A weekend trip for many Jamaicans is a novelty in these harsh economic times, however taking the time out to at least go to the park or even take a ride out to some unfamiliar areas could do wonders to the human mind and spirit. My trip to YS Falls in St. Elizabeth two weekends ago did just that.

Travelling from Kingston to St Elizabeth is not an easy and quick feat; it takes hours of driving and, if you are not sure where you are going, countless direction requests from residents of different communities on the way to eventually find your destination.

The distance between YS Falls and Kingston is over 120 kilometers by road and takes you through the parishes of Kingston and St Andrew, St Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester and finally St Elizabeth. We travelled on the toll road most of the way and though I am not a fan of these roads due to the lack of any interesting scenery I do appreciate the fact that they can sometimes cut travel time by as much as 75%.

The travel through St Catherine and Clarendon was in most part uneventful except for a stop we made at a Juici patty outlet in Clarendon. While we were at the outlet a bus of army trainees came to have lunch at the restaurant. The trainees were mostly dressed in sportswear but a few were wearing army fatigues and, surprisingly, had assault rifles at hand in the restaurant. The Juci Beef restaurant was the main restaurant on the island, located right at the factory for the patties, ence it had a lot of customers including foreigners of all different nationality. Most may not be familiar with military personnel walking about inside a restaurant with weapons while not on an operation. We found the act a bit unsettling and I am guessing that it made many people feel uncomfortable as well.

Once we left the the Juci Patty restaurant we continued on our Journey to St Elizabeth, the only further stop we made was at a stall where a woman was selling mangoes. After being unable to come to a deal with her for mangoes ranging from 100 dollars for one to 3 for 500 dollars, we continued on our way.

**<Pic of Holland Bamboo><”Holland Bamboo Avenue In St Elizabeth”>**

The only problem we encountered on the way to YS Falls was... well we got lost. We had printed a copy of google maps and was using it as directions. I had nokia maps on my phone but with poor GPS reception I had to use landmarks to figure out exactly where on the map we were. The head of the expedition however misjudged the map’s coordinates causing us to drive more than 10 minutes past the entrance to the road leading to YS Falls. It was not until we stopped at a gas station in Middle Quarters and ask for direction did we realise our error.

Once we reach the entrance to the road leading to the Falls we noticed that a sign pointing in the direction of the falls was there, however it is very difficult to see from the road, bad sign placement in my opinion.