

THE BEST OF BERMUDA

1

A drift in its own dreamy archipelago in the balmy Gulf Stream, this rich little oasis of pink-sand beaches and sparkling blue waters is simultaneously slightly British, slightly American, and very Bermudian. Whether you've come to unwind on Elbow Beach, shop among the pretty pastels and whites of historic Hamilton, or discover 400 years of history at Fort St. Catherine in St. George, you'll discover a pleasant mix of formal British culture dressed in a pair of Bermuda shorts.

THINGS TO DO Sit by the bustling waterfront and take in the capital scene in **Hamilton** or step back in time in **St. George**. Take a morning swim with the kids at sheltered **Tobacco Bay** or a sunset dip at **Elbow Beach**. The clear waters and white coves of **Warwick Parish** are made for scuba diving and **snorkeling**. Marvel at the subterranean beauty of **Crystal Caves**. Away from the beach, discover the **Vermont Historic House Museum**, with its period furnishings, or walk along the **Bermuda Railway Trail** for a closer look at the island's exotic wildlife.

SHOPPING All sorts of shops are clustered along **Front Street** in Hamilton. Under the atrium in The Emporium, you can browse boutiques and jewelry stores, or stroll the Royal Naval Dockyard area on Ireland Island for crafts and island pottery. You can watch local artisans at work at the **Bermuda Arts Centre**. Comparison shop at the Somers **Wharf & Branch Stores**, along Water Street, for better prices than their Hamilton counterparts.

NIGHTLIFE & ENTERTAINMENT Many of Bermuda's bars and clubs hug the busy waterfront at **Front Street** in Hamilton, where Victorian-era balconies offer Atlantic views. The nightlife scene continues in the streets leading uphill from the harbor. Many hotels host steel-drum or calypso bands, or you can head to **LVs Piano Jazz Lounge**, where live jazz is performed nightly. The little port of St. George and adjoining St. David's Island are loaded with pubs. Enjoy a pint at **White Horse Tavern**, the oldest pub in St. George.

RESTAURANTS & DINING Bermuda embraces a wide swath of American and European cuisines, but fresh seafood is still the default—and best—choice. Savor spiny lobster and wahoo steak in the elegant dining rooms of Sandys Parish or sink your teeth into shark hash and Bermudian rockfish in the restaurants along Hamilton's Front Street. For a cool treat, try the ice cream at island favorite Bailey's Ice Cream & Food D'Lites Restaurant in Hamilton Parish.

1 THE most UNFORGETTABLE BERMUDA EXPERIENCES

- **Exploring the Colonial Heritage:** Start with **The Royal Naval Dockyard** (Sandys Parish): Nothing recaptures the maritime spirit of this feisty island colony more than this sprawling complex on Ireland Island. Fearing attacks on its fleet by Napoleon, pirates, or rebellious Americans, Britain began building this massive fortress and dockyard in 1809. The Royal Navy occupied the shipyard for almost 150 years. The Dockyard closed as an official outpost of the British Empire in 1951, and Her Majesty's Navy has little presence today. The Maritime Museum's centerpiece is the spectacularly restored Commissioner's House, which during the mid-1800s was the most potent symbol of British military might in the western Atlantic. Its exhibits on Britain's (and Bermuda's) nautical heritage give you a good feel for a vanished era. See p. 88.
- **Diving:** If you're happiest under the sea, Bermuda has what you're looking for. That includes the wrecks of countless ships, underwater caves, rich reefs, and, during most of the year, warm, gin-clear waters. All around the island you'll find a kaleidoscope of coral and marine life that's the most varied in this part of the world. Many scuba experts consider Bermuda one of the safest and best places to learn the sport. Seasoned divers will not be disappointed, either—Bermuda has terrific diving areas for experts. Depths begin at 7.5m (25 ft.) or less, but can exceed 24m (79 ft.). Some wrecks are in about 9m (30 ft.) of water, which puts them within the range of snorkelers. See "The Best Dive Sites," below, and "Scuba Diving," in chapter 4.
- **Honeymooning:** Perhaps you'll head for **Tucker's Point Hotel & Spa** (Hamilton Parish; www.rosewoodtuckerspoint.com; ☎ 866/604-3764 or 441/298-9800): This is the most opulent resort in Bermuda. On 80 private hectares (200 acres) of beautiful seafont, the 88-room resort is a posh pocket of privacy. With four swimming pools, a championship golf course, a state-of-the-art spa, and a private pink-sand beach, lovers will adore this resort's romance and honeymooners will want to return for a second honeymoon. It's that special. See p. 182.
- **Biking & Hiking:** We recommend **The Bermuda Railway Trail** (Sandys Parish): Stretching for about 34km (21 miles), this unique trail was created along the course of the old Bermuda Railway, which served the island from 1931 to 1948 (automobiles weren't allowed on the island until the late 1940s). Armed with a copy of the *Bermuda Railway Trail Guide*, available at visitor centers, you can follow the route of the train known as "Rattle and Shake." Most of the trail still winds along a car-free route, and you can travel as much of it as your stamina allows. See p. 55 and 80.
- **Golfing:** **Play a round at Port Royal Golf Course** (Southampton Parish): This public course ranks among the best on the island, public or private; in fact, it's one of the greatest public courses in the world. Jack Nicklaus apparently agrees—he's fond of playing here. Robert Trent Jones, Sr., designed the original ocean-fronting course. One wrong hit from the club and your ball will go flying into the ocean below. See p. 78.
- **Going Underground:** Explore **Crystal Caves** (Hamilton Parish; www.caves.bm; ☎ 441/293-0640): Bermuda has the highest concentration of limestone caves in the world, many with echo patterns and sedimentary deposits that some spelunkers consider mystical. Collectively, these caves form one of the island's major

natural wonderlands. Their surreal formations took millions of years to come into being, and the great stalactites and stalagmites have a gothic grandeur. Crystal Caves, at Bailey's Bay, are among the best, and also among the few whose tunnels and chambers can be navigated by laypersons as part of a guided tour. Discovered in 1907, these caves house crystal-clear Cahow Lake. See p. 100.

THE best FOOD & DRINK EXPERIENCES

You don't come to Bermuda for grand cuisine. That said, there are quite a few places where you can enjoy a memorable meal.

- o **Fourways Inn** (Paget Parish; ☎ 441/236-6517). For a refined continental cuisine in an elegant, even romantic, setting evocative of an English manor house, this inn is almost without equal. Dishes from an imaginative chef are both innovative and classic, many recipes from the classic French repertoire. See p. 122.
- o **Tamarisk Dining Room** (Sandys Parish; ☎ 441/234-0331): This is an elegant enclave at the western tip of Bermuda. Housed in one of the island's premier accommodations, Cambridge Beaches, it offers excellent service and a frequently changing menu of impeccably prepared international cuisine. For your main course, you can't do better than juicy tenderloin of beef with grain mustard and blanched garlic sauce. The wine cellar is up to the high standards of the menu. See p. 114.
- o **Waterlot Inn** (Southampton Parish; ☎ 441/238-8000): In a historic inn and warehouse that's part of the Fairmont Southampton Princess, this restaurant serves the island's most famous Sunday brunch, but it's also an ideal choice for dinner. Eleanor Roosevelt and Mark Twain praised the cuisine in their day, and it continues to please. See p. 116.
- o **Ascots** (City of Hamilton, Pembroke Parish; ☎ 441/295-9644): In the Royal Palms Hotel, this restaurant specializes in a Continental menu that is mostly inspired by France and Italy, and does it exceedingly well. Classic techniques and first-rate ingredients are combined to make this one of the most enduring restaurants on the island. See p. 122.
- o **The Harbourfront Restaurant and Komodaru Sushi Lounge** (City of Hamilton, Pembroke Parish; www.diningbermuda.com; ☎ 441/295-4207): The most fashionable restaurant in Bermuda attracts serious gastronomes eager to sample its take on savory Asian and Mediterranean cuisine. Its sushi bar is also one of the best on the island. It's on the ground floor of the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute. See p. 125.
- o **Silk** (City of Hamilton, Pembroke Parish; www.bermudasbestrestaurants.com; ☎ 441/295-0449): Some critics, including the discriminating readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*, are hailing Silk as the island's finest restaurant. After our most recent feast here, we're inclined to agree. Recipes are inspired by the ancient Kingdom of Siam (think something like Thai, in other words). See p. 130.
- o **Tom Moore's Tavern** (Hamilton Parish; www.tommoores.com; ☎ 441/293-8020): The Irish poet Tom Moore reportedly was a frequent visitor to this restaurant, which dates from 1652 and overlooks Walsingham Bay. The menu, however, is no relic—it's quite innovative. Duck is a specialty, as is Bermuda lobster; but who can forget the quail in puff pastry stuffed with foie gras? See p. 138.

- **Lobster Pot & Boat House Bar** (City of Hamilton, Pembroke Parish; ☎ 441/292-6898): If you don't find the local foodies at the restaurants discussed above, they'll surely be at this local favorite, enjoying some of the island's best regional dishes. Black rum and sherry peppers are the not-so-secret ingredients in the fish chowder, and baked fish and lobster are sure to tempt you. See p. 129.

THE best WAY TO SEE BERMUDA LIKE A LOCAL

- **Head for St. David's Island** (St. George's Parish): Though most of Bermuda looks pristine and proper, you'll still find some vestiges of rustic maritime life on St. David's. Some St. David's Islanders never even bother to visit neighboring St. George, and to some locals, a trip to the West End of Bermuda would be like a trip to the moon. St. David's Lighthouse has been a local landmark since 1879. To see how people used to cook and eat, drop by Black Horse Tavern (p. 140).
- **Explore the Back Streets of St. George** (St. George's Parish): Almost every visitor to the island has photographed the 17th-century stocks on King's Square in historic St. George. But it's in the narrow back alleys and cobblestone lanes, such as Shinsbone Alley, that you'll really discover the town's old spirit. Arm yourself with a good map and wander at leisure through such places as Silk Alley (also called Petticoat Lane), Barber's Lane Alley (named for a former slave from South Carolina), Printer's Alley (where Bermuda's first newspaper was published), and Nea's Alley (former stomping ground of the Irish poet Tom Moore). Finally, walk through Somers Garden and head up the steps to Blockade Alley. On the hill is the aptly named Unfinished Cathedral. See "Iconic Bermuda in 1 Day," in chapter 3.
- **Go Natural at Spittal Pond Nature Reserve** (Sandys Parish; ☎ 441/236-6483): Bermuda still has some oases that aren't overrun with visitors. One such place is the **Spittal Pond Nature Reserve**, a sanctuary for migratory birds. It's a true walk through nature, with flowering bushes and citrus orchards. See p. 99.
- **Visit Verdmont** (Smith's Parish): This 1710 mansion is on property once owned by William Sayle, founder and first governor of South Carolina. Filled with portraits, antiques, and china, the house offers a rare glimpse into a long-faded life of old-fashioned style and grace. Resembling a small English manor house, it's the finest historic home in Bermuda. See p. 99.
- **Beachcomb on Somerset Long Bay** (Sandys Parish): The waters off this beach are often unsafe for swimming, but its isolation will appeal to anyone who wants to escape the crowds. With about .4km (¼ mile) of sand, the crescent-shaped beach is ideal for strolling. The undeveloped parkland of Sandys Parish shelters it from the rest of the island. See p. 68.

THE best FAMILY EXPERIENCES

Bermuda is more kid-friendly than any place we know in the Caribbean or The Bahamas. It's a safe, clean environment in a politically stable country. Nearly all Bermuda hotels go the extra mile to welcome families with children.

- **Go Sunning & Swimming at Horseshoe Bay** (Southampton Parish): This is Bermuda's most famous beach, and it's one of the best for families. Unlike most island

beaches, Horseshoe Bay has a lifeguard on duty from May to September. The **Horseshoe Bay Beach Cafe** (☎ 441/238-2651) offers complete facilities, including watersports equipment rental. See p. 67.

- **Book a Stay at the Fairmont Southampton** (Southampton Parish; www.fairmont.com/southampton; ☎ 866/540-4497 in the U.S. and Canada, or 441/238-8000): From June through Labor Day, this hotel features the best children's program in Bermuda. Children 17 and under stay free; and if the parents choose the MAP (breakfast and dinner included in the rates), kids also get free meals. With its many sports facilities, including two freshwater pools and six tennis courts, the Fairmont is definitely for families who enjoy the sporting life. The former Touch Club has been redesigned as Lenny's Loft, a social center for children's activities. From Lenny's Loft, kids are taken on excursions around the island. See p. 167.
- **Outfit the Gang at Pompano Beach Club Watersports Centre** (Southampton Parish; www.pompanobeachclub.com; ☎ 441/234-0222): Open from May to late October, it offers a variety of equipment, including the O'Brien Windsurfer, a popular sailboard suitable for one person at the intermediate or advanced level. Its fleet also includes vessels that hold one or two people: Dolphin paddle boats, Buddy Boards, Aqua-Eye viewing boards, Aqua Finn sailboats, and kayaks. These can be rented for up to 4 hours. See p. 75.
- **Go Biking:** You can't rent a car on Bermuda, so you might as well hit the road on two wheels. Most of the island isn't great cycling terrain; the roads are narrow and the traffic is heavy. So we suggest that you head for the Railway Trail, the island's premier bike path. The paved trail, which follows the former route of Bermuda's railway line, runs almost the entire length of the island. See "Other Outdoor Pursuits," in chapter 4.

THE best BEACHES

Your first priority on your Bermuda vacation probably will be to kick back at the beach. But which beach? Hotels often have private stretches of sand; if so, we describe the beach in each hotel's review (see chapter 9). There are many fine public beaches as well. Here are our top choices, arranged clockwise around the island, beginning with the south-shore beaches closest to the City of Hamilton. For more details, see chapter 4.

- **Elbow Beach** (Paget Parish): The pale pink sand stretches for almost 1.6km (1 mile) at Elbow Beach, one of the most popular beaches in Bermuda. Three hotels sit on its perimeter. Because protective coral reefs surround it, Elbow Beach is one of the safest beaches on the island for swimming. See p. 64.
- **Warwick Long Bay** (Warwick Parish): This popular beach, on the south side of South Shore Park, features a 1km (½-mile) stretch of sand against a backdrop of scrubland and low grasses. Despite frequent winds, an offshore reef keeps the waves surprisingly small. Less than 60m (200 ft.) offshore, a jagged coral island appears to be floating above the water. There is excellent snorkeling here—the waters are clear and marine life comes in close to shore. See p. 65.
- **Chaplin Bay** (Warwick and Southampton parishes): At the southern extremity of South Shore Park, straddling the boundary of two parishes, this small but secluded beach almost completely disappears during storms and particularly high tides. An open-air coral barrier rises from the water, partially separating one half of the beach from the other. See p. 66.

- **Church Bay** (Southampton Parish): If you like to snorkel, this southwestern beach is for you. The relatively calm waters, sheltered by offshore reefs, harbor a variety of marine life, and a concession stand sells snacks and rents snorkel gear. Sunbathers love the unusually deep pink sands of this beach. See p. 68.
- **Shelly Bay** (Hamilton Parish): On the north shore, you'll discover calm waters and soft, pink sand—and you'll want for nothing else. This beach is well known among beach buffs, but it's rarely overcrowded and there's always a spot in the sun just waiting for you. See p. 68.
- **Tobacco Bay** (St. George's Parish): A popular stretch of pale pink sand, this is the most frequented beach on St. George's Island. It offers lots of facilities, including equipment rentals and a snack bar. See p. 69.
- **John Smith's Bay** (Smith's Parish): The only public beach in Smith's Parish is long and flat. It boasts the pale pink sand for which the south shore is famous. There's usually a lifeguard on duty from May to September—a plus for families. There are toilets and changing facilities on-site. See p. 69.

THE best OUTDOOR PURSUITS

- **Golf:** Known for its outstanding courses, Bermuda attracts the world's leading golfers. Over the years, such luminaries as President Eisenhower, President Truman, and the Duke of Windsor have hit the island's links. Rolling, hummocky fairways characterize the courses. Many avid golfers come to Bermuda to “collect courses.” See “The Best Golf Courses,” below, for our top picks, and “Where to Play World-Class Golf,” in chapter 4.
- **Boating & Sailing:** Yachters around the world agree: Bermuda is one of the world's top boating destinations. Many people forget that Bermuda isn't one island, but an archipelago, with all kinds of nooks and crannies waiting to be discovered. With the fresh wind of the Atlantic blowing in your hair, you can embark on your own voyage of discovery, exploring Great Sound and its islets, including Long Island and Hawkins Island. Tiny, secluded beaches beckon you to put down anchor and relax awhile. If you're a novice, try Mangrove Bay; it's protected and safer than some of the more turbulent seas. See “More Fun in the Water,” in chapter 4.
- **Horseback Riding:** Steering a horse through the dune grass and oleander, especially at South Shore Park, is an experience you won't want to miss. Because this sport is restricted to supervised trails on Bermuda, it can be all the more memorable—you'll have the gorgeous seascapes all to yourself. Horseback-riding centers guide you on trails through the best of the countryside and to beautiful hidden spots along the north coast. See “Other Outdoor Pursuits,” in chapter 4.

THE best DIVE SITES

The following are some of the most exciting shipwreck and coral-reef dives. See “Scuba Diving,” in chapter 4, for information about dive outfitters and for more about the sites described below.

- **The Constellation:** This 60m (197-ft.), four-masted schooner, which wrecked en route to Venezuela with a cargo of glassware, drugs, and whiskey in 1943, lies in 9m (30 ft.) of water off the northwest side of the island, about 13km (8 miles) northwest of the Royal Naval Dockyard. The true story of this ship inspired Peter Benchley to write *The Deep*.

- **The Cristóbal Colón:** The largest known shipwreck in Bermuda's waters is this 144m (472-ft.) Spanish luxury liner; it ran aground in 1936 on a northern reef between North Rock and North Breaker. It lies in 9 to 17m (30–56 ft.) of water.
- **The Hermes:** This 50m (164-ft.) steamer ship rests in some 24m (79 ft.) of water about 1.5km (1 mile) off Warwick Long Bay on the south shore. It foundered in 1985. The *Hermes*, the *Rita Zovetta*, and the *Tauton* (see below) are Bermuda favorites because of the incredible multicolored variety of fish that populate the waters around the ships. You'll have a chance to see grouper, brittle starfish, spiny lobster, crabs, banded coral shrimp, queen angels, tube sponges, and more.
- **L'Herminie:** A first-class, 60-gun French frigate, *L'Herminie* was 17 days out of its Cuban port, en route to France, when it sank in 1838. The ship lies in 6 to 9m (20–30 ft.) of water off the west side of the island, with 25 cannons still visible.
- **The Marie Celeste:** This paddle-wheeler sank in 1864. Its 4.5m-diameter (15-ft.) paddle wheel, off the southern portion of the island, is overgrown with coral standing about 17m (56 ft.) off the ocean floor.
- **The North Carolina:** One of Bermuda's most colorful and well-preserved wrecks, this English sailing barkentine foundered in 1879 and now lies in about 12m (39 ft.) of water off the western portion of the island. The bow, stern, masts, and rigging are all preserved, and all sorts of vibrant marine life call the wreck home.
- **The Rita Zovetta:** A 120m (394-ft.) Italian cargo ship, lying in 6 to 21m (20–69 ft.) of water off the south side of the island, the *Rita Zovetta* ran aground off St. David's Island in 1924. It's a favorite with underwater photographers because of the kaleidoscope of fish that inhabit the area.
- **South West Breaker:** This coral-reef dive off the south shore, about 2.5km (1½ miles) off Church Bay, has hard and soft coral decorating sheer walls at depths of 6 to 9m (20–30 ft.).
- **The Tauton:** This popular dive site is a Norwegian coastal steamer that sank in 1920. It lies in 3 to 12m (10–39 ft.) of water off the north end of the island and is home to numerous varieties of colorful marine life.
- **Tarpon Hole:** Near Elbow Beach, off the south shore, this dive's proximity to the Elbow Beach Hotel makes it extremely popular. The honeycombed reef—one of the most beautiful off the coast of Bermuda—is known for its varieties of coral: yellow pencil, elkhorn, fire, and star.

THE best GOLF COURSES

- **Belmont Hills Golf & Country Club** (Warwick Parish): California-based designer Algie M. Pulley, Jr., radically reconfigured this par-70, 5,501m (6,017-yd.) course in 2002. Since its reopening, amid justifiable brouhaha surrounding the most extensive golf course rebuilding in the history of Bermuda, there has been endless discussion about the peculiar features of this relatively short but quirkily challenging course. See p. 77.
- **Fairmont Southampton Golf Club** (Southampton Parish): This is a par-54, 2,454m (2,684-yd.) course, with elevated tees, strategically placed bunkers, and an array of water hazards to challenge even the most experienced golfer. One golfer said of this course, "You not only need to be a great player, but have a certain mountaineering agility as well." See p. 77.

1 THE best SAILING OUTFITTERS

Bermuda is one of the Atlantic's major sailing capitals. Many sail-yourself boats are available for rent to qualified skippers, and kayaks, paddle boats, sailboards, and more are available for everyone. If you'd like to sail on a larger craft, the outfitters will provide you with a captain. Here are some of the best outfitters.

- **Blue Hole Water Sports** (Grotto Bay Beach Hotel, Hamilton Parish; www.blueholewater.bm; ☎ 441/293-2915): Here you'll find a large selection of watercraft, including Sunfish, sailboards, kayaks, Paddle Cats, and Sun Cats. Rentals are available for up to 8 hours. See p. 75.
- **Somerset Bridge Watersports** (Somerset Parish; www.watersportssomersetbridge.com; ☎ 441/234-3145): This is the best place to rent a Boston Whaler, a small boat that can hold three or four passengers. It's an ideal craft for exploring the archipelago's uninhabited islands. This outfitter rents 4m (13-ft.) Whalers and a 30-hp, 5m (16-ft.) Open Bowrider, a speed-craft often used to pull water-skiers, which accommodates four. See p. 75.

THE best TENNIS FACILITIES

- **The Fairmont Southampton** (Southampton Parish): This is Bermuda's premier destination for avid players. Its tennis court complex is the largest on the island, and is maintained in state-of-the-art condition. The deluxe hotel, one of the finest on Bermuda, offers six Plexipave (professional color surface) courts. The courts are somewhat protected from the north winds, but swirling breezes may affect your final score. See p. 80.
- **Elbow Beach** (Paget Parish): With the closing of several other tennis courts on the island in recent years, avid tennis players have had to search a bit harder for suitable venues on which to play. With a pedigree dating from the early days of Bermuda tourism, and with a sprawling physical plant that incorporates just about everything, these five tennis courts are open to visitors who phone ahead. Three of them are lit for night play. See p. 80.
- **Government Tennis Stadium** (Pembroke Parish): Although Bermuda has been known as the tennis capital of the Atlantic since 1873, players often complain that the trade winds around the island affect their game, especially near the water. That's why many prefer inland courts, such as those at this government-owned stadium. It offers three clay and five shock-absorbing Plexicushion courts (three illuminated for night play). The facility, which is north of the City of Hamilton, requires players to wear proper tennis attire. A pro shop, a ball machine, and a pro offering private lessons are on-site. See p. 80.

THE best DAY HIKES

- **From the Royal Naval Dockyard to Somerset** (Sandys Parish): A 6.5km (4-mile) walk leads from the dockyard, the former headquarters of the British navy on Bermuda, to Somerset Island. Along the way you'll cross a beautiful nature reserve; explore an old cemetery; view the Royal Naval Hospital, where thousands of yellow-fever victims died in the 19th century; and be rewarded with a sweeping panoramic view of Great Sound. Sandy beaches along the route are perfect for

pausing from your hike to stretch out on the sand or take a dip in the ocean. See “Iconic Bermuda in 3 Days,” in chapter 3.

- Spittal Pond Nature Reserve** (Smith's Parish): This 24-hectare (59-acre) sanctuary is the island's largest nature reserve, home to both resident and migratory waterfowl. You can spot some 25 species of waterfowl from November to May. Scenic trails and footpaths cut through the property. Explore on your own or take a guided hike offered by the Department of Agriculture. See p. 99.

THE best VIEWS

- Warwick Long Bay:** This stretch of pristine pink sand is a dream beach of the picture-postcard variety. It backs up to towering cliffs and hills studded with Spanish bayonet and oleander. A 6m-high (20-ft.) coral outcrop, rising some 60m (200 ft.) offshore and resembling a sculpted boulder, adds variety to the stunning beachscape. See p. 65.
- Scaur Hill Fort Park:** From Somerset Bridge in Sandys Parish, head for this fort atop the parish's highest hill. Walk the fort's ramparts, enjoying the vistas across Great Sound to Spanish Point. You can also gaze north to the dockyard and take in the fine views of Somerset Island. On a clear day, a look through the telescope reveals St. David's Lighthouse, 23km (14 miles) away on the northeastern tip of the island. After enjoying the fantastic views from the fort, you can stroll through the fort's 9 hectares (22 acres) of beautiful gardens. See p. 88.
- Gibbs Hill Lighthouse:** For an even better view than the one enjoyed by Queen Elizabeth II when she visited but did not climb the lighthouse in 1953, hike the 185 spiral steps to the top. Built in 1846, it's the oldest cast-iron lighthouse in the world. From the top, you can relish what islanders consider the single finest view in all of Bermuda—a panorama of the island and its shorelines. In heavy winds, the tower actually sways, so be sure to hang on to the railing when you're up there. See p. 92.

THE best HISTORIC SITES

- Scaur Hill Fort Park** (Sandys Parish): Fort Scaur and Fort St. Catherine were part of a ring of fortifications that surrounded Bermuda. Built by the British navy, the fort was supposed to protect the Royal Naval Dockyard from an attack that never materialized. During World War II, U.S. Marines were billeted nearby. Overlooking Great Sound, the fort offers views of some of the island's most dramatic scenery. See p. 88.
- St. Peter's Church** (St. George's Parish): This is the oldest Anglican house of worship in the Western Hemisphere. At one time, virtually everyone who died on Bermuda was buried here, from governors to criminals. To the west of the church lies a graveyard of slaves. The present church sits on the site of the original, which colonists built in 1612. A hurricane destroyed the first structure in 1712, but some parts of the interior survived. It was rebuilt on the same site in 1713. See p. 104.
- Fort St. Catherine** (St. George's Parish): This fort—with its tunnels, cannons, and ramparts—towers over the beach where the shipwrecked crew of the *Sea Venture* first came ashore in 1609 (becoming Bermuda's first settlers). The fort was completed in 1614, and extensive rebuilding and remodeling continued until the 19th

century. The audiovisual presentation on St. George's defense system helps you better understand what you're seeing. See p. 105.

- o **Great Head Park** (St. George's Parish): This memorial to the men and women who died at sea has been cited as one of the genuinely evocative monuments of Bermuda. See p. 103.