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PORT EXPLORER & SHOPPING GUIDE

Bridgetown BARBADOS

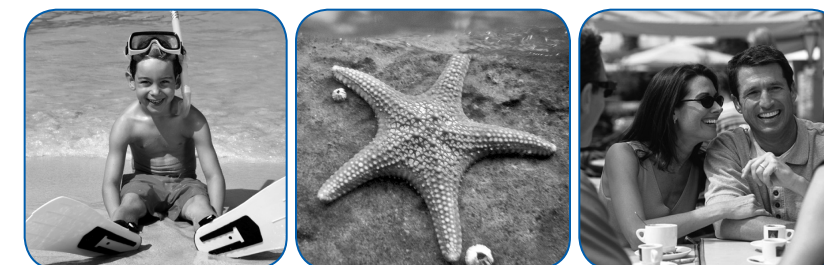
GENERAL INFORMATION Originally named Ichirouganaim by the Amerindians, the island nation of Barbados is furthest east of the Caribbean’s Windward Islands. Barbados was officially named by the Portuguese in 1536, however when the English came to the island in 1625 it was virtually deserted. Serious settlement began a few years later and the British held the island until independence was gained in 1966.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries sugarcane and its byproducts took over as the island’s economic engine. Barbados became a tremendously valuable asset to the English Crown.

Today as a proud and vital member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, Barbados, with its beautiful capital of Bridgetown, is one of the premier tourist destinations in the Caribbean. A first time visitor might be forgiven if they believe it’s the warm weather which draws the tourists. No, many places have warm weather and never see their first tourist. We suggest it is the warm welcome offered by the wonderful people of this beautiful island which brings visitors back time and again...to Barbados.

HISTORY By 1751 Doctor Lanaham’s family had lived in Bridgetown, Barbados for three generations. Upon receiving news a young British officer was gravely ill, the highly respected physician and surgeon hurried to the home of a certain Captain Crofton. But it was not the Captain who was suffering. Rather it was another British subject, a young man of 19 who had recently arrived to Barbados from England’s colonies in America. If he lived he would soon be appointed to the rank of Major and serve as the Adjutant General of the King’s Virginia militia. The doctor’s diagnosis was instant and accurate and offered faint hope. Dr. Lanaham had seen many others stricken by the same disease...few of whom ever survived their contact with the dreaded smallpox. Most British subjects born in England had been exposed to smallpox as children and having survived were now immune as adults. If this young man born in the American colonies was to live it would take every ounce of skill and knowledge the good doctor could possibly conjure...combined with no small amount of blessed fate and fortune. What would the doctor have thought had he known the history of the world stood precariously poised at a crossroads?

The young man had a great deal to live for. He was strong, vigorous, well over six feet tall. Such stature was virtually unheard of in that day and age. Steel blue eyes and auburn hair, he had an amazingly keen mind and was uniquely observant. When invited by the British commander in Barbados to inspect recently completed fortifications, the young man spent countless hours studying the construction and design. As an outstanding horseman, he rode throughout much of Barbados all the while inspecting the plantations and learning of the latest and most productive farming methods. Though he had only recently arrived, he was immediately invited and welcomed into the highest social circles, the finest homes and most elegant parties in Bridgetown. Not yet 20 years old, all who met him, British diplomats, local dignitaries, distin-

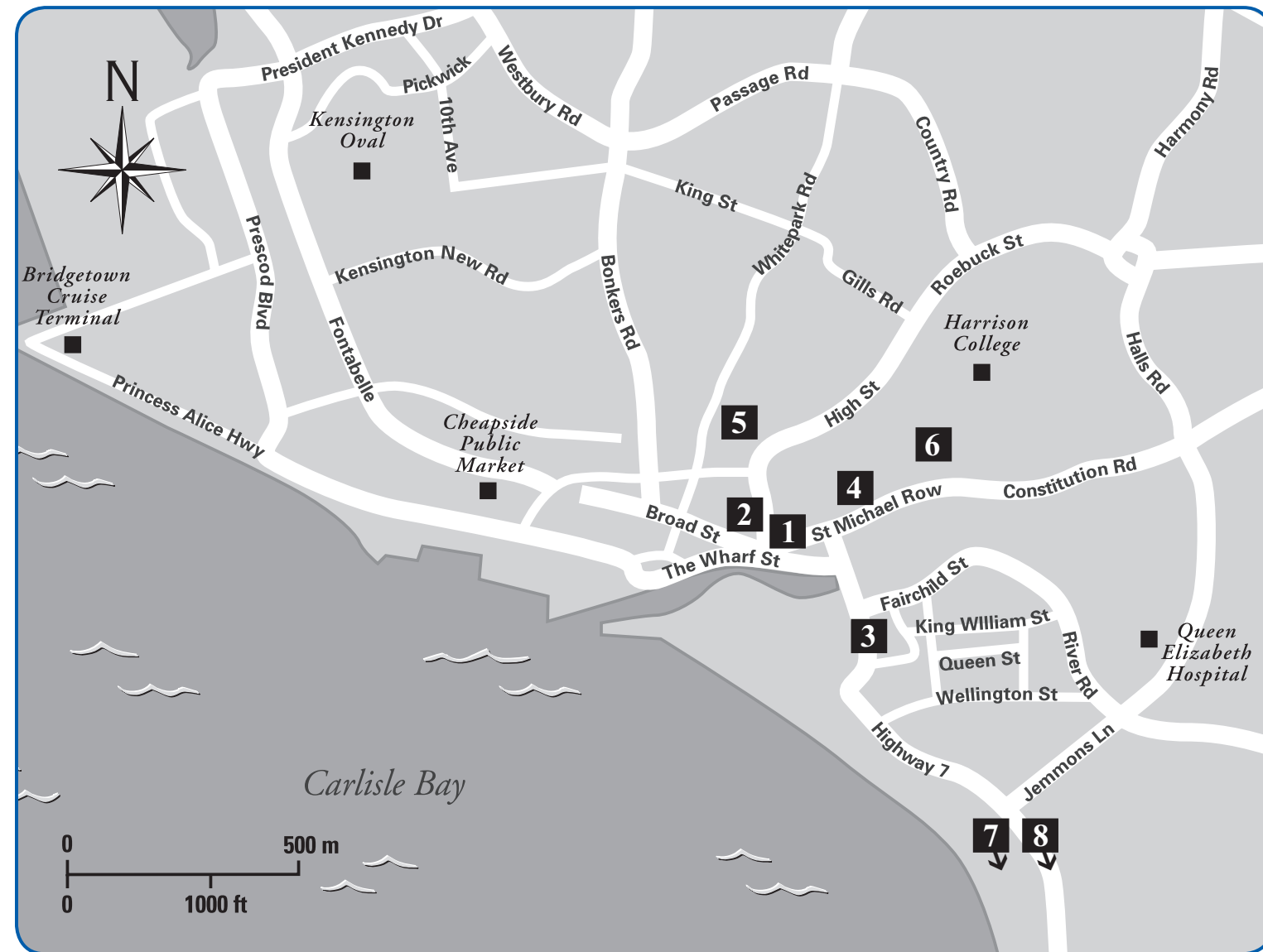


guished military officers and their beautiful wives, they could easily see something extraordinary about this young man. But death is never impressed by mortal attributes. There had been countless thousands who passed away before him and countless thousands would follow; how tragic for such a one as this to be struck down in his youth by the scourge of smallpox.

Years later in 1776, by the time the Continental Congress declared independence from the British Crown the situation was desperate and deadly in the American colonies. English muskets and cannons were lethal but smallpox was also sweeping over the land. As smallpox decimated the ranks of his pitiful army General George Washington

wrote “We should have more to dread from it, than from the sword of the enemy”. General Washington eventually made the heart wrenching decision to order his military doctors, under the best controlled conditions they could possibly devise, to infect and inoculate every soldier in the Continental Army.

For you see, General George Washington knew all too well, for it had been 25 years earlier, on his first and only trip outside the American colonies, that he found himself under the care of the good Dr. Lanaham. Young 19 year old George Washington had fought for his own life against smallpox while bedridden in beautiful Bridgetown, Barbados.



PLACES OF INTEREST

BRIDGETOWN PLACES OF INTEREST

1 National Heroes Square was formerly called Trafalgar Square. A statue of Admiral Lord Nelson (1813) and the Dolphin Fountain (1865) grace the site. Today the square honors 10 national heroes, all of whom have been given the title of “The Right Excellent”.

2 The Parliament Building dates to (1874). A Parliament has been representing the people of Barbados since 1639.

3 Independence Arch and Square together with Chamberlain Bridge all represent a beautiful part of the culture and heritage of the city and nation.

4 St. Michael’s Cathedral was built in 1789 on the site of the original 1665 Anglican Church. After standing for more than a century the first church was destroyed by a hurricane. This site is the final resting place for a number of prominent Bajans.

5 The Nidhe Israel Synagogue was originally built in the mid-1600s and rebuilt after the terrible hurricane of 1831. Following some years of neglect by a private owner, the synagogue was compulsorily acquired by the Government in the early 1980s in order to build a Supreme Court. Members of the local Jewish community petitioned the Government and the Synagogue was returned to the Jewish community after they raised the necessary funds to repair it. The Synagogue was re-dedicated around 1987 and the building is today vested in the Barbados National Trust. Next door is the Nidhe Israel Museum which tells the story of the Jewish community’s many contributions to Barbados. Near the synagogue visitors will find the Montefiore Gardens and Monument.

6 Queen’s Park was the original home of the British Military Commander. The famous Baobab tree graces the grounds of the park.

7 The Barbados Museum is located in what was at one time the British military prison. The museum has an interesting collection of artifacts, paintings, documents and maps which combine to tell the history of the island. One piece of research stated the upper part of the building was constructed in 1817 while the ground floor was built in 1853. If the dates are accurate this engineering feat alone would make the site worth a visit.

8 The George Washington House is one of the most interesting pieces of history in Barbados. Unfortunately this wonderful story is virtually unknown to the vast majority of Americans. Fully restored in 2006, and open to the public since 2007, visitors have an opportunity to learn of the contributions and strong ties forged between the people of Barbados and the American colonies.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Bridgetown and surrounding Barbados we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: This is not usually practiced in Barbados.

Tipping: A tip of 10 - 15% is appropriate in restaurants and for taxis. Check your restaurant bill because a 10% service fee may already be added.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES A wide variety of deliciously fresh tropical fruits are always available. Wahoo, tuna, snapper and dolphin (mahi-mahi) are among the most popular fish served in Barbados. But hands down the #1 fish in the island is the one with wings; *Hirundictys Affinis*. Barbados was once known as “The Land of the Flying Fish”. Though no longer abundant in local waters, the Flying Fish is indispensable to Bajan culture and cuisine. It can be stewed, grilled or baked. When Flying Fish is served with Cou-Cou (a thick and tasty cornmeal and okra mixture) you have the “National Dish” of Barbados. Among other traditional dishes are: Rice n’ Peas, Fish Cakes (salted cod from Canada enjoyed since the British Colonial period) and the ever popular (and our favorite) Pudding & Souse steamed seasoned sweet potato served as a solid ball with well cooked and pickled pork loin.

“The chief fuddling they make in the island is Rumbullion, alias Kill-

Devil, and this is made of sugar canes distilled, a hot, hellish, and terrible liquor”. Barbados – 1651

Historians credit Barbados with being the original home of rum in the Caribbean. Sometimes referred to as “soup” (from 1600s slang “Devil’s Soup”) the history of rum and this island are tightly interwoven. Sugarcane and the resulting sugar/molasses and rum were a major component of the “Trade Triangle” between Europe (manufactured goods), Africa (slaves) and the Caribbean islands / American colonies (sugar/molasses and rum). On Barbados the Mount Gay (1703), Four-square (1820s), and West Indies (1893) distilleries are considered to be among the best rum producers in the Caribbean.

Banks Beer started in 1961 and has since spread throughout the Caribbean. If you enjoy trying local brews during your travels Banks is the hometown favorite.

SHOPPING Broad Street is the primary business and shopping thoroughfare in Bridgetown. Roebuck, Swan and Tudor Streets all have additional shops and local vendors. A nice area known as the Carenage is located along the waterfront of the inlet. Here you’ll find some great shops and restaurants overlooking the pleasure crafts and commercial and charter fishing boats. During the Colonial Period this was where the sailing ships would be grounded for repair and cleaning. Near the Deep Water Harbor at Pelican Village visitors will find the arts and crafts center.

LOCAL CURRENCY The official currency is the Barbados dollar (B\$ - BBD). US dollars and major credit cards are also widely accepted.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE There is a Post Office (BPS) located in the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal at the Bridgetown Port.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

TOURIST INFORMATION There is a Visitor Information Center (Barbados Tourism Authority) also located in the Bridgetown Cruise Terminal.

TRANSPORTATION Car rentals, taxis (agree on a fare first), mini-van taxis (called ZRs), government run and privately operated buses are all available on Barbados. Remember, on Barbados its “driver on the right – drive on the left”.

LANGUAGE English is the official language of Barbados.