

BERMUDA

THE ISLAND OF ACTIVITY

Condé Nast Traveler readers voted the destination
“Best Island in the Caribbean/Atlantic” 18 times since 1994.

HAMILTON, BERMUDA: Named for the Spanish seafarer, Juan de Bermudez, the fishhook-shaped archipelago of Bermuda was discovered by traders in the early 1500s. Bermuda is the oldest and most populous British overseas territory and oldest English settlement in the New World. The island’s first town, St. George’s, has been continuously occupied since 1609.

In 1938, Pam Am flew its inaugural flight from New York with a transit time of over five hours—a duration that has been cut to only 90 minutes today. In fact, most East Coast airports are within a comfortable two and one-half hours from wheels up to touchdown.

The island’s appealing climate, warm British civility, and pink sand beaches have always been a draw. But, Bermuda is going through a renaissance. New hotels are under construction, including a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, and just opened is The Loren at Pink Beach. Tony restaurants are opening, one of the latest owned by Chef Marcus Samuelsson; and big ticket events and activities are a regular occurrence, with America’s Cup set to start in the coming weeks.

It comes as no surprise that *Travel+Leisure*, *Frommer’s*, and *Condé Nast Traveler* rank it a “Best Place to Travel” in 2017.

ADVENTURE CALLS

Cerulean, turquoise, and azure are colors to describe Bermuda’s brilliant blue water. At only 21 miles in length and two miles across at its widest point, the ocean is a part of Bermuda’s daily life.

Instead of working out in your resort’s fitness center, rent a hydrobike (similar to a stationary bicycle mounted on two 10 foot-long catamaran float) for an out-of-the-ordinary exercise.

Fishing, sailing, snorkeling, and shipwreck diving are island favorites. For a great escape, spend an afternoon at Jobson’s Cove, a slice of pink sand, blue sky, and crystal-clear waters. Be sure to save time to enjoy afternoon tea at the Crown & Anchor inside the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club. Service includes three-foot-high silver trays alongside steaming pots of English tea in fine Belgian china kettles.



Hamilton Princess Hotel & Beach Club



With six courses, Bermuda has one of the highest concentrations of golf per square mile in the world. Port Royal, host of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf for several years, has 13 holes with ocean views.

AMERICA’S CUP, where the best sailors on the fastest catamarans vie for the oldest trophy in international sport, predates the modern Olympic Games by 45 years.

MANY PATHS TO PARADISE

The Bermuda Rail Trail National Park follows 18 miles of an abandoned rail bed. The winding path crosses an old drawbridge and visits striking rocky coastlines and back-country greenery. Instagram-worthy photos include intimate beaches; panoramic ocean views; and lush, fragrant vegetation with century-old trees.

LEARNING THE LINGO

Deep water soloing (DWS) is one of the newest activities growing in popularity. The one-person pursuit involves sea-cliff climbing, with no equipment, where the only protection is the water below. With 250 deep-water solo climb spots in Bermuda, the island has become a known hot spot for the sport. Clarence Cove in Admiralty House Park (outside the city of Hamilton) is the most popular climb on the island—it’s “DWS central” according to *Climbing Magazine*.

UNCOVER THE ARTS

For centuries, Bermuda was known as “the Gibraltar of the West,” a potent symbol of the British Empire’s unparalleled military strength in the Atlantic. Its impressive historic forts, including Fort St. Catherine and Fort Hamilton, are open to the public. Also consider exploring



PHOTO BY SAM GREENFIELD

the island’s distinctive architecture and bright pastel colored homes with slate rooftops, specifically designed to catch rainwater. Take the time to visit the thatched-roof Carter House Museum (one of the oldest homes on the island) to the opulent Camden House, the official residence of the Premier.

Street festivals are a regular occurrence. It’s tradition to follow behind your favorite colorfully attired Gombey troupe and cheer them on as they “clash” against other troupes to the pulse and rhythm of lively music.

No matter your choice of activity, finish the day by settling in for a meal fit for a king at The Wharf in St. George’s. Indulge in a bowl of fish chowder and wash it down with a Dark ‘n Stormy. ■

Intrigued why Outside Magazine named Bermuda the best island for adventure? Visit GoToBermuda.com or call (800) 237-6832. Golf packages from \$599/3 nights including golf.

THERE’S A SIMPLE RULE to follow in Bermuda—make sure you say hello with a smile. Manners count. The island is small with a real sense of community.