

FREE!

History . Heritage . Culture.



The charm of the Town of St. George is easily seen as you walk along the narrow streets and alleys among buildings which date from the 1700s and 1800s - it is hard to find a location more authentic and well preserved in the New World.

Known by mariners as the "Isle of the Devils", Bermuda became inhabited after an English ship, the Sea Venture, shipwrecked on the reefs off the east end in 1609. Remarkably, the ship's company survived and all but two eventually continued to their original destination of James Fort in Virginia.

This shipwreck led to the arrival in 1612 of the Plough, with Bermuda's first intended settlers establishing what is now the oldest continuously occupied town of English origin on this side of the Atlantic. Its street plan remains intact, and today's residents follow the same paths from their homes to the market, church and waterfront as townspeople followed centuries ago. Named after the dragon-slaying patron saint of England, the town was the island's capital for more than 200 years, and evidence of its remarkable history abounds. The town's history is visible in its picturesque cottages, quaint lanes and alleyways, and its wealth of military, civic and religious architecture which attracts visitors from all over the world.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Historic Town of St. George and its Related Fortifications being designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). This puts the town on a list of 952 cultural sites which includes the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Wall of China and the pyramids of Egypt.

Since its founding St. George's has changed with the times, thriving during times of prosperity, and becoming quiet and sleepy when its fortunes waned. From a frontier town to commercial centre, international trade post and military outpost to a cruise ship port, St. George's has played many roles over the centuries.

Thanks to early preservation of historically significant buildings in the 1930s, the historic character and charm of St. George's has been maintained and there is little modernization. The town has avoided redevelopment and gentrification, and protections are in place which recognize its architectural importance. Many organisations work together to balance the economic development of St. George's with stewardship of its unique physical heritage, and there is a commitment to a preservation ethic from the town's stakeholders and residents.

The ethos of the Town of St. George is more than the physical structures within its borders – the continuity of families owning homes and operating established businesses lends to the intangible sense of place felt by visitors, and today there is a balance of the new existing with the old, and respect for the past while looking to the future.



Greeting from the Mayor of the Town of St. George



Message from the Mayor of St. George

As Mayor of the Town of St. George, it is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Council of the Corporation of St. George's, to extend a heartfelt welcome to Bermuda and our beloved Town of St. George – a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its rich history and vibrant culture.

Our Town stands as a living museum, with centuries-old buildings, storied monuments, and formidable fortifications that tell the tale of Bermuda's past. Since being designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, St. George's has proudly preserved its universal value as a beacon of history and heritage.

I encourage you to wander through our picturesque streets, from the quaint cobblestone lanes to the charming alleys, where you'll often meet our warm and welcoming residents. Their friendly smiles reflect the heart of St. George's and the true spirit of Bermudian hospitality.

Be sure to visit Ordnance Island, where Sir George Somers greets you with open arms. His statue, framed by the colorful flags celebrating the diverse heritage of our people, symbolizes the Town's spirit of unity and revitalization. With ongoing improvements and new attractions, St. George's is steadily evolving while holding true to its historic charm – each visit is a new experience!

Summer in St. George's offers endless ways to unwind and recharge. Immerse yourself in the sparkling waters of our East End beaches, feel the warmth of the sun on your skin, and enjoy the soft sands beneath your feet. Take the time to savour delicious dishes at our wonderful eateries, designed to delight every palate. While you're here, don't miss the opportunity to explore our distinctive specialty shops and boutiques, where you'll find treasures unique to Bermuda.

St. George's is a place where time seems to slow down, inviting you to embrace the unhurried pace of island life. With free Wi-Fi available in the Town, share your unforgettable experiences with loved ones back home and encourage them to discover this gem for themselves.

Bermuda is unlike any other destination, and within Bermuda, there truly is no place like St. George's. So, take your time, soak up the history and beauty, and we hope to welcome you back time and again.

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Faces of St. George's

Dennie O'Connor



Years ago veteran hospitality businessman Dennie O'Connor saw the untapped potential in the Town of St. George and is today the owner and operator of two well-known St. George's businesses – The White Horse Pub & Restaurant and Tobacco Bay Beach Club.

As a young man he was attracted to the hospitality business and aspired to work at Bermuda's largest hotel, the Fairmont Southampton. He achieved this dream, spending 12 years at the hotel and worked his way up to Director of Beverage, earning multiple awards on the way. He then became the owner and operator of the popular Cellar Club Lounge at the west end resort for five years, a time he remembers fondly.

A determined work ethic was learnt from his late mother, Sheila Wolfe O'Connor, an entrepreneur who ran her own Towncraft cookware business and gave unconditional support to all her son's ventures. Mr. O'Connor's father Eugene O'Connor is the published author of *The Art of Kite Making* and is recognized as a tradition-bearer in the unique craft of creating traditional Bermuda kites, a skill he has honed over 76 years. Growing up on the north shore of Pembroke, Mr. O'Connor attended West Pembroke Primary School and graduated from Berkeley Institute. His parents were fairly strict, and hobbies were limited, with an emphasis on Sunday School and participating in the church choir.

Over the past two decades, as well as operating the Cellar Club Lounge, he was assistant general manager at Tucker's Point Residence Club Golf Villas; general manager of Tucker's Point Harbour Court Residence Club; director of food and beverage at Grotto Bay Beach Resort and Spa and opened the Cosmopolitan Ultra Lounge and Nightclub on Front Street, Hamilton. His dedication to hospitality in Bermuda has been recognized by awards from established brands in the tourism industry including Trip Advisor, the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation, the Bermuda Tourism Authority and, locally, the Corporation of St. George. In 2019 Mr. O'Connor was named International Certified Tourism Ambassador of the Year by the Tourism Ambassador Institute and was the first recipient of the award from outside the United States.

Mr. O'Connor took over operations of the iconic White Horse Pub & Restaurant in early 2021, breathing new life into the historic tavern and updating the overall aesthetic and vibe. He says "The location is ideal, being right next to King's Square and on the waterfront. We aim to make everyone's dining experience just that – an experience."

The establishment was opened by William Frith almost a century ago as a bar and hotel and the premises were renovated in the 1960's and 1980's. Mr. O'Connor says running a restaurant in a historic building comes with its challenges, and explained "Preservation regulations and restrictions limit renovations, making it challenging to update the infrastructure to modern standards without compromising the building's historical integrity. Additionally, maintenance costs for older structures can be higher, requiring careful management to preserve the building's unique charm while ensuring it remains functional and appealing to customers."

The father of three also operates Tobacco Bay Beach Club, Snorkel Park Beach Club in Dockyard and the restaurants at the new L.F. Wade International Airport. With so many demands on his time, he credits his young family as his inspiration for success.

"My beautiful wife and family motivate me to keep breaking boundaries. Having them, and the desire to make a positive impact on Bermuda's economy and the local community. I'm passionate about entrepreneurship and enjoy the challenge of growing successful businesses. Knowing that my ventures contribute to the growth of Bermuda's tourism sector and provide employment opportunities for locals keeps me inspired and eager to face each day with enthusiasm and determination."

Faces of St. George's

Mike Jarvis



When Mike Jarvis first arrived in St. George's as an archaeology research student in 1991, he was charmed by the quiet and virtually unchanged 19th century town. Today a PhD Professor of History at the University of Rochester School of Arts and Sciences, he readily admits he has St. George's and Bermuda to thank for his academic and writing career.

He grew up in the countryside of eastern Pennsylvania and a fascination with history was guaranteed as his father was a history teacher. When Dr. Jarvis was a child, his father taught summer school in Europe, so at a young age he visited European castles and formed a love of early history – the older the better. Then when he was 12 his parents took him to see the movie Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark - the die was set, he knew what he wanted to do with his life and never wavered.

Dr. Jarvis studied at Rutgers University and went to graduate school at William & Mary where he discovered a new generation of social historians who were studying women, African Americans and communities. This led him to combine history and archaeology to search for a fuller picture of the past, and he is today an archaeologist with a PhD, committed to a fully democratic and holistic past. He says, "I learned at a young age from anthropologist James Deetz that archaeology reveals all the people who are left out of historic records, the other 99%, so it is a democratic science."

"Computers and databases help us keep track of huge data sets, which is immensely important. To understand how rich the richest are you must understand how poor the poorest are and what the proportions are."

When he was 22 and studying at William & Mary, his mentor Dr. Marley Brown came into class one day and said they were doing a dig in St. George's for the Bermuda National Trust, unpaid, and Dr. Jarvis jumped at the opportunity. He says he didn't know where Bermuda was and thought it was in the Caribbean. The dig took place at Stewart Hall, an 18th century merchant site, which led him to realize Bermuda was very international and more affluent than American archaeological sites. "We saw French, Spanish and Dutch material, so clearly, he was smuggling, a merchant in a place breaking all the rules, which was very untypical of colonies. I wondered if there was a new social history community study of Bermuda, but after visiting the archives found nothing had been written. Bermuda's records start in 1615, and all the archaeological sites are here, so I knew I had hit the dissertation jackpot. Here was a whole colony no one had studied using modern methods."

"The early Bermudians were very religious and then there is a shift to trading and smuggling; there is a shift from a Godly community to a very worldly, material community. That was the essence of my dissertation, from the 17th century agricultural puritan to the 18th century maritime Atlantic globe trotter. This was a profound change and economic shift which transformed every aspect of Bermudian life and culture, and you can see it in the ground."

Dr. Jarvis says Bermuda has wonderful and well preserved early 17th century records on the island, plus later 17th century volumes in the National Archives in London.

"Hurricanes, invasion and neglect have destroyed most British Caribbean islands' records. They have good records in London, but this means only a top down, imperial level of understanding is possible, versus an understanding of individual households and individual families which you get in Bermuda."

In 1997 The Bermuda National Trust hired Dr. Jarvis to research and write a book on St George's for the Bermuda's Architectural Heritage series, now being revised on the 25th anniversary of its first publication.

"The research was done with Margie Lloyd and involved meeting homeowners and looking at original deeds and studying the individual houses in St. George's – I thought a lot about their stunning unbroken continuity," says Dr. Jarvis.

"One home had never had a deed - from 1690 to the present it had passed through wills, from father to son and mother to daughter across 12 or 14 generations. For over 300 years the same family was living in the same house. For an American, where everyone is always on the move, the continuity was mind-blowing."

As a historian Dr. Jarvis has written *In the Eye of All Trade: Bermuda, Bermudians, and the Maritime Atlantic World, 1680-1783* and *Isle of Devils, Isle of Saints: An Atlantic History of Bermuda, 1609-1884*. As an archaeologist, Dr. Jarvis returns to Bermuda most summers to lead the Smith's Island Archaeology Project, bringing a new generation of research students to dig in St. George's.

Smith's Island Archaeology Project

In the summer of 1991, on a day off from an archaeology dig in St. George's, three American research students borrowed a boat and visited Smith's Island in St. George's Harbour to have a look at the island where three shipwreck survivors lived from November 1610 to July 1612. Fast forward to 2010 and one of the students, Mike Jarvis, returned to the island and began the Smith's Island Archaeology Project. Dr. Jarvis says he always had the site on his radar after his first visit, and after getting tenure at the University of Rochester he returned to Bermuda as an archaeologist, having spent the time in between as a historian.

Dr. Jarvis realized Smith's Island offered an exceptionally well-preserved assemblage of sites to research Bermuda's early agricultural and maritime past and understand how Bermuda's first settlers adapted to life in a new colony, the nature of the island's now entirely lost early timber-frame architecture, and aspects of enslaved Bermudians' undocumented and deliberately hidden activities.

The project began with a small team conducting focused documentary research in the Bermuda

Archives to reveal Smith's Island's succession of residents, and an intensive survey of the Parks portion of Smith's Island.

The project's focus is on exploring four centuries of Bermudian history through targeted excavations on an island first inhabited by three sailors who chose to stay behind when the *Patience* sailed for England in 1610. The first permanent settlers arrived on the Plough in July 1612 and chose Smith's Island as their original settlement for a few months before moving to the mainland where the Town of St. George is today.

The Asser, Sharp, and Pitcher families and their slaves farmed throughout the island in the 17th and 18th centuries, and from the 1660s until the 1920s, a whale house and processing station operated on Smith's Island's north shore. A fine Georgian mansion, built by Dr. George Forbes as a country house and family retreat in 1786, existed to the west of the whale house, and the island was used to house passengers infected with smallpox who had arrived by ship.

"I wanted the island to tell me all the stories it could about everyone who was here. The story Smallpox Bay tells evolves over time. Most recently from the place where sick people went when they had smallpox, to the 19th century when the army went to the island to flee from yellow fever in St. George's and take shelter and stay healthy," says Dr. Jarvis.

The field schools' focus began with excavating sites on the eastern section of Smith's Island, conducting additional documentary research, and finding and mapping sites across the rest of the island. The excavation work began in 2012, and over time they found 17th-century pottery and postholes and realized there was something else there.

"There were too many postholes for it to be just a house and farm - this was a town, perhaps the first town settled by Governor Richard Moore, so we are now digging on a much bigger scale," explains Dr. Jarvis.

"I was looking for the house that is on the Norwood Map in 1663 which tells us the story of the people here in the 17th-century and was looking for the three sailors left on the island from 1610 to 1612. Now we are looking for the first town established in 1612 before it moved to the main island where it is today."

You can follow the developments of the Smith's Island Archaeology Project online at www.SmithsIslandArchaeology.blogspot.com.



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Faces of St. George’s

Erskine Simmons (1933-2024)

For the past 25 years Rev. Dr. Erskine Simmons was an integral part of St. George’s, involved in community organizations and ministering as locum priest at churches of different denominations. He was an educator and pastor who lived by his principals and dedicated his life to service, improving and uplifting Bermuda’s way of life.

Educated at Berkely Institute, Dr. Simmons studied at Queens University in Canada and in London, UK before completing a Doctorate in Education at Harvard University. His career in education spanned 20 years, including time at Berkeley Secondary School, St. George’s Secondary School and Prospect Secondary School for Girls. He served as President of the Bermuda Union of Teachers, the island’s first registered trade union, formed in 1919 by Black Bermudian educators to argue for more institutionalized strength for the education of young Black Bermudians. In the 1960s, Dr. Simmons was a signatory on the document which created the Amalgamated Bermuda Union of Teachers, joining the BUT with the white Teachers Association of Bermuda. This amalgamation brought an end to the segregated roles of the two Unions and provided more economic and social clout to the efforts of both the BUT and TAB.

As a member of the Progressive Group, Dr. Simmons was part of a small organization with the goal of desegregating Bermuda without violence. Some of the group’s members were educated abroad and understood the freedoms which were still being denied to them back home in Bermuda. They organised a theatre boycott, which started in mid June 1959 and gradually gathered steam, leading to the breakdown of institutionalized racism on the island. The Progressive Group members understood the potential for recriminations to themselves and their families, and their identities were kept secret for decades.

Dr. Simmons was raised in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which has a strong history of championing social justice, and in 1964 was a founding member of Bright Temple AME Church. In the US, Dr. Simmons was appointed chaplain of Wilberforce University and adjunct professor at Central State University – two historically Black colleges and universities in Ohio.

On returning to Bermuda in the 1998 Dr. Simmons founded The Caring Place, which involved all the churches in St. George’s and St. David’s, and was president of the East End Ministerial Association. As well as being an active member of the St. George’s Rotary Club, he was the first chairman of The Friends of St. Peter’s Church, a charity formed to support the restoration, preservation and promotion of Bermuda’s first church. His dedication and energy for the task was unwavering as he remained chairman of the charity for 13 years. Under his tenure The Friends achieved remarkable results, starting with the re-installation of the original church clock into the clocktower, restoration of two historic bibles, remediation of graves, restoration of the organ and preservation of memorial plaques inside the church.

Dr Simmons recognized the importance of remembering Bermudians who positively impacted the community and organized the now annual Pilot James Darrell Commemorative Service which brings together Pilot Darrell’s descendants and members of the community to celebrate the remarkable St. Georgian who was the first King’s Pilot and first Black Bermudian to own property.

With his personal touch, civic mindedness and never-dimming fascination of history, Dr Simmons’ legacy as an activist, unionist and pastor has left a positive, lasting imprint on our community.



Image Royal Gazette

Veronica Gordon

In undertaking the transformation of Aunt Nea’s Inn to Hillcrest Boutique Hotel, Veronica Gordon has come full circle and returned to the town she grew up in. The daughter of Bermuda’s first female Premier, The Hon. Dame Pamela Gordon (Banks), and well-known local nightclub owner Ronnie Furbert, spent her youth growing up in St. George’s, before moving to Pembroke in her early teens and eventually settling in Canada where she has lived for the last 13 years.

She is a property developer and a lawyer, called to the Bar in the UK, Bermuda and Canada, who exalts in being back in the historic town. “I have visited many Caribbean islands, and nothing comes even remotely close to what we have here in St. George’s,” she says.

“When I came back to Bermuda, I had no intention of developing a small hotel, but Belcario and Natasha Thomas (of Keller Williams Bermuda) insisted I see the property, and I honestly had an emotional reaction on my first visit.” She says St. George’s business owners were supportive of her renovating the property, and she was particularly touched by a note from Dennie O’Connor, the owner of White Horse Pub & Restaurant and Tobacco Bay Beach House, upon the project’s completion.

Hillcrest dates from the late 1700s and was purchased by John Wright in 1916, who replaced the original wooden verandah with the present concrete one. John Wright’s daughter, Ellen Trew Robinson, converted Hillcrest into a guest house in 1961. More recently the property was renamed Aunt Nea’s Inn and was run as a guest house by various owners, until it was put up for sale and then sat empty for four years.

Ms. Gordon says she didn’t initially expect the renovations to be so extensive; however, by the time the renovation began, the passage of time, the elements, and the trespassers had each done their fair share of damage. “It was like carnage when we started” she says. But with the hard work of a great team, including Barclay Construction, Complete Finishing, and many others, and with support from her mother, her stepfather, her “Aunty Pat” and her children, Hillcrest’s re-design, and renovation is now complete.

The property boasts enticing new features including a saltwater heated pool, gym, treatment room, barrel sauna and hot tub. The décor throughout the property is chic, with calming earth tones and a welcoming vibe. The natural furnishings and mellow lighting reflect a relaxed atmosphere with comfort clearly at the forefront of the property’s design.

There are 14 en-suite guest rooms of different sizes, many with exposed beams and all with improved bathroom layouts and mini fridges. The communal area on the ground floor opens onto a family-style dining courtyard, and the backyard features a large and well-appointed entertainment centre. Next to the pool is a bar and a lounge area with a firepit, outdoor seating and an outdoor dining area. The master suite on the upper floor has a Chef’s kitchen and living room which open onto the verandah providing views of the property and of the St. George’s Harbour.

As a mother of three, Ethan 23, Elan 19, and Elijah 18, Ms. Gordon is continually on the go. She says she gets her drive, grit, and tenacity from the women in her family. Her grandfather is Dr. E.F. Gordon, who championed the cause of Bermudian workers and fought tirelessly for equal rights for Black Bermudians, laying the groundwork for much of the political and social change that came about on the island in the 1950s and 1960s.

When Ms. Gordon’s mother sent her a photograph of her grandfather, together with Trew Robinson, past owner of Hillcrest, taking part in a Bermuda Workers Association demonstration in the late 1940s – she leaned into the theory that it must have been fate which led to her involvement with the historic St. George’s property.

The renovation began in August 2023, and the boutique hotel should be ready to open under its new management in the spring of 2025. As for Ms. Gordon, she’s looking forward to moving on to her next development project. For more information on Hillcrest, visit HillcrestBermuda.com.



Archaeology in St. George's

World Heritage Archaeology: Unveiling the Past

As the oldest continually inhabited English-speaking town in the New World, St. George's offers a unique glimpse into Bermuda's past and that of our wider world. Its roads and alleyways trace the paths of the first settlers, linking homes to the waterfront and church. Today, residents may unearth fragments of history, such as crockery or coins, while gardening or working on their homes. However, it's crucial to leave such artefacts undisturbed. Preserving artefacts in situ ensures they can be studied in their original context, safeguarding their historical and cultural value for future generations.

Archaeological research is the best way to ensure we preserve the past for the benefit of all humanity, and especially the people of Bermuda, to whom the Outstanding Universal Value of our UNESCO World Heritage Site belongs. Scientific excavations methodically uncover layers of history, revealing insights about past lives and cultures. These digs, combined with rigorous analysis and detailed reporting, allow findings to be shared widely and meaningfully. Artefacts left untouched for future archaeologists may hold invaluable clues about those who lived in or passed through St. George's centuries ago.

Archaeology's goal is to preserve the past "by record," reconstruct lives, show cultural evolution, and connect people to their collective history. St. George's has been the focus of numerous archaeological projects over the past 40 years, led by the Bermuda National Trust (BNT) and the National Museum of Bermuda (NMB). These organizations have conducted significant research on land and underwater, often in collaboration with overseas universities. Their work in St. George's Parish has included digs at historic properties, forts, shipwrecks, and cemeteries, illuminating Bermuda's World Heritage Site.

Tucker House



Tucker House Museum, a Bermuda National Trust property in the heart of St. George's, offers a fascinating glimpse into 18th-century Bermudian life. Currently closed to the public in 2025 for conservation and restoration of the Grade 1 listed building, the museum is also being reimagined to enhance its role as a historic house museum.

Built in the 1750s, Tucker House became home to the influential Tucker family in 1775 and, a century later during the Civil War, provided refuge to Joseph Hayne Rainey, the first African-American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. The house reveals compelling stories of both free and enslaved individuals during transformative periods in Bermuda's history.

Tucker House was also the first domestic site excavated in Bermuda. Archaeological work by BNT began in 1973 and expanded in 1988 and 1997, in partnership with NMB and the College of William and Mary. The excavations unearthed a wealth of artefacts, including fine ceramics from England and Europe, indicating the family's affluence. The existence of matched sets and high-quality wares reflected their economic success, which was partly reliant on the exploitation of enslaved Bermudians.

Notably, comparisons with Williamsburg's artefacts from the same period highlight Bermuda's strategic advantage as a trading hub. For example, English bone china, found at Tucker House during the Tucker family's residency, only appeared in Williamsburg after 1830. This delay likely reflects the strained trade relations between Britain and the American colonies during the Revolution.

Stewart Hall

Stewart Hall, another BNT property and 18th-century merchant's home in St. George's that is now home to the Bermuda Perfumery, stands as a testament to the island's rich maritime and cultural heritage.

Excavations at Stewart Hall in 1990 and 1991 offered glimpses into the lives of both its wealthy owners and the enslaved individuals who lived and worked there. Buttons, pins, and beads have been re-examined to explore enslaved peoples' cultural, religious, and economic practices, challenging gaps in written history.

Digging through the 18th-century merchant house material revealed earlier agricultural layers, and a surprise discovery of human remains brought the past into stark focus. Dr. Michael Jarvis, a research student on his first field trip (who has now conducted 35 years of work in St. George's), recalls uncovering a skeleton buried without a coffin, wrapped in a shroud. Analysis revealed the remains belonged to a woman aged 25–40, buried outside consecrated ground, with her head facing west—an unusual orientation. Her reburial in St. Peter's Church graveyard offers dignity to her story, though many questions remain about her life and death.



St. Peter's Church



St. Peter's Church, Their Majesties Chappell, has been a spiritual and cultural cornerstone of St. George's since the early 17th century. Excavations conducted in partnership with Boston University from 2008 uncovered fascinating details, including two sets of human remains. The remains were found beneath the church floor since the church was extended over areas of the graveyard as the Town of St. George evolved, leaving subterranean chambers.

One skeleton belonged to Governor George James Bruere, who served Bermuda during the American Revolutionary War and the infamous gunpowder plot, where stolen gunpowder was used against British forces in the U.S. Bruere's burial under the church floor, without a memorial, remains a mystery. His remains were reinterred in the churchyard in 2009, and a plaque now marks his tomb.

The second set of remains belonged to Sir Jacob Wheate, a Royal Navy captain during the Revolution. These discoveries underscore St. Peter's historical significance and its enduring connection to pivotal moments in Bermuda's and America's shared history.

The Globe Archaeology Lab

The Bermuda National Trust (BNT) is transforming the historic cellar of the Globe Museum into a state-of-the-art archaeological laboratory. This initiative will provide a dedicated space for archaeologists, students, and volunteers to analyse finds from excavations across Bermuda, particularly within the UNESCO-listed World Heritage Site in St. George's.

The Globe's cellar, with its multiple rooms, is historically significant. Research in the lab will explore the history of the Globe itself, including its legacy as a site of enslavement. This work builds on over 40 years of archaeological research conducted by BNT and its partners, helping to fill critical gaps in Bermuda's history. The lab also supports the next generation of Bermudian archaeologists, historians, and curators.

BNT is prioritising the conservation and restoration of the cellar. Plans include installing historically appropriate windows, preserving limestone walls to maintain the four-storey building's integrity, and upgrading lighting, climate control, and furniture to create a professional research space.

The new lab will enhance the preservation and study of archaeological collections. Specialised housing, archival-grade shelving, and storage materials will prevent deterioration. New equipment will improve the handling, recording, and curation of artefacts, supporting research and interpretation of Bermuda's heritage.

The project has been made possible in part by a UNESCO grant from the Corporation of St. George, which has funded collections management supplies, archival storage, and key archaeological tools. Additionally, BNT's volunteer Archaeological Research Committee and the Smith's Island Archaeology Project team, led by Dr. Michael Jarvis, have been invaluable in planning and developing the lab.

The Globe Archaeology Lab will offer visitors, locals, and Bermuda's students a chance to witness history being uncovered. This initiative strengthens BNT's commitment to preserving and sharing Bermuda's rich past, ensuring future generations can learn from its archaeological heritage.



Restaurants in St. George’s

Wahoos Bistro & Patio

Wahoo’s Bistro & Patio is centrally located in the heart of the historic Town of St. George and boasts panoramic views of the harbour. Executive Chef Alfred takes great pride in preparing Bermuda cuisine and is well known for using only the best products that Bermuda’s waters have to offer. Their wide-ranging menu is guaranteed to satisfy any picky eater and includes locally caught fish items such as wahoo nuggets, rockfish Picasso and their award-winning fish chowder, plus ever-changing specials from the blackboard. They offer full bar service with specialty drinks, liqueurs, and coffees. Ask Geza about his daily special coffee creation. The waterfront location is a perfect spot to enjoy both indoor and patio dining, so bring the family for a nice relaxing meal or come for a romantic dinner overlooking the moonlit harbour. Good food, great prices in a friendly and casual atmosphere.
36 Water Street.
Telephone 297 1307 or visit Wahoos.bm.



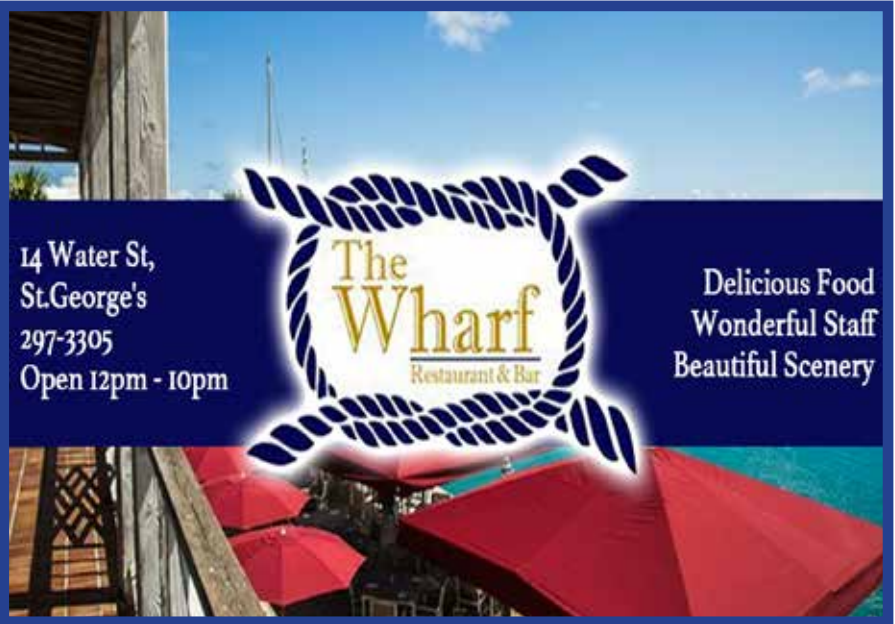
White Horse Pub & Restaurant

The White Horse is a landmark waterfront pub which opened in 1930 in Esten House, a building which dates from the 1700’s. Today the menu and furnishings have been updated, but the historic charm remains. On the menu you will find classic pub favourites such as fish and chips, burgers, pizzas and nachos, plus entrees such as blackened wahoo, ribeye steak and the popular lobsicles – lobster tail skewers. The bar area is a magnet for sports fans who come to watch their favourite teams and athletes; this is where the expert bartenders serve up Rum swizzle, margaritas, martinis and daiquiris, along with beers, wine and soft drinks. Music lovers can take advantage of the live entertainment which includes DJ’s and bands performing on a floating stage in front of the pub. The ambient mood lighting, comfortable waterside seating and friendly staff make the White Horse Pub & Restaurant a first choice with locals and visitors.
8 King’s Square.
Telephone 297 4490 or visit WhiteHorseBermuda.com.



The Wharf

The Wharf is perfectly situated on the waterfront at Somers Wharf in one of the most picturesque locations in St. George’s. The extensive menu boasts an enticing variety of choices with a dish to please every palate. The casual fare includes pizza, burgers and fries, sandwiches and wraps. Or take advantage of the outstanding variety of fresh Bermuda fish which is delivered daily, including Bermuda lobster and guinea chick in season. Try the herb roasted rack of lamb, filet mignon, jerk chicken, a pasta dish or one of the vegetarian options. The sushi bar serves classic and unique dishes including soups, salads, sashimi and nigiri, rolls and a popular selection of Wharf special rolls. At the bar choose from a selection of draft and bottled beer, sake and Japanese beer, an array of wines and spirits, frozen drinks and a collection of non-alcoholic refreshments. Open every day except Christmas.
14 Water Street, Somers Wharf.
Telephone 297 3305 or visit Wharf.bm.



East End Dining Options

- The Three Kings
- The Food Hub
- Yo Cherry Frozen Treats & Bakery
- Double Dip Xpress Ice Cream Parlour & Deli
- Pizza House
- Swizzle Inn Pub
- Café Ole
- Bailey’s Ice Cream Parlour

Restaurants in St. George's

Munchies by the Sea

Slightly east of St. George's Town Square overlooking the harbour, you'll find Munchies by the Sea, a fun, unique, eclectically designed water side eatery featuring authentic Bermudian food, delicious juices and the official home of Richard's all beef Jonny Dog. Owned and operated by St. George's native Richard Cain Burchall and his wife DeVeene, the restaurant is family and pet friendly with wheelchair access through the main entrance and parking available right outside. Look for a menu of classic Bermudian cuisine, including fish sandwiches and fish nuggets, shepherds pie, macaroni and cheese, peas and rice, and chicken, plus lobster specials in season. 50 Water Street East. Phone 261 5641.



The Three Kings

Experience five unique dining spaces in the heart of St. George's Town Square and indulge in international dishes and signature wines or infused cocktails. The diverse menu at The Three Kings offers noodles, pizza, pasta, curries, steaks and shanks, plus sandwiches and burgers at lunchtime, served in a warm ambience provided by the Asian-themed décor with natural materials and colours. Patio dining is available with unparalleled views of King's Square and St. George's Harbour. 3 Water Street. Phone 543 9907.

Somers Supermart

Residents of the Town of St. George rely on Somers Supermart, a family run supermarket specializing in fresh and specialty foods. Come in and sample their selection of prepared buffet foods, made daily in their on-site kitchen. The chefs focus on fresh Bermudian cuisine and serve up salads, comfort food and a changing menu of Indian curries, West Indian jerk dishes and Asian cuisine. The delicious breads, cakes and pies are freshly baked daily and delivered from their Hamilton bakery. 41 Duke of York Street. Phone 297 1177.



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Cafés and Boutiques in St. George's

East End Café Society



Temptations Café

Temptations Café moved into the old St. George's railway station at the entrance of the town and now has an outside patio with views of the harbour. The new location means an expanded breakfast menu with omelets, pancakes and breakfast bagels plus a range of freshly made salads, soups, sandwiches and baked goods
18 Wellington Street. Phone 297 1368.
Instagram @temptationscafebda.
Open Tuesday to Saturday, 8 am to 3 pm, Sunday, 8 am to 2 pm.



Tobacco Bay Beach House

Tobacco Bay Beach House sits above a sheltered cove nestled in the rocky shoreline of St. George's and provides everything you need for the ultimate day at the beach. You can relax and spend your time on a lounge chair under an umbrella and order beachside drink and food service or get busy and try your hand at water volleyball, play pool with your feet in the water, go kayaking or snorkeling. However you spend the day at Tobacco Bay, it will be the perfect beach day!
1 Coot Pond Road. Phone 705 2582.

Mama Angie's Coffee Shop

The quaint and cozy Mama Angie's Coffee Shop is a favourite with locals who stop by for the classic Bermudian cuisine served up by Chef Wesley Furbert who makes everything from scratch. Try his western omelette for breakfast or fish sandwich for lunch.
48 Duke of York Street. Phone 297 0959.
Facebook.com/Mama-Angies-Coffee-Shop
Open Monday to Friday 8 am to 2 pm, Saturday 8 am to 11.30 am, closed Sunday.



Wong's Golden Dragon Restaurant

Locals have been known to drive from Somerset to St. George's to enjoy the Asian cuisine at Wong's Golden Dragon. Offering a range of Mandarin and Szechuan specialties, the extensive take-away menu has rice and noodle dishes, egg rolls and dumplings, foo young, Thai curry and pad Thai, plus chow mein and lo mein. Prices are reasonable at this popular Chinese take-away.
13 Duke of York Street. Phone 297 0408.

Frequency Café

Frequency Café is in the charming courtyard of The Arches, next to Long Story Short boutique, with indoor and outdoor seating. Chai, matcha, cappuccinos and lattes, plus paninis, Thai bowls and an eclectic menu are served with a positive vibe.
The Arches, Water Street West.
Instagram @frequencycafe.bda.



Food Hub

No matter what your food craving is, you're sure to find it at Food Hub St. George's. They offer Chinese, Indian, pizza, pasta, burgers, chicken wings and tempting donuts, cookies and baked goods. Plus, you can get any dish delivered to your door when you order online at FoodHub.bm.
3 King's Square. Phone 543 9907.

Unique Boutiques



Surprise! Scrapbook Boutique

Surprise! Scrapbook Boutique is filled with craft supplies that can be used for making greeting cards, party invitations, gift boxes and countless other possibilities. You will find scrapbooking and crafting materials, and an impressive selection of party items — many of which can be customised and personalised, plus a multitude of fun gifts, bright colours and happy face balloons.
39 Duke of York Street. Phone 292 2638.



Dragon's Lair

The Dragon's Lair is stocked with art by islanders and staffed by a creative cross-section of St. Georgians. Prices range from \$3 to \$600, and the range of artwork includes watercolour paintings and prints, paintings in acrylic, highly imaginative recycled trash art, prints of line drawings, photography, crystal and wood pendants, cedar woodwork, jewellery, ornaments, digeridoos and hand-made greeting cards
14 Water Street. Phone 595 6409
DragonsLairBermuda.com.

Boho Couture

This island-vibe boutique features fashion for the free spirited and specializes in free-flowing Italian linen, casual luxe wear and funky gifts – a favourite for the fashionistas.
7 King's Square. Phone 737 4663.
Instagram @boho_couture_bermuda.



Robertson's Drugstore

Alongside all the medicines and toiletries you expect from a pharmacy, you'll find unique gifts, many from Britain. There are beach items, toys, books for all ages, baby essentials and cute clothes, plus natural candle and skincare ranges. Discover many Bermudians' favourite store, serving St. George's for over a century.
24, Duke of York Street. Phone 297 1828.
Instagram @robertsonsdrgstore.



Confections

Founded by lifelong baker Allison Smith, Confections is a boutique gourmet cookie bakery specialising in presenting the traditional Bermuda sugar cookie in distinctive, beautiful packaging. The gift shop sells pink "sand" sprinkles, occasion cookies, home décor items and curated gifts.
Bridge House, 1 Bridge Street.
Phone 505 3434.



Frangipani

Batik sundresses, handmade sandals, vibrant wraps and sarongs, beaded jewellery, cloth bags and sunhats are just a few of the items you will find in this fun boutique named after a fragrant tropical flower, as well as Bermuda-themed gifts featuring local cottages, fish and flowers, plus picture frames, candles and tee shirts.
13 Water Street. Phone 297 1357.

Saltwater Jewellery Design

Saltwater Jewellery is an elegant boutique specializing in one-of-a-kind eye-catching handcrafted jewellery inspired by the beauty of Bermuda's turquoise waters, coral-pink shores and the vibrant hues across the island. The bright, welcoming boutique offers a range of handbags, scarves, artwork and unique pieces by Simply Abstract.
6 Water Street. phone 519 9906.
SaltWaterJewelleryDesigns.com.



More Boutiques to Find...

The English Sports Shop
Seahorse Lampshades
Davison's of Bermuda
The Whistlin' Frog
W.J. Boyles & Sons
Checkmate Vintage Clothes
Churchill's Fine Wine & Cigars
Bermuda National Trust Gift Shop
Things We Love

High Tide Tattoo Studio
East End Variety
Crown & Anchor
Paradise Gift Shop
Needles Etc. The Yarn Shop
Long Story Short
Dreamscape
Salt Spray Soap Co.

Shopping in St. George's

Lili Bermuda



Lili Bermuda is an artistic reflection of Bermuda where each fragrance represents the island's natural beauty: from the pure scent of the wind and fresh salt spray of the ocean to its luscious botanicals such as Bermuda cedarwood, spring freesias and juicy loquats. Every creation is meticulously developed on-island at historic Stewart Hall under the direction of Perfumer Isabelle Ramsay-Brackstone. "Art reflects environment," she says, and Bermuda's authenticity is present in every bottle filled by hand. You can catch Isabelle in the Perfumery early in the morning weighing essential oils and blending them into a fragrance that captures the story of Bermuda.

Plan to include one of the unique experiences at the perfumery during your visit to St. George's. Complimentary tours are held daily at 11am and 3pm, and guests will learn about the techniques of perfume making, and where and how the perfumes are aged. No reservation required. Lili Bermuda offers perfume workshops – an immersive experience where guests create their own signature scent with their consultant perfumer in the charming confines of an 18th merchant's home.

Classic afternoon high tea is served in the elegant gardens by Sweet P on Saturday and Wednesday from 1 to 4 pm, featuring a selection of teas, finger sandwiches and petits fours. To book a perfume workshop or afternoon tea visit LiliBermuda.com.

Lili Bermuda is closed on Sundays and public holidays.

Stewart Hall, 5 Queen Street. Phone 293 0627. LiliBermuda.com



Fashion inspired by island lifestyle



Boho Couture

441 737 4663

Kings Square
Middle unit #7
St Georges Bermuda

international and local wares
✉ bohocouture1@gmail.com
📷 [@boho_couture_bermuda](https://www.instagram.com/boho_couture_bermuda)



Saltwater Jewellery Designs

8 Water Street
St. Georges
Tel- 519-9906

The Bermuda Pendants
THE SOUTH SHORE Collection

www.saltwaterjewellerydesigns.com

St. George’s Attractions

Bermuda National Trust Globe Museum



Nestled in the heart of St. George’s UNESCO World Heritage Site, on the corner of King’s Square, the Globe Museum offers a fascinating journey through Bermuda’s history. Housed in one of the oldest stone buildings within the World Heritage property, this 1700 landmark has witnessed over 300 years of life and transformation in St. George’s.

Originally built as Bermuda’s second Government House, the Globe has served various roles throughout its history. It has been home to generations of Bermudians, including enslaved families, and later operated as a hotel where literary icon Mark Twain dined. Today, it stands as a Bermuda National Trust Museum, preserving and sharing the island’s extraordinary heritage.

Step inside this architectural treasure and discover:

- Bermuda’s Early Settlement: Stories of the island’s first settlers and their challenges.
- Rogues and Runners: A captivating exhibit on Bermuda’s role in the U.S. Civil War.
- Boer War Artifacts: Intricately crafted pieces made by South African prisoners of war.
- Short Films: Engaging visuals about the history of St. George’s and its unique culture.
- Heritage Activities: Family-friendly experiences and access to a library of heritage titles.

After exploring, take a moment to unwind in the Globe’s serene garden, offering stunning views of St. Peter’s Church, or browse the Trustworthy Gift Shop. The shop features Bermuda National Trust merchandise, books, and handcrafted works by local artisans.

Every visit and purchase supports the Bermuda National Trust’s mission to protect and promote Bermuda’s natural and cultural heritage—for everyone, forever.

For opening hours and more information, visit www.bnt.bm or call 236-6483.

1 King’s Square

St. George’s Historical Society Museum



The Mitchell House, with its sprawling layout, offers a fine example of a well-preserved 18th-century house with 19th century additions and offers visitors an opportunity to explore the interior and exterior of an old St. George’s dwelling. The traditional welcoming-arms entranceway, outside water tank, kitchen garden, period furnishings and artwork date from Bermuda’s early years and convey a sense of Bermudian life in the early 1700s. In the basement is the printery, with a replica of a Gutenberg style press and live demonstrations on Wednesday mornings.

Built in the early 1700s, the building is a classic example of early Bermudian vernacular architecture and is home to the St. George’s Historical Society Museum, one of the island’s oldest museums. The house was built by Major Walter Mitchell for his nephew, William Mitchell, a merchant and militia officer, and later became the home of Isabella Archer, a successful free Black tavern owner. Over the centuries the house was used as a school, hotel and tavern.

Mitchell House was almost lost in the early 1900s, but a group of historically minded St. Georgians came together to form the St. George’s Historical Society, purchase the house at auction, restore it and open it to the public.

Admission \$5 adults and \$2 children.

Corner of Featherbed Alley and Duke of Kent Street.

For opening hours and more information please visit SGHSocietyBermuda.org or call 704-8140.

Tucker House Museum

Tucker House Museum is temporarily closed to the public in 2025 for essential conservation and restoration of its Grade 1 listed building. During this time, the museum is being reimagined to enhance its role as a historic house museum, ensuring an even more engaging and enriching experience for future visitors.

While Tucker House is closed, we invite you to explore the nearby Globe Museum and other cultural sites in St. George’s to continue immersing yourself in the area’s fascinating history.

For more information and to learn about the Trust Museums Plan, visit BNT.bm or call 236-6483.

An African Diaspora Heritage Trail Site.

5 Water Street, St. George’s.



Somers’ Garden

Somers’ Garden is a tranquil park on Duke of York Street, featuring paved walking paths, a moongate, seating areas and restrooms. The flora found here is a wonderful cross-section of native and introduced plants, such as endemic cedars and palmettos, along with hibiscus and rose bushes, calabash trees and royal palms.

45 Duke of York Street.

Open daily sunrise to sunset.

St. George's Attractions

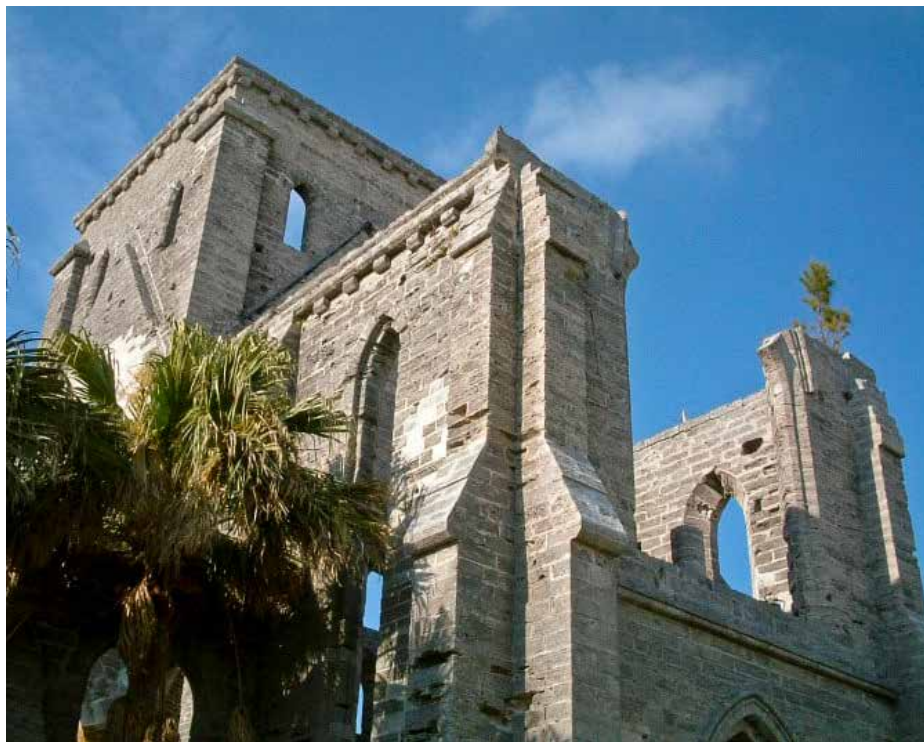
The Unfinished Church

The Unfinished Church is an impressive example of Victorian Gothic architecture built in the late 1800's to replace St. Peter's Church, which was in a state of disrepair. Designed by William Hay, the Scottish-born architect who later drew the plans for Hamilton's cathedral, construction began in 1874 and slowly continued over the next 20 years. Unfortunately, the project was beset by problems from the beginning.

The congregation had become divided along high church (Anglo Catholic) and Low Church (Protestant) lines, and could not agree on designs for the new altar and pulpit. Ultimately this division led to a faction of the congregation building a church nearby, known as the Reformed Episcopal Church, which is currently home to the Salvation Army.

In 1884, the main Anglican church in the City of Hamilton was damaged by fire and funding for the St. George's church was redirected to build the Hamilton cathedral. The new St. George's church was finally roofed in 1897, however sentiment had swung back to historic St. Peter's Church, and the desire for a grand, new church had faded. To seal the new church's fate, a freak tornado took off most of the roof in 1925. Today the interior of the church is closed to the public as weathering has caused structural deterioration, however you may visit the grounds and view the inside through the arches.

Special events and weddings take place inside the Unfinished Church through arrangements with St. Peter's Church, Their Majesties Chappell. Visit StPeters.bm.



St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church, Their Majesties Chappell, was established when Bermuda was settled by the Virginia Company in 1612, and for over 400 years has been the church of the Town of St George. It is a cultural and historic icon, a holy place at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The church was not however, the first house of worship to stand on this site. It replaced a 1612 structure made of wooden posts and palmetto leaves that was destroyed in a storm in 1712. The new stone church was built by the collective effort of the whole town in 1713, and the church wardens compensated the workers with rum punch instead of wages. The original Communion table and altar rails from 1612 and the 1660 cedar pulpit were salvaged from the ruins and are still in use today. The tower and wings were added in the 19th century. The church has a wonderful simplistic ambience with exposed cedar beams in the ceiling, rough wooden pillars and candlelit chandeliers.

The first sitting of Bermuda's General Assembly took place in the church in 1620, making it the third oldest parliament in the world. To mark the 400th anniversary of the Legislature, the island's re-convening of Parliament took place once again in St. George's, with Black Rod, representing the Head of State, leading the elected representatives from St. Peter's Church to King's Square for the reading of the Throne Speech.

In the lead up to this milestone event, The Friends of St. Peter's Church implemented a year-long program of structural upgrading, mainly financed by the UNESCO World Heritage Fund. Improvements included refurbishing and painting the 200-year-old windows and blinds; re-lettering the interior marble memorials; removing, polishing and re-installing the 18th century chandeliers; painting the interior walls; and scrubbing the exterior brick steps and pathways. Thus, the Town's historic church is in good shape for the coming years. Opening hours 11 am to 3 pm, Monday through Saturday. Sunday Service at 11 am, Entry \$2 donation. Visit StPeters.bm.

33 Duke of York Street



The State House



The State House, built in 1620 and restored in 1969, is one of the oldest British stone structures in the New World. It housed Bermuda's first Parliament and Court House and the upper level was the storehouse for the island's gunpowder supply for 150 years. The building's architecture demonstrates its dual role of serving as a government administration building and providing defence - the crosses on the second floor are gunports. During the 1600 and 1700's the State House was a focal point in St. George's, where public punishments took place and the town's residents gathered to commemorate important events.

After the capital moved from the Town of St. George to the City of Hamilton in 1815, the State House was rented to Bermuda's oldest Masonic Lodge for a yearly rent of one peppercorn. Today the rent is paid every April at the Peppercorn Ceremony, with much pomp and circumstance, and is hosted by the Mayor and Councillors of the Corporation of St. George. The Governor, Premier and Cabinet Ministers attend for this state occasion. Outside viewing from King Street.

Ferry Point Park

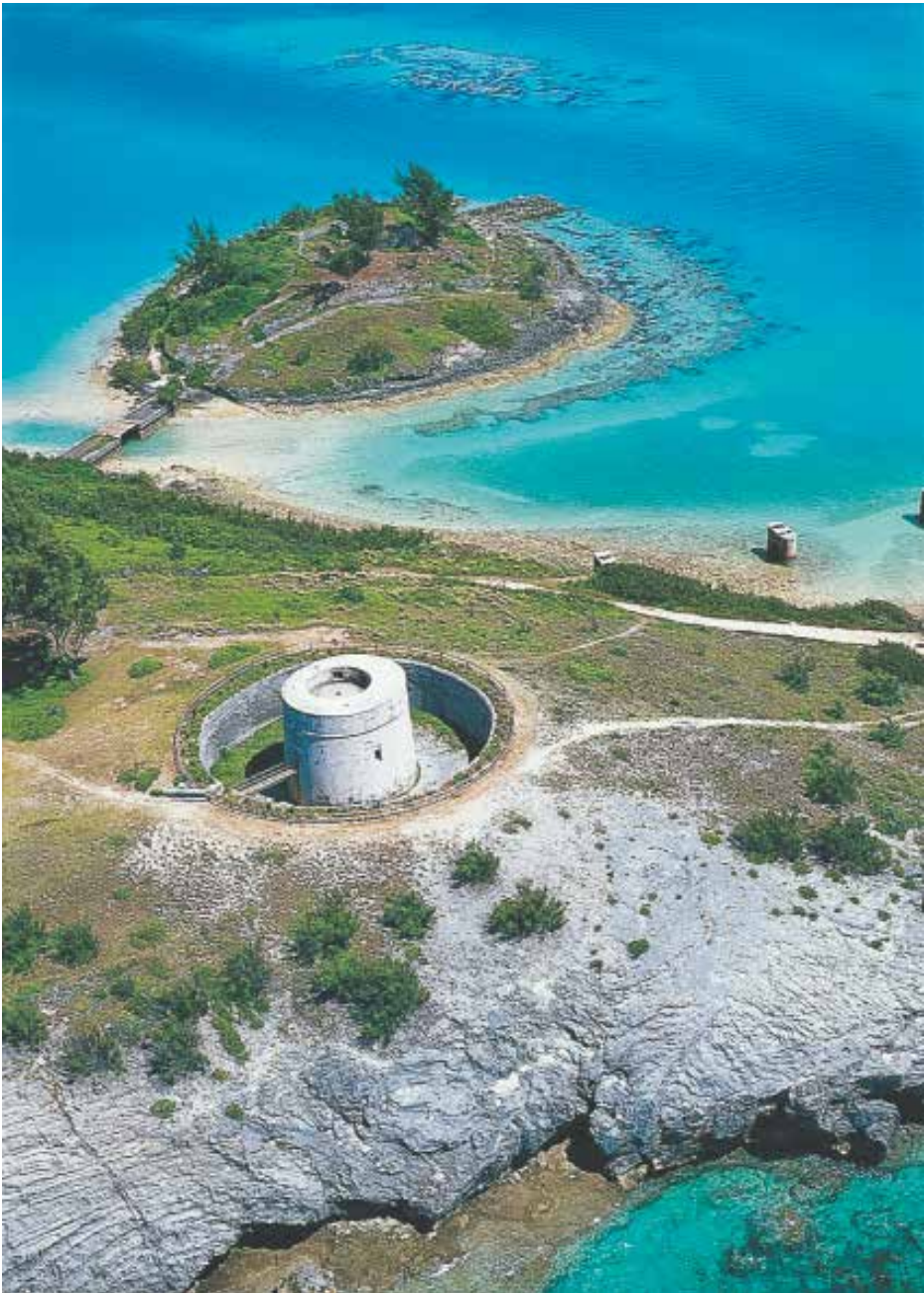
The Railway Trail



The Bermuda Railway operated from 1931 until 1948 and covered 21.8 miles from St. George’s Station, through the City of Hamilton and on to Somerset Station. At an estimated cost of 1 million pounds, construction of the railway cost more per mile than any other railway in the world at the time. From the original St. George’s Station at the entrance to Tiger Bay, the trail winds its way out of the town, onto the north shore and along Ferry Reach. There are many points of interest along this eastern section of the trail, including Vincent Astor’s private halt where his private railway met the main line.

Nature lovers should look for longtails, which nest in the cliff face during the summer months, and for Lovers Lake Nature Reserve, an inland saltwater pond fringed with a stand of Black Mangroves. Walkers will pass a lime kiln which dates to the 1820’s, when it was built by the British garrison to support the restoration and expansion of the fortifications in the east end. There are two military cemeteries along the trail, a result of the yellow fever epidemics of the late 1800’s. After the outbreak in 1853, the British kept about half its soldiers encamped at Ferry Point and many of them died of yellow fever. The Ferry Reach Military Cemetery has a large cross and two memorials to commemorate soldiers who died during the yellow fever epidemic of 1864.

This section of the Railway Trail ends at Ferry Point Park, where you can visit Martello Tower and view the large concrete pylons which supported the bridge taking the train across the water to Coney Island.



Lime Kiln



Ferry Island Fort

Ferry Island Fort is located on the western point of Ferry Reach and accessed by a small footbridge. The oval fort was built in the 1790’s and its structure and layout was changed in the 1870’s when it was rebuilt with emplacements for four large guns. What was once a busy battlement is today a peaceful place where you can still see the outline of the gun positions.

During the American Revolutionary War, it was suggested if Bermuda was attacked the population of the main island should retreat via the ferry to St. George’s, where a stand would be made.

Ferry Point Park

Burnt Point Fort



Burnt Point Fort is one of the oldest forts on St. George's Island and was built in 1687 to defend the western approach to St. George's Harbour from enemy ships and prevent illegal trading by Bermudian vessels. Built on a small peninsula jutting into the channel between Ferry Point and Coney Island, the oval fort was originally described as having nine battlements and eight mounted guns, but a century later was mostly in ruins, worsened when a cannon exploded in the fort after firing a salute. It was superseded by Ferry Island Fort in the 1790's.

Martello Tower



Martello Towers were built through-out the British Empire during the first half of the 19th century, and follow a design inspired by a fortress at Martello Point, Corsica. Bermuda's egg-shaped fort was built on high ground under instruction from Major Thomas Blanshard between 1823 and 1828, giving soldiers stationed here a clear view of the surrounding coastline. It features a moat, 9-11-foot-thick walls of hard Bermuda stone, and the only access into the fort is by a drawbridge which crosses the ditch to the barracks on the second level. The ground floor held a water tank and stored powder, and the roof level mounted a single gun which commanded a 360-degree arc of fire. The walls are asymmetrical, with the thickest part facing the gap between Ferry Point and Coney Island, the most likely direction of attack. Martello Tower may be viewed from the outside.

Close to Martello Tower is a powder magazine build by Mayor Blanshard in 1828 and designed so the roof can blow off should the ordnance explode. The magazine and its perimeter wall were deteriorating, with parts of the wall collapsing, however extensive restoration work has taken place thanks to the efforts of the St. George's Foundation.



Lovers Lake Nature Reserve

Lovers Lake is an inland salt-water pond fringed with a stand of Black Mangrove and surrounded by a forest of old Bermuda Cedar skeletons with silver trunks. The pond is connected to the sea through a pipe-like structure in the deepest part of the pond and seawater enters freely through this opening, while fresh rainwater will overlie the seawater below. The mangroves fringing the pond are productive ecosystems critical to the whole nature of the pond, providing a nursery for juvenile and larval fish and shrimps, and provide a rich feeding ground for filter-feeding creatures. Endemic Relict Bermuda Killifish live in the pond along with a diverse range of fish, sponges, anemones, algae and jellyfish.

There is a path around the lake through trees and foliage where you can look for the Golden Orb Weaver spider and its huge webs. For bird watchers, a recently installed bench from the Garden Club of Bermuda provides a perfect viewing spot. The mangroves provide nesting places for several birds, including the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, and you may see resident and migrant bird species such as Green Herons, Redbirds and Eastern Bluebirds.

Attractions in St. David’s

Carter House Museum



The Carter House Museum celebrates the history and people of the Island of St. David’s and is located in a simplistic rural Bermuda cottage which dates from the early 1700’s. The cottage was built in a classic hillside style with a basement below and two rooms on the living floor. Architectural features typical of the period include the windows tucked up directly under the roof eaves and the narrow welcoming-arms steps with a bench space on either side of the door where visitors might wait to be received.

The museum exhibits focus on the whaling, piloting, fishing, boat building, farming, and sailing history of the St David’s Islanders, as well as the importance of ambergris, palmetto plait and tools of the past. A Settlers’ Cabben sits next to Carter House, built using English techniques, tools and local materials as would have been used by Bermuda’s first settlers in 1612. Local craftsmen constructed the replica structure with Bermuda cedar, lime and clay, (turtle) oil and Palmetto thatch. A visit to this unique attraction gives visitors the opportunity to step into the early 1600’s and early 1700’s of rural Bermuda.

The Carter House Museum is on Southside Road, St. David’s, a short drive from the Town of St. George, and on bus route 6. It is open 10 am to 4 pm, from April to October on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and the first Sunday of each month. From November to March, it is open 10 am to 4 pm on Wednesday and Saturday. Entry is by donation. Visit the website CarterHouseMuseum.org or call 293 9560.



Cooper’s Island Nature Reserve

Extensive walking trails, beautiful beaches, and a stunning view of Castle Harbour can all be found at the peaceful, undisturbed Cooper’s Island Nature Reserve, located at the south eastern end of St David’s. The nature reserve spans 12 acres and has a wide range of habitat diversity, including salt-water marshes, rocky coastlines and upland hillside habitats, as well as stretches of white sand beach. Invsive plants and trees have been culled and replaced with endemic species, and the wildlife observation tower offers views of Bermuda’s coastline. The reserve is a wildlife sanctuary and is off-limits to dogs and motor vehicles.



Fort Popple

Governor Alured Popple became Governor in 1738 and found many of Bermuda’s forts in a run-down and poor state. He refortified the island, repairing the existing defences and building several new forts, including Fort Popple. Quarried out of the bedrock of the hillside at Little Head on the northern end of St. David’s Island, the fort was shaped in a semi-circle and had nine gunports. The fort was intended to defend the southern approach to the St. George’s Channel, however a survey carried out 60 years later was dubious whether “the distance was too great for the Shot materially to injure a Vessel passing”. Today visitors to Little Head Park can walk the nature trails and enjoy the ocean views from Fort Popple, situated at the water’s edge of the rocky St. David’s coast.

St. David’s Battery



St. David’s Battery at Great Head Park was built before 1910 with the purpose of protecting the Narrows Channel, the passageway for all large ships through Bermuda’s reef line, and this remained its function until the end of coastal defense in 1956. As the Second World War dawned in 1939, the men of the Bermuda Militia Artillery, commanded by British officers seconded from the Royal Artillery with black non-commissioned and enlisted men, in concert with the white Bermuda Volunteer Engineers, were tasked with duty of manning the battery — for a time the Island’s only defence from Axis assault. The battery featured two 9.2 breech-loading guns situated side by side at the southern end. The guns had a range of seven miles but were never fired in anger and seldom fired in practice because of complaints of residents living nearby.



Lost at Sea Memorial

Bermuda’s economy in the 18th and 19th centuries relied heavily on the sea, and many enslaved and free Blacks lived their lives on the open ocean as whalers, fishermen and pilots. Black Bermudians travelled the world as crew on board merchant sloops and privateer ships, some never returning home having been swept overboard during storms or while working in the ship’s rigging.

Long whale boats set off with six oarsmen and harpooner in search of passing whales, a lucrative but dangerous catch which provided oil, bones and “sea beef”. Often whale boats capsized, with crewmembers losing limbs and even their lives. An example of such a tragedy occurred in 1840 when the whale boat belonging to the Southampton Whaling Establishment capsized and crewman Henry Taylor was lost.

The pilots of the island were no less at risk, for squalls and gales could appear quickly and blow them offshore. Pilot William Knights and his crew of six were last seen in February 1856, hoisting sails and heading after a barque which had appeared at the west end. A search was taken, to no avail, and a few days later the empty boat washed up on shore.

The “Figurehead” memorial to Bermudians lost at sea was created by Bermudian sculptor Bill Ming and was unveiled in 2005. It is in Great Head Park, St. David’s next to St. David’s Battery.



St. David’s Lighthouse

St. David’s Lighthouse was built 30 years after Gibb’s Hill Lighthouse was built in Southampton as intervening hills blocked the Southampton light for part of its arc and ships continued to wreck off the east end of the island. Joseph Ming Hayward personally lobbied the House of Assembly and oversaw the construction of the St. David’s Lighthouse from 1876 to its completion its fixed kerosene lamp was first lit by his wife.

Completed in 1879, St. David’s Lighthouse was constructed of Bermuda stone and stands 55-feet from base to lantern. Today the St. David’s Lighthouse has and automatic electric light beam, and it is overseen by the Bermuda Department of Parks, with outside viewing.

Bermuda Wildlife

Longtail

The arrival of the longtails, or white-tailed tropic bird, is a harbinger of spring for Bermudians, as their arrival in late February heralds the beginning of warmer weather. Bermuda is the northern most breeding ground of the distinctive bird which has a wingspan of about three feet, a bold black and white body and two very long tail feathers. Following aerial courtship, nesting pairs use cavities in the crumbling soft limestone of the cliff faces to lay their egg and raise a fluffy chick, and from April to June the parents can be seen busy flying to and from the burrow, feeding the offspring. By late August most of the chicks have fledged and the longtails head back to the open ocean, only returning to land to breed.

Parrot Fish

Parrot fish are aptly named, as their bright colours and mouths resembling beaks make them stand out on Bermuda's rocky shoreline and reefs. They are not only beautiful, but also critical to the health of the island's reef line and have been protected since 1987. The voracious herbivores spend 90% of their time eating the algae off reefs which is then excreted as sand. Without this constant grazing algae will grow unchecked and smother the corals, the sad fate of islands where overfishing has taken place. The nine different kinds of parrot fish in Bermuda sport an amazing range of colours and may be easily seen when walking along a calm rocky shoreline or looking into the shallows.

Portuguese Man O 'War

In the winter and spring, Portuguese Man-of-War wash on to Bermuda's shoreline, their enlarged floats filled with carbon monoxide and air acting as a sail dragging behind long tentacles that deliver a deadly venomous sting to fish. The unique creature is a community of organisms, each with specialized functions such as feeding and reproduction, which together allow the colony to function as a single individual. Beautiful to look at with their turquoise and pink hues, they are highly poisonous and should be avoided in the water, as the tentacles can reach up to 160 feet.

Pink Sand

Bermuda has roughly 64 miles of coastline with beautiful beaches on the north and south shore. This is thanks to the island's geographic makeup as a volcanic archipelago and its location in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sandy shores are the result of the erosion of headlands and are typical of wave-pounded shores. On some south shore beaches, the sand is a delicate pink, a result of the abundance of microorganisms called foraminifera that live in the coral reefs and the sea floor. Once these insect-like creatures die, they leave behind their small pink shells, which are broken up by the currents and washed on the shores, collectively giving the sand its distinctive rose tone. Many beaches have sugary, white sand, and some have thicker, yellow sand. No two beaches in Bermuda are the same, but all are worth exploring.

Self-Guided Tour of the Town of St. George

The Town of St. George offers historic attractions, a wide range of retailers and plenty of dining, all within easily walkable distances from the ferry dock and bus stop. Stop by the Visitor Service Centre on Duke of York Street for brochures and directions or follow this self-guided tour using the map on the backpage.

1. Start from the Ferry Dock and head west onto Water Street.

Tucker House Museum: 18th century historic home once occupied by Henry Tucker, President of the Governor's Council in the 1770's, featuring original furnishings and an archeological exhibit. Bermuda National Trust property. **Closed for 2025**

2. At Custom House Square, cross Duke of York Street on to Queen Street.

Stewart Hall: An elegant Bermuda National Trust property built in the 1700's and today home to the Bermuda Perfumery. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Complimentary tours available.

3. Take a right onto Church Lane to the churchyard entrance of St. Peter's Church.

St. Peter's Church, Their Majesties Chappell: A St. George's landmark and the site of Bermuda's first church, built in 1612. Open Monday through Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm. Entry by \$2 donation.

4. Return to Church Lane and continue to Featherbed Alley.

St. George's Historical Society Museum: A classic Bermuda house first opened as a museum in 1922 and retaining an authentic 18th century appearance. Open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm. Entry \$5.

5. Take a left and walk up Duke of Kent Street.

The Unfinished Church: A picturesque gothic ruin of a large church begun in 1874 and never completed. Outside viewing.

6. Walk back down Duke of Kent Street and take a left on to Blockade Alley.

Somers' Garden: Named for Admiral Sir George Somers, the gardens feature local and introduced plants and flowers and a moon gate. Open daily, sunrise to sunset. Entry free.

7. Exit Somers' Gardens on to Duke of York Street and walk west for one minute.

The Globe Museum and Trustworthy Gift Shop: Built circa 1700 by Governor Samuel Day, the historic home houses an exhibit detailing the American Civil War period in St. George's.

8. Turn right off Duke of York Street onto King's Square.

King's Square: The central square of St. George's with the Town Hall and a bridge to Ordnance Island, where you can see the statue of Sir George Somers and the flags of seven nations representing the heritage of Bermudians.

Visit page 19 for the map of the town.



St. George’s Fortifications



Fort St. Catherine

Located at the northern tip of St George’s and overlooking the ocean, Fort St Catherine stands perched on a hill between St Catherine’s Beach (Gates’ Bay) on one side and Achilles Bay on the other. One of the most impressive forts in the island, Fort St. Catherine has many historic exhibits, artefacts, and a well-preserved interior. Surrounded by a dry moat and accessed by a drawbridge, the fort has tunnels, towers, redoubts and ramparts. In 1609, the Sea Venture, captained by Sir Christopher Newport, was wrecked on a reef nearby. The entire crew came ashore on Gates’ Bay, next to the location where Fort St. Catherine now stands. In 1614 Bermuda’s first governor, Richard Moore, built a wooden fort at this spot to defend Bermuda, mainly from Spanish attacks.

The battery was strengthened in 1793 by Captain Andrew Durnford and in the 1820’s a circular fort replaced the upper battery. The fort was rebuilt again in the 1840’s when the upper and lower batteries became one massive work. Fort St. Catherine was last upgraded between 1865 and 1878, when five large, rifled muzzle-loading guns were mounted.

You will find exhibits detailing the history and development of Bermuda’s UNESCO World Heritage Site fortifications and can make your way through the tunnels of the fort. The exhibits cover all aspects of Bermuda’s history, including a showcase of armaments and regiments stationed on the island, replicas of the British crown jewels, significant St. Georgians, a hallway of history plus fun facts for children to discover.

Fort St. Catherine is open Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm. Entry fee \$7 adults, \$3 children 5-12 years. Phone 297-1920

Alexandra Battery

Alexandra Battery stands next to Frobisher’s Buildings Bay where Sir Thomas Gates supervised the building of the ship Deliverance in 1610. The battery was completed in the 1860s and armed with five 9-inch muzzle loading guns mounted behind iron battery shields. A unique feature of the guns was the use of these metal flash plates, called Gibraltar Shields which were designed to protect the gunners from incoming fire. The fort was named after Princess Alexandra of Denmark, who later married Edward VII, who became King of England. In the 1890’s the iron-fronted emplacements were covered by emplacements for two 6-inch breech-loading guns.

Today you can climb the steps to the gun emplacements and enjoy exceptional views of the eastern channel and north shore the forts were built to guard. Also visit Building’s Bay, better know to locals as Seaglass Beach, so named for the pieces of seaglass found on the shoreline.



Gates Fort

Gates Fort was built to guard the Town Cut channel against invasion around 1700, possibly replacing an earlier structure. It was mostly known as Town Cut Battery and was improved by Captain Andrew Durnford in the early 1790s. Durnford constructed emplacements for four guns, built a small two-storey guardhouse behind the gun emplacement, added a musketry line and communications trench to defend Town Cut Channel. In the 1800’s the fortifications at Upper Paget Fort (Fort Cunningham) replaced Gates Fort in defending the northern entrance to St George’s Harbour, but the Gates Fort keep continued to be used by the military as barracks.

Visitors can climb the ladder to the second floor of the guard house for a view of the Town Cut channel and, if lucky, see a ship head from St. George’s Harbour out to the North Atlantic.

East End's Attractions

Blue Hole Park



Blue Hole Park, popularly known as Tom Moore's Jungle, and Walsingham Nature Reserve are in Hamilton Parish. The entrance to the park is located where the Blue Hole Hill Road meets the Causeway near to the Grotto Bay Beach Resort. The entire reserve is spread across 12 acres of land area.

A narrow lane from Blue Hole Hill just before the Causeway leads to a car park. Walk through an opening in a fence and then through a wooden log frame into the reserve area. The main paved trail goes almost all along the water's edge giving you a lovely view of Castle Harbour. The trail and many offshoot paths through the dense woodland area lead to different attractions within the reserve including caves and grottos with great stalactite formations and natural pools. One of the highlights is the mangrove pond, which is a pool with crystal clear, deep blue water full of fish. This is the Blue Hole after which the park has been named. The pool is fringed by forests on one side and by rocks and crevices. It was restored by the Bermuda Government in 1970.

From the entrance, walk along the stone pathway, past a beach on your left. When the path forks, take the left and you will reach an open grassy area. From the open grassy land with a picnic table on one side, you can see the steps to a small wooden platform (having a wooden bench on one side). Standing on the platform, you can soak in the serene beauty of Blue Hole Pond with surrounding cliffs and greenery, and watch fish in the water.



Crystal Caves

Crystal and Fantasy Caves have been a popular Bermuda attraction for over a century, opening to the public in 1908 and welcoming thousands of visitors over the years. On his second sojourn to Bermuda, Mark Twain stopped at the caves on a journey to St. George's and described the experience: - "We descended 150 steps and stood in a splendid place 250 feet long and 30 or 40 wide, with a brilliant lake of clear water under our feet and all the roof overhead splendid with shining stalactites, thousands and thousands of them as white as sugar, and thousands and thousands brown and pink and other tints. All lighted with acetylene jets."

The Crystal Caves became part of cinematic history in 1913 when they were used as a filming location for the motion picture "Neptune's Daughter", starring Australian Annette Kellerman as a mermaid. The silent movie was filmed entirely on location in Bermuda and the caves appear early in the film when Neptune's daughter visits the Witch's Cave and begs the witch to make her mortal. In 1920 during the first official visit to Bermuda by a member of the British Royal family, the Prince of Wales – later the Duke of Windsor - visited Crystal Caves. In 1928 the admission was four shillings and boat rides around the lake had been replaced by a pontoon bridge.

Today the Crystal and Fantasy Caves still provide a stunning experience with guided tours into Bermuda's unique underground wonderland. A state-of-the-art lighting system highlights the fascinating shapes of the stalactites and stalagmites, formed over millions of years, reflected in the crystal-clear pools.

Fiddlestix Gift Shop, a curated boutique with crystals, Bermuda made items, themed gifts and souvenirs for sale is worth a visit before or after your descent into the caves. If you are hungry Café Ole serves up breakfast, lunch, snacks and daily specials from 9 am to 4.30 pm.

The Crystal and Fantasy Caves are open daily, from 9 am to 5 pm, and the last tour departs at 4.30. It is a must-see attraction today, as it was a century ago. Telephone 293 0640 or visit Caves.bm.



Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo



The Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo, also known as BAMZ for short, is one of the most loved attractions in Bermuda. Located in the picturesque Flatts Village in Hamilton Parish, BAMZ was founded in 1926 and offers three different attractions in the same complex: an Aquarium, a Museum and a Zoo. You'll see hundreds of fish species, sea turtles, harbour seals and a 145,000-gallon coral reef exhibit with sharks and black grouper. The zoo has more than 300 birds, reptiles and mammals from islands around the world and the Natural History Museum has interactive exhibits. Open 9am to 5pm, last entry at 4pm, everyday except Christmas. Telephone 293-2727 or visit BZS.bm



Town of St.George Calender of Events 2025

APRIL - OCTOBER

Ducking Stool Reenactment

The ducking stool is a 17th century engine of punishment specially assigned for scolding women which plunged them into the water to quiet their tongues. This relic of the past is brought to life on Ordnance Island, once known as Ducking Stool Island, where the reenactment takes place in the summer months.

1PM
Monday
Wednesday
Thursday
April - October
Ducking Stool, Ordnance Island



APRIL & MAY

Annual Peppercorn Ceremony

After the capital moved from the Town of St. George to Hamilton in 1815, the State House was rented to Bermuda's oldest Masonic Lodge for a yearly rent of one peppercorn, which is still paid every spring with much pomp and ceremony. It is a state occasion hosted by The Corporation of St. George and attended by the Governor of Bermuda, the Premier and Members of Parliament.

10:30AM
Wednesday
April 23
King's Square



Bermuda Half Marathon Derby

A Bermuda tradition dating back to 1909, the Bermuda Half Marathon Derby is held on Bermuda Day, and is the island's longest standing race.

8:30AM
Friday
May 23
Bottom of Barrack Hill,
St.Georges

JUNE

Portuguese Festival

The Festival of the Holy Spirit started centuries ago in the Azores, and is celebrated today by Portuguese citizens and descendants worldwide, including at the annual Portuguese Festival in St. George's. The festival is a free family event which begins on Friday evening and lasts through Sunday, featuring traditional Portuguese food and music.

Friday - Sunday
June 13 - 15
King's Square



JULY

Cup Match Extravaganza

The ultimate Pre-Cup Match celebration is the Cup Match Extravaganza, hosted by The Corporation of St. George in King's Square. The community event fosters camaraderie between St George's Cricket Club and Somerset Cricket Club and showcases some of Bermuda's best entertainment for everyone's enjoyment. Meet members of the St. George and Somerset cricket teams and enjoy food vendors and live music as Bermuda gets into the spirit of the island's biggest holiday of the year.

7PM-10PM
Friday
July 18
King's Square



SEPTEMBER

St. George's Seafood Festival

Ordnance Island transforms into a celebration of Bermuda's vibrant seafood culture with captivating entertainment and family-friendly activities during the St. George's Seafood Festival. The island's seafood cuisine is showcased by vendors selling classic Bermuda dishes, from fish chowder to seafood boils. Don't miss this immersive cultural experience.

12PM - 7PM
Sunday
September 21
King's Square & Ordnance Island



DECEMBER

BNT Christmas Walkabout

For over 40 years the Bermuda National Trust Christmas Walkabout is the event which signals the start of the festive season in Bermuda. St. George's historic buildings and museums are open to the public, all decorated and many with entertainment and refreshments, and King's Square features musicians and dancers of all ages.

6PM - 9PM
Friday
December 5
Town of St.George



Santa's Coming To Town

Santa Claus visits St. George's at this special event hosted by the Corporation of St. George which includes fun castles, food vendors, dancers, majorettes and the Gombey. The magical evening is a celebration of community, togetherness and the joy the holiday season brings.

7PM - 10PM
Saturday
December 13
King's Square


















New Year's Eve

Bermudians flock to St. George's to count down the seconds to midnight on King's Square and welcome in the New Year with the Onion Drop. There is an MC, DJ, live bands and food vendors at this free family event, hosted by The Corporation of St. George.

8:00PM - 1:30AM
Wednesday
December 31
King's Square

Map of the Town of St. George



	Bus Stop		Hand crafted Artists		Bar / Restaurants		Visitor Service Centre
	Gas Station		Shopping		Pharmacy		Bank
	Cafe'		Grill		Restrooms		African Diaspora Heritage Trail
	Post Office		Museum		Ferry Stop		

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