

ISLAND IN THE SUN

*We take a trip across the Atlantic to
discover an untouched paradise where
tradition meets modernity*

Words: Shaun Prince





With tales of vanishing ships and disappearing planes keeping conspiracy theorists up at night, Bermuda has become synonymous with mystery. But the drama that often shrouds the islands and their infamous 'triangle' is, in fact, far removed from reality. Here, life is simple. The waters are clear, the beaches are calm, and whatever the weather (usually brilliant blue skies and wall-to-wall sunshine) everyone carries a warm smile. »



Marcus Restaurant

Bermuda may not officially be in ‘the Caribbean’ but it possesses all of its neighbouring region’s tropical allure, and much more. Located off the coast of Florida, the archipelago serves up a postcard-perfect platter of white sandy beaches and clear blue seas, with an added sprinkling of spice.

Upon setting foot on the island it’s clear you’re entering an alternate reality where life moves at its own pace. The landscape is painted with bright houses cropping out from behind lush tropical vegetation. Each home is a different colour from the next but the one element they share is no door number. Instead Bermudians – whose typical uniform of shirts and Bermuda shorts rings true to stereotypes – guide their guests with statements like “my house is the red one next to the blue one.”

While this may seem like organised chaos to a city dweller, it’s a prime example of what makes Bermuda so charming. Traditions and local pride are important on the island, which is also evident from its upkeep. From the pristine streets to the beautiful sandy shores, there’s an immaculate cleanliness that simply can’t be matched in similar tropical destinations. As a result, the beaches are some of the best in the world.

N a u t i c a l h e a v e n

Bermuda is popular with elite travellers, particularly yachting enthusiasts. Book a suite at the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club and you can sail directly into the state-of-the-art 60-berth marina, designed to cater to some of the largest private yachts around.

In keeping with aesthetic of the rest of the island, the exclusive resort, which has recently undergone a \$100m refurbishment, offers modern luxury with a traditional twist. From the outside, the hotel fits into the landscape with an inviting pink façade, while inside, contemporary living is personified.

With over 60 museum-worthy pieces of art on its walls, the resort could easily claim to be a modern art gallery. An original Andy Warhol (Queen Elizabeth II, Reigning Queens) greets guests in the reception, while the hallways are lit up by the works of Banksy, David Hockney, Jeff Koons and Damien Hirst. Even while dining

at signature restaurant Marcus’, authentic Bermudian cuisine battles for the spotlight with works by talents such as Nelson Mandela that shine down from the walls.

E y e s o n t h e p r i z e

A modern aesthetic continues throughout the hotel, from the spa to the harbour-view suites. The true connoisseur selects the Fairmont Gold experience for access to a VIP wing, luxury amenities and exclusive lounges where dedicated staff tailor bespoke holiday experiences.

Water sports are, naturally, the life-blood of Bermuda and visitors can connect with the ocean in many leisure and sporting capacities, from scuba diving to yachting. Sailing is, arguably, the most revered sport on the island right now and, as testament to this, Bermuda was chosen as the host of the 35th America’s Cup. The unmissable event, taking place on 17 June, will see the world’s best sailors commandeer the fastest boats around to harness the power of the ocean and compete for the oldest trophy in international sport.

After a day on the water, Hamilton’s beach club offers an scenic space to relax and recuperate, while a steady flow of cocktails keeps the heat at bay at 1609 Bar & Restaurant, home to the best sunset views on the island.

Of course, such beautiful vistas come at a cost - tourism. And while the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club lies far from where cruise ships deck, the philanthropic resort does its bit to the combat the impact of visitors and preserve the island. One such initiative is the Seabin project, which uses innovative floating bins to clean the harbour water.

At just a seven-hour flight from London, Bermuda is the perfect place to drop anchor, recharge the batteries and escape into island life for a few days. Next time you’re planning a trip to the Caribbean, consider looking beyond its borders and heed the warnings of the conspiracy theorists to discover an island paradise hidden in plain sight.

Hamilton Princess & Beach Club
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