



Town of St. George, Bermuda

**FREE!**

# The St. George's Crown

*"A community newspaper of interesting characters, facts, faces, places, and history"*

## *History . Heritage . Culture.*



Summer/Fall  
2022



Image courtesy of BTA

The forts within Bermuda's UNESCO World Heritage Site cover almost 400 years of our military history and are of immense historical value. Almost 90 forts defended Bermuda and its harbours, and they provide a unique record of the history of British coastal defence. They represent nearly the complete range of British coastal fortification and artillery found overseas from the early 17th century until the end of coastal defence in 1956.

The fortification of Bermuda began in 1612, soon after the first settlers arrived from Britain. Once temporary shelters were erected in St. George's, Bermuda's first Governor, Richard Moore, built the island's defences to guard the entrance into St. George's Harbour and protect against Spanish attack. By 1622 eleven forts had been built, and of these, three survive almost as built on the islands in Castle Harbour. Such examples of early standing remains and the beginnings of the coastal defence of the British Empire are not found elsewhere. Other settlements' fortifications have vanished as they were timber structures – Bermuda's forts were built of resilient Bermuda stone.

The builders of the forts creatively adapted their batteries to natural topography and were the first example on the island of Bermuda stone being used as a building material. Techniques acquired in fort building probably influenced later domestic building in stone when Bermudians moved from timber houses to stone houses.

Bermuda's fortifications were well armed, and the island has a unique collection of military ordnance which spans from the early 1600's, when the first settlers stripped ships of their guns to arm the first forts, to the coastal batteries which defended the island during the first and second World Wars and the Cold War. Thanks to an Artillery Action Plan begun 20 years ago, many of the island's guns have been stabilized, restored and remounted in their original locations.

Over the centuries Bermuda's forts were intended to defend against changing threats, from the Spanish in the 1600's, to the rebellious breakaway American continental colonies in the 1700's, to the German U-boats in the 1940's. A testament to the strength of Bermuda's fortifications is that Bermuda was never attacked – her bristling reef line and chain of forts served as a deterrent.

St. George's boasts an array of impressive fortifications, including Fort St. Catherine, one of the most complicated military structures in Bermuda. As part of the island's UNESCO World Heritage Site designation and cultural heritage, the forts provide an educational experience to visitors and residents and are worth maintaining and preserving for future generations



# Mayor’s Greeting



## Message from the Mayor of St. George

As Mayor of the Town of St. George and on behalf of the Council of Corporation of St. George’s, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Bermuda and to the Town of St. George, our UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The past two years have been challenging as we navigate the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic. It is indeed refreshing to once again welcome visitors to our beautiful island.

Our Town is rich in culture and history, with many listed buildings, historic monuments and historic fortifications dating back centuries and considered significant enough in universal value to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000.

I encourage you to take the time to visit all the historic sites and museums in the parish of St. George’s. The weather is warm enough now, to take a dip in the beautiful turquoise water of the Atlantic Ocean. There are several beaches in the East End to explore and enjoy.

While in St. George’s find time to dine in at least one of our wonderful eateries. The menus are sure to entice and please any palate. You are sure to find some unique finds amongst our specialty shops and boutiques.

While visiting St. George’s, I encourage everyone to slow down, as the pace is a little slower here and the atmosphere is relaxed. Stay awhile and enjoy all the parish has to offer. Utilize the Town’s free WIFI and share your experiences with friends and family and be sure to come back again soon.

It is often said there is no place like Bermuda, but there is truly no place like St. George’s.

Yours Sincerely,

Mayor George Dowling III



Towne Hall

**Robertson's**  
something for every day

Monday-Saturday  
8:00am-7:00pm

Sundays  
2:00pm-6:00pm

St.George’s Crown

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# Keeper of the Forts

## Francine Trott

Francine Trott has been Forts Manager for the Department of Parks for a decade and goes to work in Fort St. Catherine, a historic site which is a key component of Bermuda's UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the fort which follows the trajectory of 400 years of Bermuda's defence history, located on a point of land overlooking the channel through which all large vessels enter Bermuda's waters. It sits next to the beach where the survivors of the Sea Venture shipwreck struggled ashore in 1609, leading to the island's permanent English settlement.

The St. Georgian arrived at Fort St. Catherine after a career in interior and retail window design in Hamilton. Educated at East End Primary School, Mrs. Trott was the eleventh of twelve children raised on Old Wells Lane and spent her teenage years living with her sisters in New Jersey and Baltimore. She returned home and started a family, and then started working at the Women's Shop in Hamilton.

"My favourite subject at school was art. When I started working at the Women's Shop China department I would do all the displays and this was noticed, so I was apprenticed to the window designer and soon given my own windows to do", said Mrs. Trott. "I took a correspondence course in interior design, and this led to a job at A.S. Cooper & Sons as the assistant interior designer and then the window designer."

Mrs. Trott's brother John Anderson worked at Fort St. Catherine, and contacted her as Lance Furbert, the Curator of Forts, was looking for a calligraphy writer for an exhibit board. After completing the display in her free time, she was offered a job and began her career in the forts. "I started as a cashier, and then moved to being in charge of the displays."

Fort St. Catherine underwent major renovations, with sections of the roof removed and replaced, followed by new installations focusing on the development of Bermuda's forts and highlighting the UNESCO World Heritage Site status. The cost of the new exhibits was extremely high, so Mrs. Trott was sent to the University of Lincoln in Lincolnshire, UK, where she studied museum and exhibition design for three years, returning home every summer to work at Fort St. Catherine.

She said the proximity to the north shore and salt spray of the Atlantic can pose a challenge for operating and maintenance of a historic attraction - just recently the cash register stopped working due to corrosion - and displays suffer from the salt and damp. "The fort needs constant upkeep and maintenance because it's so close to the water."

Recent collaborations with The St. George's Foundation resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Parks, and the charitable organization now works in tandem with Parks on maintenance and restoration of the forts in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Mrs. Trott said this has been a real boost for the forts. "I was elated when we started working with the St. George's Foundation. My budget is not as large as it once was, so this partnership is what we need. We have wonderful new exhibits which came here when the World Heritage Centre closed and have been installed around the fort, giving another layer of informative history. I'm excited about the future."

Fort St. Catherine is open Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm. Entry fee \$7 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3 children 5-12 years. Phone 297-1920. It is an excellent venue for events such as weddings, musical evenings and private functions.

A photograph of the interior of The Crystal Caves of Bermuda. The scene is dimly lit, with warm lights illuminating a wooden walkway with railings that leads into a cave. The cave walls and ceiling are covered in numerous long, thin, white stalactites hanging down. The floor of the cave is wet and reflects the lights, creating a shimmering effect. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and natural.

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# Craftsmen of St. George's

## Robert Powell

**R**obert Powell Jnr. has always been grateful he was taught a trade when he attended Woodlands School – “Not everybody was good at reading and writing. Some of us did better learning a trade.” Since leaving school at 16 he has worked as a plumber, mason, fisherman and, more recently, a carpenter, maintaining the cedar doors and railings at St. Peter’s Church and restoring the centuries-old windows of The Rectory.

After working as a plumber at Southampton Princess Hotel, working with cast iron, galvanized steel and copper, he moved to Bermuda Airconditioning, and later into masonry with Burland, Conyers and Mareira. He then worked construction on the Grotto Bay Beach Hotel before turning to the sea for his livelihood. He teamed up with Eddie Dawson on the Bay Queen, a 100-year-old ferry boat, and later fished on Mr. Dawson’s brand-new Bruno Stillman, imported from Nova Scotia. Together they won the international light-tackle tournament four times.

Mr. Powell moved back to St. David’s, where he had spent his childhood, and joined The Black Horse Tavern, working for owner Gary Lamb and preparing fish for the chefs at the restaurant, making the fish chowder and conch stew. “Gary taught me how to make chowder and he learnt from Clarence Borden owner of [well-known St. David’s restaurant and bar] Mount Area.” This was familiar territory for Mr. Powell, as when he was 6 or 7 years-old his mother worked at Mount Area. “If she didn’t have a babysitter, she took me to her job, and I had to put the potatoes in the drum that cleaned them and put them in the presser.” In the 1960’s and 70’s his parents ran a restaurant and nightclub in Riddell’s Bay.

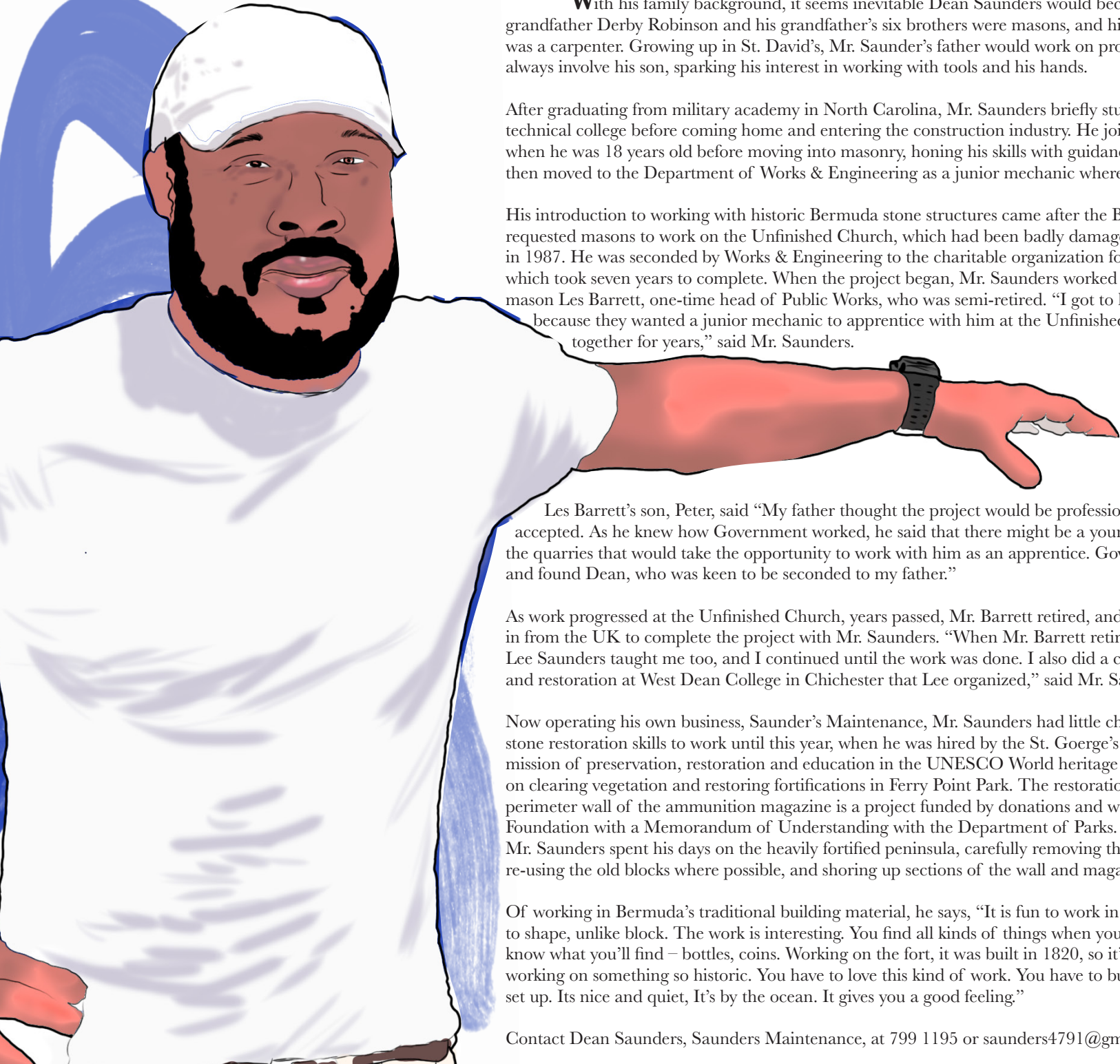
The 66-year-old has since returned to fishing, selling to locals and restaurants, as well as making cabinets and doing small carpentry jobs. He was approached by St. Peter’s Church to work on the cedar around the historic site, a job he enjoyed. “The work takes time and patience,” explained Mr. Powell. “You have to be delicate with Bermuda cedar, and work with the grain of the wood. All the varnish has to be removed and taken right back to the bare wood. If you just sand the varnish and then varnish over it, the wood will take on a yellow colour. Each coat of varnish needs at least a day to dry before another coat can be applied, and you need 4 to 5 coats for the job to last.” He has now varnished the cedar railings, lamp posts and next will work on the shutters of Bermuda’s oldest church. “it’s time consuming and there is an art to this work. You have to know what you are doing with cedar.”

The windows of St. Peter’s Church Rectory were a challenge. The glass windowpanes were removed, and the frames sanded before being replaced and painted - some of the paint on the windows was 1/8” thick. Mr. Powell said “It takes time to do this kind of work. I like to do things neatly.”

To the next generation of craftsmen, he says, “Watching and learning and asking questions is the key to life. Each of us have a gift, and you should take pride in your work and love what you do.”



## Dean Saunders



**W**ith his family background, it seems inevitable Dean Saunders would become a mason. His grandfather Derby Robinson and his grandfather’s six brothers were masons, and his maternal grandfather was a carpenter. Growing up in St. David’s, Mr. Saunder’s father would work on projects around the house and always involve his son, sparking his interest in working with tools and his hands.

After graduating from military academy in North Carolina, Mr. Saunders briefly studied plumbing at a technical college before coming home and entering the construction industry. He joined DeCosta Construction when he was 18 years old before moving into masonry, honing his skills with guidance from local masons. He then moved to the Department of Works & Engineering as a junior mechanic where he stayed for 12 years.

His introduction to working with historic Bermuda stone structures came after the Bermuda National Trust requested masons to work on the Unfinished Church, which had been badly damaged by Hurricane Emily in 1987. He was seconded by Works & Engineering to the charitable organization for the restoration project which took seven years to complete. When the project began, Mr. Saunders worked with Bermuda stone mason Les Barrett, one-time head of Public Works, who was semi-retired. “I got to know Mr. Barrett because they wanted a junior mechanic to apprentice with him at the Unfinished Church. We worked together for years,” said Mr. Saunders.

Les Barrett’s son, Peter, said “My father thought the project would be professionally satisfying, so he accepted. As he knew how Government worked, he said that there might be a young man working in one of the quarries that would take the opportunity to work with him as an apprentice. Government looked around and found Dean, who was keen to be seconded to my father.”

As work progressed at the Unfinished Church, years passed, Mr. Barrett retired, and a new mason was brought in from the UK to complete the project with Mr. Saunders. “When Mr. Barrett retired, English stone mason Lee Saunders taught me too, and I continued until the work was done. I also did a course in stone conservation and restoration at West Dean College in Chichester that Lee organized,” said Mr. Saunders.

Now operating his own business, Saunder’s Maintenance, Mr. Saunders had little chance to put his Bermuda stone restoration skills to work until this year, when he was hired by the St. Goerge’s Foundation. As part of its mission of preservation, restoration and education in the UNESCO World heritage site, the charity has focused on clearing vegetation and restoring fortifications in Ferry Point Park. The restoration of the perimeter wall of the ammunition magazine is a project funded by donations and was undertaken by the Foundation with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Parks. For two months Mr. Saunders spent his days on the heavily fortified peninsula, carefully removing the crumbling stone blocks, re-using the old blocks where possible, and shoring up sections of the wall and magazine.

Of working in Bermuda’s traditional building material, he says, “It is fun to work in Bermuda stone - it is easy to shape, unlike block. The work is interesting. You find all kinds of things when you do this work, you never know what you’ll find – bottles, coins. Working on the fort, it was built in 1820, so it’s great to be known for working on something so historic. You have to love this kind of work. You have to build your own staging and set up. Its nice and quiet, It’s by the ocean. It gives you a good feeling.”

Contact Dean Saunders, Saunders Maintenance, at 799 1195 or saunders4791@gmail.com.



# St. George's Fortifications



## Fort St. Catherine

Located at the northern tip of St George's and overlooking the ocean, Fort St Catherine stands perched on a hill between St Catherine's Beach (Gates' Bay) on one side and Achilles Bay on the other. One of the most impressive forts in the island, Fort St. Catherine has many historic exhibits, artefacts, and a well-preserved interior. Surrounded by a dry moat and accessed by a drawbridge, the fort has tunnels, towers, redoubts and ramparts. In 1609, the Sea Venture, captained by Sir Christopher Newport, was wrecked on a reef nearby. The entire crew came ashore on Gates' Bay, next to the location where Fort St. Catherine now stands. In 1614 Bermuda's first governor, Richard Moore, built a wooden fort at this spot to defend Bermuda, mainly from Spanish attacks.

The battery was strengthened in 1793 by Captain Andrew Durnford and in the 1820's a circular fort replaced the upper battery. The fort was rebuilt again in the 1840's when the upper and lower batteries became one massive work. Fort St. Catherine was last upgraded between 1865 and 1878, when five large, rifled muzzle-loading guns were mounted.

You will find exhibits detailing the history and development of Bermuda's UNESCO World Heritage Site fortifications and can make your way through the tunnels of the fort. The exhibits cover all aspects of Bermuda's history, including a showcase of armaments and regiments stationed on the island, replicas of the British crown jewels, significant St. Georgians, a hallway of history plus fun facts for children to discover.

Fort St. Catherine is open Mondays through Fridays, 10 am-4 pm. Entry fee \$7 adults, \$3 children 5-12 years. Phone 297-1920

## Alexandra Battery

Alexandra Battery stands next to Frobisher's Buildings Bay where Sir Thomas Gates supervised the building of the ship Deliverance in 1610. The battery was completed in the 1860s and armed with five 9-inch muzzle loading guns mounted behind iron battery shields. A unique feature of the guns was the use of these metal flash plates, called Gibraltar Shields which were designed to protect the gunners from incoming fire. The fort was named after Princess Alexandra of Denmark, who later married Edward VII, who became King of England. In the 1890's the iron-fronted emplacements were covered by emplacements for two 6-inch breech-loading guns.

Today you can climb the steps to the gun emplacements and enjoy exceptional views of the eastern channel and north shore the forts were built to guard. Also visit Building's Bay, better know to locals as Seaglass Beach, so named for the pieces of seaglass found on the shoreline.



## Gates Fort

Gates Fort was built to guard the Town Cut channel against invasion around 1700, possibly replacing an earlier structure. It was mostly known as Town Cut Battery and was improved by Captain Andrew Durnford in the early 1790s. Durnford constructed emplacements for four guns, built a small two-storey guardhouse behind the gun emplacement, added a musketry line and communications trench to defend Town Cut Channel. In the 1800's the fortifications at Upper Paget Fort (Fort Cunningham) replaced Gates Fort in defending the northern entrance to St George's Harbour, but the Gates Fort keep continued to be used by the military as barracks.

Visitors can climb the ladder to the second floor of the guard house for a view of the Town Cut channel and, if lucky, see a ship head from St. George's Harbour out to the North Atlantic.



# Ferry Point Park

## Burnt Point Fort



**B**urnt Point Fort is one of the oldest forts on St. George’s Island and was built in 1687 to defend the western approach to St. George’s Harbour from enemy ships and prevent illegal trading by Bermudian vessels. Built on a small peninsula jutting into the channel between Ferry Point and Coney Island, the oval fort was originally described as having nine battlements and eight mounted guns, but a century later was mostly in ruins, worsened when a cannon exploded in the fort after firing a salute. It was superseded by Ferry Island Fort in the 1790’s.

## Martello Tower



**M**artello Towers were built through-out the British Empire during the first half of the 19th century, and follow a design inspired by a fortress at Martello Point, Corsica. Bermuda’s egg-shaped fort was built on high ground under instruction from Major Thomas Blanshard between 1823 and 1828, giving soldiers stationed here a clear view of the surrounding coastline. It features a moat, 9-11-foot-thick walls of hard Bermuda stone, and the only access into the fort is by a drawbridge which crosses the ditch to the barracks on the second level. The ground floor held a water tank and stored powder, and the roof level mounted a single gun which commanded a 360-degree arc of fire. The walls are asymmetrical, with the thickest part facing the gap between Ferry Point and Coney Island, the most likely direction of attack. Martello Tower may be viewed from the outside.

Close to Martello Tower is a powder magazine build by Mayor Blanshard in 1828 and designed so the roof can blow off should the ordnance explode. The magazine and its perimeter wall were deteriorating, with parts of the wall collapsing, however extensive restoration work took place this year thanks to the efforts of the St. George’s Foundation.



## Lovers Lake Nature Reserve

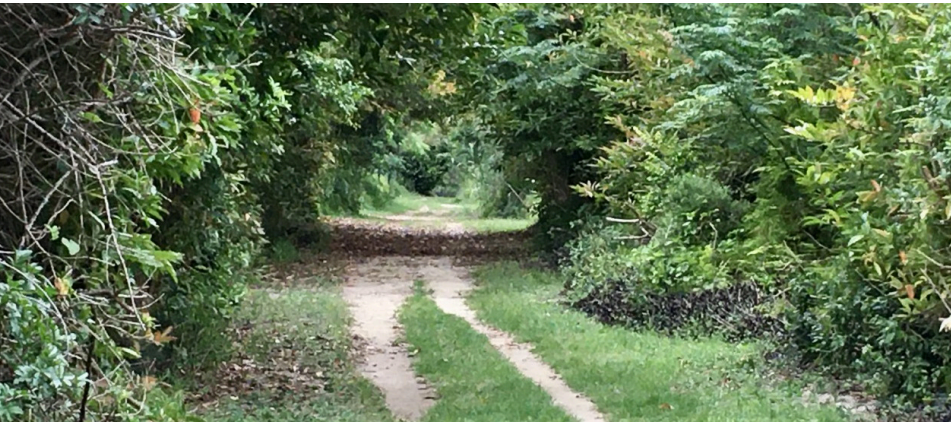
**L**overs Lake is an inland salt-water pond fringed with a stand of Black Mangrove and surrounded by a forest of old Bermuda Cedar skeletons with silver trunks. The pond is connected to the sea through a pipe-like structure in the deepest part of the pond and seawater enters freely through this opening, while fresh rainwater will overlie the seawater below. The mangroves fringing the pond are productive ecosystems critical to the whole nature of the pond, providing a nursery for juvenile and larval fish and shrimps, and provide a rich feeding ground for filter-feeding creatures. Endemic Relict Bermuda Killifish live in the pond along with a diverse range of fish, sponges, anemones, algae and jellyfish.

There is a path around the lake through trees and foliage where you can look for the Golden Orb Weaver spider and its huge webs. For bird watchers, a recently installed bench from the Garden Club of Bermuda provides a perfect viewing spot. The mangroves provide nesting places for several birds, including the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, and you may see resident and migrant bird species such as Green Herons, Redbirds and Eastern Bluebirds.



# Ferry Point Park

## The Railway Trail



The Bermuda Railway operated from 1931 until 1948 and covered 21.8 miles from St. George's Station, through the City of Hamilton and on to Somerset Station. At an estimated cost of 1 million, construction of the Railway cost more per mile than any other railway in the world at the time. From the original St. George's Station at the entrance to Tiger Bay, the trail winds its way out of the town, onto the north shore and along Ferry Reach. There are many points of interest along this eastern section of the trail, including Vincent Astor's private halt where his private railway met the main line.

Nature lovers should look for Longtails, which nest in the cliff face during the summer months, and for Lovers Lake Nature Reserve, an inland saltwater pond fringed with a stand of Black Mangroves. Walkers will pass a lime kiln which dates to the 1820's, when it was built by the British garrison to support the restoration and expansion of the fortifications in the east end. There are two military cemeteries along the trail, a result of the yellow fever epidemics of the late 1800's. After the outbreak in 1853, the British kept about half its soldiers encamped at Ferry Point and many of them died of yellow fever. The Ferry Reach Military Cemetery has a large cross and two memorials to commemorate soldiers who died during the yellow fever epidemic of 1864.

This section of the Railway Trail ends at Ferry Point Park, where you can visit Martello Tower and view the large concrete pylons which supported the bridge taking the train across the water to Coney Island.

## Lime Kiln



## Ferry Island Fort

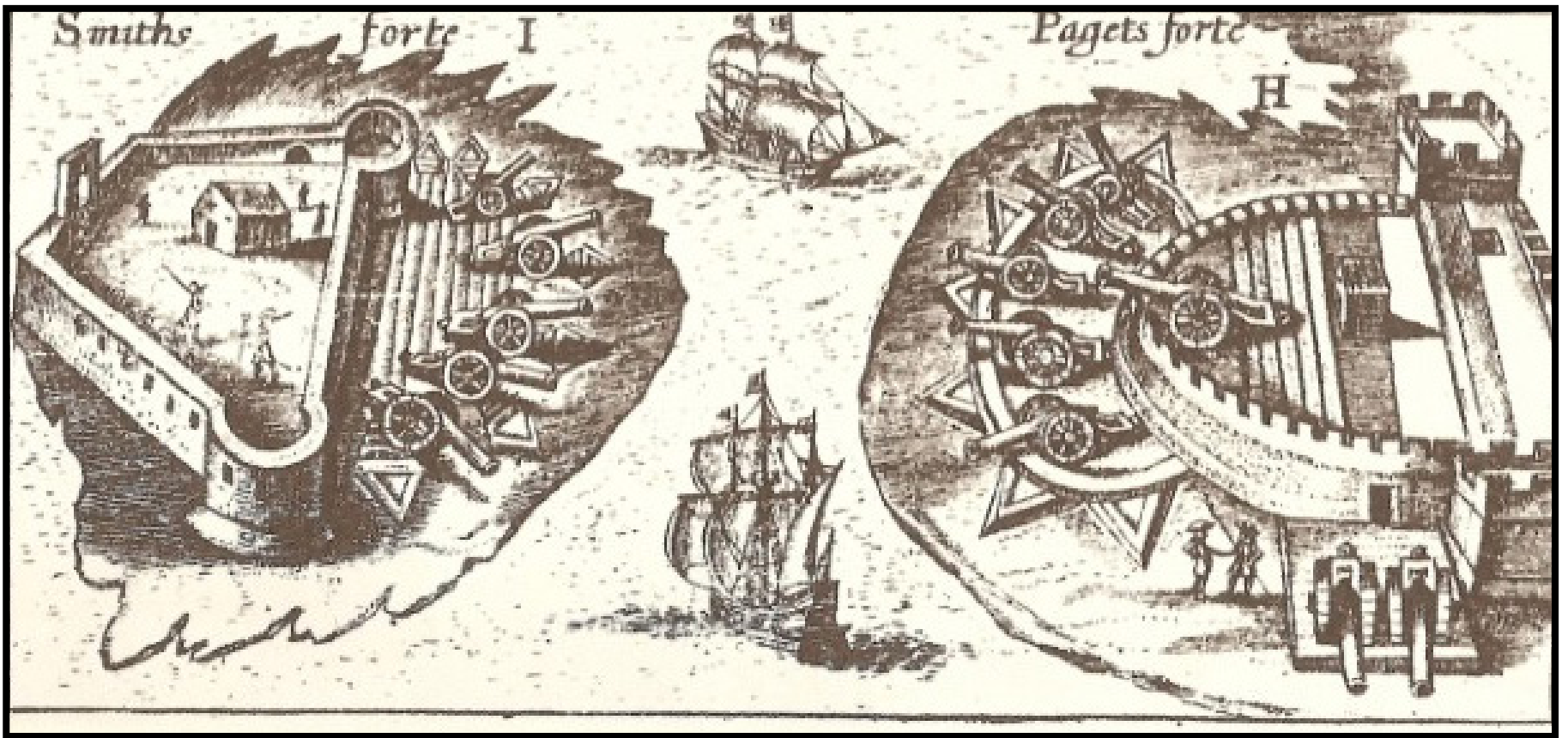
Ferry Island Fort is located on the western point of Ferry Reach and accessed by a small footbridge. The oval fort was built in the 1790's and its structure and layout was changed in the 1870's when it was rebuilt with emplacements for four large guns. What was once a busy battlement is today a peaceful place where you can still see the outline of the gun positions.

During the American Revolutionary War, it was suggested if Bermuda was attacked the population of the main island should retreat via the ferry to St. George's, where a stand would be made.



# St. George's Fortifications

## Fort Cunningham, Paget Island



Highlight image of The Generall Historie of Virginia, New-England, and the Summer Isles, by Captain John Smith of Jamestown, printed by I.D and I. H.

**F**ort Cunningham was constructed in the early 1800's to defend the Narrows Channel, the main ships channel leading into Bermuda. It is a polygonal fort set within a deep ditch which was completely renovated in the 1860's, when it was upgraded to an iron shield fort at huge expense.

It is situated on Paget Island where Bermuda's first governor, Richard Moore, cut a platform into the rock on the southern tip of the island in 1612, and mounted a cannon raised from the wreck of the Sea Venture to guard the entrance into St. George's Harbour. Smith's Island sits on the other side of the channel, and here Governor Moore built a redoubt, creating a crossfire through which attacking enemy ships would have to sail between ordnance firing at point-blank range. The defence of the channel was improved in 1689 when a chain was stretched between the two islands to block the channel into the harbour. The chain was used in 1691 by Governor Isaac Richier to delay the escape of a suspected pirate ship.

The forts on Paget Island were replaced by Fort Cunningham, which was built with long-range guns on higher ground covering the entrance to St. George's Harbour and the channel leading to Murray's Anchorage and the Dockyard - it made the early forts built for this task obsolete. The lower moat and masonry were completed in 1823 and named for Captain Thomas Cunningham. In the 1870's the upper part of the fort was removed to build a state-of-the-art iron skin fort, with four layers of five-inch-thick iron plate protecting two 38-ton rifled muzzle loaded cannon and a number of smaller guns. It contained barracks, ordnance magazines and water tanks. The wrought iron shields were constructed in Sheffield, England, and renovation costs ran so high, it led to a Member of Parliament in the London House of Commons to query if it were built of gold.

Fort Cunningham was in use until the 1920's, and was later renovated for use as a reform school for boys which ran until the 1970's. A 1991 archeological excavation of the fortification discovered the fort's massive guns had been dropped in the ditch surrounding the fort and covered over, and found traces of camouflage on the fort's exterior walls.

Over the decades the threat which undermines the longevity of Fort Cunningham, and many other fortifications, is the introduced invasive casuarina tree and Mexican pepper, which grow within and without the fort causing much damage. After the massive clearing which took place in 1991, within 20 years Fort Cunningham was again hidden in a forest of casuarinas. In 2017 another programme of clearing was launched by the Mirrors Programme, and today the St. George's Foundation has taken up the task of clearing invasives plants and preservation of the site.

If you are interested in supporting the restoration of Fort Cunningham and the fortifications of Bermuda's UNESCO World Heritage Site, visit [www.SGE.bm](http://www.SGE.bm) or contact [manager@sgf.bm](mailto:manager@sgf.bm)



Volunteers from The St. George's Foundation at Fort Cunningham.



# St. George's Attractions

## Bermuda National Trust Museum



The Bermuda National Trust Museum is housed in the Globe Hotel, which was built as Government House in 1700 by Governor Samuel Day. The house is a grand two storey building with four large rooms on each floor - the design of the building is rare, with four chimneys to strengthen the Flemish gables and help support the roof which is much wider than most of the buildings constructed on the island at the time. After his tenure of service as governor, Day refused to leave the new building and used his father's political connections as the Mayor of Bristol to retain it as his residence. Day was later arrested for debt and died in prison on Castle Island.

During the American Civil War, Confederate shipping agent Major Norman Walker used the upper floor of the house as the office from which he coordinated the flow of guns, ammunition and uniforms through the Union blockade. After the war ended the house became the Globe Hotel and was operated as such for over three decades. In 1951 the Bermuda Monuments Trust, the forerunner of the Bermuda National Trust, purchased the property and opened a museum six years later. The museum features a video presentation and gift shop on the ground floor, plus a detailed model of Sir George Somers ship, Sea Venture, which was wrecked on the reefs off St George's. The video presentation "Bermuda: Centre of the Atlantic" features rarely seen paintings and documents and tells the story of Bermuda and the forces which shaped her history. The permanent exhibit upstairs "Rogues and Runners: Bermuda and the American Civil War" documents the profound effect being a hub for Confederate blockade runners had on St. George's during the 1860's.

The Bermuda National Trust Museum is located on Duke of York Street and is open on Wednesday and Thursday from 11 am to 2pm. Entry is \$5 per person. Please call 236 6483 to confirm opening times.

## St. George's Historical Society Museum



Built in the early 1700's, Mitchell House is a classic example of early Bermudian vernacular architecture and is home to the St. George's Historical Society Museum, one of the island's oldest museums. The house was built by Major Walter Mitchell for his nephew, William Mitchell, a merchant and militia officer, and later became the home of Isabella Archer, a successful free Black tavern owner. Over the centuries the house was used as a school, hotel and tavern.

The building, with its sprawling layout, offers a fine example of a well-preserved 18th century house with 19th century additions and offers visitors an opportunity to explore the interior and exterior of an old St. George's dwelling. The traditional welcoming-arms entranceway, outside water tank, kitchen garden, period furnishings and artwork date from Bermuda's early years and convey a sense of Bermudian life in the early 1700's. Artifacts on display include a rare Breeches Bible, Boer War prisoner woodwork and period kitchen utensils.

Mitchell House was almost lost in the early 1900's but a group of historically minded St. Georgians came together to form the St. George's Historical Society, purchase the house at auction, restore it and open it to the public.

The St. George's Historical Society Museum and Printery at Mitchell House is located on Duke of Kent Street and opens from 10 am to 3 pm. Entry is \$5 pp. Telephone 331 8089 for opening days.

## Bermudian Heritage Museum

After the abolition of slavery, the Black community of St. George's created benevolent societies, linked to American and English friendly societies, to provide services including relief for the poor, job training, extending small loans and insurance for funeral expenses. They also staged pageants in town to foster solidarity and community support. The Independent Order of Good Samaritans and Daughters of Samaria were founded in St. George's in 1876, and in 1900 purchased a building at the corner of Water Street East and Duke of York Street for their meetings. They named the building Samaritans' Lodge and renovated it in 1907, adding a fanlight over the door with the initials IOGS&DS, since painted over.

Today Samaritans' Lodge is home to the Bermudian Heritage Museum, the island's first and only Black history museum, part of the UNESCO recognized African Diaspora Heritage Trail, and the building is leased from the Bermuda National Trust. The museum is run by the Bermudian Heritage Association, formed in 1994 for the sole purpose of establishing a museum to highlight the history and accomplishments of Black Bermudians. It records the history of slaves, free Blacks and the many Black friendly societies and lodges, documenting their role in shaping the Bermuda community. Exhibits contain artefacts, photographs and uniforms capturing the achievements of Black Bermudians in sports, nursing, education and social history. The history of Bermuda's Cup Match holiday and the connection between the two-day cricket match and emancipation is explained, as is the 1959 Theatre Boycott, which ultimately ended segregation in Bermuda.

There is an exhibit of the American cargo ship The Enterprise, which blew off course in 1835 while sailing from Virginia to South Carolina and came to Bermuda to re-provision. Amongst the cargo was 78 slaves. Slavery had ended in Bermuda less than a year earlier, and intervention by Bermuda Customs and Richard Tucker of the Young Men's Friendly Lodge resulted in the slaves being given their choice of remaining free in Bermuda or returning to America. All on the vessel chose freedom except for one woman and her five children. Those who remained in Bermuda were supported by the Black Friendly Societies. Today, thousands of Bermudians trace their ancestry to the slaves who were freed.

Entry is \$4 per person. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm. Contact 297 4126



## Somers' Garden

Somers' Garden is a tranquil park on Duke of York Street, featuring paved walking paths, a moon gate, seating areas and restrooms. The flora found here is a wonderful cross-section of native and introduced plants, such as endemic cedars and palmettos, along with hibiscus and rose bushes, Norfolk Island pines, calabash trees and royal palms.



# Restaurants in St.George’s

## Wahoos Bistro & Patio

Wahoo’s Bistro & Patio is centrally located in the heart of the historic Town of St. George and boasts panoramic views of the harbour. Executive Chef Alfred takes great pride in preparing Bermuda cuisine and is well known for using only the best products that Bermuda’s waters have to offer. Their wide-ranging menu is guaranteed to satisfy any picky eater and includes locally caught fish items such as wahoo nuggets, rockfish Picasso and their award-winning fish chowder, plus ever-changing specials from the blackboard. They offer full bar service with specialty drinks, liqueurs, and coffees. Ask Geza about his daily special coffee creation. The waterfront location is a perfect spot to enjoy both indoor and patio dining, so bring the family for a nice relaxing meal or come for a romantic dinner overlooking the moonlit harbour. Good food, great prices in a friendly and casual atmosphere. Located at 36, Water Street. Telephone 297 1307 or visit Wahoos.bm.



## White Horse Pub & Restaurant



The White Horse is a landmark waterfront pub which opened in 1930 in Esten House, a building which dates from the 1700’s. Today the menu and furnishings have been updated, but the historic charm remains. On the menu you will find classic pub favourites such as fish and chips, burgers, pizzas and nachos, plus entrees such as blackened wahoo, ribeye steak and the popular lobsicles – lobster tail skewers. The bar area is a magnet for sports fans who come to watch their favourite teams and athletes; this is where the expert bartenders serve up Rum swizzle, margaritas, martinis and daiquiris, along with beers, wine and soft drinks. Music lovers can take advantage of the live entertainment which includes DJ’s and bands performing on a floating stage in front of the pub. The ambient mood lighting, comfortable waterside seating and friendly staff make the White Horse Pub & Restaurant a first choice with locals and visitors.

Located at 8, King’s Square. Telephone 297 4490 or visit WhiteHorseBermuda.com.

## The Wharf

The Wharf is perfectly situated on the waterfront at Somers Wharf in one of the most picturesque locations in St. George’s. The extensive menu boasts an enticing variety of choices with a dish to please every palate. The casual fare includes pizza, burgers and fries, sandwiches and wraps. Or take advantage of the outstanding variety of fresh Bermuda fish which is delivered daily, including Bermuda lobster and guinea chick in season. Try the herb roasted rack of lamb, filet mignon, jerk chicken, a pasta dish or one of the vegetarian options. The sushi bar serves classic and unique dishes including soups, salads, sashimi and nigiri, rolls and a popular selection of Wharf special rolls. At the bar choose from a selection of draft and bottled beer, sake and Japanese beer, an array of wines and spirits, frozen drinks and a collection of non-alcoholic refreshments. Open every day except Christmas.

Located at 14 Water Street, Somers Wharf. Telephone 297 3305 or visit Wharf.bm.



## East End Dining Options

- Wong’s Golden Dragon
- Boardwalk Café
- Double Dip Xpress Ice Cream Parlour & Deli
- Eliana’s Fine Dining
- Pizza House Restaurant
- Mama Angie’s Coffee Shop
- Frequency Café
- Tobacco Bay Beach House
- Mr. Chicken
- Bailey’s Ice Cream Parlour
- Café Olé
- Swizzle Inn Pub
- Yo Cherry Frozen Treats & Bakery
- Temptations Café
- Munchies By the Sea





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# Shops and Boutiques in St.George’s

## Robertson’s Drugstore

Alongside all the medicines and toiletries you expect from a pharmacy, you’ll find unique gifts, many from Britain. There are beach items, toys, books for all ages, baby essentials and cute clothes, plus natural candle and skincare ranges, All in a relaxing atmosphere with friendly staff. Discover many Bermudians’ favourite store, serving St. George’s for over a century. You’ll find what you need as well as something you want.

Located at 24, Duke of York Street. Telephone 297 1828 or visit their Facebook page.

## The Bermuda Perfumery

The Bemruda Perfumery located at Stewart Hall is home to the Lili Perfume Collection where each unique fragrance represents a certain element of the natural beauty and character of Bermuda at Stewart Hall you can find a history room, retail store, and the fragrance making studio of master perfumer Isabel Ram-say Brackstone.

Open Mon - Sat 9am -5pm (293-0627) - lilibermuda.com

## The Whistlin’ Frog

The Whistlin’ Frog is a souvenir and gift shop which stocks a bright array of Bermuda themed tee shirts, hats, visors and bags including plenty of children’s sizes. Conveniently located on Water Street at the entrance to Somers Wharf, you’ll also find towels, flip flops, water shoes, sweatshirts, wind breakers and jewellery.



Located at 14C, Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 297 1304.



*Bermuda*  
*The South Shores Collection*

6 Water Street  
St.Georges, Bermuda  
Tel - 411 - 519 - 9906  
Email - kelli1568@gmail.com  
www.saltwaterjewellery.com

# More Boutiques to Find

## The Things We Love

This specialty store sells eclectic women’s fashion with a bohemian flair. Owner and buyer Rachel has a keen eye for unique pieces and accessories and has created an inviting space to relax and browse her bespoke collection of clothing, home décor, jewelry and beauty products.

Located at Unit 7, Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 533 2359 or visit TheThingsWeLove.MyShopify.com.

## Saltwater Jewellery Design

Saltwater Jewellery is an elegant boutique specializing in one-of-a-kind eye-catching handcrafted jewellery inspired by the beauty of Bermuda’s turquoise waters, coral-pink shores and the vibrant hues across the island. Designers Kelli and Rose Thompson create the pieces using Bermuda sea glass, pink sand and semi-precious stones, Venetian glass and freshwater pearls. The bright, welcoming boutique offers a range of handbags, scarves, artwork and unique pieces by Abstract Designs.

Located at 6 Water Street. Telephone 519 9906 or visit SaltWaterJewelleryDesigns.com.



## Lacquered Lounge

St. Georgians know they don’t have to leave town for their beauty treatments – Lacquered Lounge is conveniently located on Somers Wharf and offers a full range of pampering experiences using guilt-free natural and organic products where possible. They stock Bermuda made scrubs, body butter and candles, plus non-toxic nail polish and NolaSkin toners, cremes and serums. The cozy location is a great place to pick up your beauty products and book yourself a relaxing treatment.

Located at Unit 5, Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 735 2265 or visit ILoveLacquered.com.

## Davison’s of Bermuda

At Davison’s you will find Bermuda-branded shirts, hats, bags and gifts. Look for a great selection of tee shirts, polos, hoodies, baseball hats, plus shirts and hats in children’s sizes. If you are heading to the beach they have everything you need from towels and flip flops to sundresses and sun hats. The souvenir collection includes Bermuda prints, flags, magnets, postcards and mugs. Stop by Davison’s to pick up the perfect memento of your trip to Bermuda.

Located at Somers Wharf, 16 Water Street. Telephone 297 8363.



## Somers Supermart

Residents of the Town of St. George rely on Somers Supermart, a family run supermarket specializing in fresh and specialty foods. Come in and sample their selection of prepared buffet foods, made daily in their on-site kitchen. The chefs focus on fresh Bermudian cuisine and serve up salads, comfort food and a changing menu of Indian curries, West Indian jerk dishes and Asian cuisine. The delicious breads, cakes and pies are freshly baked daily and delivered from their Hamilton bakery. Somers Supermart stocks a wide range of wines, cold beer and spirits and you will find Waitrose products, flown in from the UK, including ready meals, dairy, dried pastas, pulses and spices.

Located at 41 Duke of York Street. Telephone 297 1177 or visit Supermart.bm.

### More Boutiques to Find...

- The Dragon’s Lair Gallery

The English Sports Shop

Gregory Nelmes Home

Palm Lane

National Trust Gift Shop

Surprise Scrapbook Boutique

W.J. Boyle & Sons

Churchill’s Fine Wine & Cigars

Frangipani Boutique
- Sea Glass Studio

The Bermuda Perfumery

Long Story Short

Bermuda Linens & Gifts

Vera P. Card

East End Variety

Paradise Gift Shop

Crown & Anchor

Needles Etc: The Yarn Shop



# Places to Explore in the East End

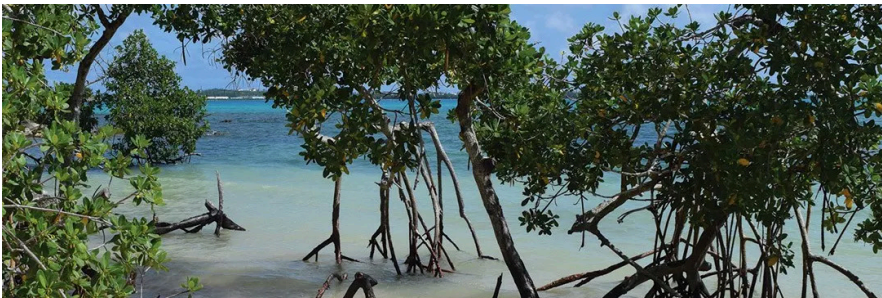
## Blue Hole Park



**Blue Hole Park** popularly known as Tom Moore’s Jungle and as Walsingham Nature Reserve is in Hamilton Parish. The entrance to the park is located where the Blue Hole Hill Road meets the Causeway near to the Grotto Bay Beach Resort. The entire reserve is spread across 12 acres of land area.

A narrow lane from Blue Hole Hill just before the Causeway leads to a car park. Walk through an opening in a fence and then through a wooden log frame into the reserve area. The main paved trail goes almost all along the water’s edge giving you a lovely view of Castle Harbour. The trail and many offshoot paths through the dense woodland area lead to different attractions within the reserve including caves and grottos with great stalactite formations and natural pools. One of the highlights is the mangrove pond, which is a pool with crystal clear, deep blue water full of fish. This is the Blue Hole after which the park has been named. The pool is fringed by forests on one side and by rocks and crevices. It was restored by the Bermuda Government in 1970.

From the entrance, walk along the stone pathway, past a beach on your left. When the path forks, take the left and you will reach an open grassy area. From the open grassy land with a picnic table on one side, you can see the steps to a small wooden platform (having a wooden bench on one side). Standing on the platform, you can soak in the serene beauty of Blue Hole Pond with surrounding cliffs and greenery, and watch fish in the water.



## Crystal Caves

**Crystal and Fantasy Caves** have been a popular Bermuda attraction for over a century, opening to the public in 1908 and welcoming thousands of visitors over the years. On his second sojourn to Bermuda, Mark Twain stopped at the caves on a journey to St. George’s and described the experience: - “We descended 150 steps and stood in a splendid place 250 feet long and 30 or 40 wide, with a brilliant lake of clear water under our feet and all the roof overhead splendid with shining stalactites, thousands and thousands of them as white as sugar, and thousands and thousands brown and pink and other tints. All lighted with acetylene jets.”

The Crystal Caves became part of cinematic history in 1913 when they were used as a filming location for the motion picture “Neptune’s Daughter”, starring Australian Annette Kellerman as a mermaid. The silent movie was filmed entirely on location in Bermuda and the caves appear early in the film when Neptune’s daughter visits the Witch’s Cave and begs the witch to make her mortal. In 1920 during the first official visit to Bermuda by a member of the British Royal family, the Prince of Wales – later the Duke of Windsor - visited Crystal Caves. In 1928 the admission was four shillings and boat rides around the lake had been replaced by a pontoon bridge.

Today the Crystal and Fantasy Caves still provide a stunning experience with guided tours into Bermuda’s unique underground wonderland. A state-of-the-art lighting system highlights the fascinating shapes of the stalactites and stalagmites, formed over millions of years, reflected in the crystal-clear pools.

Fiddlestix Gift Shop, a curated boutique with crystals, Bermuda made items, themed gifts and souvenirs for sale is worth a visit before or after your descent into the caves. If you are hungry Café Ole serves up breakfast, lunch, snacks and daily specials from 9 am to 4.30 pm.

The Crystal and Fantasy Caves are open daily, from 9 am to 5 pm, and the last tour departs at 4.30. It is a must-see attraction today, as it was a century ago. Telephone 293 0640 or visit [Caves.bm](http://Caves.bm).



## Bermuda Aquarium, Museum and Zoo



**The Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo**, also known as BAMZ for short, is one of the most loved attractions in Bermuda.

Located in the picturesque Flatts Village in Hamilton Parish, BAMZ was founded in 1926. It offers three different attractions in the same complex: an Aquarium, a Museum and a Zoo. Open 9am to 5pm, last entry at 4pm, everyday except Christmas. Telephone 293-2727 or visit [BZS.bm](http://BZS.bm)

## Other East End Attractions

- Deliverance Replica
- Spittle Pond
- Flatts Bridge
- 400th Anniversary Monument
- Bob Burns Park
- Stocks and Pillory
- Building Bay
- King’s Square



## Historical Sites in St. George's

### The Unfinished Church

The Unfinished Church is an impressive example of Victorian Gothic architecture built in the late 1800's to replace St. Peter's Church, which was in a state of disrepair. Designed by William Hay, the Scottish-born architect who later drew the plans for Hamilton's cathedral, construction began in 1874 and slowly continued over the next 20 years. Unfortunately, the project was beset by problems from the beginning.

The congregation had become divided along high church (Anglo Catholic) and Low Church (Protestant) lines, and could not agree on designs for the new altar and pulpit. Ultimately this division led to a faction of the congregation building a church nearby, known as the Reformed Episcopal Church, which is currently home to the Salvation Army.

In 1884, the main Anglican church in the City of Hamilton was damaged by fire and funding for the St. George's church was redirected to build the Hamilton cathedral. The new St. George's church was finally roofed in 1897, however sentiment had swung back to historic St. Peter's Church, and the desire for a grand, new church had faded. To seal the new church's fate, a freak tornado took off most of the roof in 1925. Today the interior of the church is closed to the public as weathering has caused structural deterioration, however you may visit the grounds and view the inside through the arches.

Special events and weddings take place inside the Unfinished Church through arrangements with St. Peter's Church, Their Majesties Chappell.

Visit [StPeters.bm](http://StPeters.bm).



### St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church, Their Majesties Chappell, was established when Bermuda was settled by the Virginia Company in 1612, and for over 400 years has been the church of the Town of St. George. It is a cultural and historic icon, a holy place at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The church was not however, the first house of worship to stand on this site. It replaced a 1612 structure made of wooden posts and palmetto leaves that was destroyed in a storm in 1712. The new stone church was built by the collective effort of the whole town in 1713, and the church wardens compensated the workers with rum punch instead of wages. The original Communion table and altar rails from 1612 and the 1660 cedar pulpit were salvaged from the ruins and are still in use today. The tower and wings were added in the 19th century. The church has a wonderful and simplistic ambience with exposed cedar beams in the ceiling, rough wooden pillars and candlelit chandeliers.

The first sitting of Bermuda's General Assembly took place in the church in 1620, making it the third oldest parliament in the world. To mark the 400th anniversary of the Legislature, the island's re-convening of Parliament took place once again in St. George's, with Black Rod, representing the Head of State, leading the elected representatives from St. Peter's Church to King's Square for the reading of the Throne Speech.

In the lead up to this milestone event, The Friends of St. Peter's Church implemented a year-long program of structural upgrading, mainly financed by the UNESCO World Heritage Fund. Improvements included refurbishing and painting the 200-year-old windows and blinds; re-lettering the interior marble memorials; removing, polishing and re-installing the 18th century chandeliers; painting the interior walls; and scrubbing the exterior brick steps and pathways. Thus, the Town's historic church is in good shape for the coming years. Opening hours 11 am to 3 pm, Monday through Saturday. Sunday Service at 11 am.

Visit [StPeters.bm](http://StPeters.bm).



### The State House



The State House, built in 1620 and restored in 1969, is one of the oldest British stone structures in the New World. It housed Bermuda's first Parliament and Court House and the upper level was the storehouse for the island's gunpowder supply for 150 years. The building's architecture demonstrates its dual role of serving as a government administration building and providing defence - the crosses on the second floor are gunports. During the 1600 and 1700's the State House was a focal point in St. George's, where public punishments took place and the town's residents gathered to commemorate important events.

After the capital moved from the Town of St. George to the City of Hamilton in 1815, the State House was rented to Bermuda's oldest Masonic Lodge for a yearly rent of one peppercorn. Today the rent is paid every April at the Peppercorn Ceremony, with much pomp and circumstance, and is hosted by the Mayor and Councillors of the Corporation of St. George. The Governor, Premier and Cabinet Ministers attend for this state occasion.

Outside viewing from King Street.





# Fortifications of St.David’s

## St. David’s Battery



**S**t. David’s Battery at Great Head Park was built before 1910 with the purpose of protecting the Narrows Channel, the passageway for all large ships through Bermuda’s reef line, and this remained its function until the end of coastal defense in 1956. As the Second World War dawned in 1939, the men of the Bermuda Militia Artillery, commanded by British officers seconded from the Royal Artillery with black non-commissioned and enlisted men, in concert with the white Bermuda Volunteer Engineers, were tasked with duty of manning the battery — for a time the Island’s only defence from Axis assault. The battery featured two 9.2 breech-loading guns situated side by side at the southern end. The guns had a range of seven miles but were never fired in anger and seldom fired in practice because of complaints of residents living nearby.

## Lost at Sea Memorial



**B**ermuda’s economy in the 18th and 19th centuries relied heavily on the sea, and many slaves and free Blacks lived their lives on the open ocean as whalers, fishermen and pilots. Black Bermudians travelled the world as crew on board merchant sloops and privateer ships, some never returning home having been swept overboard during storms or while working in the ship’s rigging.

Long whale boats set off with six oarsmen and harpooner in search of passing whales, a lucrative but dangerous catch which provided oil, bones and “sea beef”. Often whale boats capsized, with crewmembers losing limbs and even their lives. An example of such a tragedy occurred in 1840 when the whale boat belonging to the Southampton Whaling Establishment capsized and crewman Henry Taylor was lost.

The pilots of the island were no less at risk for squalls and gales could appear quickly and blow them offshore. Pilot William Knights and his crew of six were last seen in February 1856, hoisting sails and heading after a barque which had appeared at the west end. A search was taken, to no avail, and a few days later the empty boat washed up on shore.

The “Figurehead” memorial to Bermudians lost at sea was created by Bermudian sculptor Bill Ming and was unveiled in 2005. It is in Great Head Park, St. David’s next to St. David’s Battery.

## Fort Popple

**G**overnor Alured Popple became Governor in 1738 and found many of Bermuda’s forts in a run-down and poor state. He refortified the island, repairing the existing defences and building several new forts, including Fort Popple. Quarried out of the bedrock of the hillside at Little Head on the northern end of St. David’s Island, the fort was shaped in a semi-circle and had nine gunports.

The fort was intended to defend the southern approach to the St. George’s Channel, however a survey carried out 60 years later was dubious whether “the distance was too great for the Shot materially to injure a Vessel passing”. Today visitors to Little Head Park can walk the nature trails and enjoy the ocean views from Fort Popple, situated at the water’s edge of the rocky St. David’s coast.
















St. David’s Battery



# Map of St. George



	Bus Stop		Hand crafted Artists		Bar / Restaurants		Visitor Service Centre
	Gas Station		Shopping		Pharmacy		Bank
	Cafe'		Grill		Restrooms		African Diaspora Heritage Trail
	Post Office						



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