

HAMILTON CITY

Hamilton Princess is located in Bermuda's capital, Hamilton, with the city centre a short walk away

THE PINK PRINCESS

The large pink hotel is a conspicuous marker on the approach to the marina

MARINA OFFICE

SUPERYACHT BERTHS



HAMILTON PRINCESS MARINA

BERMUDA

32° 17'.41N, 64° 47.62 W

LUXURY MARINA

The 60-berth marina offers five-star luxury, with a dedicated marina concierge and gourmet onsite catering

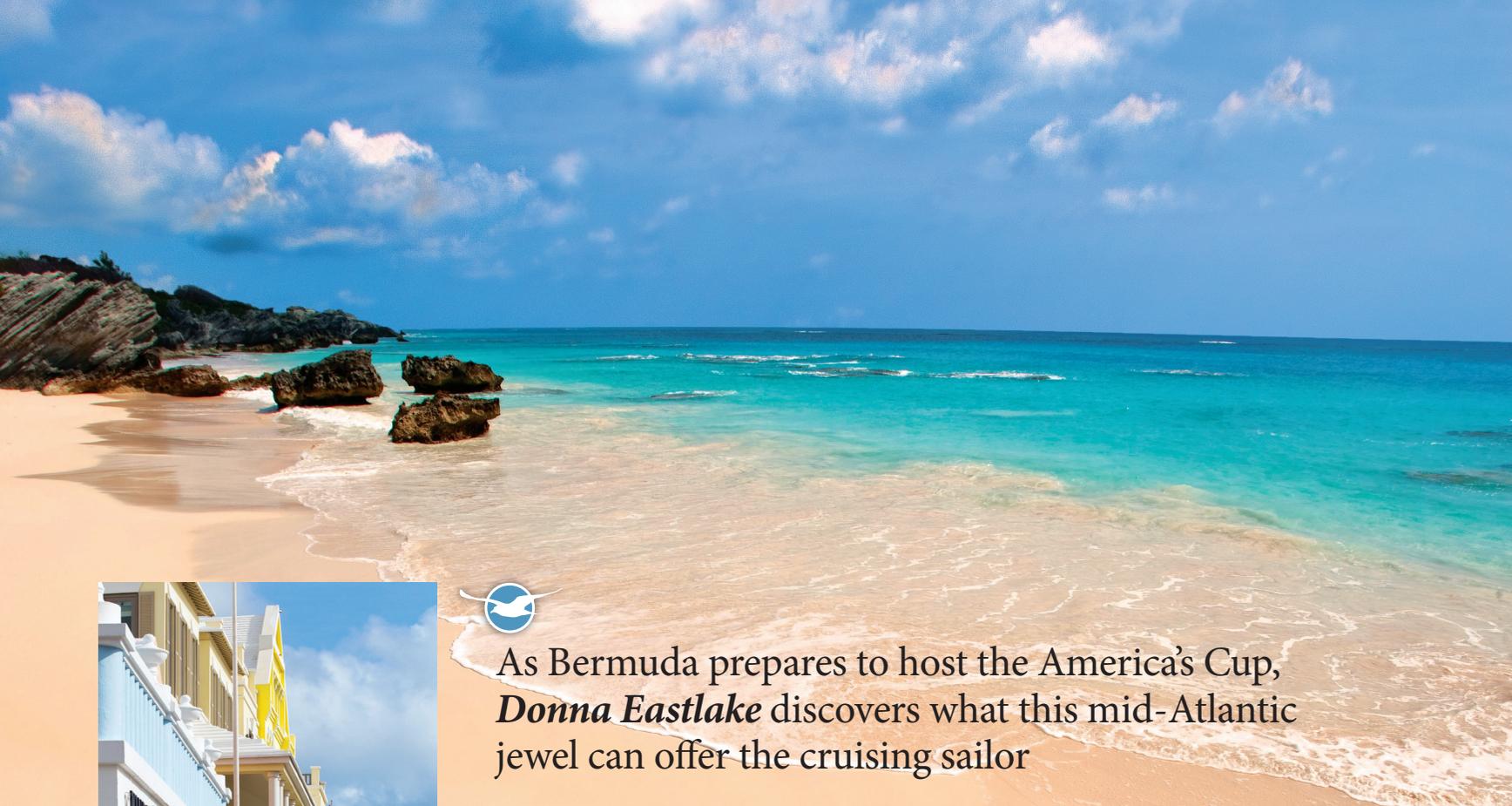
GREEN
NAVIGATION
BEACON

FERRY CHANNEL

The access channel to Hamilton Princess is dredged to 15m to accommodate the cruise ships and ferries which regularly pass along here

LIGHTHOUSE AT
SOUTHWEST CORNER





As Bermuda prepares to host the America's Cup, *Donna Eastlake* discovers what this mid-Atlantic jewel can offer the cruising sailor



32° 17'.41N
64° 47'.62W



30

NEXT MONTH

Lymington
Yacht Haven

On sale 30 June

The eyes of the sailing world will be firmly fixed on Bermuda this summer, when it hosts the 2017 America's Cup. The island is expecting visitors aplenty and those heading here in their yacht will benefit from this brand new marina right in the heart of Hamilton, Bermuda's buzzing capital.

Bermuda itself possesses a interesting history, having been settled by accident rather than by design. This group of islands was first discovered by Juan de Bermudez in 1505, who named the tiny uninhabited archipelago in the north

Atlantic for himself. But it wasn't settled for another hundred years, when in 1609, Sir George Somers, aboard *Sea Venture*, was headed for the English settlement of Jamestown, Virginia. A storm rose up as they were passing Bermuda, leading Somers to wreck *Sea Venture* in the reefs to avoid sinking. It destroyed the ship but saved the crew.

Survivors spent months on Bermuda building two new ships which eventually set sail for Jamestown. Yet some crew remained and settled on the island.

Being a British colony so close to the US makes for an interesting cultural juxtaposition. On the one

hand, there are red telephone boxes and distinct Georgian architecture. On the other hand, accents are American-sounding, most shops are American, and people have an incredibly open and enthusiastic manner, which flouts the British stiff upper lip.

The islands have plenty to offer visitors, from exploring the town of St George, to discovering the secrets of Admiralty House with its system of defensive tunnels and caverns.

The famous Crystal Caves offer spectacular stalactites and stalagmites. Meanwhile, the very reefs that saved Sir George Somers and his crew just over 400 years ago, make for first-rate snorkelling and scuba diving grounds.

Local berth holder

Richard Beale & Maureen Sullivan

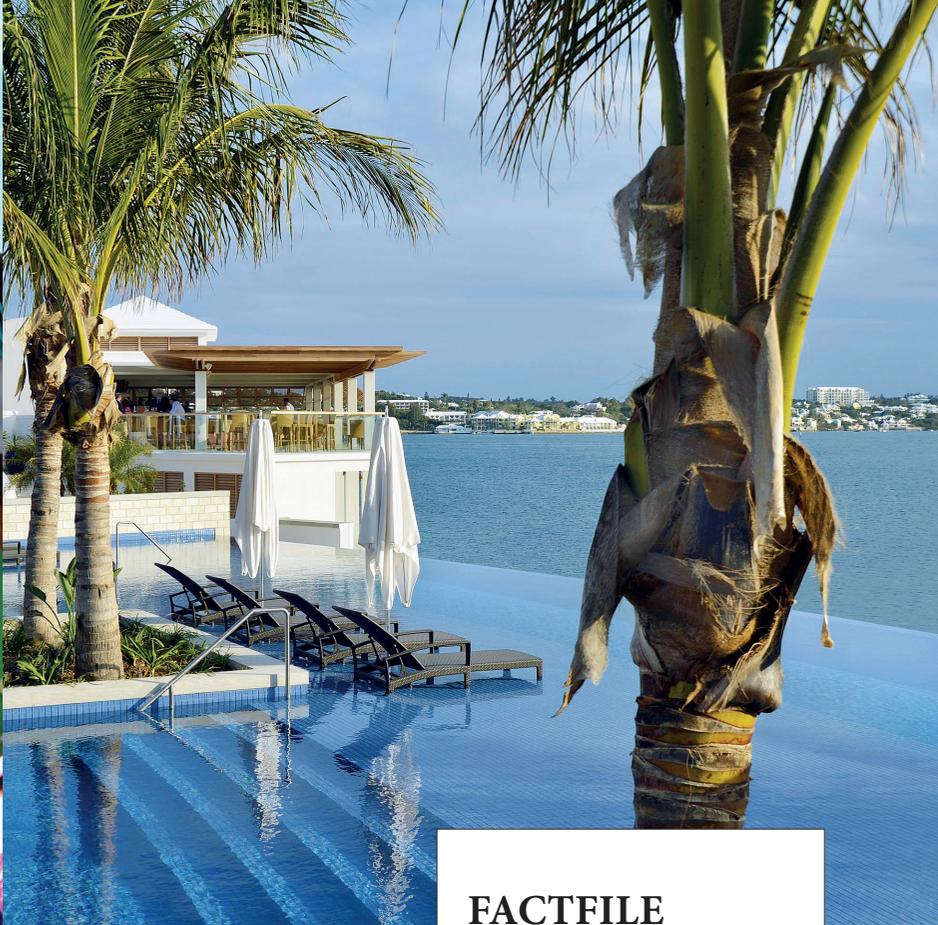


We've been visiting Hamilton Princess marina with our Gemini 105mc sailing catamaran, *Happy Cat*, since it opened. It's a great central location and ideal for our charter company, SeaSplash Bermuda. Its breakwater

offers protection from the choppy waters of the shipping channel and the wash created by other marine traffic. It's accessible 24-7 and the dockmaster, Tom, is always on hand to help. There are chandlers in Hamilton City, or for bigger yacht repairs Dockyard is a 30-minute sail across the Great Sound and you'll find everything you need there.

BERMUDA TOURISM; HAMILTON PRINCESS HOTEL





HAMILTON PRINCESS MARINA

MARINA GUIDE

Opened just last year, Hamilton Princess Marina is the luxury option for cruising sailors visiting this tropical idyll. Connected to the historic Hamilton Princess Hotel and Beach Club, the marina offers berth holders all the luxuries of a five-star hotel, coupled with marina essentials for cruising yachts.

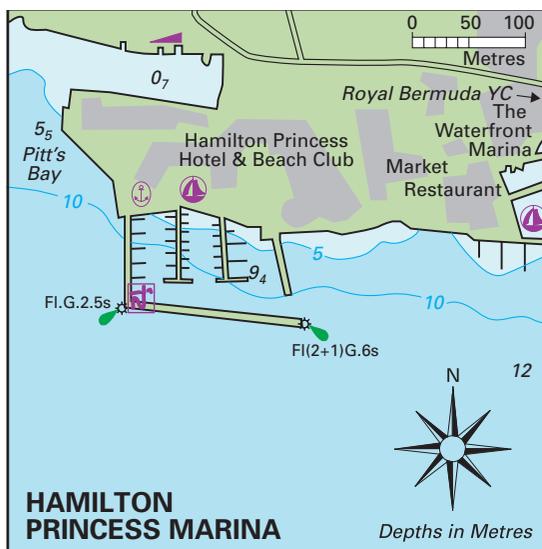
Its deep-water moorings mean that it caters for cruising yachts of all sizes and even has space for super-yachts of 500ft.

There is, of course, the option for all berth holders to book into the hotel and enjoy a few nights on land, but if you wish to remain on your yacht, then you can take advantage of a dedicated marina concierge, gourmet onsite catering and high speed internet access. You can order room service to your yacht, and even schedule an on-board massage.

On arrival, dockmaster Tom Whayman, will supply you with a Captain's Pack, telling you all you need to know about the marina and offering useful ideas of where to go and what to see on the island. The marina offers plenty to keep guests entertained, with weekly music and

drinks events such as the Cigar Evening, featuring live jazz, fine cigars and a choice of single malts or island rums. There are also three restaurants onsite; the pan-seared scallops at 1609 are highly recommended, and the portions don't disappoint.

If you're looking to enjoy some of the local colour, then Hamilton has plenty of cafes, bars and restaurants all within a short stroll of the hotel. When it comes to cafes, Dangelini's, overlooking the harbour, is a particularly lovely spot to sit back, enjoy a coffee, and watch the world go by.



KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Boat hoist
- Fuel berth
- Marina car park
- Chandlery/brokerage
- Tide board
- Domestic waste disposal
- Waste oil
- Pump out
- Recycling
- Lifeboat
- Marina

FACTFILE

HAMILTON PRINCESS MARINA

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The marina can be accessed at all times and dock staff are available 24-7

VHF: CH 75

60-berths accommodating yachts 30ft to 75ft and a further four berths for super-yachts of 500ft+

Utilities: water and electricity and cable TV at every berth

Fuel: There is no fuel dock at present (looking to install one at a later date). In the meantime, there is another marina next door and HPM berth holders have access to that

- Pump-out facilities
- Wifi

- On site ATM
- Showers
- Laundry service
- Dedicated marina concierge
- Room service delivered to your berth
- Access to hotel facilities such as swimming pool and gym

BERTHING CHARGES

1 May – 31 Aug:	\$5 per ft per day
1 Sep – 31 April:	\$3.50 per ft per day

PASSAGE PLANNING

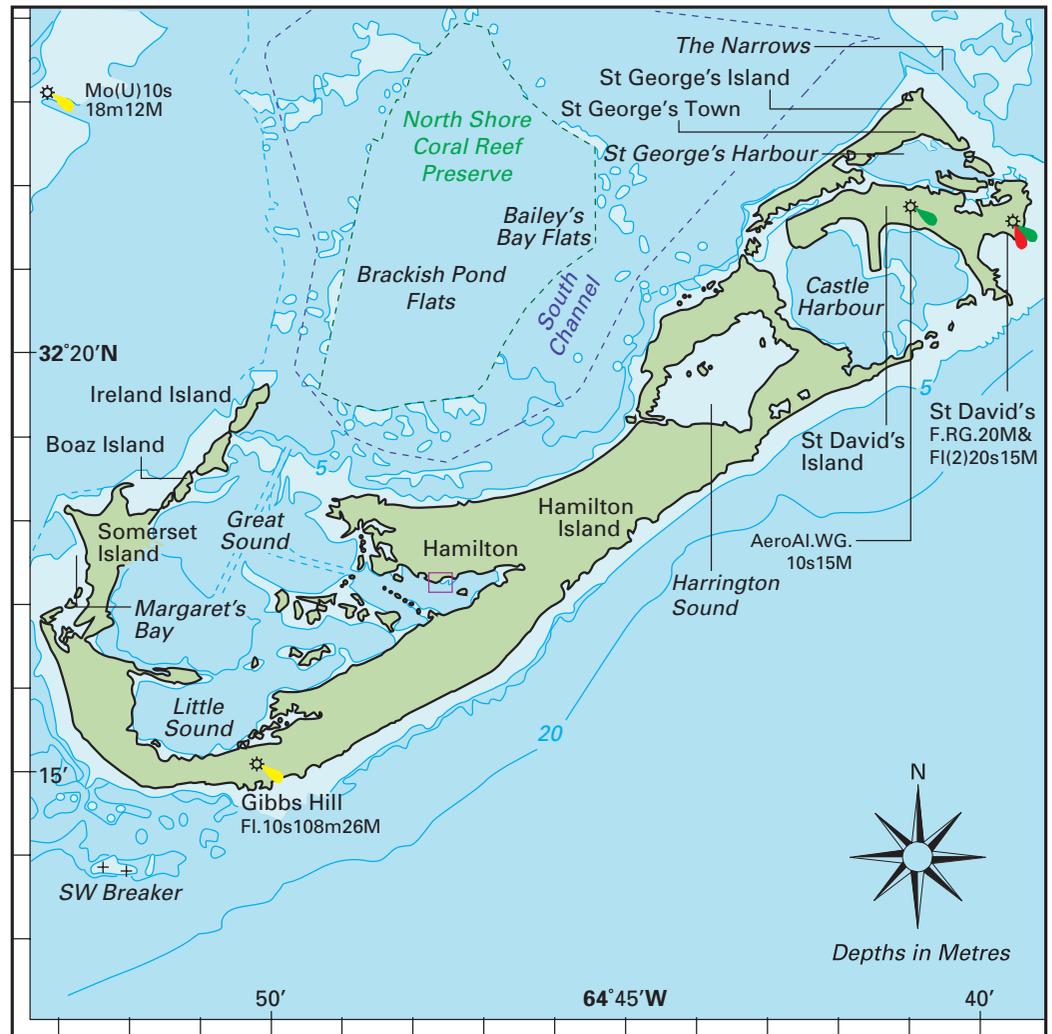
Enter the Great Sound (racecourse for the America's Cup) at the west of the island. The entrance is marked by The Commissioner's House, on the cliff

The marina sits on the north side of Hamilton Harbour, within the hook-shaped stretch of land to the west of Bermuda.

To access the harbour, enter the Great Sound (racecourse for the America's Cup) at the west of the island. The entrance is marked by The Commissioner's House, standing high on the cliff, in the Royal Naval Dockyard. Heading southeast, you'll enter the harbour by passing between Agar Island and Lefroy Island.

The marina sits at the edge of a shipping channel dredged to accommodate the ferries and cruise ships, which regularly utilise this waterway. This makes for easy passage.

The first signpost on approach



ABOVE
The hook-shaped Hamilton Island lies to the west of Bermuda

BELOW LEFT
Royal Naval Dockyards, once a bastion of British naval power

BELOW RIGHT
The Commissioner's House, Royal Naval Dockyard, Bermuda

will be the pastel pink buildings of the hotel itself, on your port side. The hotel is large and well lit, so clearly visible day or night.

As you near the marina, you'll see the lighthouse on the southwest corner of the breakwater. Entry to the marina is at the southeast corner, marked by a green navigation

beacon. If you call ahead to book, then you will be assured of a berth, and a member of dock staff will be on hand to assist you with mooring and check-in.

They can also handle immigration documentation for you. Call the marina on CH 75 to advise of approach.



DONNA EASTLAKE: BERMUDA TOURISM; IMRAY





CRUISING GROUNDS

Its Atlantic setting offers a famous breeze and cruising throughout the islands

Owing to its position in the mid-Atlantic, Bermuda has become a traditional stopover during transatlantic crossings. It's natural stopover for yachts taking the northerly route between the US and Europe. It therefore offers a welcome respite for sailors after weeks at sea. However, as a result of its isolation, cruising grounds are limited to the coast of Bermuda itself. Don't let this put you off though; the island has plenty to offer the cruising sailor and the famed year-round breeze, which attracted the America's Cup to its shores, can provide plenty of good cruising opportunities.

The south coast is peppered

with dozens of secluded coves and deserted sandy beaches to visit and explore, and you could spend weeks happily doing just that. First up, the famous Horseshoe Bay on the south coast is well worth a visit. With its pink sands and clear waters, it regularly makes the list of the best beaches in the world. It is, however, worth noting that the prevailing wind in Bermuda is SW, meaning you have to pick your day to anchor here.

From here you can head northwest, visiting the quieter Mermaid, Marley and Elbow beaches. The eastern part of this coast is studded with reefs and there are several shipwrecks along the

ABOVE LEFT
Participants in the Newport - Bermuda race show their colours

ABOVE RIGHT
Horseshoe Bay ranks among the world's most famous beaches

BELOW
Gibbs Hill lighthouse, erected by the Royal Engineers in 1844, is the taller of Bermuda's two lighthouses

south coast, including The American ship, *Apollo*, wrecked on Bermuda's treacherous reefs in 1890. The shipwrecks serve as a cautionary tale to cruising sailors, to keep a safe distance from the shore and keep a close eye on your depth sounder.

Continuing along the coast, you'll reach Castle Harbour, a large natural harbour on the northeast edge of Bermuda, and just around the peninsula, St George's Island, accessed via St George's Channel which offers a plethora of options for exploring.

The north eastern coast of Bermuda is far more exposed compared with north west, with fewer options to moor. Bailey's Bay is a popular place to stop, with shelter from Bay Island. From there, you'll cruise the deeper, more exposed waters of the north eastern coast, back towards the Great Sound and the shelter it provides. ⚓



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