

Sled-dog racing in Jamaica?

'Mush,mon!'

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Zip-line tours, kayaking, mountain biking, water tubing, 4x4 safaris, horseback ride and swim adventures . Caribbean shore excursions are more exciting than ever. What's next?

For Chukka Caribbean Adventures of Jamaica, the answer could be dry-land sled-dog racing.

Chukka formed the Jamaica Dogsled Team and sent a racer to compete in Europe's biggest sled-dog event, the Aviemore Sled Dog Rally in Scotland. Devon Anderson, Chukka's operations manager, placed 27th out of 40 competitors in the four-dog class during the January races. Anderson had trained for six months under the sponsorship of music star Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

'This has turned out to be much more than an opportunity to offer a dynamic new tour at Chukka Caribbean,' said Danny Melville, founder of Chukka Caribbean Adventures. 'It is a chance for Jamaica to once again command the attention of the world in a sport that is traditionally a winter sport.' In 1988, Jamaica's Olympic bobsled team gained global fame and inspired the 1993 movie 'Cool Runnings.'

Chukka co-md Marc Melville told Seatrade Insider he hopes it will be possible to offer cruise lines a sled-dog tour next season. Meanwhile, Chukka is busy preparing for the maiden cruise call to Grand Turk on Feb. 25. Chukka is providing three of the new destination's 21 excursions, a horseback ride and swim, a 4x4 safari and a dune buggy safari.

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