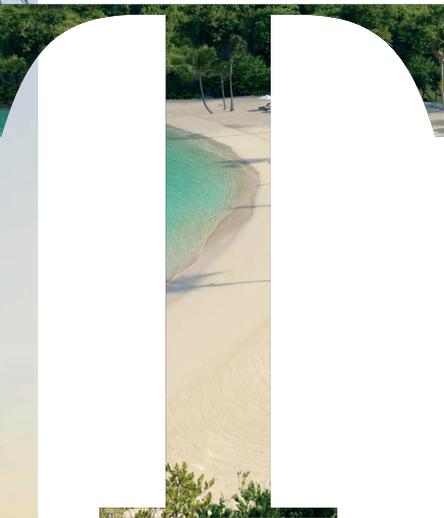


# By Royal Appointment

*Christina Raptis visits the British overseas territory for a very regal stay at the Hamilton Princess Bermuda.*

## HAMILTON PRINCESS

76 Pitts Bay Road  
HM08,  
Bermuda.  
+1-441-295-3000



he mystery of Bermuda begins with its location – it is often erroneously mistaken for an island in the Caribbean, but is actually in the Atlantic Ocean, east of North Carolina – surrounded by the bluest waters, and offering a holiday quite different to that of the Caribbean. Famed for its mysterious ‘Triangle’ and Bermuda shorts with knee-length socks – the island should rather be known for its pristine pink-sand beaches, luxury accommodation, old heritage towns and locally sourced cuisine.

Pastel-coloured houses and stately mansions covered in fragrant bougainvillea line the lush green landscape, Bermuda is an island unlike any other. In spite of its small size – just 53.3 square kilometres in

total – Bermuda’s rich history, museums and galleries attract culture seekers, while its varied topography, unspoilt beaches, and cerulean blue sea, makes it an ideal destination for ardent sport enthusiasts. From all types of water sports, to hiking, golfing or relaxing on the beach, Bermuda ticks all the boxes.

One of the islands’ most historic properties, The Hamilton Princess and Beach Club, has gone through a transformation and is now looking more luxurious than ever after its 100 million dollar restoration. First opened in 1885, the oldest hotel in Bermuda is now a contemporary, yet sophisticated resort, maintaining its classic Bermudian feel. Owners and brothers Andrew and Alexander Green spared no expense in upgrading the hotel: new guest suites, restaurant upgrades, an infinity pool, a new spa, and boutique fitness studio are just the start.

Walking through the grand reception, the walls are adorned with original modern art pieces from world renowned artists such as Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, KAWS, Ai Weiwei, Nelson Mandela, Tom Sachs and Banksy, to name but a few. The original artwork is displayed throughout the property and forms part of Andrew and Alexander’s private collection.

The hotel also recently developed property on the South Shore of the island into a private Beach Club. The pristine beach, bar and restaurant create this oasis – secluded from the world around you, it feels like you’re on your own private island. Also, the addition of the hotel’s new state-of-the-art marina makes it the official host hotel for the America’s Cup 2017, which will bring more tourism and revenue to the already wealthy island. It is the first and only full-service marina in Bermuda and houses up to 60 berths, ranging in size to accommodate vessels, tournament fishing boats, as well as super yachts. A water sports facility outfits guests to tour the island by Jet Ski, pontoon, kayak, paddle board, or private boat.

One of the best and most thrilling ways to explore the island is by taking a Jet Ski safari. We suited up, on unfortunately one of the wettest days, for a journey of a lifetime. Speeding around the island on a Jet Ski crashing into wave after wave and getting completely soaked at the same time was truly

an experience I will never forget. Our guide led us around to every corner of the island where we came across sea turtles and fed piranha-like fish whilst unknowingly being drifted away into the Bermuda Triangle – yes, that’s right – we entered the triangle and survived to tell the tale.

In order to realise the magnitude of the islands’ hosting of the America’s Cup, we were whisked away aboard the Lady Whytebank, for a ride around the island showing the course of Americas Cup 2017. We even raced alongside one of the boats training for the event. After, we pulled up into a secluded cove where we jumped off the boat into the crystal blue sea and snorkelled.

After a day of exhilarating excursions it was time to relax and unwind in the new Exhale Spa. Offering power facials to rejuvenating body scrubs, manicures and waxing, the Exhale Spa has everything you need to keep you primed and polished to perfection. A sanctuary where guests can invigorate or relax as needed, the 8,200-square foot waterfront spa includes nine therapy rooms, a zen lounge, a state-of-the-art Mind Body Gym and fitness studio, an outdoor pool and a poolside yoga pavilion. Make sure to venture over to the newly renovated infinity pool, which overlooks the shimmering harbour on the quiet western shore of the resort.

There is no shortage of epicurean delights here – the resort’s three restaurants offers guests a variety of dining options. Most notable is Marcus Samuelsson’s signature restaurant, where the award-winning chef, restaurateur, and author incorporates his signature globally-influenced cuisine with local ingredients and flavours of the island into his dishes. Overlooking the magnificent marina, with views from every seat, we enjoyed dishes inspired by the flavours of Bermuda. The daily catch is freshly caught and all ingredients are locally sourced.

Bermuda has two municipalities, the City of Hamilton and the Town of St George, and is also divided into nine parishes. The Hamilton Princess is walking distance to lively Front Street and its shops, restaurants and bars. We ventured into town to experience the culture and nightlife, and visited Devil’s Isle, a popular restaurant among locals.

Luxurious accommodation, renowned artwork, and local cuisine await and whilst on the island make sure to take in the pristine surroundings, experience local culture, and maybe venture into the ‘triangle’. There is no ‘mystery’ – Bermuda is full of diversity and no place is better suited to help you enjoy all the wonders the island has to offer than the sumptuous and welcoming Hamilton Princess. 🍷

