

TOURS AND VENUES

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Homes and Gardens of Colonial Bermuda

Bermuda is perfect for an off-season escape in February with its turquoise waters, pink sands and temperatures in the 60s and 70s. Join us for a week, exploring Georgian houses of Bermuda coral limestone, furnished with Bermuda-made cedar furniture, some still owned by the original families. Specialists will join us for visits, discussions and receptions to share their expertise on such topics as architecture and decorative arts, British forts and native and resident artists. There will also be time to simply relax and absorb the gracious atmosphere of this enchanted island, where narrow lanes, winding roads and well-tended gardens blend easily with beauty of the natural environment.

Highlights of the program include:

- a tour of Verdmont, the “crown jewel” of the Bermuda National Trust, housing the island’s most notable collection of antique Bermuda cedar furniture;
- a visit and private reception at the Tucker House, an 18th century merchant house elegantly furnished with family heirlooms of one of Bermuda’s most famous families;
- a private reception in a privately owned historic house and home .

Day 1

- Arrive at Bermuda's airport, where you will be met by taxi and transferred to your hotel.
- This evening, meet local hosts during a reception at Waterville, headquarters of the Bermuda National Trust. It was in this Georgian house that Bermuda's most famous shop, Trimingham's, opened in 1848.
- Return to the hotel for a welcome dinner.

Day 2

- Gain a bird's-eye view of Bermuda during an orientation slide lecture on the island's history and topography by a local photographer.
- At Verdmont, "the jewel in the crown" of the Bermuda National Trust, we will have an opportunity to examine its architectural features—double roof, interior shutters, fireplaces and sash windows—which are so similar to an English manor of the early 18th century.
- Then walk back in history along the narrow streets of St. George's, Bermuda’s first capital, the oldest continually inhabited British town in the New World and World Heritage Site!
- After a light lunch, take a special tour of Tucker House, a charming merchant's house filled with original furnishings. Home to one of Bermuda's most important families, it was also the site of a barbershop operated by Joseph Hayne Rainey, first black member of the U.S. House of Representatives. A wine and cheese reception follows at the Tucker House.
- Enjoy a guided tour of Fort St. Catherine, one of Bermuda’s most important fortification.
- Plan to have dinner at your hotel or a location of your choice.

Day 3

- Take a walking tour of the Botanical Gardens in the company of a docent from the Botanical Society.
- Visit Camden House, the official residence of the Premier, located on the grounds of the Botanical Gardens.
- Meet the Clerk of the House, for a tour of the House of Assembly.
- Enjoy a light lunch in Hamilton.
- During a special, curator-led tour of the National Gallery, discover how artists have interpreted the natural beauty of the island.
- Time on your own will allow for exploration of Hamilton's famous Front Street, lined with shops featuring goods from all over the world. Or take a walking tour of Hamilton and learn about Bermuda's colorful first postmaster, William Bennet Perot, during a visit to the old post office. Perot preferred gardening to his mail duties and spent much of his time in Par-la-Ville Park.
- Remain in Hamilton or return to the hotel by taxi for an afternoon at leisure. Take a stroll or enjoy afternoon tea in the hotel lobby.
- In the evening, gather for a slide presentation of the Maritime Museum. Listen to the lecture on the collections and conservation techniques of the museum in preparation for your visit tomorrow.
- Dinner tonight is at your hotel.

Day 4

- Board one of Bermuda's traditional ferries for a ride across the Great Sound to the Royal Naval Dockyard. Once known as the "Gibraltar of the West," the Dockyard is now the setting for a series of museums and displays. Take a special tour of the Maritime Museum, focusing on Bermuda's long seafaring history from the days of the *Sea Venture* to a fascinating exhibit of the Bermuda dinghy.
- The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.
- We are the guests of Bermudians for an evening reception at a privately owned historic house, lived in by the same family for over 200 years.

Day 5

- Meet the Director at the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum, and Zoo for a behind-the-scenes tour of the collections.
- Take a walk along the beach with a guide who will discuss Bermuda's distinctive natural elements. The group will be divided for those wishing a longer exploration of the beach and those who would prefer a short walk combined with a pleasant driving tour.
- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.
- Enjoy a farewell dinner at your hotel.

Day 6

- After breakfast, depart by individual transfer to the airport to board your return flight.