

## Louisiana PASS



Bobsled team photo courtesy of Scott Chernis and The Jamaican Bobsleigh Federations.

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[What is bobsledding?](#)

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### An Unlikely Competitor

Jamaica's best export is said to be music, specifically reggae. A great example of this is Bob Marley, whose music is known by the entire world. However, Jamaica has many other things to offer, which shouldn't be surprising because of its awesome diversity. Jamaica's unique population draws from a mix of different cultural backgrounds, including people of African, Spanish, and English descent.

Sports play an important role in Jamaican culture, and Jamaicans boast a very successful history in track and field at the Summer Olympics. However, Jamaica's most famous showing at the Olympics came in the 1988 Winter Games in Calgary, when Jamaica introduced its national bobsledding team to the world. The Jamaican bobsled team was especially noteworthy since Jamaica is an island that has no snow!

Although the team finished in last place, Jamaica's bobsledders became the stars of the Olympics and the world's most famous bobsled team. In fact, their story inspired the 1993 Disney movie, "Cool Runnings." Since that time, the Jamaican bobsled team has also shown how a little bit of practice can go along way. Thirteen years after their last place showing in Calgary, they won first place in the two-man event at the 2001 World Push Championships!

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