

In Short, Bermuda

The island colony excels in mixing the relaxation of an ocean resort with a very proper British accent—but the “other” colonies were never like this.

BY RACHEL BOWIE

NOT ALL THE SAND IS FAMOUSLY PINK, but the water is clear blue and the climate is delightfully tropical, and it's all just two hours from Boston. If you need another reason to visit Bermuda, JetBlue Airways has launched a direct service to this British colony just 650 miles off the North Carolina coast. It's a quick-and-easy trip, so get your passport and pack the sunscreen and your golf clubs. Set off after breakfast, and you'll be in Bermuda before lunch. And remember: Everyone here sports Bermuda shorts.

DELUXE DIGS If your goal is to see the entire island, the Fairmont Hamilton Princess (76 Pitts Bay Road, Hamilton, 441-295-3000) and the Fairmont Southampton (101 South Shore Road, Southampton, 441-238-8000) can easily accommodate you. Although centrally located on different parts of the island, the two properties are connected by a short ferry ride across Hamilton Harbor. The Hamilton Princess is situated just steps from downtown Hamilton's Front Street, one of the best spots for shopping on the island. Looking out from the highest point on Bermuda, the Southampton offers spectacular views of sandy beaches (including a private beach owned by the hotel) and its par-three executive golf course. Following a tough day on the links, you can retreat to Willow Stream Spa and try the Body Balance massage for ultimate relaxation.

CELEBRITY SCOPE Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas have made Bermuda their primary residence, the place where they want to raise their children. Musician and producer extraordinaire Quincy Jones and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg own homes on the island, and members of the British royal family vacation there. The Bermuda International Film Festival draws

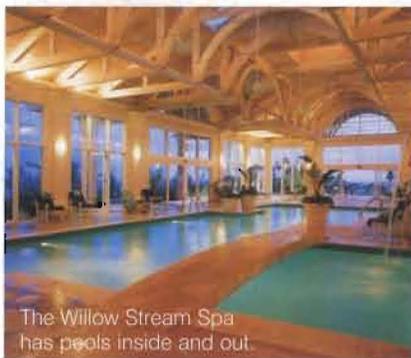
movie stars, including Willem Dafoe, Richard Dreyfuss, and Carrie Fisher, every March. And you just may run into John and Elizabeth Edwards, Bill Cosby, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld, Bette Midler, Cate Blanchett, Keith Urban, and Michael Jordan, all lovers of Bermuda.

FEEDING MORE THAN THE SENSES Once on the island, stop at the Swizzle Inn (3 Blue Hole Hill, Bailey's Bay, 441-293-1854) or the Swizzle South Shore (87 South Shore Road, Warwick, 441-236-7459), home of the rum swizzle, Bermuda's national drink. For a more formal dining experience, the Newport Room (101 South Shore Road, Southampton, 441-238-8000) at the Fairmont Southampton offers French cuisine in an elegant setting meant to emulate the royal yacht. It was also the first AAA Five Diamond-rated restaurant in the Caribbean. The Waterlot Inn (101 South Shore Road, 441-238-8000), a historic steakhouse that's been in business for more than 300 years, is tucked in dockside next to Jew's Bay. Its filet mignon should not be missed, but if you really want to indulge, the truffled Boursin mac and cheese is unlike anything you've tasted before.

ON THE WATER So many beaches, so little time! Horseshoe Bay, Bermuda's most beloved beach, got its name for a reason—it's located on the south shore, where the pink sand meets the water in the shape of a horseshoe. Other beautiful spots worth checking out include Church Bay, one of the best snorkeling beaches on the island; Jobson's Cove, a secluded beach protected by steep jagged rocks; and Warwick Long Bay, the island's only beach with more than a half-mile stretch of sandy shoreline.



Bermuda's favorite beach, Horseshoe Bay, features the famous pink sand.



The Willow Stream Spa has pools inside and out.



Riddell's Bay Golf & Country Club is 600 yards at its widest point.

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ON THE GREEN Riddell's Bay Golf & Country Club (26 Riddell's Bay Road, 441-238-3225) extends onto a peninsula that's only 600 yards at its widest. Members-only Mid-Ocean Club (1 Mid Ocean Drive, 441-293-0330) is a great place to improve your long game, with six par-four holes at over 400 yards. Mid-Ocean's new rival, Tucker's Point Club (Harrington Sound, 441-298-6915), is next to Castle Harbour and Harrington Sound. In October, the Mid-Ocean Club will host the 25th annual PGA Grand Slam—Tiger Woods has won it for seven consecutive years.

In short, Bermuda has it all—what more can you want? ♦