The Historic Town of St. George

A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE
SITES OF INTEREST

Barber’s Alley 12
Bermudian Heritage Museum 3 $
‘Casino’ (Church) 32
Deliverance 26
Ebenezer Methodist Church 4
Ethiopian Orthodox Church*
‘Esten House’ (Art Gallery/Shops) 20
Hannibal Lodge*
‘Hillcrest’ (Aunt Nea’s Inn) 5
King’s Square 21
Long House (Art Studio) 3
‘Mitchell House’ (St. George’s Historical Society Museum) 22 $

Somers’ Garden 26
St. George’s Post Office 14
St. Peter’s, Their Majesties Chappell 17
State House 21
‘Stewart Hall’ (Bermuda Perfumery) 8
Stiles House (Bank) 22
‘The Globe Hotel’ (Bermuda National Trust) 16 $
‘Tucker House’ 13 $
Town Hall 25
Unfinished Church 24
World Heritage Centre 1
PRIVATE RESIDENCES

‘Bridge House’
‘Buckingham’
‘Durnford’*
‘Fanny Fox’s Cottage’*
‘Harbour View’ (This Old House: Bermuda 2004)
‘Hermit’s Court’ (Pilot Darrell’s House and Square)
‘Hunter Building’
‘Old Rectory’
‘Reeve Court’
‘Seven Gables’*
‘Somerled’*
‘Somers Playhouse’*
‘Stockdale’*
‘Whitehall’*

Note: $ Admission or Donation
* Indicates properties outside of the map perimeters.
The Historic Town of St. George
& RELATED FORTIFICATIONS

A Unique Experience

Joining an elite group of recognised world treasures that includes Monticello in America, the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Wall of China and the Great Pyramids of Egypt is Bermuda’s UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Historic Town of St. George and Related Fortifications. No Bermuda vacation is complete without a visit to historic St. George’s, located in the east end of the island. Steeped in history, the Town of St. George is the oldest continuously inhabited town of English origin in the New World. St. George’s is unique because it is a ‘living’ heritage experience, where history comes vividly to life amidst the modern amenities and attractions of the Town. Not to be outdone, the fortifications in St. George’s and its surrounding islands are without parallel. First constructed in 1612, they include a near complete collection of British fortifications and artillery overseas. We therefore invite you to explore over 400 years of the Island’s heritage and enjoy this jewel in Bermuda’s crown.

What is a World Heritage Site?

The World Heritage programme is coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of outstanding cultural and natural heritage sites around the world.
Our UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

In December 2000, UNESCO World Heritage status was awarded to the Historic Town of St. George and Related Fortifications, Bermuda. The Town of St. George is an outstanding example of the earliest English urban settlement in the New World. Its associated fortifications graphically illustrate the development of English military engineering from the 17th to the 20th century, being adapted to take account of the development of artillery over this period.

To find out more visit: www.unesco.org

Experience 400 Years of Living History

St. George's is where Bermuda began. Known by mariners as the Isle of Devils, it became inhabited after an English ship, the Sea Venture, wrecked on the reefs of the East End in 1609. Remarkably, the ship's company survived. All but two eventually continued with their original purpose of taking supplies to the starving settlement at Jamestown, Virginia. The decision was made to claim Bermuda for the Crown and, in 1612 the Plough arrived with Bermuda's first true settlers. The Town of St. George, named after the legendary dragon slayer and patron saint of England, was Bermuda's capital for more than 200 years. Today, nearly four centuries later, evidence of its remarkable history is all around you. A series of new initiatives is underway to bring this remarkable history to life, coordinated by The St. George's Foundation, an independent, not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with the Corporation of St. George, the Bermuda Government, public and private sectors and the local community.
Travelling to the World Heritage Site

You can take the Number 1, 3, 10 or 11 buses to St. George’s from the City of Hamilton. In addition, the Number 6 bus travels from the Town of St. George to St. David’s. Tokens, tickets and passes can be used on buses or ferries and can be purchased at Hamilton Ferry Terminal, Hamilton Bus Terminal, hotels, post offices and the Dockyard Visitor Information Centre. Cash fares require exact change, as dollar bills are not accepted. For bus fares and schedules call 292-3851 or check the transportation page on www.gov.bm.

A ferry service operates during the summer months between the Royal Naval Dockyard and the Town of St. George. For enquiries call 295-4506. Brochures of the bus and ferry schedules are also conveniently available.

A private mini-bus service operates from King’s Square to Tobacco Bay, Gates’ Bay, Achilles Bay and Fort St. Catherine.

The easiest way to get to Ferry Reach, St. George’s is by rental scooter or taxi. The Number 1, 3, 10 or 11 buses will drop you off at the junction of Mullet Bay Road and Ferry Road and from there it is a 30-minute walk.

Key

African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT): Officially designated a UNESCO Slave Route Project.

BNT Bermuda National Trust owned and maintained property.

Map reference number Town of St. George
Protected by legislation since 1950, the Town of St. George contains the highest proportion of historic buildings in the entire Island. In addition, the Town has been designated a Historic Protected Area to preserve its unique architecture.

Traditional Bermudian architecture has evolved to suit the Island’s environment and our houses are functional and eco-friendly in design. Houses are made from local limestone, which makes them strong and durable while walls are plastered and painted to make the porous limestone waterproof. Traditionally, roofs are made of limestone slate, which is coated with white lime-treated paint, making them watertight. A white roof reflects sunlight and keeps the house interior cool. However, the main function of the Bermuda roof is to collect rainwater as the Island has no lakes, rivers or streams. Purified by the lime wash, rainwater falling on the roof is directed along glides or gutters into storage tanks above or below the ground. The solid chimneys provide strength and support to the gable ends of early buildings and once provided ventilation and heat for cooking. Wooden shutters give protection from the elements and also keep the house cool in the summer. While Bermuda’s unique style of architecture originated in St. George’s, buildings in the Town contain many features not found elsewhere on the Island, such as high walls and gates, lateral steps and distinct roof eaves.

While many of these buildings are private homes and can only be viewed from the outside, during the annual Christmas Walkabout many of the private residences owned by the Bermuda National Trust are opened to the public (see Cultural Activities pages 16–18).
The Queen’s Warehouse, built 1860, was completely renovated in 2005 to become the World Heritage Centre (WHC), home of the St. George’s Foundation. The forecourt has been completely remodelled, while a new state-of-the-art lecture hall and new interactive exhibits were completed in 2009, when the WHC was officially opened. The original warehouse pulley system, used to lift trade goods to the upper floor, is still visible inside the building.
Find out why St. George’s and related fortifications have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site at this cultural centre. Take a step back in time and enjoy the orientation, ‘St. George’s – A Gateway to Bermuda’ and the short film, ‘A Stroll through St. George’s’ along with the delightful bargains available at the ‘Second Hand Rose’ shop.


Water Street

Now a collection of shops, restaurants, artists’ galleries and museums, Water Street, as its name suggests, was once the original coastline of the Town of St. George. Between 1693 and 1721 wharves and storehouse were built by local merchants to the south of Water Street.

Tucker House

5 Water Street

Built in 1752, ‘Tucker House’ contains historic furniture, paintings, silver services and archaeological exhibits.

297 0545 | www.bnt.bm

Barber’s Alley

Next to ‘Tucker House’ is Barber’s Alley where Joseph Hayne Rainey, a former slave who escaped to Bermuda, worked as a barber in the kitchen of ‘Tucker House’. Rainey later returned to America after the American Civil War and was the first person of clour to be elected to the United States house of representatives.

Midway up Barber’s Alley on the eastern side is the secluded but beautiful Smith’s Garden, which is maintained by the Garden Club of Bermuda.
St. George’s Post Office
11 Water Street

The site of the Town’s first jail and Provost Marshal’s House, built in 1622 by Governor Butler, and rebuilt in 1760. Many American privateers during the Revolutionary War were incarcerated here by Governor Bruere, who treated them as pirates instead of prisoners of war. In 1800, the Methodist preacher John Stephenson was jailed here for preaching to Black Bermudians without a licence. Local tradition has it that he continued to preach through the jail window to his congregation outside.

Now the Parish Post Office where a free internet kiosk is available inside.

King’s Square

A tidal creek originally ran through this area, which can be seen in the 1624 engraving by Capt. John Smith. The land was soon reclaimed and King’s Square has remained the focal point of the Town of St. George for hundreds of years. All major ceremonies take place in King’s Square from the annual Peppercorn Ceremony (see Cultural Activities) to the regular ducking of the Town gossip.

The Square contains a replica stocks, pillory and whipping post which are, perhaps, the Town’s most photographed features. Her Majesty The Queen visited King’s Square as part of the Island’s 400th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009.
World Heritage Site

Ordnance Island & the Deliverance

Now used as a visiting yacht berth, a park and H.M. Customs for visiting yachtsmen, Ordnance Island was originally two islands, Ducking Stool Island and Gallows Island, where punishments were meted out and executions were conducted. In 1795, a canny Scot, Simon Fraser, purchased the islands from the Town for £100. By 1799, he had merged them into one island and in 1814 sold it to the British War Department for £14,193. Used to house the Ordnance Department, where it gets its name, and later the Royal Engineers, Ordnance Island was later converted into a submarine base during the Second World War by the U.S. Navy.

A replica of the Deliverance, the ship built by the Sea Venture cast-aways in 1610, which has been recently restored and contains new animatronic exhibits, is located on Ordnance Island.

Town Hall

5 King’s Square

Town Hall is the meeting place of the Corporation of St. George. It contains cedar furnishings and a collection of portraits of past mayors.

297-1532.
The Globe Hotel
32 Duke of York Street

Built in 1699 as the second Government House, Governor Samuel Day used his father’s political connections, as the Mayor of Bristol, to keep the building when his term of office ended. However, his father’s influence could not keep Day out of debtor’s prison, where he eventually died while incarcerated on Castle Island. The building was also the headquarters of the Confederate shipping agent, Major Norman Walker, during the American Civil War when this building was The Globe Hotel. This museum, now The Bermuda National Trust Museum at the Globe Hotel, highlights Bermuda’s involvement in the American Civil War in a self-guided exhibit, ‘Rogues & Runners: Bermuda and the American Civil War’. Another video presentation tells the story of Bermuda, ‘Bermuda: Centre of the Atlantic’. There is also the ‘Trustworthy’ museum and souvenir shop. NNT - 297-1423 | www.bnt.bm

St. Peter’s, Their Majesties Chappell
33 Duke of York Street

In 2012, in honour of St Peter’s 400th anniversary, Her Majesty The Queen, celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, granted the church the Royal title ‘Their Majesties Chappell’

St Peter’s Church is the oldest Anglican Church in continuous use outside the British Isles and, until the building of the State House, was Bermuda’s only public meeting place. The first criminal court was held here in 1616 and the first meeting of Parliament in 1620. The original wooden church dating from 1612, was replaced by a stone structure in 1713, and extended in 1814. On display in the vestry are 17th century communion silver presented by King William III and two of the oldest pieces of furniture in Bermuda, a Bermuda Cedar Communion Table and Dole Cupboard. To the west of the church
are the graves of many slaves and free Blacks, including Pilot James Darrell (see Hermit’s Court, below). Notable graves elsewhere in the churchyard include those of Midshipman Dale, Governor George James Bruere and Governor Sir Richard Sharples. In 2012, in honour of St Peter’s 400th anniversary, Her Majesty The Queen, celebrating her Diamond Jubilee, granted the church the Royal title ‘Their Majesties Chappell’, a term first used during the reign of King William and Queen Mary.

‘Stewart Hall’
5 Queen Street

Built before 1707, ‘Stewart Hall’ was the home of the prominent local architect and merchant, Walter Mitchell. However, it is named after a later owner, Solicitor-General and Attorney General, Duncan Stewart (circa 1850s) even though he never lived there. Now owned by the Bermuda National Trust it is home to the Bermuda Perfumery. To the rear of the property is a wonderful garden, which is open to the public and which features above ground water tanks.

293-0627

‘Hermit’s Court’
(Pilot Darrell House and Square) 5 Aunt Peggy’s Lane

Pilot James ‘Jemmy’ Darrell was one of the first Black Bermudians to own property. A former slave, he was granted his freedom, recommended by Admiral George Murray, in recognition of his skill in piloting the HMS Resolution through the Narrows Channel in 1795. Admiral Murray later established the King’s Pilots and Darrell was one of the first to be appointed. Darrell’s memorial is located in St. Peter’s Churchyard.
In the year prior to Emancipation in 1834, almost half of Black Bermudians in St. George’s Parish were free, the highest proportion in Bermuda. In 1833, Black St. Georgians purchased or were given 23 houses within the Town of St. George. These Black-owned buildings were located throughout the Town, indicating a greater degree of integration than found elsewhere on the Island.

**Michell House**

**St. George’s Historical Society Museum, Printery & Garden**

Duke of Kent Street

The historic ‘Mitchell House’ contains fine 18th century cedar furniture, paintings and Bermuda artefacts. 297-0423

**Whitehall**

12 Duke of Clarence Street

Probably the largest house in St. George’s, ‘Whitehall’ was built in 1815 by John Van Norden while he was Mayor of St. George’s. Broad Alley originally ran through the property but Mayor Van Norden rerouted the public road around the property to keep his privacy. A later Mayor of the Town, Robert Harley James, added the impressive Edwardian verandah and entry stairs. private residence
World Heritage Site

Old Rectory
1 Broad Alley

This is one of the Town’s earliest surviving buildings, built around 1699 by Captain George Dew (a reformed pirate who became a judge). Its most important features are the projecting porch with the short welcoming arms steps and the eastern chimney set away from the roof (suggesting that the house was once thatched). Despite its name, the house was never officially a rectory. It is named for Parson Richardson who lived there between 1763 and 1805.

private residence

Unfinished Church
1 Government Hill Road

This Victorian Gothic church was begun in 1874 and never finished. It was intended to be a magnificent example of Victorian Gothic architecture to replace St. Peter’s Church. The new church was beset by a series of problems—financial difficulties, a rift in the Anglican congregation and a damaging storm. Fortunately, we now have an attractive landmark in the Town in addition to a well-preserved St. Peter’s—for the death of the new church gave continued life to the old.

The Gunpowder Plot

Just beyond and on the right of the Unfinished Church is Fort William, which was originally a government magazine. On 14th August 1775, several Bermudians, who sympathised with America, stole 100 barrels of gunpowder from the magazine under the nose of Governor George James.
Bruere, who lived next door. The barrels were rolled down the hill to Tobacco Bay and shipped to General Washington’s Continental Army. Bruere was incensed and formed a Committee to investigate the theft. However, unknown to Bruere, several members of this Committee, including his own daughter’s father-in-law, Henry Tucker, were part of the conspiracy. Needless to say no one was ever caught. In 2008, archaeologists discovered Bruere’s unmarked grave under the floor of St. Peter’s Church and the former Governor was entombed in a proper vault with all due ceremony in the churchyard in 2009.

**Somers’ Garden**

Reputedly the site where Admiral Sir George Somers’ heart was buried in 1610, Somers’ Garden is a public park maintained by the Corporation of St. George. Governor John Hope buried his wife Charlotte here in 1726 and her tomb can still be seen today. The site originally contained a cattle pond from 1617 until 1791, when it was filled in by Governor Hamilton, who replaced it with a well. The site was also used as a vegetable garden by British officers from the local garrison until Governor Lefroy officially designated the area as a public park in the 1870s.

**The State House**

The State House, built in 1620 and restored in 1969, is one of the oldest British built stone structures in the New World. Home of Bermuda’s first parliament (the oldest surviving parliament in the world outside the British Isles and Iceland) and first court, for over 150 years it was the storehouse for the Island’s gunpowder supplies. Since 1816, it has been rented by Bermuda’s oldest Masonic Lodge, St. George No. 200 of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, for a yearly rent of one peppercorn, paid during a popular public ceremony each April.
Bridge House
1 Bridge Street

Built shortly after 1700, Bridge House is one of the Town’s most picturesque buildings. This was the home of Governor, Benjamin Bennett and later of Bridger Goodrich, a Virginian loyalist, whose privateers once blockaded Chesapeake Bay, much to the annoyance of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson. Lower floor is now the home of the Bermuda National Gallery East.

Bermudian Heritage Museum
Junction of Duke of York and Water Streets

The first fully exhibited Black History Museum of Bermuda, located in the historic Samaritans’ Lodge.

297-4126

St. David’s Island Historical Society at Carter House
34 Southside Road, St. David’s Island

Built in the 17th century by the descendants of Christopher Carter, who was wrecked on Bermuda in the Sea Venture in 1609, and remains today largely in its original form. It is now the museum of the St. David’s Island Historical Society where the culture and history of the unique people of St David’s is exhibited. Nestled next to Carter House amongst endemic and native plants and trees as well as Bermuda mystery roses, is a replica settlers’ dwelling, c. 1612, built using the same English techniques, 17th century tools and local materials, including a Palmetto thatched roof—a 400th anniversary project.

293-5960
St. George’s

Cultural Activities

Historical Activities
Re-enactments and Guided Tours

Check with your nearest VIC or hotel concierge for a list of current historical activities, dates and times.

St. George’s Olde Towne Market

Experience an old European-style street market of yesteryear. Explore the hidden treasures along Water Street while enjoying local foods, arts and crafts, fresh local produce and a pedlars’ market.

Check with your nearest VIC or hotel concierge for date and time.
Peppercorn Ceremony

The Peppercorn Ceremony is an annual event held in April on the Wednesday closest to St. George’s Day, when the members of Lodge St. George pay their annual rent (a single peppercorn) for the use of the State House. Preceded by a 17-gun salute, the Governor, dressed in full regalia, arrives in a horse drawn carriage and inspects a military guard of honour before accepting his rent. The Bermuda Regiment performs close order drills in King’s Square to the accompaniment of music from the band of the Bermuda Regiment.

Midshipman Dale Remembrance Ceremony

Midshipman Richard Sutherland Dale served in the U.S. Navy and was wounded off the coast of Bermuda fighting the British in 1812. Captured by the British, he was compassionately cared for by the people of St. George’s. Unfortunately he died of his wounds and was the last victim of the War of 1812. Dale was buried with honours at St. Peter’s Church and for many years a ceremony was held at the gravesite on America’s Memorial Day. Today, the Friends of St. Peter’s sponsor a yearly memorial service in February in honour of Midshipman Dale.

Christmas Walkabout

The Bermuda National Trust’s Christmas Walkabout is a highlight of the local holiday calendar. On the first Friday of December, come to the Town of St. George where you can

Cultural Activities continued...
visit a number of Bermuda National Trust buildings which are not normally open to the public. The event is free and musicians and carol singers entertain visitors in King's Square.

**Annual Commemorative Service for King’s Pilot James ‘Jemmy’ Darrell**

In honour of his skill and dedication to his work, Pilot ‘Jemmy’ Darrell is remembered in an annual ceremony each April at his grave in St. Peter’s Graveyard. Turn to page 11 for more information on this outstanding person.

**Beaches**

Bermuda’s beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world. Those within the World Heritage Site are easily accessible.

**Tobacco Bay**

A 10-15 minute walk up Duke of Kent Street and over the hill to the north shore brings you to one of the more popular beaches in St. George’s. The unusual limestone formations off the shoreline are a haven for parrot fish, sergeant majors, blue angels, four-eyed butterfly fish and wrasse and an excellent snorkelling spot. Because of its shallow waters, this sheltered
bay is perfect for families and inexperienced swimmers. A snack bar and facilities are available in the summer months and a mini-bus is available from King’s Square.

**Gates’ Bay and Achilles Bay**

Located on the eastern flank of Fort St. Catherine, Gates’ Bay, also commonly referred to as St. Catherine’s Beach, is the largest beach in St. George’s. It is also the historic landing spot on which the shipwrecked survivors of the *Sea Venture* stepped foot. Achilles Bay is a small bay found on the western flank of Fort St. Catherine with a restaurant and bar.

**Whalebone Bay**

Located in Ferry Point Park, this sheltered, shallow bay is part of one the Island’s largest national parks, which contains a number of historic fortifications and great hiking trails.

**Clearwater Beach and Turtle Bay**

Located on St. David’s Island, the spaciousness of these two sandy beaches are ideal for families. The 36-acre public park features nature trails, playground equipment and views of some outer islands reserved for wildlife. A restaurant and bar is open during the summer months.

**Cooper’s Island Nature Reserve**

Just beyond Clearwater Beach and Turtle Bay you enter the Cooper’s Island Nature Reserve and even more stunning beaches such as Long Bay... Bermuda treasures for sure!
Historic Cemeteries

St. Peter’s Churchyard

St. Peter’s Churchyard closed in the mid-19th century and other cemeteries were established around the Town for the local population and the British Military, who maintained a garrison in the Town.

Notable graves at St. Peter’s are Midshipman R.S. Dale, who died as a prisoner of war in St. George’s in 1815, slave pilot Jemmy Darrell and Ann Bingham, the ‘Jackie Kennedy’ of the American Revolution whose bust is featured on early U.S. coins. Besides Midshipman Dale, it is believed that 14 other American prisoners of war are interred in the Churchyard. There are only two modern graves in this cemetery: Governor Sir Richard Sharples and his ADC, Captain Hugh Sayers, who were murdered in 1973.

Secretary Road Cemetery

Located on Cemetery Hill and adjacent to the current local cemetery, this cemetery was used by the British Military from the mid-19th century until the early 20th century. Here lies the grave of George Samson, who won the Victoria Cross at Gallipoli in the First World War. His funeral in February 1923 was the largest military interment ever held in Bermuda. Many of the memorials are of intricate design, while some contain inscriptions.
of how the servicemen died, such as those who died during the construction of the great forts around the East End, Fort Cunningham being one.

Grenadier Lane Cemetery

Located near the coast at the junction of Grenadier Lane and Barry Road, this cemetery was established in the early 1800s. It was used by the British Military during the yellow fever epidemics of the 19th century. The most poignant grave here is that of David Milroy, MD, an army surgeon of the 30th Regiment. He served in the Crimean War, participating in the battles of Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol. While stationed in Bermuda he tended the troops stricken with yellow fever but succumbed to the dreaded disease on the 3rd, September, 1864, aged 32.

Ferry Reach Cemetery

Located in Ferry Point Park, this cemetery was opened by British Military during the yellow fever outbreak of 1853. Here lie the remains of members of the 56th Regiment who succumbed to yellow fever in 1864. A total of 37 soldiers are commemorated including one sole member of the Royal Engineers.

Ferry Point Cemetery

Located in Ferry Point Park, this cemetery was used by British Military during the 1860s for victims of yellow fever. There are no longer any visible graves, but back in 1957 four grave markers were still visible.
The fortifications associated with the Town of St. George are unequalled. Nowhere else in the world will you find in such a small geographical area the date range and concentration of forts spanning almost the entire history of English coastal defence systems, from the 17th century until the end of coastal defence in 1956. Forts are the oldest stone buildings in Bermuda and represent every stage of the Island’s development from a small, isolated outpost of the British Empire in the 1600s to the ‘Gibraltar of the West’ in the 1800s, and beyond.

We begin at the Ferry Reach and Ferry Point area on the western side of St. George’s Island where several forts set in what is now public parkland are easily accessible from the Railway Trail off Mullet Road. Don’t miss the beautiful views from Ferry Point.

**Key**

Fortifications are indicated on the Map found on inside back cover.
Burnt Point Fort

One of the oldest forts on Ferry Island in St. George’s, this fort was built in the mid-1600s to defend the western approach to St. George’s Harbour from enemy ships and prevent illegal trading by Bermudian vessels.

Ferry Island Fort

Until 1871, a ferry between Coney Island and Ferry Island was the only means of transport between St. George’s and the mainland. During the American Revolutionary War, it was suggested that 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. A battery was built at the top of Ferry Island in the 1790s, which was replaced in the 1870s by the fort you see today. The ruin is open to the public.

Martello Tower

Bermuda’s only Martello Tower was built during the 1820s of hard Bermuda stone. The only access is by a drawbridge, which crosses the ditch to the barracks on the second level. To the north of the tower is a magazine; its walls are reinforced by flying buttresses and the roof is structurally weaker so that in the event of an explosion, the roof would be blown off leaving the walls intact. The Martello Tower has been recently renovated and new interpretive signage has been installed.

Martello Tower is open to the public free of charge by appointment only. Department of Parks, 256-5902.

Fort George

In 1612, Governor Richard Moore chose this site, the the highest hill in St. George’s and known as Riches Mount, for a lookout tower. Fort George was later constructed in 1788, the structure of which remains today and is actively occupied by Bermuda Radio.
St. George's

Fort St. Catherine & Museum

From the Town, follow Duke of Kent Street past the Unfinished Church and the (former) St. George’s Golf Course (a 20-25 minute walk), or take a minibus from King’s Square. This is one of the East End’s most popular visitor attractions. In 2009, the fort underwent a major renovation with new interactive exhibits installed. These include a newly refurbished Carronade Room, exhibits on the daily life of the soldiers who defended the fort and magazines with replicas of swords, pistols and muskets. The gun floor contains a unique collection of Victorian artillery and offers some of the best views of the North Shore. Governor Richard Moore built the original, small fort in 1614 to protect Gates Bay, the landing place of the Sea Venture castaways in 1609. Additions were made in 1793 and during the 19th century. The fort was used as a training area for local forces in the early 1900s and, during World War II, an American magnetic loop was installed there.

297-1920

Alexandra Battery

From Fort St. Catherine, head down the hill and turn left onto Barry Road, continuing for about one mile. Alexandra Battery is on the left (a 20 minute walk). It is Frobisher’s Buildings Bay where Sir Thomas Gates supervised the building of the Deliverance in 1610. The fort was completed in the 1860s and armed with five 9-inch muzzle-loading guns. The 1890s magazine with the Battery name over its entrance is at the centre of the fort. Climb the steps and enjoy the view from the command post!

Gates Fort

From Alexandra Battery, follow Barry Road a short distance to Town Cut. The fort is located just before the road turns hard right and begins to climb. Standing at the edge of Town Cut, the shipping passage to St. George’s Harbour, Davers or Danvers Fort as it was initially known, was first shown on a map.
published in 1626. Rebuilt in the 1790s, the Keep served as barracks in the 1800s, and was home to a local family from 1870 until 1922, when the property was returned to the Bermuda Government.

Forts of St. David’s Island

To see more, travel to St. David’s Island staying on St. David’s Road to the end (five-minute ride). Head straight on to Great Bay Road and after 250 yards take a right turn onto Battery Road. St. David’s Battery is at the end, in the picturesque Great Head Park, and Fort Popple is a short walk on.

Fort Popple

When Alured Popple became Governor in 1738, he found crumbling masonry, broken gun carriages and rusting guns at most of Bermuda’s forts. Governor Popple energetically refortified the Island by repairing the existing defences and building several new forts, including the small fort at Little Head, St. David’s. It was named Fort Popple in his honour. Fort Popple’s position, close to the sea, made it unsuitable for further development but, in the early 1900s, a searchlight was placed on the flat behind the fort. Walk the nature trails in the splendid natural setting of Little Head Park, St. David’s and enjoy the breathtaking ocean views from Fort Popple, situated at the water’s edge of the rocky St. David’s coast.

St. David’s Battery

St. David’s Battery (1910) was the last major fortification to be built in the vicinity of St. George’s. The two major British breech-loading guns of the early 1900s situated side-by-side in the batteries make St. David’s Battery one of the world’s most important British historic military sites. The 9.2-inch breech-loading guns at the southern end of the Battery had a range of approximately seven miles and could have stopped an enemy vessel well short of the Island. But they were never fired in anger and, because of complaints from civilians living nearby, were seldom fired even in practice! Nearby Fort Popple affords breathtaking ocean views.
You’ll see many other forts in the vicinity of the Town and on islands in St. George’s Harbour and Castle Harbour, which are not accessible to the public. Most significant are:

**King’s Castle**

King’s Castle (1612) is located on Castle Island and is Bermuda’s oldest fort, with a Captain’s House added in 1621. It is believed to be the oldest standing English house in the New World.

**Fort Cunningham**

Fort Cunningham (1870s) is located on Paget Island and has a unique iron frontage. This was so expensive to build that a question was raised about it in the British Parliament, “Is it made of gold?”

**Fort William**

Constructed in the early 1600s by Richard Moore, the first Governor of Bermuda, Fort William was built to protect the Town of St. George. Fort William had an inner keep or a fort house with three floors and surrounded by a dry moat.
Monuments

Somers’ Garden Obelisk

Found in Somers’ Garden, St. George’s, the quote engraved on this obelisk reads,

“1609-1909
In commemoration of the settlement of these islands on the 28th of July 1609 and in Honour of Sir George Somers Kt. at whose instance largely the settlement was effected this memorial has been erected of a grant made by the legislature of this colony.”

The 400th Anniversary Monument

This monument looks out over Sea Venture Shoals, where the few remains of the Sea Venture ship still lie. It records the names of 50 known Sea Venture survivors, who came ashore at Gates’ Bay on 28th July 1609. There were about 150 altogether. Before the company left for Jamestown on 10th May 1610, they raised a cross and attached etched copper plates describing their experience in English and Latin. The cross, originally constructed from Sea Venture salvage, symbolizes the English claim in the name of James I.

The Memorial for those Lost at Sea

‘Figurehead’ is the memorial which commemorates Bermudians lost at sea from the earliest date of colonisation to present day. Located in Great Head Park.
**HISTORICAL Snippets**

**Crown Jewels**
Antique bottles, prisoner-of-war artefacts and the British Crown Jewels in replica are exhibited in Fort St. Catherine’s keep. At the top of the tower there is an audio-visual presentation on Bermuda’s many forts.

**Cedar Dole Cupboard**
Located in St. Peter’s, Their Majesties Chappell, this was originally used to hold donations of alms, usually bread, to provide for the poor of the parish.

**The Statue of Sir George Somers**
On Ordnance Island is a statue of Sir George Somers, the Admiral of the *Sea Venture* fleet, sculpted by Bermudian sculptor, Desmond Fountain. Nearby, you can visit the gardens named after Somers, where his heart is buried.

**St. David’s Lighthouse**
Built in 1879, St. David’s Lighthouse offers a panoramic view which can be appreciated from the top of the hill even if the lighthouse is closed.
Historical Points of Interest outside the Town of St. George

ST. GEORGE'S ISLAND AND ST. DAVIDS ISLAND
March 2012.

Carter House

Fort St. Catherine & Museum

Fort William

Alexandra Battery

Gates Fort

Fort Popple

St. David's Battery

King's Castle

Fort Cunningham

Fort George

Note: Not all forts are accessible.

Information provided to support the World Heritage Centre.