suffering. *sigh*

Sorry to be Debbie Downer; your post just brought all of that back to me. I hope you have a wonderful, relaxing vacation.

Posted by: Gaby | January 29, 2010 at 09:33 AM

I'm so happy for you! My head would have totally exploded over the passport situation, so congrats on making it there in one piece. That water looks heavenly!

Posted by: Elizabeth | January 29, 2010 at 09:37 AM

I'm jealous!

Posted by: wm | January 29, 2010 at 10:16 AM

That looks lovely.

I wish more affordable resorts would send bloggers to check 'em out though. I looked at the photos and started daydreaming so I clicked over.

Six nights for two adults and two children in their lowest priced villa in mid-season would be \$5330. Yikes! I know it is all inclusive and includes nannies and food and whatnot but that is still crazy expensive, especially when you add in airfare.

Still, it looks beautiful.

Posted by: Melissa | January 29, 2010 at 10:25 AM

so....what youre saying is onlineparentingcolumn writer = jamaica? must research career change.

Posted by: meIV | January 29, 2010 at 10:35 AM

We are so going next February/March after checking out how awesome it is. Is it wrong to spend the last week of December/first week of January in Hawaii only to head to Jamaica a month or so later? I hope you all have an incredible time!

Posted by: Jacqueline | January 29, 2010 at 10:52 AM

Which one of their cottages (and I think from the photos that is a loose term for MANSION) are you guys staying in? It looks lovely. (Also now that I've asked that I'm going to add that I do not work for the resort and am not fishing for further advertising, I'm just curious about which one).

P.S. Just as an aside, when my 18 month old took his official Starfish swimming lessons they put water wings on him. So I figure if the registered life guard thinks it's good enough for an 18 month old then it's good enough for Noah.

Posted by: Anna | January 29, 2010 at 11:52 AM

Want pictures of romantic dinner with hubby--- hoping you get a chance for some quiet time alone.

Posted by: Kim | January 29, 2010 at 12:11 PM

Yes, add me to the list of "jelus" and "not speaking to you" (but obviously, "speaking" to you). Also, after you nap, please post details like, how long the flight was, how the boys did on the flight, what the place looks like, etc. etc. DETAILS, Amy Storch, onlineparentingcolumnwriter, DETAILS. Oh, and pictures, too, of course.

LOVE the picture of Ezra. He is just so beautiful. I just want to squeezeeeeeeeze him. Please don't cut his hair...I love the way his hair is growing out! And Noah, a big swimmer ALONE in the pool - YAY for Noah!

Posted by: Heather | January 29, 2010 at 12:26 PM

Wow, this is a stellar experiment in the power of the mom blogstresses. These people are super-smart to send you there; I am totally listening to your report! You are venturing to this paradise-sounding place at the precise moment that I -- 22 weeks pregnant with a wee tiny girl, our first baby -- am contemplating what is to become of our luxurious vacays in our post-baby life, and this feels very much like an answer! Can't wait to hear/read/see more about your adventure and how you guys all enjoy it!

Posted by: Holly | January 29, 2010 at 12:38 PM

Snackbox had his first taste of pineapple in Hawaii, and he was chowing down on it. I told DH -"wow, he really likes pineapple!" and he said, "Or the rum, since it was the garnish on your mai tai". Mommy of the Year, right here.

Have a wonderful vacation and take every advantage of the nannies and the cooks - you know, for research sake...

Posted by: Susan | January 29, 2010 at 01:03 PM

Oh my god it looks so fricken warm there. I have been inside all day and my fingers are so cold they feel like they are going to crack off. jealous.

Posted by: Crystal D | January 29, 2010 at 01:11 PM

I am jealous. Looks amazing. Have a great time!

Posted by: sharon | January 29, 2010 at 01:18 PM

I've only been to Jamacia from a cruise ship and we took a taxi to Dunns falls. pretty place, but not kid friendly. ENJOY. it's a beautiful place.

Posted by: Brenda | January 29, 2010 at 01:58 PM

Love the pictures, love hearing about the trip. I'm not in a place right now where I can take my own vacation, but I do really enjoy have a little mini-vicarious vacay through your posts. That first one of Noah in the pool cracks me up. Looking forward to reading the next installment!

Posted by: kellyannecat | January 29, 2010 at 03:21 PM

looks amazing. their webiste looks like a fairy tale. bookmarked!

Posted by: jennifer | January 29, 2010 at 03:37 PM

Liek the kids say: OHH EMM GEEE..so pretty.

ok..so I'm rallying 12 ladies together from work (Oh God, we'll kill each other) to plan a vacay to this place..we've named the guy by the pool on the website "Dexter" and we've made up about 10 fantasies about how inappropriate we will be with "Dexter" when he serves us lunch each day..we're whores..and proud of it thankyouverymuch. HAVE FUN!!!

Posted by: linka72 | January 29, 2010 at 08:00 PM

There is jealousy seeping from all of my pores and it's ugly and I'm not afraid to admit it. I hope you're having a BLAST!

Posted by: Karen Chatters | January 30, 2010 at 03:09 PM

amy, i don't ever comment because i am nowhere NEAR as funny as you, but i thought you might get a charge out of this: in google reader, the line about the beautiful children and the jerk chicken are right on top of each other. and at first read i thought it said that you ate the most wonderful jerk children.

um.

amy. stop eating children. even if they are jerks. cannibalism is just as jerky.

Posted by: raeleigh/big sky girl | January 31, 2010 at 01:15 AM

I can't think of a family more deserving of a great vacation than the Storches. Have a blast!

Posted by: Bachelor Girl | February 01, 2010 at 11:56 AM

The comments to this entry are closed.

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Shut Up

January 29, 2010



I did not buy this magazine. They have like, every magazine on the planet out in the living room and it was there when we got here. It was THERE WHEN WE GOT HERE. Whatever. I'm reading it for the Obama articles and stuff. I barely even noticed the five-page spread about whas-his-abs there. I'm totally going to read the latest issue of *The Atlantic* next.

Or maybe whatever has Lady Gaga on the cover.

Posted at 04:51 PM in Travel | Permalink



Comments

By the pool. I love you, and yet I hate you.
 I R JUS JELUS. sigh.

Posted by: Sweetney | January 29, 2010 at 04:54 PM



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Honestly, I care more about how much I want to swap places with you just for the Red Stripe by the pool. :)

Posted by: Miriam | January 29, 2010 at 04:55 PM

I am wondering what I did to piss off karma so much that I am in freeeeezing PA sick as a DAWG...
...and you have smut and beer and Jamaica? Yet further evidence for the canonization of Amalah. ;)

Posted by: txtingmrdarcy | January 29, 2010 at 04:58 PM

What a pretty picture. Enjoy yourselves Storch fam!

Posted by: Laura | January 29, 2010 at 04:59 PM

Is that your private fucking pool? Fuck.

Posted by: Ulla | January 29, 2010 at 05:07 PM

Love it! Have fun!

Posted by: AmazingGreis | January 29, 2010 at 05:07 PM

Whatever - I want the Red Stripe!

Posted by: Stephanie | January 29, 2010 at 05:30 PM

Ooooooooooooooooooh Red Stripe, my favorite lager! I drank about a million of those with my Dad when we were in Jamaica :)

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | January 29, 2010 at 05:33 PM

What? Did you say something? I was a little distracted...

Posted by: JustLinda | January 29, 2010 at 05:38 PM

It is friggin FREEZING up here.
But yeah, go ahead and enjoy your beer and mancake mag by the pool. I'm not bitter.

Posted by: *m* | January 29, 2010 at 05:52 PM

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Thanks for the giggle. I needed that today. And I need that magazine too, when you're finished drooling, er, reading it.

Posted by: Sarah | January 29, 2010 at 05:56 PM

Red Stripe...I remember Red Stripe. I didn't HAVE to go to Jamaica to get one though. Just "New Horizons" in Richmond.

And seriously...Rolling Stone has Obama articles? Why? He doesn't play in a rock band that I'm not aware of, does he?

Posted by: Martha | January 29, 2010 at 06:23 PM

I choked a little when I saw the magazine . . . and then promptly googled "Rolling Stone Taylor Lautner" and drooled over the pics and excerpts. SERIOUSLY, is he really still just 17?!?!? gaaah. Some of those pics do NOT look 17. mmm.

Posted by: Katie | January 29, 2010 at 06:24 PM

I have NEVER understood the Taylor Lauther love. Maybe it's because deep, deep down, I'm really a Pattinson girl? Who knows. Anyway, I'm glad you're enjoying your vacation! Do you have pics of the hotel room?

Posted by: Megan@Blueberry Scones | January 29, 2010 at 06:34 PM

Megan, she had a link to Bluefields yesterday, or you can google it. She's not in a hotel room, she's in a PRIVATE FREAKING VILLA with her own NANNY and HEADMAN and CHEF and I am so JELUS I am ready to cash in my retirement savings and go rent the villa next door!

Posted by: Syko | January 29, 2010 at 06:50 PM

Thanks @Katie for the Google hint. I'll be off now...

Posted by: Pamela | January 29, 2010 at 06:59 PM

Oh my god, whats-his-abs. I may never stop laughing.

Posted by: Kayleigh | January 29, 2010 at 07:15 PM

I owned that magazine. I don't remember any articles. :)

Posted by: Amy | January 29, 2010 at 08:00 PM

You are slowly making us all hate you--one post at a time. J/k. Have fun!

Posted by: Lindsay | January 29, 2010 at 08:14 PM

Jealous. Of everything. (I spend a fortune on magazines while on vacation.)

Posted by: Suzanne | January 29, 2010 at 08:28 PM

Am so enjoying my vicarious trip.

Posted by: egplnt21 | January 29, 2010 at 08:56 PM

Haha what the heck, you're on vacation, enjoy your fluff ;)

Posted by: Heather | January 29, 2010 at 09:31 PM

Ooooooh, sexxy! Definite eye candy there!

Posted by: Kristin | January 29, 2010 at 11:53 PM

Everyday I look at the website with the prices. I like to look at how much it would cost for 12 people! I'm so happy you are there.

Posted by: amymarie | January 30, 2010 at 08:02 AM

I'm desperate for more photos of the villa and the beach. I'd also love to know how safe it is for small children. The photos in their promotional website look like there are a lot of cliffs and drop offs. Has that been a problem or does it look worse than it is in the photos?

Posted by: angie | January 30, 2010 at 09:46 AM

Does it make me a cougar that i'm 30 years old and think that a 16 year old is like... SO TOTALLY HOT. Whatever, I'm down with it. :-)
Have an amazing vacation and while everyone else is complaining about the freezing cold back east, we're enjoying 70 degrees out here in SoCal *grin*. But it's still not freaking JAMAICA. Awesomeness.

Posted by: Ashley F | January 30, 2010 at 12:03 PM

If you squint hard (damn Jamaican sun), he almost doesn't look like jail bait. So there. Take comfort.

Posted by: Kate @ And Then I Was a Mom | January 30, 2010 at 12:07 PM

Totally googled Bluefields and that place looks amazing!!! More pictures pleeeeeeeze. In Jamaica, I have only been to the cheesy places, Breezes, Grand Lido and Hedo.

Posted by: KG | January 30, 2010 at 12:28 PM

WTF is in the pool? A dog on a raft?? Am I the only one who saw that over the magazine??
IMnop

Posted by: M | January 30, 2010 at 02:27 PM

I'm so jealous! Its snowing here. Lucky.

Posted by: G | January 30, 2010 at 02:32 PM

It's cold and snowing here in the metro DC area..I am jealous of your sun and warmth.

Posted by: kris | January 30, 2010 at 03:49 PM

I am at the beach too. Unfortunately it is covered with 6 inches of snow and counting! Enjoy your work:)

Posted by: cs | January 30, 2010 at 03:58 PM

I want to know what on earth is floating on that raft??? dead chicken?
and here in Annapolis....we have 4" of snow. and it is still coming.
youpicked a fabulous time to get away.
green with envy

Posted by: Amber | January 30, 2010 at 06:00 PM

It is freezing here, I wanna be there damnit! Have fun!

Posted by: Tonya | January 31, 2010 at 12:49 AM

RE: What's in the pool...
Seriously. What IS that? Did you bring Ceiba?

Puhleeeez tell us more about what you are seeing and eating and doing and not doing and stuff.

I'm lobbying my husband for Bluefields, but I must begin slowly and

carefully. In the meantime...if you have time, of course...tell us moremoremoremore and even more than that.

Posted by: Cyn | January 31, 2010 at 01:43 AM

thanks a lot for abandoning us here with all this snow and stuff!!!!

Posted by: Tina C. | January 31, 2010 at 08:18 AM

I find it highly suspicious, considering the fact that you knew the exact number of pages in the spread about whats-his-abs ... didn't you ever learn that, with lying, less is more? ;) enjoy :).)

Posted by: vallartamami | February 01, 2010 at 03:05 AM

"the five-page spread about whats-his-abs there" made me snort orange juice.

ok embarassing admission: i went to go see that movie WITH MY POOR HUSBAND and even so every time whats-his-abs showed up I said PURRRRRR. OUT LOUD.

Poor my hubs.

Posted by: Della | February 01, 2010 at 11:17 AM

Could you read the Taylor Lautner article just long enough to find out if he's 18 yet? I'm waiting for him to be legal so I can lust after him without being a perv. kthxbai !

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 01, 2010 at 06:33 PM

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and also probably hamsters, tubes and duct tape

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Weekend Photo Round-Up

January 31, 2010



A typical early morning pile-up.



Checking out the view from the master bedroom.



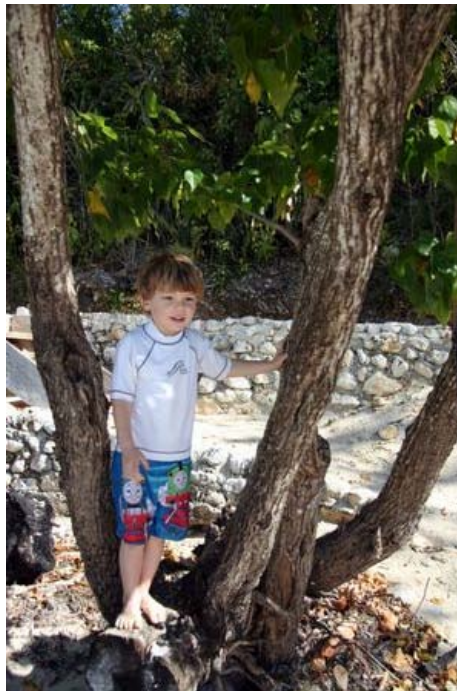
Checking out the view from....um. There.



Slightly skeptical, sandy.



Only complaint so far: It's just OH SO CROWDED AROUND HERE.



Climbing his first tree.

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And getting appropriately contemplative about it.



Exploring, or possibly on a deranged quest to get back to the house kitchen WHERE ALL THE FOOD IS NOM NOM NOM PAPAYA PINEAPPLE CHICKEN FRITTERS SCRAMBLED EGGS HOT SAUCE



Taking time from my busy schedule to sit upright. Slightly.



Bushed babies.

Posted at 08:55 AM in [Travel](#) | [Permalink](#)



Comments

You realize that I will never be happy until I go to that exact same resort.

It really looks heavenly. I'm glad ONE OF US got to go.

Posted by: Judy | January 31, 2010 at 09:02 AM

Sigh. It looks incredible.

Posted by: Christine | January 31, 2010 at 09:04 AM

Only one word to describe all of this: WOW!

Posted by: Mariana Perri | January 31, 2010 at 09:10 AM

As I sit here, in bed, in my Born to Blog shirt...I am insanely jealous! and I adore the last picture, it sparked an audible sigh!

Posted by: Brittany | January 31, 2010 at 09:20 AM

Where is this? Oh my gosh its beautiful!

Posted by: Emily | January 31, 2010 at 09:25 AM

As I sit watching my husband shovel the 6 inches of snow we got in DC yesterday I'm beyond jealous of you.

I want to pile my family into our own poster bed with mosquito netting and balcony overlooking paradise.

Le Sigh...

Posted by: Ouiser B | January 31, 2010 at 09:32 AM

I'll be shoveling show today too. {sigh}

It looks beautiful, and warm. Very warm.

Posted by: JustLinda | January 31, 2010 at 09:41 AM

Whatever, Amalah. You're totally missing the wet sleety snow stuff that froze overnight in DC, SO THERE

Wait...

Posted by: Liz | January 31, 2010 at 09:45 AM

Your posts on this are so wonderful! I look forward to them each day. (Emily, there's a link to this resort in Bluefields Jamaica on the Jan. 28th post).

Posted by: Rachel | January 31, 2010 at 10:06 AM

1. wow, that's the reddest you hair has looked. I dig it.
2. Ez is really starting to look just like you. Just like you.

Posted by: Jessi | January 31, 2010 at 10:23 AM

Amy, was the complaint meant to be sarcastic or were the pictures just strategic enough that the mass amounts of people were not shown??

Posted by: Caitlin | January 31, 2010 at 10:33 AM

Just tell us. Are you having fun?

Posted by: LPC | January 31, 2010 at 11:05 AM

I am now officially VERY jealous! Looks like you are having a great time!

I'm sure you are very jealous of the pile of snow we got at home again!? (sigh)

Posted by: workout mommy | January 31, 2010 at 11:09 AM

I love that last picture; so poignant...

Posted by: Jen. | January 31, 2010 at 11:10 AM

Loved those last pictures. There is nothing that tires kids out more than fresh air and swimming. I believe that is a scientifically proven fact or something.

Posted by: Wendy | January 31, 2010 at 11:20 AM

Ezra's got a pretty sweet downward facing dog, there! Go yoga baby, go!

Beautiful pics. Looks like, um, paradise, for lack of a better expression. Enjoy!

Posted by: DiaryofWhy | January 31, 2010 at 12:10 PM

Caitlin, it was VERY sarcastic...that picture was from Friday, and there was just us and another local couple on the beach. Today, it's a little more crowded. Perhaps, 20 or so people on the beach and mostly locals.

Posted by: Jason | January 31, 2010 at 12:19 PM

Jelllluuussssss. And yes, I totally want to go to that resort now. So whatever it is that was supposed to work, it worked.

I took a pretty walk in the snow today, but would MUCH rather be bobbing in the ocean sipping a Red Stripe.

you go woman!

Posted by: stacy | January 31, 2010 at 12:25 PM

You lucky, lucky barstewards. Glad you're enjoying it, I'm quite jealous.

Posted by: Jennie | January 31, 2010 at 01:08 PM

My GOD. That looks like heaven.

Posted by: HMFT | January 31, 2010 at 01:26 PM

My son used to put his head upside down on the sand like in Ezra's pic... he would say "hat!"

Well, from a toddler's perspective, anything that goes on your head is a hat, so...

Posted by: Leah | January 31, 2010 at 02:15 PM

Oh, so amazing! I now want babies (even more). And a Caribbean vacation (even even more).

Posted by: Shannon | January 31, 2010 at 02:34 PM

One day... long in the future... when things are crazy and you are having "one of those days" think back to THIS day... when your biggest concern was how to get sand out of toddler parts. You deserve this.

Posted by: Kari Weber | January 31, 2010 at 02:40 PM

Going to get my passport, BRB...

Posted by: Michelle | January 31, 2010 at 03:02 PM

Yesterday I looked this place up on TripAdvisor. Am now trying to convince husband that WE MUST GO.

Can't wait to see and hear more about it. Have a wonderful time!

I'm so freakin' jealous. :)

Posted by: Tam. | January 31, 2010 at 03:55 PM

That bed is incredible!
What an amazing location. You know this but I will say it anyway...you are a LUCKY lady!

Posted by: Sheila | January 31, 2010 at 04:24 PM

Looks like a great time. Glad you have your boys there with you.

Posted by: Janssen | January 31, 2010 at 04:29 PM

Oh my god, I so want to go there! Luccckkkkyyyyyyy!

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | January 31, 2010 at 04:36 PM

so impossibly jealous of your family right now!!

Posted by: kelleyd | January 31, 2010 at 06:12 PM

<http://roostershamblyn.wordpress.com/> would you please spend a few minutes and check out my blog. I am a farmer who has been raising more than 50 breeds of chickens for forty years.

Posted by: Rooster Shamblyn | January 31, 2010 at 06:45 PM

Looks like you're having a great time! Glad you got to have such a nice family vacation.

Posted by: Starbuck | January 31, 2010 at 06:55 PM

Need to go there. NOW. Looks AMAZING. Can't wait to read all about it.

Posted by: Pam | January 31, 2010 at 07:21 PM

Absolutely beautiful! Enjoy the rest of your time! The snow can take care of itself while you're gone!

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | January 31, 2010 at 07:29 PM

I am not even jealous. I am just happy that you are getting to have a much needed vacation. This blog brings me much happiness, and you deserve some posh style relation! It looks amazing! More pix please.

Posted by: peanutmama | January 31, 2010 at 07:43 PM

lucky duck... I hate you just a pinch

Posted by: Lauri | January 31, 2010 at 08:10 PM

So gorgeous! I love the last one of Ezra... too cute.

Posted by: Jennifer | January 31, 2010 at 08:12 PM

So beautiful, everything. That last pic of Ez is really beautiful.

Posted by: Nina | January 31, 2010 at 08:24 PM

These pics of Ezra are just killing me. He is so gorgeous and I love the skeptical, frowny and tired looks...so adorable!!! (and I have my own adorable 15 month old son, so I feel slightly weird cooing over yours!). This place looks fab and I love that bed...need a bed and view just like that for myself. Yes! I am jealous! But, you deserve it all.

Posted by: Heather | January 31, 2010 at 09:47 PM

That looks so miserable...Ha! :)

Posted by: Jennifer Kelley | January 31, 2010 at 11:26 PM

I love vacations....yours, mine, everyones. These are the moments you capture and take with you forever.

PS - I'm typically not this cheesy, but it's so true.

Posted by: KTSchoger | February 01, 2010 at 12:15 AM

your hair is red!
life looks grand for you and your little family!
post more photos - must live vicariously! :-)

Posted by: mamabell | February 01, 2010 at 03:14 AM

That place looks bloomin fantastic and am now thinking I shouldn't have booked Vegas in July for my 40th but should have gone there instead...oh well, there's always next year and maybe the £ will be better against the \$ then too....

Posted by: Matt in London | February 01, 2010 at 07:57 AM

The first one is my fave! I might be breaking that commandment about thou shalt not covet or something or other.

Posted by: Liz | February 01, 2010 at 08:14 AM

omfg, i am SO JEALOUS! that looks AMAZING!

Posted by: Natballs | February 01, 2010 at 08:46 AM

That bed is to die for! I want to go to there! Right now!

Posted by: Miss Britt | February 01, 2010 at 09:17 AM

Yeah, it looks REAL crowded. Like you really had to use some elbow

to find a spot for your lounge chair. WOW - That place looks truly amazing. Glad you are having such a great time.

Posted by: Mary Lehrman | February 01, 2010 at 09:52 AM

No, really, I'm REALLY happy for you and I'm glad you got a getaway in Jamaica and all. No, REALLY. Not jellus at all. Ahem... really.
:)

Posted by: Katie Kat | February 01, 2010 at 10:09 AM

Ok Amy, after dealing with the snow and the ice and all that crap the past few days, I have to say I'm starting to hate you just a teensy bit. But mostly I just wish I was there. That bead is dreamy! Enjoy it for those of us in the cold!

Posted by: Brandi | February 01, 2010 at 10:56 AM

I think the Bluefields folks made a VERY wise decision inviting you and your NOMable family there - I have already forwarded the website to DH with a note "when you finish grad school and get your new fancy pants job and signing bonus, we are going HERE" - and for me to want to go somewhere other than Kauai it has to be pretty damn spectacular. I have already starting researching flights from Denver...

I've heard that baby powder is effective at getting sand out of toddler (and adult) parts. Carry on with your amazing vacation (have you used the nannies yet?)

Posted by: Susan | February 01, 2010 at 11:16 AM

Beautiful pictures!

Posted by: kellyannecat | February 01, 2010 at 11:32 AM

Beautiful! What fantastic pictures. The one of Ezra laying on the bed is adorable. What a fantastic vacation.

Posted by: jenn | February 01, 2010 at 12:00 PM

Have I mentioned? SO JEALOUS! Oh and I love the rooster guy's comment above. Nice and appropriate.

Posted by: Sarahd | February 01, 2010 at 12:17 PM

I could NOT BE any more jealous than I am. I want to go to there.

Posted by: Kori | February 01, 2010 at 01:12 PM

Wow, that looks like heaven!!

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | February 01, 2010 at 03:46 PM

I've changed my mind. I do hate you.

Posted by: sheilah | February 01, 2010 at 04:21 PM

Breathtaking! I am DESPERATE to go here now! Wow!
Which villa are you staying in?

They mention being able to do outreach while you stay there on their website. Do you know if you can work in the local orphanage?

Posted by: Lancelot and Lady's Mom | February 01, 2010 at 04:42 PM

Also....is that bed as fluffy and comfy as it looks or is it really rock hard like most hotel/resort beds?

Posted by: Lancelot and Lady's Mom | February 01, 2010 at 04:47 PM

You should refuse to leave the hotel. Just REFUSE TO LEAVE.
x,
Paula
www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | February 01, 2010 at 04:48 PM

Sooooo jelus.

Please show us pictures of the indoor/outdoor shower. Pretty please?
I have a thing for nice bathrooms.

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 01, 2010 at 05:00 PM

PS: ALL the weather in the States sucks right now.

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 01, 2010 at 05:01 PM

Must. Fight. Horrible. Jealousy...
Very cute!

Posted by: Rachael | February 01, 2010 at 05:07 PM

Happy for you and want to cry out of jealousy all at the same time.

Posted by: Jamie | February 01, 2010 at 05:34 PM

Aw, little Ezra's ribs are all stick-outy in that last pic. Don't you feed him?

Posted by: Suzy Q | February 01, 2010 at 05:38 PM

Oh really?
Not jealous at all. Very happy for you.

Posted by: 6512 and growing | February 01, 2010 at 06:16 PM

That bed is gorgeous. Beautiful pictures of the kids, glad you're having so much fun!

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 01, 2010 at 06:35 PM

At first I'd forgotten you were on vacation and I was like "Is that her BED IN HER HOUSE???" and was insanely jealous. Okay I am still insanely jealous. But you work hard and you deserve the break. Longtime reader finally delurking--have a blast with the boys!!

Posted by: Jenny | February 02, 2010 at 12:37 AM

Amy, I'm SO happy you and your little family got to take this amazing trip! It's so regenerative and beautiful to spend a week doing nothing but worrying about where to place your beach towel and how much sand is too much for your little one to have eaten :-)) I also think we all get to live vicariously through your reports and echo the other posters - if I get to Jamaica anytime soon, only Bluefields will do!

Posted by: Sirena | February 02, 2010 at 10:10 AM

Your kids are so beautiful and that Ezra is all 'not quite a baby, not yet a boy'. Gorgeous.

Posted by: Joanne | February 02, 2010 at 11:32 AM

Amy, that photo of Ez under the tree? The one of him on his little knees?

ART. Gorgeous, gorgeous ART.

sigh

Posted by: Cyn | February 02, 2010 at 05:06 PM

The comments to this entry are closed.

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and also probably hamsters, tubes and duct tape

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When It Snows It Blizzards

February 05, 2010

I woke up in the wee small hours of the morning today, just barely awake enough to wonder WHY AM I SO COLD, a thought that semi-occurred to me as I padded off in the general direction of the bathroom, right before I collided with the hard, unyielding edge of my closet door.

Oh. We're back home. The bathroom's a bit more to the right.



We're back home, where it is snowing, where it will apparently be snowing FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES, or at least the rest of the weekend. The villa staff did all of our laundry for us in Jamaica, so our suitcases are full of fresh clean..shorts. T-shirts. Tanks and sundresses. Bathing suits. I am tempted to just zip everything back up, shove it in a closet (I know just the one!) and sort it all out in June.

This weekend I am going to go through the roughly 40,000,000 photos we took and dust off my old expired Flickr account and upload them there, just to spare you the boredom of looking at 25 virtually identical shots of my preschool cavorting in the sand, dozens of sunset pictures, and there was this one day that I got really overly obsessed with getting photos of sand crabs. I have an ungodly number of sand crab photos.

THIS JUST IN: Sand crabs are ugly, kind of creepy.



PUT ME IN A SHELLACKED SEASHELL FRAME! PUT ME ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND! LET ME RUN ACROSS YOUR FACE WHILE YOU



SLEEP!

In the meantime, if you are also stuck in the snow and would like to dream of a warmer climate (or, alternately, if your body temperature is soothed and warmed by feelings of burning hot jealousy), please to enjoy another batch of vacation photos. What? It's not like I invited you over for dinner and then set up the slide projector while you weren't looking. *Oh Irving, remember the sand crabs? Here's a photo of a sand crab. Here's another one. Here's a photo that would have been of a sand crab if the sand crab hadn't run back into his hole right before Mabel snapped the picture. See that dot right there? Yep. That's another fucking sand crab, can you fucking believe it.*



The most private public beach in the world.



Noah, post-beach-post-nap.



Contemplating the Jonas Brothers. Quite seriously, I may add. That Nick one sounds very driven! (NOTE: I have no idea which one is Nick.)

[Girlfriend Beach Getaway](#)

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Oh! So funny story. After contemplating the terrible state of my toenails here, I decided to get a pedicure. And after finishing this beer here, I decided to open another. You know, to sustain me through the terrible ordeal of a spa treatment. Except that instead of the bottlecap coming off, the entire lip of the bottle went with it. And I stood there for a minute, contemplating this hunk of jagged glass attached to the bottle opener, when our housekeeper was all, OH HONEY! and pointed out that I had gashed my entire index finger open. Then I was all, huh. She bandaged me up and said something like, TSK! AND THIS IS WHY YOU ASK SOMEONE ELSE TO OPEN BEERS FOR YOU.

Anyway. My finger was fine. I skipped the manicure, though.



On Wednesdays, James makes jerk chicken for everybody. (And a hunk of jerk tofu for any vegetarians.) The cooking demonstration was, for Jason, about the equivalent of a teenager getting hair-styling secrets from the Jonas Brothers. The secret is to smoke it over pimento leaf. You know, FYI, if you were wondering what to do with that pimento tree in your backyard. I know I sure was. Lousy freeloading tropical climate tree.



Yeah. I miss it already. It was really, really nice.

Posted at 02:30 PM in [Travel](#) | [Permalink](#)



Comments

So jealous! So, so jealous!

Posted by: [Jill](#) | February 05, 2010 at 02:34 PM

Snow in Ohio too, Ames. And your pics make me burn with jealousy... over warm weather, Red Stripes... and baby snuggles on a floaty in the pool overlooking the ocean... That one really burns...

Posted by: Jen | February 05, 2010 at 02:35 PM

Oh that last picture killed me dead. DEAD. Send flowers. Or? Jamaican rum.

Posted by: Pammer | February 05, 2010 at 02:37 PM

That last picture is beautiful.
I am so tired of DC and snow! Winter, you can go now!!
You missed a few smaller storms while you were on the island in heaven. Thanks for posting while you were gone and for the lovely pics.

Posted by: Sheila | February 05, 2010 at 02:40 PM

Years ago we had a trip to a deserted island, where my baby fell asleep on me just like that, as I floated in the water. It is one of my all-time favorite memories.

Posted by: Lauren | February 05, 2010 at 02:43 PM

Glad you made it home before SnOMG but don't you kinda wish your vacation was supposed to last a day longer so you could've gotten stuck there??

Posted by: Laura | February 05, 2010 at 02:44 PM

Welcome home! Sorry about your gashed finger though.
And yes, those sand crabs are way too creepy. Why would you take so many pictures of such a creepy creature?

Posted by: Parsing Nonsense | February 05, 2010 at 02:45 PM

Please tell me the sand crab running across your face is a joke, because I think it might be, but I'm also really gullible and now will be haunted by that thought and may never get to Jamaica.

Posted by: Bekki | February 05, 2010 at 02:46 PM

Glo. ri. ous. That last picture is priceless.
And when I read about the jerk chicken, I thought it said to smoke it over pimento IOaf. That sounds.... delicious?

Posted by: all things BD | February 05, 2010 at 02:52 PM

the last photo is stunning. It just makes me happy.

Posted by: Jen | February 05, 2010 at 02:59 PM

I love that last picture. Makes me want to find a pool, any pool, and do some of my own baby-snuggling.

Sounds like a heavenly trip. Good luck with the Snowpocalypse!

Posted by: Stephanie | February 05, 2010 at 02:59 PM

Sounds so so wonderful!

But my jealousy is somehow not keeping the cold, cold winter weather at bay...? Huh.

Posted by: Mrs. D | February 05, 2010 at 03:01 PM

Wow. Just wow.

Posted by: Springsteen fan | February 05, 2010 at 03:06 PM

Jerk Tofu???? OMG I want to GO!!!!

Posted by: Wife to a Vegan | February 05, 2010 at 03:10 PM

Amy Dearest...

Here in the land of 10,000 Lakes and 10 Foot Snow Piles, lives a little 'ol business knowns as Pimento Wood.

Yes, here in the Great White North, you can buy genu-wine Jamaican Pimento Wood for all your jerking needs.

http://www.pimentowood.com/Pimento_Wood/Pimento_Wood.html

(Jerking needs. hahahahaha)

Posted by: Baileyswedishfish | February 05, 2010 at 03:14 PM

That last shot is perfect. :-)

Posted by: Sprite's Keeper | February 05, 2010 at 03:15 PM

That last shot is frame-worthy. How did you get Ezra to lay on you like that? Am JELUS again. I can never get my now 16-month old to do that.

I watched the Weather Channel this morning and thought of you. (no, I'm not obsessed or think that we're BFFs or anything..lol) I was hoping that you were still there, and would have to delay your flight home because of the winter storm! Too bad.

Welcome home! Love the photos (Noah post-nap = ah, sweet).

Posted by: Heather | February 05, 2010 at 03:21 PM

That last picture? Like honey and butter on a warm buttermilk biscuit.

Posted by: Kris | February 05, 2010 at 03:28 PM

Wow- so I went to the site and did some calculations about how much it would cost for us to go (it will take years to save, but whatevs). I'm going to be rude now and ask you how much you tipped everybody and if the nanny put up much of a fight when you tried to jam her into your suitcase.

Posted by: kara | February 05, 2010 at 03:28 PM

Oh, that last photo made me sigh out loud.

Posted by: LPC | February 05, 2010 at 03:31 PM

All of that almost makes me want to go back to Jamaica. Almost. (Our Jamaican experience was only, say, 1/1,000,000 as nice as yours.)

Posted by: Blanche | February 05, 2010 at 03:33 PM

I want to go to there.

I am thinking this place looks perfect for our maiden vacation with our baby. You know, after she is born and stuff. I am sure I never would have found it without your test-driving it for us out here in the Interwebs, so hooray for smart bloggic marketing!

Oh, and incidentally, why does immigration suck so loudly in Jamaica? When we went there a few years ago (to a way less swank resort), I thought we were going to spend the rest of our lives in that freaking line.

Posted by: Lawyerish | February 05, 2010 at 03:52 PM

Holy crap! Could Noah look any taller?

Posted by: becks | February 05, 2010 at 03:57 PM

Everyone keeps saying it, but that last picture is amazing.

Posted by: Chris | February 05, 2010 at 04:03 PM

Even after washing all your vacation clothes, I promise when you open that suitcase in a few weeks (months?) they will still smell of sunscreen and sand and sun. When we got back from Mexico this fall, it was a couple weeks before all my husband's white t-shirts stopped smelling so heavenly. He was thrilled to put a shirt on the

other day (that he had only worn once since our trip) and smell, ever so faintly, that resort scent. So definitely don't unpack...maybe just go in that suitcase every other day and pull out another article of clothing and smell it for a while...

Posted by: Maren | February 05, 2010 at 04:25 PM

I agree with Lawyerish.
I want to go to there.
Or anyplace that resembles there.

Posted by: Diana | February 05, 2010 at 04:31 PM

So.darned.awesome.

Posted by: Marianne | February 05, 2010 at 04:43 PM

omg, i live on florida and i'm STILL jealous.
by the way, this made me laugh so fucking hard:
PUT ME IN A SHELLACKED SEASHELL FRAME! PUT ME ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND! LET ME RUN ACROSS YOUR FACE WHILE YOU SLEEP!

Posted by: Natballs | February 05, 2010 at 04:50 PM

I think I'd like to go there just so I could have that moment in the last picture. With my totally non-cuddly baby who would be much more interested in seeing how much water she could consume.

Posted by: Kati | February 05, 2010 at 05:00 PM

I'd just like to join the chorus on how awesome that last picture is. Actually, this whole little series of posts from your time at Bluefields has been awesome. Thank you for sharing it!!!

Posted by: Annie | February 05, 2010 at 05:16 PM

I just can't get over how much Ezra looks like you! (says the woman whose husband's baby pictures are identical to her son's baby pictures)

Posted by: Kate | February 05, 2010 at 05:21 PM

I am now doubly jealous of you. First the resort, then you come home to snow! And here in NC all i've gotten is rain. I hope you had a great time! And I for one, LOVE the sand crab photo! I would totally put him in frame and put him next to my bed! But maybe that's because i'm a Cancer and the crab is my sign or my all consuming love of all things beachy.

Posted by: Brandi | February 05, 2010 at 05:57 PM

As the White Death currently pummels us here in Ohio, "jealous" doesn't quite do this feeling justice. :) But still, what an awesome vacation. I could do without more sand crabs, though.

Posted by: D. | February 05, 2010 at 06:07 PM

Yep, you called it. Warm with the jellus....

Posted by: Crystal | February 05, 2010 at 06:11 PM

Blue Steel!! Haahaaaa! Too funny. Glad you had a good time! Now you are just going to have to rough it and open your own beer from here on out.

Posted by: Kristin J | February 05, 2010 at 06:22 PM

sigh It looks heavenly there. I would like to go back in time and live vicariously through you please.

Posted by: Erin (Snarke) | February 05, 2010 at 07:15 PM

Wow. Bad timing. The storm is supposed to get really bad. I hope you stocked up for the winter. :P

Posted by: Big Gay Sam | February 05, 2010 at 07:15 PM

Your last picture made me get all teary. So sweet. Blue steal is gorgeous. And Noah, post-nap? Num nummies. I'm incredibly jealous of your trip and actually made a sad sound when I read that you're back. Boo.

Posted by: Julie | February 05, 2010 at 07:57 PM

So glad you guys had a good time!
But at the same time, SO JEALOUS.
Internal conflict, it sucks so much.

Posted by: Bachelor Girl | February 05, 2010 at 08:03 PM

I can't decide which photo is my favorite: Blue Steel (HAHAHA!) or the Baby on Board while floating (Awwwww!).

So glad you had a great getaway. We're supposed to go to Arizona on Sunday at 10 am.

Out of Dulles.

What do you think our chances are??

Posted by: Jenna | February 05, 2010 at 08:10 PM

I am widowed and hope that, one day, I may find another wonderful husband. And I am saving your beautiful Jamaican resort for my honeymoon with my, to date, imaginary husband!! And while I wait for the man to show up, I will be saving up for Bluefields. It looks FABULOUS . . .and all the personal service, wow!

Posted by: Kathi | February 05, 2010 at 08:34 PM

Oh. Oh! Color me JELUS. That last picture is killer, and your babies are SO precious.
Sand crabs, however, are creepy.

Posted by: nonsoccermom | February 05, 2010 at 09:02 PM

Yay. I was thinking about you during our meeting for another evaluation. We have the opportunity for a free one through UNC Chapel Hill. That was a kill joy, no? Nothing like the word Evaluation to snap you back to reality! I just wanted to ask how Noah did, although the pics seem to answer that one for me. FABULOUS! Glad you enjoyed the restful trip and am very anxious to read more.

Posted by: Karen | February 05, 2010 at 09:37 PM

Looks like you had a wonderful trip! :)

Posted by: Heather | February 05, 2010 at 10:22 PM

Loved loved loved the pictures! As for the snow, well, just remember if not for global warming think how much snow there'd be!

Posted by: Starbuck | February 05, 2010 at 10:40 PM

My Jamaica photos are almost as good. Yay, Jamaica!

Posted by: Helen | February 06, 2010 at 06:25 AM

Re-entry must have SUCKED - to leave all that and return to the real world, and the real world with snow, no less.

What if we could live like that all the time? Or even half of the time?

I love the last photo of you and the wee boy.

Posted by: Rebekah | February 06, 2010 at 09:10 AM

Don't comment a lot on here because I am usually chasing around two girls but just wanted you to know that I really enjoyed your vacation with you even though it was through a computer screen!!! I will agree that it burned a little but it was worth it!

Posted by: Stephanie | February 06, 2010 at 09:57 AM

OMMYGODDDDD. That last picture a)is adorable and b)looks like heaven on earth. I may just have to go there and play on a beach with my family alone as well.

Sorry you are back home to snow. It is snowing in New York as well. Boo.

Thanks for the photos.

Sadie at heyMamas

Posted by: Sadie at heyMamas | February 06, 2010 at 10:10 AM

ok..the Blue Steel pic made me laugh SO loud at work..people stood up to stare...HA!!!
Can I just come over and gnaw on his cheeks for a few minutes?..ok, that was weird...

Posted by: linka72 | February 06, 2010 at 10:17 AM

Uhm, Nick is the cute one. DUH!

Posted by: Shana in Texas | February 06, 2010 at 10:33 AM

Jealously aaaaaah, toasty!

Now excuse me while I turn my heater off and weep.

Posted by: charlotte | February 06, 2010 at 10:55 AM

Holy snow batman! I live in your ugly stepsister of a city (Bmore) and we have, what looks like, a ski resort out our front door! And we don't even own a damn sled. Life sucks. ;)

Posted by: AJE | February 06, 2010 at 11:53 AM

I'm pretty sure that bed is the one I've imagined for Edward and Bella on their honeymoon. Yes, I'm a dork.

Posted by: jenny | February 06, 2010 at 02:06 PM

Gorgeous pics. Sleepy Noah and Ezra-lander are too cute for words.

We got Blizzarded here in southcentral PA, so your pics today were a nice break after shoveling. GAH. I think some smut and alcohol are in order for recovery.

Posted by: txtingmrdarcy | February 06, 2010 at 03:27 PM

Oh! That last shot of you and Ezra... THAT is what a vacation should be.

Posted by: jenn | February 06, 2010 at 03:35 PM

Blue Steel just killed me dead with the cuteness!! That boy is just too stinkin' adorable.

Posted by: Amanda Brown | February 06, 2010 at 05:40 PM

I LOOOVE the Blue Steel. It's such a perfect description of that face! Ya know, he's never really been a fan of smiling in pictures. Haha..

Posted by: Becca | February 06, 2010 at 07:08 PM

oh man... i miss it and i wasn't even there.

Posted by: MommyNamedApril | February 06, 2010 at 08:16 PM

OH, that last photo. .. sweetness and jealousy are fighting inside of me but I think sweetness wins.

Posted by: Fairly Odd Mother | February 06, 2010 at 10:34 PM

That last picture? So sweet...

Posted by: Rachel | February 07, 2010 at 03:42 AM

The last photo!!!! I love the last photo!!! That is, like, my ideal heaven right there. Pool, float, baby. The end.

I am soooo warm inside from the JEALOUSY. MMmm, toasty toasty envy.

:~)

Posted by: stacy | February 07, 2010 at 03:54 AM

I was ok right up until that last pic. Pardon me while i go book my trip....

Posted by: MeIV | February 08, 2010 at 10:40 AM

Even at an all-inclusive resort, I'd have a hard time handing a beer to someone and saying "open this for me". But that nanny thing? Someone to take the kids on nature walks and to the pool and read them stories? That sounds like my idea of a vacation!

"Blue Steel" - ha!

Posted by: Elizabeth | February 08, 2010 at 02:36 PM

Checked out the villas online and I am desperately trying to convince my husband that we NEED to take a family vacay there ASAP!!! Love it! Glad you had a great trip!

Posted by: Carol | February 08, 2010 at 03:39 PM

I bet your wishing you'd stayed right where you were or your flight had been canceled. And instead of watching your vacation pictures and being all, "Oh, remember when the sand crab did that, honey?" you're sitting in the dark and freezing your ass off.

Welcome home!!

Posted by: Karen Chatters | February 08, 2010 at 04:29 PM

Yes please, dust off the Flickr account.

We live right below ya'll, in the mountains of NC.

Forecast for Wednesday. BLIZZARD.

I would like to look at your beach photos. And crab photos. Because this winter SUCKS.

Posted by: HMFT | February 08, 2010 at 07:18 PM

Awesome pictures. But before you crack another Irving joke, I should tell you that Irving was my grandpa and yes, he's dead. Way to go.

I also posted pictures of my son on the bed today and I hate to say it, but he might win the centerfold-off. I'm not proud.

Posted by: mrsmouthy | February 08, 2010 at 09:58 PM

I am almost physically ACHING here looking at those photos.

It?

Is cold as fuck in Utah.

:)

Posted by: Lorelee | February 08, 2010 at 11:46 PM

Went to the islands once. I'm such a jerk - because I had a hard time relaxing, cause um, those crabs freaked me the hell out.

x

P

www.adhocmom.com

Posted by: adhocmom | February 10, 2010 at 02:23 PM

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and also probably hamsters, tubes and duct tape