

A Right of Passage



Bermuda, less than a three-hour flight from the East Coast, was recently named “Best Place to Travel in 2017” by Travel+Leisure.



HAMILTON, BERMUDA: An entrepreneur is “someone taking on greater than normal financial risks in order to start a business or enterprise.” The Gosling family clearly meets the definition.

“My grandfather of six generations ago was living in London in 1806 and wanted to expand his liquor business in the newly formed United States,” explained Malcolm Gosling, director of commercial sales. “He commissioned a 90-day voyage, headed by his eldest son, stocked with liquor valued at 10,000 pound sterling [that was a lot back then]. Weather, pirates, and naval blockades prevented him from making it to America. With his 90 days up, the crew unceremoniously dumped him and the liquor in the closest British port, which happened to be Bermuda.

“Locals quickly fell in love with his bounty and thus set the stage for the formation of our company—Goslings Rum—now run by our family for eight generations,” continued Gosling. “With no glass manufacturers in Bermuda in the early 1800s, liquor was served straight from the barrel. Seizing on an opportunity, the first bottles of rum were

Bermuda’s Ancient Fortresses dot its shoreline and are monuments to ages past. The island served as the British Royal Navy’s Western Atlantic headquarters for many years. It was a strategic naval center that played a key role in war and an important depot to ferry supplies to the Confederates during the U.S. Civil War.

THE GOODWILL PRO-AM IN BERMUDA

The world’s longest running Pro-Am will be held December 3 - December 6. Club professionals will compete for a purse up to \$25,000. For more information: BermudaGoodwillGolf.com.

THE GOSLINGS INVITATIONAL IN BERMUDA

The 43rd annual takes place November 27 - December 1. Format is a 72 hole, medal play at Port Royal and Belmont Hills. For more information, visit GoslingsRum.com/golf.

sold from recycled champagne jugs discarded by the British military. It’s now become a right of passage, when a Bermudian becomes an adult, to celebrate with a Rum Swizzle or a Dark ‘n Stormy cocktail.”

Known around the world for its pink-sand beaches, turquoise waters, and oceanfront golf courses, Bermuda is an archipelago composed of 181 islands, totaling 21 square miles. As you would expect, water activity is the lifeblood of its 65,000 residents.

The country is still a territory of the United Kingdom. Many of its customs, from driving on the left side of the road to cricket being a popular sport to the locals dry sense of humor, can be traced back to its English roots. African influences can also be found in dance and music, especially reggae, calypso, and the rhythm of the Gombey dancers, whose dancing and drumming troupes often take to the streets of downtown Hamilton.

“History is important to our company and country. We still own the building in St. George’s that housed our original liquor shop over 200 years ago,” reported Gosling.

CLOSE AND CONVENIENT

From most major Northeastern cities, it takes less time to fly to Bermuda than to Miami. “I attended university in the Northeast and you might be surprised that travel time to Bermuda is just a 90-



Bermuda Gombey Dance is a combination of British, West African and indigenous new-world cultures. It is performed during events like the Bermuda Day Parade, Boxing Day, and New Year’s Day.

minute flight from New York City,” said Gosling. “Bermuda’s infrastructure is modern and the streets are safe and clean.”

With six golf courses in operation on the island, Bermuda has one of the highest concentrations of golf per square mile in the world. Two of the island’s six courses are private: Mid Ocean and Tucker’s Point. However, several high-end hotels have limited access for their guests. The course receiving the most attention on Bermuda is Port Royal Golf Club. With 13 holes offering ocean views, it was host to the prestigious PGA Grand Slam of Golf for several years.

“There is a difference between U.S. and British designed courses,” detailed Gosling. “In America, I find many courses favor shots through the air. British courses favor the ground game and bump-and-run play. Golf in Bermuda is a blend of both American and British influence.

“No matter which course you play,” smiled Gosling, “finish your round at the 19th hole with a Dark ‘n Stormy with a squeeze of lime.” ■

For more on travel to Bermuda, visit GoToBermuda.com.



Malcolm’s Hot Spots In Bermuda: “Enjoy a fish sandwich at Woody’s in Somerset Village, try a Rum Swizzle at Rum Cellar at the Fairmont Southampton, and watch the sunset at Calico Jack’s docked at the Royal Naval Dockyard.” — MALCOLM GOSLING