

History . Heritage . Culture.



The African Diaspora Heritage Trail took shape twenty years ago under the auspices of Minister of Tourism David Allen and evolved into the UNESCO recognized Slave Route Project which recognizes places and phenomena relevant to the global presence and influence of people and culture of African descent. Today Minister Allen's vision for the world to have an appreciation and acceptance of the heritage of Africa and the African Diaspora is realized with Bermuda's ADHT sites throughout the island. Of the dozen ADHT sites, five are in Bermuda's original capital, the UNESCO World Heritage Site Town of St. George, where the first settlers made their home in 1612.

When the ship Edwin arrived in Bermuda in 1616, bringing from the Caribbean two pearl divers, "one Indian and a Negroe, the first thes Ilands ever had", their arrival marked the earliest introduction of enslaved labour to an English colony in the New World. The once uninhabited island quickly became a multiracial society of Europeans, Africans, Hispanic American men and women of African descent and native Americans from the Caribbean and Chesapeake.

Part of the ethos of the ADHT Foundation was to produce quality cultural products which expose visitors to authentic African Diaspora history and culture and motivate the local population to actively participate in the preservation and dissemination of their history and culture. Today visitors to St. George's can visit the African Diaspora Heritage Trail locations marked with plaques highlighting the histories, influence and contributions of Bermuda's African-descent population to the island's community, commerce and culture.

The range of the experiences and tours now available, inspired by the creation of the Trail, is testament to the success of the late Tourism Minister David Allen's vision. The ADHT now informs visitors and marks the integration which results when cultures merge. It allows Bermudians to embrace a sense of who they are and what their relationship is with the past. St. George's welcomes all visitors and residents to explore the historic sites located in the Town and take advantage of the qualified Bermudian guides waiting to share their stories.

Greeting from the Mayor of St. George's



Message from the Mayor of St. George

As the elected Mayor of the Town of St. George and on behalf of the Council of the Corporation of St. George, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Bermuda and to the Town of St. George, our UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our town has been in existence for over 400 years with the first permanent settlers landing here in 1612. Our history is rich in culture and turmoil. Our national motto is the Latin phrase, “Quo Fata Ferunt” which translates as “Whither the Fates Carry Us.” It connotes an ability to respond to changing weather, fate and fortune, and dogged perseverance in adverse circumstances.

The Town of St. George has many listed buildings, historic monuments and historic fortifications dating back centuries and considered significant enough in universal value to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

To take stock of where we are heading, we must often reflect on where we have come from - the difference in space and time, we can call growth or progress. With sixty percent of our population of African Descent, Bermuda has a strong African heritage which took its root in the Atlantic Slave Trade starting circa 1620.

St. George has its stories - we can stroll down to Pilot Jemmy Darrell Square and see his home and be regaled by his bravery as he navigated massive ships through our waters so skillfully that he as a slave won his freedom.

We can also hear accounts of Sally Bassett, a slave accused of poisoning her master and subsequently being burned alive, or of National Hero, Mary Prince, a slave who gave a remarkable account of her ordeal that spearheaded the movement for slaves to be emancipated in both Bermuda and the United Kingdom.

There are more stories to be told. I encourage all to visit all our museums, but especially The Bermudian Heritage Museum which gives voice to the stories of our African heritage.

In closing, I encourage everyone to slow down, stay a while and enjoy all the town has to offer. Share your experiences with friends and family and return often. It is said there is no place like Bermuda, but there is truly no place like St. George. For Bermuda: St. George is where it all started, where it is happening now.

Yours Sincerely,

Mayor George Dowling III



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Tour Guides in St. George's

Rashida Godwin



Only a few years ago Rashida Godwin lived the nine-to-five office life, but a decision by her husband Winston led to a dramatic life adjustment and they moved into the tour and transportation business. “Winston decided we needed a change, I have to give the credit to him - I worked in re-insurance, and he worked at Bermuda Telephone Company. I have to say it was absolutely the right decision.”

The couple started Titan Express, a tour bus company, which today has a fleet of six and a staff of nine and offers custom trips, charters, wedding and event transport and tours of Bermuda. When the Godwins were setting up the company they reached out to other tour guides and drivers for advice, plus spent time researching Bermuda's history. They launched Titan Express with a unique brand and identity with a focus on customer service. “We got a lot of help from my uncle, Phillip Anderson, especially with Bermuda history, and from tour guide Tim Rogers,” explained Mrs. Godwin.

Since then, Titan Tours has partnered with the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs and the Bermuda National Trust offering tours focused on the Black history of the island, and the tours have been featured on social media outlet Bermemes and promoted by the Bermuda Tourism Authority. “The visitors loved the tours as this was a side of Bermuda they didn't know about. It was a portrayal of the entire history of Bermuda – the stories of what helped build us to what we are today. You can't leave these stories out.”

A focus on Bermuda's Black history began in 2017 when Mrs. Godwin was contacted by a group of young Bermudian professionals who requested a tour of the island's African Diaspora Heritage Trail. “They asked for this tour because they wanted to know more about the Black history of Bermuda – they felt they weren't knowledgeable enough about their own history. After the tour they told everybody, particularly on social media, which is what put the tour out there.”

When doing research for a tour, Mrs. Godwin says her main resource is Chained to the Rock by Cyril Packwood Outerbridge. She also reaches out to Bermuda's historians, most notably Dr. Clarence Maxwell. “Dr. Maxwell is awesome – he says, “just keep telling those stories.” I also reach out to Dr. Theodore Francis and LeYoni Junos. Ms. Junos is key with helping with researching the court cases, so it's not just folklore.”

Mrs. Godwin was taken on a tour of St. George's by her Uncle Phoopa (Phillip Anderson), and this was the seed which grew to The Long Walk to Freedom Tour, a walking tour of St. George's which includes the African Diaspora Heritage Trail sites in the town and locations significant to Bermuda's Black history. In 2020 Titan Express produced a tour commemorating the 400th anniversary of Bermuda's parliament, highlighting the laws of each century which impacted the lives of Africans and Black people in Bermuda. For emancipation the highlighted tours were Bermuda national hero Mary Prince and the Friendly Societies and their contributions to freedom for Blacks in Bermuda. Mrs. Godwin says her two favourite sites in St. George's are the flags on Ordnance Island representing the countries of Bermudians' ancestors, including Angola, and the State House, which dates from 1620. “It is fascinating - the State House is still there and was built by Africans.”

Titan Express offers tours year-round. You can contact them at (441) 234-1096, email info@titantoursbermuda.com, or visit TitanToursBermuda.com.

Rev. Dr. Lorne Bean

Rev. Dr. Lorne Bean has been “a history geek from birth”, so living in the town where Bermuda's history began is a place of happiness for him. “So many of my interests and passions merged when I came to St. George's. Being present in the places I'd learnt about as a student really brings home the reality of living in a UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

Pastor Bean's career began at sea when he signed on with the British Merchant Navy for five years after graduating from Warwick Academy. On his return home he joined the Bank of Bermuda and saved his money for university and a new career path. “I was raised in the AME Church and through a series of meetings I felt God was calling me. I did an undergraduate degree in psychology because I wanted a way to look at the world through social sciences – I am fascinated by the philosophy of psychology. I then went to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, a non-denominational college whose philosophy is evangelical. I was encouraged and funded by the AME Church.”

Pastor Bean moved to St. George's in 2014 to minister to the congregation of Richard Allen AME Church on Queen Street. It was then he met Phillip (Phoopa) Anderson, who was the manager of the St. George's Visitor Information Centre on King's Square and a councillor on the Corporation of St. George. “Phillip was the link that got me going as I was learning about St. George's. We had a shared interest in the sense of the historic gravity of the Town which comes from being here. He is the one who put the idea of being a tour guide into my head.”

Mr. Anderson encouraged Pastor Bean to sit the Corporation of St. George's qualification test for tour guides within the Town and together they offered the UNESCO World Heritage Site Walking Tour of St. George's from the Town Hall. For research he relied on many sources, in particular In the Eye of All Trade: Bermuda, Bermudians, and the Maritime Atlantic World, 1680-1783 by Mike Jarvis. “I'm enjoying the fact that more is being written about our story. It helps to distinguish who we are.”

Today Pastor Bean also conducts the African Diaspora Tour at St. Peter's Church twice a week – a tour supported by the Bermuda Tourism Authority. “Conducting this tour is a thrill for me. The great reaction I get from Bermudians on the tour is because we are telling our story ourselves and letting people feel what is significant about us – what makes us different as Bermudians. For visitors they learn a side of Bermuda's history they are not familiar with and as a result have a better idea of the place they are visiting.”

In 2020 Pastor Bean became a member of the Anglican Racial Justice Commission, a newly formed group dealing with the question of race in Bermuda. This was a natural fit, as the topic of his doctoral thesis was Racial Reconciliation as it Pertains to Bermuda. “The Sea Venture wreck is where Bermuda's human history began; the first institution in Bermuda was a church. Our values and our legacies come from our history and there are so many facets to us.”

He says, “As Bermudians we have borrowed our identity by copying others overseas, but we don't need to do this. We are in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, like the Vatican, and the world comes to us. We are all significant with our own unique identity. This all comes together in what I am doing today.”

The African Diaspora Tour at St. Peter's Church takes place at 11 am on Tuesday and Thursday. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for students and may be booked at BDATix.bm.



Tour Guides in St. George's

Kristin White



When Kristin White moved to St. George's in 2003, she fell in love immediately, not so much because of the history which permeates the Town, but because of the community. Her introduction to residential life in St. George's began with the St. George's Cricket Club where her son enrolled in sports programmes and she became a volunteer. "Before I moved into St. George's, I had no frame of reference of what life was like living here. We rode our pedal bikes all around which is how I started wandering the alleys and seeing the streets and the historic signs. Before that I didn't have a strong sense of what St. George's was like."

Her involvement with SGCC and meeting local entrepreneurs piqued her interest in what was going on in the town. She ventured around the town on her bike enjoying the east end lifestyle and realizing non-residents had no idea how enjoyable life in the Town was, never understanding how it could be described as dead. "I'm always having fun here. This evolved into my having a social media presence, talking about, and being passionate about St. George's."

From riding her bike, Shoshana, around Town came requests from the Bermuda Tourism Authority to introduce journalists and bloggers to St. George's by bike, which evolved into walking tours as "not everyone wants to ride a bike". Ms. White became the owner of long-standing bookstore the Book Cellar in 2012 and then took the role of Development Director of the St. George's Foundation in 2014. A fundraising event for the SGF with a haunted history theme segued into the Haunted History Walking Tour and today the tours Ms. White offers include a weekly history tour and tours with themes which change monthly.

All her tours have included the African Diaspora Heritage Trail locations as well as other historic spots. She says, "I'm wary of saying 'this is a Black history tour' as we are a majority Black country. To separate it out as a separate history makes me uneasy as we are not a minority. Black people have been here from the beginning. There are so many Black Bermudian academics who are sharing their extensive knowledge and research with us. They are researching and teaching at institutions overseas but are willing and eager to come home and share their knowledge with us – I'm very grateful for that."

When researching her tours, Ms. White made use of the extensive library of the St. George's Foundation, visited the archives and attended lectures by Bermudian historians such as Dr. Clarence Maxwell. "We don't suffer from a lack of historic resources on this island – there's a lot of extensive resources in Bermuda. Living in St. George's we're walking around and seeing original buildings and graves so we can feel an ever-greater connection to the history because we can go to the buildings which are referenced in the texts. This is what gets me excited. It really is a living breathing part of what it is to be a storyteller. You're right here in the place where things happened."

"Bermuda has a very rich history and people of African descent have always been a key part of that history. There has been a shift in visitors and residents wanting more information. People are astonished, especially locals, that these are stories they never heard. More visitors are travelling to experience a country's culture and when people take time to take a history tour they are really interested. They know Bermuda is beautiful and a paradise, but they want to learn something too."

To book a weekly tour or private tour with Ms. White visit LongStoryShort.life.


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African Diaspora Heritage Trail Sites

Pilot Darrell Square



Pilot James Darrell was one of the many enslaved, skilled pilots whose job it was to guide ships through Bermuda's treacherous reef line, a profession dominated by Black Bermudians since the island's early days. Pilot Darrell began his apprenticeship in the years preceding the American Revolutionary War, a time when Bermuda tread a narrow line between fealty to Britain and retaining trade relations with the rebelling Americans.

As an accomplished pilot later in his career, Pilot Darrell assisted hydrographer Thomas Hurd of the Royal Navy to sound the existing channels and search for new channels and anchorages for the Royal Navy's ships. In 1795 Pilot Darrell guided Rear Admiral George Murray's 74-gun HMS Resolution through the narrows channel, prompting the Admiral to write to Governor James Craufurd remarking on Darrell's "ability and steadiness" and requesting the Government purchase his freedom. On the death of his owner in 1796 Pilot Darrell was manumitted and became the first documented Black man to purchase a house in Bermuda.

He was a leader in the Black community advocating for the rights of Black Bermudians, and when Admiral Murray established the King's Pilots, a list of pilots qualified to serve the Admiralty, Pilot Darrell was the first to be appointed. He died in 1815 and is buried in the segregated graveyard of St. Peter's Church where his headstone reads "In his public life, as a servant of his country, he gained the general approval of his talents and worth. In his private walk, as a member of the community, his name will long be remembered, for his usefulness and integrity".

Pilot Darrell Square is part of Bermuda's African Diaspora Heritage Trail and is located on Aunt Peggy's Lane, next to his house, still the home of his descendants.

St. Peter's Church & the Segregated Graveyard



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 date 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 and simplistic ambience with exposed cedar beams in the ceiling, rough wooden pillars and candlelit chandeliers.

The western extension to the original graveyard, probably added in the latter half of the 1600s, was set apart for the burial of blacks, free or enslaved, as within four years of permanent settlement Bermuda became the first English colony to import indentured black people. By 1698 almost a third of the 1,124 inhabitants of the Parish of St George were black, many having been brought from Africa as slaves. As the slaves and their descendants became Christians, they were entitled to Christian burial in the church graveyard. The historic churchyard, with its separate section for blacks – indeed one of the last graveyards for Blacks remaining in Bermuda – is a vivid reminder of the reality of racial segregation in Bermuda, including in the churches. Not only were slaves and free Blacks buried there in the 17th and 18th centuries, but Black Bermudians continued to be buried in this separate section right up to the closing of the graveyard in 1854 - twenty years after the emancipation of all slaves.

As in other Bermudian churches, a gallery was built at the western end of the church in the early 1700's so that servants and Blacks could attend services. Access to this gallery was by a separate doorway at the northwest corner of the church. On display in the vestry is a copy of the baptismal register for August 1st, 1834, when emancipation took place throughout the British Empire. There is a line drawn across the page and Blacks baptized after August 1st no longer were entered as "slave" or "free".

St. Peter Church opening hours 11 am to 3 pm, Monday through Saturday. Sunday Service at 11 am.

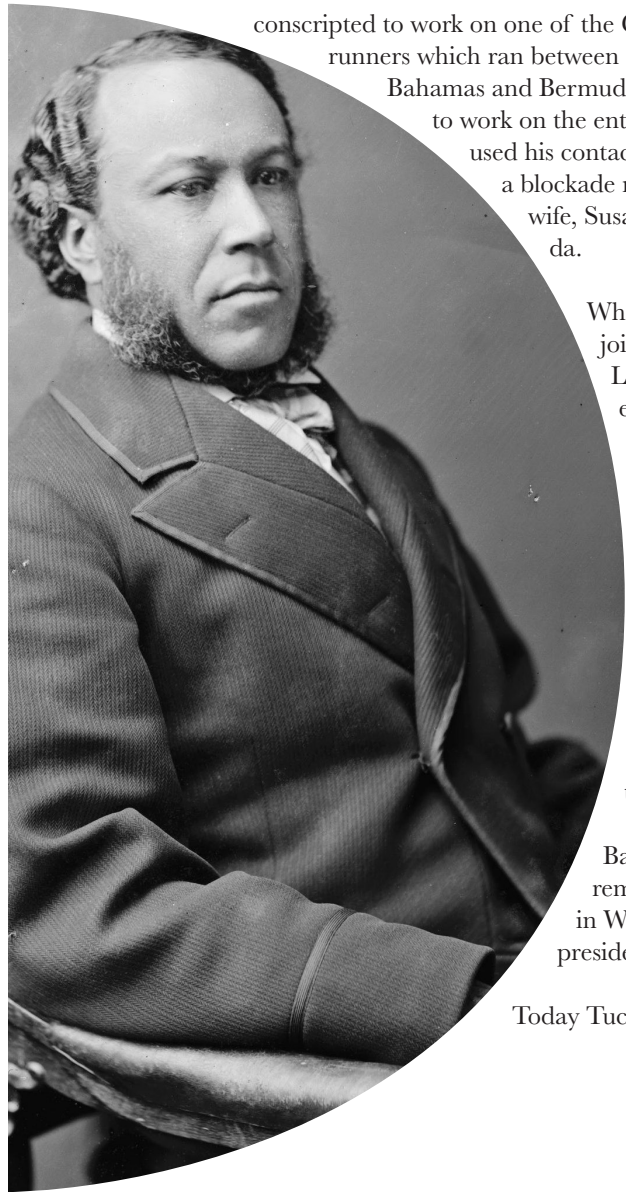
Visit StPeters.bm

African Diaspora Heritage Trail Sites

Tucker House & Barber’s Alley

The Tucker House was built by merchant and mariner Thomas Smith in 1752 and the layout reflects the use of the building, with living space above and cellars below for storing the merchandise which Smith carried on his Bermuda sloops. The house is named for Henry Tucker, son of Colonel Henry Tucker of Southampton, who sent his son to St. George’s to look after his commercial interests in the capital. Tucker married Frances Bruere, daughter of Governor George Bruere, and was appointed Colonial Treasurer. He purchased Tucker House in 1775 and over the years expanded the house to accommodate his growing family of 12 children and reflect his growing stature in government as President of the Council and Acting Governor.

During the American Civil War, a free Black American, Joseph Rainey, arrived in Bermuda and set up a barber shop in the eastern part of Tucker House -the alley which leads to the shop entrance is still known as Barbers Alley. Joseph Rainey was born a slave in South Carolina in 1832. His father Edward Rainey was a successful barber who purchased his family’s freedom and moved to Charleston for the business opportunities there. At the beginning of the Civil War Joseph Rainey was



conscripted to work on one of the Confederate Blockade runners which ran between the Confederate states, Bahamas and Bermuda. When he was drafted to work on the entrenchments, Rainey used his contacts to gain passage on a blockade runner and he and his wife, Susan, escaped to Bermuda.

While in Bermuda Rainey joined the Alexandrina Lodge in Hamilton, expanded his education and became involved in the community. His wife operated a successful seamstress business and the barber shop thrived. The arrival of yellow fever led the blockade runners to avoid Bermuda and the Raineys moved to Hamilton where Mr. Rainey worked at the Hamiltonian Hotel as barber and bartender. At the end of the Civil War slavery had been abolished in the US and the Raineys returned to America at the urging of Joseph’s father, who felt his son had a role to play in the future of Black Americans in the South. They returned to South Carolina where Mr. Rainey was elected to the State Senate. In 1870 he became a member of the US House of Representatives and moved to Washington. In 1875 the first Civil Rights Act, guaranteeing African Americans civil rights, was passed by the US Senate and House, but it was never enforced and was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1793. Any advancements made by African Americans eroded and after 10 years in the House of Representatives and being the longest serving Black representative during the reconstructive years, Mr. Rainey lost his seat in 1879.

Barber’s Alley is part of Bermuda’s African Diaspora Heritage Trail, marking the significance of Joseph Rainey and his remarkable life, part of which was spent in the Town of St. George. In 2005 his portrait was hung in the Cabinet Building in Washington DC commemorating the first African American to serve in the US House of Representatives and the first to preside over the House.

Today Tucker House Museum is owned by the Bermuda National Trust. Call 441 236 6483 for tours and visiting times.



Bermudian Heritage Museum

After the abolition of slavery, the Black community of St. George’s created benevolent societies, linked to American and English friendly societies, to provide services including relief for the poor, job training, extending small loans and insurance for funeral expenses. They also staged pageants in town to foster solidarity and community support. The Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria were founded in St. George’s in 1876, and in 1900 purchased a building at the corner of Water Street East and Duke of York Street for their meetings. They named the building Samaritans’ Lodge and renovated it in 1907, adding a fanlight over the door with the initials IOGS&DS, since painted over.

Today Samaritans’ Lodge is home to the Bermudian Heritage Museum, the island’s first and only Black history museum, part of the UNESCO recognized African Diaspora Heritage Trail, and the building is leased from the Bermuda National Trust. The museum is run by the Bermudian Heritage Association, formed in 1994 for the sole purpose of establishing a museum to highlight the history and accomplishments of Black Bermudians. It records the history of slaves, free Blacks and the many Black friendly societies and lodges, documenting their role in shaping the Bermuda community. Exhibits contain artefacts, photographs and uniforms capturing the achievements of Black Bermudians in sports, nursing, education and social history. The history of Bermuda’s Cup Match holiday and the connection between the two-day cricket match and emancipation is explained, as is the 1959 Theatre Boycott, which ultimately ended segregation in Bermuda.

There is an exhibit of the American cargo ship The Enterprise, which blew off course in 1835 while sailing from Virginia to South Carolina and came to Bermuda to re-provision. Amongst the cargo was 78 slaves. Slavery had ended in Bermuda less than a year earlier, and intervention by Bermuda Customs and Richard Tucker of the Young Men’s Friendly Lodge resulted in the slaves being given their choice of remaining free in Bermuda or returning to America. All on the vessel chose freedom except for one woman and her five children. Those who remained in Bermuda were supported by the Black Friendly Societies. Today, thousands of Bermudians trace their ancestry to the slaves who were freed.



Entry is \$4 per person. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. Contact 297 4126.

African Diaspora Heritage Trail Sites

Mitchell House



Built in the early 1700's, Mitchell House 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 around 1731 by Major Walter Mitchell for his nephew, William Mitchell, a merchant trader and militia officer, who was Captain of Paget Fort.

A century later in 1842 it was sold to William and Isabella Archer, who were proprietors of The Gun Tavern. William Archer was born a slave in Dominica and worked as a cooper and overseer for naval contractor Andrew Belcher who owned several houses, sheds and a wharf in St. George's. Belcher lived in Halifax and Archer supervised the business. In 1826 Archer married Isabella Budd, "a free woman of colour" and in 1830 was manumitted by Belcher. The Archers purchased property on Duke of York Street where they ran a tavern, a favourite of soldiers, sailors and St. Georgians. With the success and popularity of the tavern they acquired Mitchell House and another store and were among the most successful members of the Black community in St. George's.

The building, 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 1700's. Artifacts on display include a rare Breeches Bible, Boer War prisoner woodwork and period kitchen utensils. Mitchell House was almost lost in the early 1900's but a group of historically minded St. Georgians came together to form the St. George's Historical Society, buy the house at auction, restore it and open it to the public. The St. George's Historical Society Museum and Printery at Mitchell House is located on Duke of Kent Street and opens on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Entry is \$5 pp. Telephone 331 8089 to confirm hours.



Image of Methodist clergyman Joshua Marsden

Reverend John Stephenson

On the south side of Mitchell House is a plaque erected next to a window with iron bars – the bars were once in a window on the site of the St. George's Post Office when the town jail was located here. The plaque memorialises Irish Methodist missionary John Stephenson who arrived in Bermuda in 1799 to bring the gospel to enslaved and free Black Bermudians. He was the first Methodist minister to take up a posting in Bermuda and prior to his arrival there were only three clergymen on the island. His efforts were met with hostility by the Government which quickly passed an act making his actions illegal and punishing any who allowed their home to be used for preaching.

He continued with his mission and was charged and imprisoned for six months. Undeterred, he continued to preach through the prison window and cut an inscription into the wooden floor of his cell: - "John Stephenson, Methodist missionary, was imprisoned in the jail six months and fined 50 pounds, for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to African blacks and captive negroes, St. George's, Bermuda, July 1800."





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African Diaspora Tours



The African Diaspora Tour at St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church is part of the UNESCO recognized African Diaspora Heritage Trail which highlights the histories, influence and contributions of Bermuda's African-descent population.

Twice a week Bermudian AME minister Rev. Dr Lorne Bean conducts an immersive tour which follows the trajectory of Black Bermudians from discovery, through slavery to freedom, and provides an opportunity for visitors and residents to learn about the in-depth history of Black Bermudians and the island's culture and heritage. Included is the history of King's Pilot James Darrell, a visit to the segregated graveyard and the time of emancipation.

The tour takes place on Tuesday and Thursday at 11 am and is wheelchair accessible. St. Peter's Church is grateful for the Bermuda Tourism Authority's support for The African Diaspora Tour at St. Peter's Church.

Tickets are \$30 per person, \$15 for students 12 and under, and are available online at www.BDATix.bm or can be booked at the St. George's Visitor Service Centre on Duke of York Street.

Long Walk to Freedom – St. George's Walking Tour

Titan Express offers African Bermuda Dispersion Cultural tours including a walking tour in St. George's. The Long Walk to Freedom tour focuses on the history of the 60 percent of Bermudians who descend from West African and West Indian slaves brought here during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Starting from King's Square, the tour encompasses most of the town with stops at the State House, the home of Pilot James Darrell, the free Black and slave graveyard of St. Peter's Church and Barber's Alley next to the Tucker House, where Joseph Rainey operated a barber shop.

The tours are customized and can include transport to and from St. George's. Contact Titan Express at 441 234 1096 or email info@titantoursbermuda.com.



Weekly History Tour



St. George's Tour guide Kristin White offers a guided tour every Tuesday which focuses on the history of the Town of St. George, Bermuda's UNESCO World Heritage Site, and she changes the theme of the tour every month.

The tours explore Bermuda's unique history, beauty and culture and tell the stories of impactful people that shaped the island's history.

Her curated experiences include the tour Resilience: Bermudians of African Descent and guides you through the footsteps of their rebellion, resistance and resilience.

Every tour can be hosted for a private group and can vary in length.

Visit LongStoryShort.life to book.

Historic Sites in St. Georges

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.



The Deliverance

The iconic replica of the Deliverance, which dominates Ordnance Island, was constructed in 1967 by the Bermuda Junior Service League, and is now undergoing a revamping during Phase 2 of the Corporation of St. George's Ordnance Island Project.

The square-rigger replicates the 17th century ship built in Bermuda by the Sea Venture shipwreck survivors to enable the settlers to continue their journey to Jamestown, Virginia – their intended destination.

Visitors will be welcomed on board to imagine what it was like to be a passenger in the 1600's, crammed into the narrow decks with cargo below and a main deck above. The refurbished attraction will feature a retail kiosk, wheelchair access ramp and rubber surfacing surrounding the ship with outlines of the sizes of ships built and launched in Bermuda through the centuries.

Visit CorpStGeorge.bm.



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 where the town's residents gathered to commemorate important events.

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 in recent years has been paid every April with much pomp and ceremony. The Peppercorn Ceremony has not taken place since 2019 due to COVID.

Outside viewing from King Street.



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Restaurants

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. Located at 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.

Located at 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.

Located at 14 Water Street, Somers Wharf.
Telephone 297 3305 or visit Wharf.bm.



East End Dining Options

- Wong’s Golden Dragon
- Boardwalk Café
- Double Dip Xpress Ice Cream Parlour & Deli
- Eliana’s Fine Dining
- Pizza House Restaurant
- Mama Angie’s Coffee Shop
- BruMae Caffé
- Tobacco Bay Beach House
- Mr. Chicken
- Bailey’s Ice Cream Parlour
- Café Olé
- Swizzle Inn Pub
- Yo Cherry Frozen Treats & Bakery
- Temptations Café
- Munchies By the Sea





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Shops & Boutiques in St. Georges

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, All in a relaxing atmosphere with friendly staff. Discover many Bermudians’ favourite store, serving St. George’s for over a century. You’ll find what you need as well as something you want.

Located at 24, Duke of York Street. Telephone 297 1828 or visit their Facebook page.

Winston’s Wines

Winston’s Wine is an independent purveyor of fine wines, spirits, soft drinks and snacks, conveniently located next to the bus stop in St. George’s. Cuban, Dominican and Bermudian cigars are available, plus quality gifts for cigar and wine enthusiasts. Open every day except Christmas Day and Good Friday from 8 am to 9 pm.

Located at 8 Duke of York Street. Telephone 297 0409 or visit ChurchillsBermuda.com.

The Whistlin’ Frog

The Whistlin’ Frog is a souvenir and gift shop which stocks a bright array of Bermuda themed tee shirts, hats, visors and bags including plenty of children’s sizes. Conveniently located on Water Street at the entrance to Somers Wharf, you’ll also find towels, flip flops, water shoes, sweatshirts, wind breakers and jewellery.



Located at 14C, Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 297 1304.



Winston's Wines

8 Duke of York Street
St. George's · 297 0409

Churchill's

27 Duke of York Street
St. George's · 297 1650

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More Boutiques to Find

The Things We Love

This specialty store sells eclectic women’s fashion with a bohemian flair. Owner and buyer Rachel has a keen eye for unique pieces and accessories and has created an inviting space to relax and browse her bespoke collection of clothing, home décor, jewelry and beauty products.

Located at Unit 7, Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 533 2359 or visit TheThingsWeLove.MyShopify.com.

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. Designers Kelli and Rose Thompson create the pieces using Bermuda sea glass, pink sand and semi-precious stones, Venetian glass and freshwater pearls. The bright, welcoming boutique offers a range of handbags, scarves, artwork and unique pieces by Abstract Designs.

Located at 6 Water Street. Telephone 519 9906 or visit SaltWaterJewelleryDesigns.com.



Lacquered Lounge

St. Georgians know they don’t have to leave town for their beauty treatments – Lacquered Lounge is conveniently located on Somers Wharf and offers a full range of pampering experiences using guilt-free natural and organic products where possible. They stock Bermuda made scrubs, body butter and candles, plus non-toxic nail polish and NolaSkin toners, cremes and serums. The cozy location is a great place to pick up your beauty products and book yourself a relaxing treatment.

Located at Unit 5, Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 735 2265 or visit ILoveLacquered.com.

Davison’s of Bermuda

At Davison’s you will find Bermuda-branded shirts, hats, bags and gifts. Look for a great selection of tee shirts, polos, hoodies, baseball hats, plus shirts and hats in children’s sizes. If you are heading to the beach they have everything you need from towels and flip flops to sundresses and sun hats. The souvenir collection includes Bermuda prints, flags, magnets, postcards and mugs. Stop by Davison’s to pick up the perfect memento of your trip to Bermuda.

Located at Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 297 8363.



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. Somers Supermart stocks a wide range of wines, cold beer and spirits and you will find Waitrose products, flown in from the UK, including ready meals, dairy, dried pastas, pulses and spices.

Located at 41 Duke of York Street. Telephone 297 1177 or visit Supermart.bm.

More Boutiques to Find...

- The Dragon’s Lair Gallery
- Egmont’s Boutique
- The English Sports Shop
- Gregory Nelves Home
- Palm Lane
- National Trust Gift Shop
- Surprise Scrapbook Boutique
- W.J. Boyle & Sons
- Churchill’s Fine Wine & Cigars
- Frangipani Boutique

- Sea Glass Studio
- The Bermuda Perfumery
- Long Story Short
- Bermuda Linens & Gifts
- Vera P. Card
- East End Variety
- Merch
- Paradise Gift Shop
- Crown & Anchor
- Needles Etc: The Yarn Shop

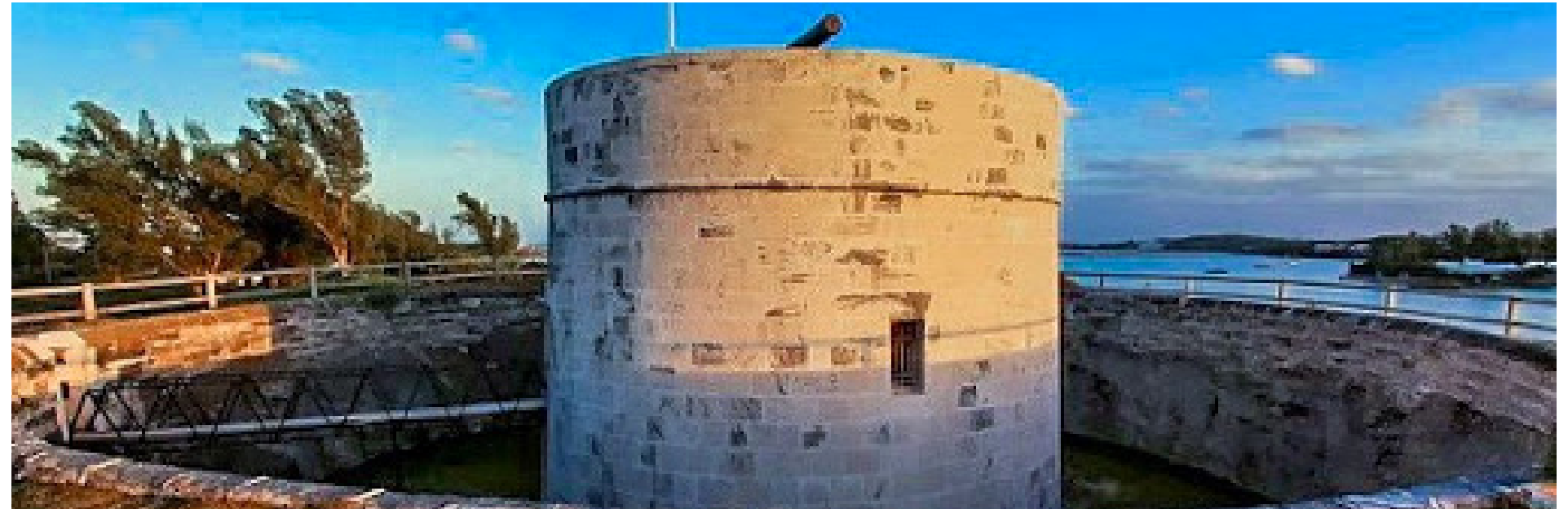
Forts and Batteries

Burnt Point and Ferry Island 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. It is located on Ferry Island at the western point of Ferry Reach and accessed by a small footbridge. 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. 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. The fort on Ferry Island was converted to a half-moon shaped battery with thicker front walls and five embrasures in the 1780’s. In the 1870’s Ferry Island Fort 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.

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 in 1823, 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.

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. Additions were made through the centuries, with the last upgrade between 1865 and 1878, when five large, rifled muzzle-loading guns were mounted. You will find exhibits and displays detailing the history and development of Bermuda’s UNESCO World Heritage Site fortifications and can make your way through the tunnels of the fort. Fort St. Catherine is open Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm. Entry fee \$7 adults, \$3 children 5-12 years. Phone 297-1920.

Here is a list of the other Forts and Batteries in St. George’s, which are all open to the public unless otherwise posted:

- Alexandra Battery
- Gates Fort
- St. David’s Battery
- Fort Victoria
- King’s Castle Fort
- Fort George
- Ferry Island Fort
- Fort Popple
- Fort Albert

Places to explore in the East End

Blue Hole Park

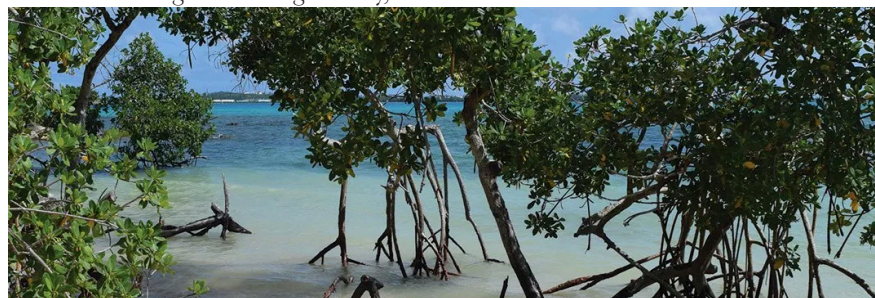


Blue Hole Park popularly known as Tom Moore's Jungle and as Walsingham Nature Reserve is in Hamilton Parish. The entrance to the park is located where the Blue Hole Hill Road meets the Causeway near to the Grotto Bay Beach Resort. The entire reserve is spread across 12 acres of land area.

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.

Exploring the Jungle

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. It offers three different attractions in the same complex: an Aquarium, a Museum and a Zoo.

Open 9am to 5pm, last entry at 4pm, everyday except Christmas. Telephone 293-2727 or visit BZS.bm

Other East End Attractions

The Unfinished Church

St. Peter's Church

Spittle Pond

Flatts Bridge

400th Anniversary Monument

Bob Burns Park

Bridge House

Buckingham

Building Bay

King's Square

Places to explore in St.Davids

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. In 1939, as the Second World War dawned, 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 defences from Axis assault. The battery features two 9.2 breech-loading guns situated side by side at its 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 slaves 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 re-turning home having been swept overboard during storms or while working in the ship’s rigging.

Long whale boats set off with six oarsmen and a 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.














St. David’s Lighthouse

St. David’s Lighthouse was built in St. David’s 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 an automatic electric light beam, and it is overseen by the Bermuda Department of Parks, with outside viewing.



Map 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			



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