

# JEWEL — IN THE — CROWN

THE FIRST KNOWN EUROPEAN EXPLORER TO REACH BERMUDA WAS SPANISH SEA CAPTAIN JUAN DE BERMÚDEZ IN 1503, AFTER WHOM THE ISLANDS ARE NAMED. HE CLAIMED THE APPARENTLY UNINHABITED ISLANDS FOR HIS BELOVED SPANISH EMPIRE. HOWEVER, BERMÚDEZ NEVER ACTUALLY LANDED ON THE ISLANDS, BUT INSTEAD MADE TWO VISITS TO THE ARCHIPELAGO, OF WHICH HE CREATED A RECOGNISABLE MAP.

Shipwrecked Portuguese mariners are now thought to have been responsible for the 1543 inscription on Portuguese Rock (previously called Spanish Rock) and subsequent Spanish or other European parties are believed to have released pigs there, which had become feral and abundant on the island by the time European settlement began.

In 1609, the English Virginia Company, which had established Jamestown in Virginia two years earlier, permanently settled on Bermuda in the aftermath of a hurricane, when the crew and

passengers of the Sea Venture steered the ship onto the surrounding reef to prevent its sinking, then landed ashore.

Today, Bermuda's economy is based primarily around offshore insurance and reinsurance, as well as tourism, the two largest economic sectors. Bermuda also had one of the world's highest GDP per capita for most of the 20th century and several years beyond. Recently, its economic status has been affected by the global recession, but it still remains an extremely affluent island and not cheap by any means.





Bermuda benefits from a lovely subtropical climate and is situated at the northernmost point of the notorious Bermuda Triangle, a region of sea in which, according to legend, a number of aircraft and boats have disappeared under supposedly unexplained or mysterious circumstances. The island is in the hurricane belt and prone to severe weather. However, it is somewhat protected from the full force of a hurricane by the coral reef that surrounds the island. Nowadays, Bermuda is a British island territory known for its pink-sandy beaches such as Elbow Beach and Horseshoe Bay. Its massive Royal Naval Dockyard complex combines modern attractions like the interactive Dolphin Quest

with maritime history at the National Museum of Bermuda. The island has a distinctive blend of British and American culture, which is most evident in the capital, Hamilton.

On my recent visit, I took a direct flight from London, taking a little over six hours, however, you can get there via New York (only an hour and a half flight away) making a very pleasant double destination.

I was staying at the newly refurbished Hamilton Princess Hotel and Beach Club, located only a stone's throw from the capital and the main town Hamilton, it was the perfect base to explore Bermuda.

Overlooking the stunning blue waters of the all new Hamilton Harbour, sits the Grand

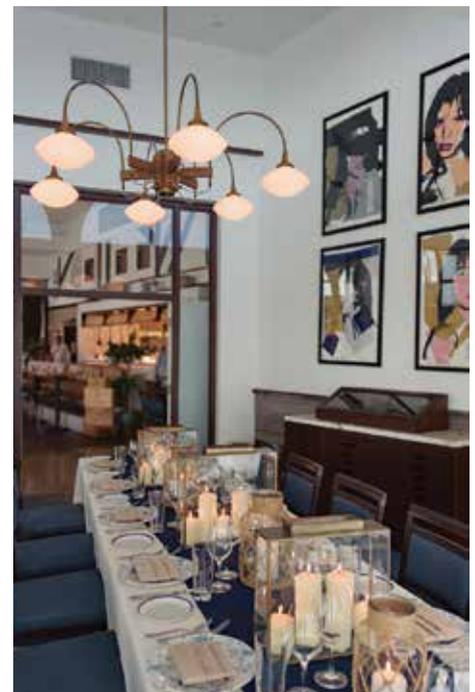
Dame of Bermuda resorts, the Hamilton Princess & Beach Club. Recently named the Official Host Hotel for the America's Cup, world-class accommodations and celebrated restaurants provide a perfect Bermuda experience for guests coming to enjoy the 35th America's Cup in 2017.

Chef Marcus Samuelsson has brought his latest culinary creation, Marcus' with a vibrant menu that celebrates Bermudian culture, executed by Executive Chef Herb Wilson. Officially opened for business on May 27th 2015, guests can dine on the Hamilton Harbour with a spectacular panoramic view in Bermuda's first and only celebrity chef restaurant.

The 1609 Bar and Restaurant, an open-air casual dining experience, takes you out to sea as you dine out on the Harbour. Crown & Anchor Bar, Restaurant & Terrace is the perfect place to start the day with a variety of breakfast options, lunch, and dinner, with the Bar staying open until 1am. Fondly regarded as 'The Pink Palace', this is where history meets modern sensibility. Hamilton Princess & Beach Club is an urban oasis featuring beautifully appointed guest rooms; a stunning infinity edge resort pool with uninterrupted views of Hamilton Harbour; and 1609 Bar and Restaurant, Bermuda's only open-air dining experience situated on the new multimillion dollar

60-berth marina. The room choices are varied from harbour, garden, pool, or city views and the recently renovated Poinciana Wing offers beautifully appointed, modern One-Bedroom Suites and Deluxe Rooms. As the hotel isn't situated on a beach, The Princess Beach Club was designed only a few miles down the road and has a regular shuttle to and from the hotel called the Jitney. After only a 10 minute ride in the Jitney, you will arrive at an exclusive private beach located at one of the island's most picturesque spots and completely sheltered in a cove. Towels, sun beds and refreshments will be provided on arrival. The beaches to the south of the

island benefit from tranquil clear waters, ideal for snorkelling and swimming and an abundance of sea life to discover. The private beach has snorkelling equipment you can borrow and a number of paddle boards for those lazy afternoons on the water. If its lazing and maybe a good book to get your head into, then look no further, as the beach club also has some super hammocks stretched between the coconut palms. There is a cool bar and a great food & beverage menu designed by Marcus Samuelsson making the Princess Beach Club the must visit summer vacation spot! When it comes to spa, the hotel has teamed up with leading lifestyle and wellbeing brand,





Exhale, to create a bright and peaceful 8,200-square foot spa and fitness center overlooking Hamilton's harbour. A state-of-the-art Mind Body Gym and fitness Studio has Barre, Yoga and Cardio classes available. The spa experience extends outside into a new spa pool and poolside yoga pavilion, while an adjacent 2,150-square-foot fitness center which spans two stories and is

packed full of state-of-the-art equipment by Technogym. A variety of Activities are available through the hotel, including a full range of water sports and activities at the marina, art walks featuring the extensive collection of original work by artists like Andy Warhol, Damien Hurst and more showcased throughout the hotel are a must on the to do list.

Hamilton Princess & Beach Club,  
 a Fairmont Managed Hotel.  
 76 Pitts Bay Road, Pembroke  
 Hamilton  
 Bermuda  
 HM 08  
 TEL + 1 441 295 3000  
[www.fairmont.com/hamilton-bermuda/](http://www.fairmont.com/hamilton-bermuda/)

# B DIVE R M U D A

Are you a seasoned diver, maybe someone who hasn't dived in a while, or someone with limited diving experience, or maybe someone who has never dived before?

Then Dive Bermuda is your one-stop shop for all your diving needs.



Email: [info@bermudascuba.com](mailto:info@bermudascuba.com) Telephone: +1 (441) 238-2332

Or visit [www.bermudascuba.com](http://www.bermudascuba.com) to make a reservation.

Summer opening hours are from 08:00 until 17:00 ADT (Atlantic Daylight Time) seven days a week with reduced hours in the winter.

Dive Bermuda, The Fairmont Southampton Resort, 101 South Shore Road, Southampton, SN02, Bermuda

Founded in 1981 as Nautilus Diving in the same spot on the beach at the Fairmont Southampton Resort, Dive Bermuda are one of the safest and respected dive operators on the island.

In the 1990's the company changed owners and the name, to the now familiar Dive Bermuda. In 1994 they joined PADI and have been a member for over 20 years, training 1000's of divers from beginner all the way to instructor. In 2011 the company changed hands again with local lawyer Mark Diel taking the reigns. Mark worked at Dive Bermuda as a young lad and has been associated with the company in one way or another ever since.

As Bermuda's only PADI 5 Star Instructor Development Center, with 30 plus years of experience in offering diving trips, snorkel tours and PADI training courses from beginner to

instructor level, this means you will have an unforgettable experience that will leave you wanting to come back for more.

Whether you hold a PADI, BSAC, NAUI, SSI, CMAS or any other diving certification you are welcomed aboard to join the guided dives. The dive center has a prime position at the east end of Bermuda and offers access to a variety of both wreck and reef dive sites, most of which are within a 20-minute boat journey.

For certified divers, Dive Bermuda offer a two tank dive every morning. The usual schedule for the morning dives is arrival around 8am to get signed up and kitted up. Then the first dive is a wreck dive and the second dive is a reef dive so you can see the diversity within the Bermudian waters.

Each afternoon they also offer a single tank

dive to a shallow reef which is an option for the inexperienced divers or for those looking to make the most out of their bottom times.

For certified divers, they additionally offer a whole host of specialty courses to help progress you as a diver and work towards the Master Scuba Diver rating.

Bermuda is the "wreck capital of the Atlantic", with over 300 wreck sites to explore and was named number two in the Caribbean and Atlantic for wreck diving by Scuba Diving Magazine in 2011. Within minutes of the beach there are many intact and historic wreck sites dotted along the shoreline at depths ranging from 30 to 70 feet of crystal clear waters.

The world-class reef sites are full of aquatic life including grouper, barracuda, spiny lobster, parrotfish, and stunning blue angelfish.