

CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly
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Profile

Bermuda at a Glance (1)



Bermuda is an archipelago consisting of seven main islands and over 180 islands and islets. Bermuda became an English

Colony in 1684.

I explored 500 years of history at the National Museum of Bermuda, housed within the island's largest fort. The 15-acre property includes British military buildings. Inside its limestone walls, I learned about Bermuda's links with the West Indies and the island's defense through two World Wars.

The Bermuda Triangle, a triangular area in the Atlantic, is said to be responsible for mysterious shipwrecks, disappearances, and airplane crashes. The apexes of the triangle are Bermuda; Miami, Florida; and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Bermuda Triangle was a secret pirate haven between Europe and the Caribbean. Black Bart was the most notorious pirate around that area.

Officially, Bermuda has just two towns, the City of Hamilton and the Town of St. George. But arguably the Royal Naval Dockyard, locally known as Dockyard and situated on Bermuda's West End, has so many amenities it could be seen as the island's third town.

Perched on the eastern tip of the island, the Town of St. George was established in 1612 and is where Bermuda began. As the oldest continuously inhabited town in the New World, I wanted to discover four centuries' worth of stories by walking down the winding alleys, huge forts, cobblestoned streets, and historic homes.

St. George was Bermuda's capital until 1815. In 2000, the town was awarded official

status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Unlike St. George's, throughout its history the City of Hamilton has adapted its architecture to suit its changing needs. Four years after the city became Bermuda's capital and seat of Government in 1815, the Sessions House was erected with its distinctive terracotta edged clock tower and arches being added in 1887 to honor Queen Victoria's golden Jubilee. The building contains Bermuda's House of Assembly upstairs, and the Supreme Court downstairs.

The Cabinet Building on Front Street, overlooking Hamilton Harbor was completed in 1841. Hamilton's City Hall and Arts Center opened as late as 1960 but its design is quintessentially Bermudian.

With a quaint Old World atmosphere and streets with more pedestrian traffic than that of

the cars, Royal Naval Dockyard makes for a particularly pleasant place to shop. They accept either U.S. or Bermudian dollars in the shops.

Gibbs Hill Lighthouse was made of cast iron. It opened in 1846. It is 245 feet high and has 185 steps. Bermuda's Fort Scaur is a UNESCO Historic Fort. National Museum of Bermuda covers 16 acres of historic property.

Bermuda has an inimitable carefree spirit. When evening turned into night, I could still hear music and laughter in the breeze - all under the

darkest, starriest skies I had ever seen in my whole life. That was Bermuda at a glance.



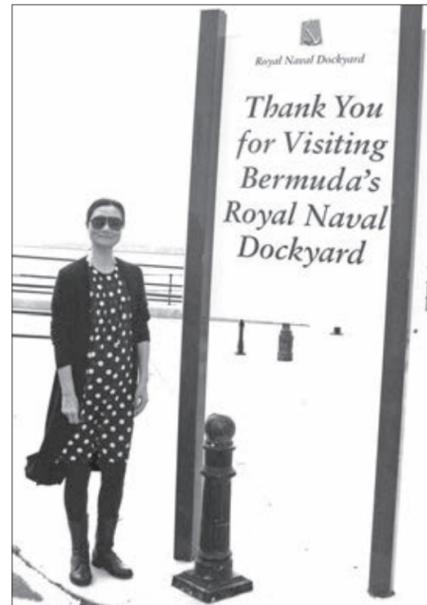
▲ happy to see the "Welcome to Bermuda" sign upon arrival on the island



▲ in front of Hamilton City Hall and Art Center in Bermuda



▲ Do you see the Union Jack on the Bermuda flag?



▲ enjoying a terrific experience visiting Bermuda's Royal Naval Dockyard

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