

# City of Hamilton

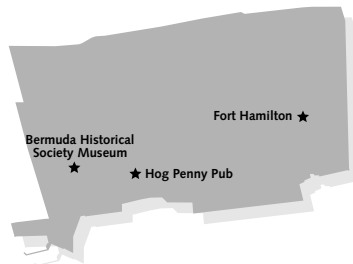


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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Savor a bowl of fish chowder with rum at the classic **Hog Penny Pub** (p56)
- Explore hilltop **Fort Hamilton** (p52) with its winding dungeons and garden-filled moat
- Soak up some local history at the superb little **Bermuda Historical Society Museum** (p51)



■ POPULATION: 987

■ AREA: 0.5 SQ MILES

Virtually everything in Bermuda revolves around the City of Hamilton. Whether you're talking politics, commerce or geography, Hamilton is the hub of it all. This is where people head to attend to business, do some serious shopping or spend a night on the town.

Hamilton manages to look quaint and traditional on the one hand and bustling and cosmopolitan on the other. You can casually linger over a rum swizzle at a century-old waterfront restaurant while international business executives power lunch at the next table; order yourself local rockfish with peas or opt for the sushi; take a horse-and-carriage ride along the mansion-lined waterfront; or hop on a scooter and get tied up in rush-hour traffic.

Hamilton's pulse is Front St, a harborfront road lined with pastel-colored Victorian buildings in bright lemon, lime, apricot and sky blue. Many of them have overhanging verandas, where you can wine and dine as you watch the boats ferry across the harbor.

In addition to laying claim to the main government offices, and the handsome buildings that house them, Hamilton has a handful of other interesting sightseeing spots. But perhaps more than anything, it's the plethora of restaurants that attracts visitors to the city. Fully half of all of Bermuda's eateries are in the City of Hamilton and the choices run the gamut from delightful little cafés to impeccable fine-dining restaurants.

Because Hamilton serves as a central terminus and transfer point for island buses, you will visit it frequently if you use the public bus system. Note that Hamilton is commonly called 'town' by Bermudians, so 'going to town' means, without a doubt, going to Hamilton.

## HISTORY

The city is named for Sir Henry Hamilton, the Bermuda governor (1788–94) who advocated for the building of a town in the central part of Bermuda in order to have a settlement convenient to all islanders. The new town adopted the motto *Hamilton Sparsa Collegit* ('Hamilton has brought together the scattered'), which can still be seen scrolled across the town's coat of arms.

In 1790 the grand design of Hamilton was laid out, with 50ft-wide streets in a neat grid pattern that covered an area of about 150 acres and spread north half a dozen blocks from a new commercial harbor. By 1795 the town had taken shape and the first municipal elections were held in the new town hall.

The idea of a central town caught on like wildfire. Hamilton prospered and grew so quickly that in just two decades enough people had migrated there to make Hamilton the biggest town in Bermuda. Political power swung in this direction as well, and

in 1815 the capital was relocated from the Town of St George to Hamilton. In 1897 Hamilton's status was changed from that of a town to a city. To this day it remains Bermuda's one and only city.

Although hardly more than 1000 people live in the narrow boundaries of the city itself, nearly a quarter of the island's population lives within 2 miles of the city.

## ORIENTATION

Hamilton is an easy town to explore. The center of activity is along Front St, where you'll find the lion's share of restaurants and shops, as well as the tourist office and the ferry and cruise ship terminals. Most anything of interest that isn't along Front St is within the first three blocks inland of it. The public bus terminal is along Washington St at the east side of City Hall.

## Maps

The Bermuda Department of Tourism's free *Bermuda Handy Reference Map* has an inset

### CITY OF HAMILTON

INFORMATION	SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	EATING	
Bank of Bermuda.....1 E3	Bermuda Cathedral.....17 D3	Barracuda Grill.....28 C4	
Bank of Bermuda.....2 B5	Bermuda Historical Society Museum.....18 B4	Bob's Ice Cream.....29 D4	
Bermuda Book Store.....3 B5	Bermuda Island Cruises.....19 B5	Cafe on the Terrace.....(see 66)	
Bermuda Public Library.....4 B4	Bermuda National Gallery.....20 B3	Chopsticks.....30 F4	
Bookmart.....5 B4	Bermuda Society of Arts Gallery.....(see 20)	Coconut Rock.....31 C4	
Cable & Wireless.....6 C3	Birdcage.....21 B5	Deli.....32 C4	
General Post Office.....7 D3	Cabinet Building.....22 E4	Dorothy's Coffee Shop.....33 D4	
Immigration Headquarters.....8 D4	Cenotaph.....23 E4	Down to Earth.....34 D4	
Internet Lane.....9 C4	City Hall.....24 B3	Fresco's Restaurant & Wine Bar.....35 D4	
Logic.....10 C4	Fantasea Bermuda.....(see 19)	Hamilton Ice Queen.....36 B4	
Meyer-Franklin Travel.....11 D3	Hayward's Snorkelling & Glass Bottom Boat Cruises.....(see 19)	Harbourfront.....37 B5	
Perot Post Office.....12 B4	Old Town Hall.....25 E4	Hog Penny.....38 C4	
Phoenix Drug Store.....(see 5)	Royal Bermuda Yacht Club.....26 A6	Hungry Bear.....39 D4	
Police Station.....13 D4	Sessions House.....27 E3	Kathy's Koffee.....(see 63)	
Quickie Lickie Laundromat.....14 A3		La Trattoria Deli.....40 C4	
Twice-Told Tales.....15 D4		La Trattoria Restaurant.....41 C4	
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		Lobster Pot.....43 A4	
		Marketplace.....44 C3	
		Mediterraneo.....45 D3	
		Monte Carlo.....46 B3	
		Paradiso Cafe.....47 B4	
		Porch.....48 D4	

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Port O Call.....49 D4	
Rock Island Coffee Cafe.....50 D4	
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Yashi.....(see 31)	

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Casey's Lounge.....57 B4	
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Daysford Theatre.....60 B2	
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Little Theatre.....62 B4	
Ozone.....63 D4	
Pickled Onion.....64 C5	
Victoria Park.....65 C3	

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Astwood Dickinson.....(see 69)	
Bermuda Monetary Authority.....67 C4	
Bluck's.....68 A5	
Carole Holding.....69 D4	
Crisson.....70 D4	
Desmond Fountain Gallery.....71 C4	
Flying Colours.....72 B5	
Gem Cellar.....73 B4	
Hodgepodge.....74 B5	
Masterworks Foundation.....75 D4	
Music Box.....76 D4	
Smith's.....77 B5	
Trimingham's.....78 B5	
Trustworthy.....79 C5	
Walker Christopher.....80 A5	
Windjammer Gallery.....81 F4	

### TRANSPORT

Horse & Carriage Stand.....82 C5	
Oleander Cycles.....83 A4	
Wheels Cycles.....84 E4	

map for the City of Hamilton that shows the central roads, sightseeing attractions and handy details such as the locations of public toilets and bus stops.

## INFORMATION

**Bookstores**  
**Bermuda Book Store** (☎ 295-3698; 3 Queen St) Small but select, with an extensive collection of books about Bermuda.

**Bookmart** (☎ 295-3838; 3 Reid St) Bermuda's best and biggest bookstore, with a good selection of books about Bermuda as well as international best-sellers.

**Twice-Told Tales** (☎ 296-1995; 34 Parliament St; ☎ 8am-5:30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm Sat) Sells used books at reasonable prices and also has rare 1st-edition books about Bermuda.

## Emergency

**Lifeline** (9am-5pm ☎ 236-0224, 5pm-9am ☎ 236-3770) This 24-hour hotline provides counseling for those in need.

**Police station** (☎ 292-1458; 42 Parliament St) For ambulance, police and fire emergencies call ☎ 911.

## Internet Access

**Bermuda Public Library** (☎ 295-2905; Par-la-Ville Bldg, 13 Queen St; ☎ 8:30am-6pm Mon-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Free, but half-hour limit each day. Anyone with a photo ID can sign up for Internet access, but expect to wait for a free computer.

**Internet Lane** (☎ 296-9972; The Walkway, 55 Front St; per 30min \$6; ☎ 9am-7pm) Several set-ups available, including private booths.

**Kathy's Koffee** (☎ 295-5203; 69 Front St; per 15min \$2; ☎ 8:30am-5pm Mon-Thu, 8am-4am Fri & Sat; ☎ ) Only one computer but it's often available and offers the cheapest online rates.

**Logic** (☎ 295-2255; 10 Burnaby St; per hr \$10; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 9pm Wed, 9am-5pm Sat) This is the place to go for business folk who don't want distractions.

**Twice-Told Tales** (☎ 296-1995; 34 Parliament St; per 15min \$3; ☎ 8am-5:30pm Mon-Fri, 11am-4pm Sat) If you want a cybercafé setting where you can buy coffee and pastries, this cozy place fits the bill.

## Laundry

**Quickie Lickie Laundromat** (☎ 295-6097; 74 Serpentine Rd; ☎ 6am-10pm, to 6pm Sun) Just northwest of the city center, this laundromat has coin-operated washing machines and dryers.

## Libraries

**Bermuda Public Library** (☎ 295-2905; Par-la-Ville Bldg, 13 Queen St; ☎ 8:30am-6pm Mon-Thu, 10am-5pm

**HAMILTON IN TWO DAYS...**

On Day One, start your morning rubbing elbows with the locals at the **Spot** (p56), Hamilton's oldest eatery. From there head over to City Hall, where you'll find the island's best **art museum** (opposite) and several other sites of interest. Then walk to the **Bermuda Cathedral** (p53) and climb the steeple for the city's grandest view. Take a look into **Sessions House** (p52) and the **Cabinet Building** (p53) as you head down to the waterfront to do a little window shopping and appreciate the classic pastel-colored buildings that house the island's fanciest shops.

On Day Two pick up some luscious French pastries at the **Lemon Tree Cafe** (p58) and enjoy them on a bench at adjacent **Par-la-Ville Park** (p53). While you're there, take a look at Bermuda's oldest **moongate** (p53) and pop into the **Bermuda Historical Society Museum** (opposite). Then walk up to **Fort Hamilton** (p52) and explore its bastions, gardens and fine views. End the day with dinner at one of the city's top-notch **restaurants** (p56).

Fri, 9am-5pm Sat) Has a good reference collection of books about Bermuda and a place where you can sit and read British and American newspapers. From September to June it's also open to 7pm Monday through Thursday and from 1pm to 5pm Sunday.

**Medical Services**

The island's **general hospital** (p104) is nearby in Paget parish.

**Phoenix Drug Store** (☎ 295-3838, 3 Reid St) The largest of several pharmacies in the city center.

**Money**

**Bank of Bermuda** (☎ 9am-4:30pm Mon-Fri) Near the ferry terminal (☎ 299-5232); cnr Court & Church Sts (☎ 299-5329) Both branches have 24-hour ATMs.

**Post**

**General Post Office** (☎ 297-7893; 56 Church St; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat) The only Bermuda post office with Saturday hours.

**Perot Post Office** (☎ 292-9052; 11 Queen St; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) Closer to the waterfront, this quaint little place is Bermuda's original post office.

**Telephone**

**Cable & Wireless** (☎ 297-7022; cnr Church & Burnaby Sts; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri) The main phone company office, this place sells phonecards, provides fax services and has booths in the lobby that offer privacy for making calls. Public phones are readily available elsewhere around town and use the same phonecards.

**Internet Lane** (☎ 296-9972; The Walkway, 55 Front St; ☎ 9am-7pm) Rents cell phones for \$2.50 a day, plus usage charge, which is about 30 cents a minute in Bermuda and 50 cents a minute to the USA or UK.

**Toilets**

Public toilets can be found in numerous spots around the city, including at the south

side of the tourist office, in the cruise ship terminals and on Victoria St near the bus terminal.

**Tourist Information**

**Visitors Service Bureau** (☎ 295-1480; 8 Front St; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat) This tourist office distributes free island maps and brochures, provides information on current happenings in Hamilton, and sells phonecards and transportation passes.

**Travel Agencies**

**Meyer-Franklin Travel** (☎ 295-4176; 35 Church St) A reliable full-service agency.

**DANGERS & ANNOYANCES**

The north side of Hamilton, known as 'back of town' or 'backside' by islanders, is not well regarded for safety, particularly after dark. Back of town has higher-than-average issues with violent crime, theft and drugs. Simply put, it is best to avoid walking at all in the area north of Victoria St at night, and even during the day it's not wise to carry a purse or other obvious valuables. The roughest area is around Court St.

Also note that the heavily walked section of Pitts Bay Rd between town and the Fairmont Hamilton Princess has seen its share of purse snatchings. One precaution to thwart drive-by snatchers is to carry your bag close to your body, away from the road.

**SIGHTS**

All of Hamilton's sightseeing attractions, with the exception of Fort Hamilton, are in the city center just a short walk from each other (see the Walking Tour p54). Fort Hamilton is on the northeastern outskirts of the city, about a 15-minute walk away.

**City Hall**

The sparkling whitewashed **City Hall** (☎ 292-1234; 17 Church St; admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, foyer open 9am-4pm) boasts a stylish Bermudian design that flawlessly blends historical and contemporary features. It was designed by Bermudian architect Wilfred Onions, built of local limestone and completed in 1960.

Exterior features include a prominent 91ft-high clocktower and pointy 'eyebrows,' a type of whimsical decorative detail that crowns the windows on the building's right side. If you step back a bit and look up to the top of the tower, you'll see a weathervane topped with a bronze replica of the *Sea Venture*, the boat that brought Bermuda's first settlers. The water fountain fronting City Hall contains two lifelike statues of playful children created by renowned Bermudian sculptor Desmond Fountain.

Inside, the foyer takes on a more classic look with an oil painting of Queen Elizabeth glaring down upon the portraits of the former mayors of Hamilton, some painted by Antoine Verpilleux, a French artist who retired to Bermuda in the 1930s. There's also interesting woodwork here. Stare up at the heavy chandeliers and you'll swear these oddities are made of concrete, but believe it or not it's actually Canadian pine. In contrast the staircase and doors are made of Bermudian cedar, a wood so lovely that it was nearly logged to extinction.

If you're interested in postage stamps, you can find Bermuda's best collection in the city office at the right side of the foyer. Known as the Benbow Collection, the stamps were donated by Colin Benbow, a former member of parliament and the current curator of the Bermuda Historical Society Museum.

**BERMUDA NATIONAL GALLERY**

Don't miss the **national gallery** (☎ 295-9428; www.bng.bm; 2nd fl, City Hall; adult/child \$3/free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat), which covers 350 years of island art and has a handful of notable international works as well.

The museum opened in 1992. Its initial collection is on display in the Hereward T Watlington Room. Here you'll find a 1632 etching (*Three Trees*) by Rembrandt, a bronze sculpture by Rodin and several European paintings spanning the 15th to 19th centuries. Exhibits include a portrait of American patriot Thomas Paine by George Romney and works by Thomas Gainsborough, Joshua Reynolds and Cornelius de Vos.

In the Ondaatje Wing you'll find paintings of Bermuda done by artists from the time of the early settlers to Alfred Birdsey, Bermuda's first modernist painter. There are also some fine examples of island-made cedar sculpture and silverwork.

In addition, the museum often has quality temporary exhibits of loaned art and occasionally offers lectures, film screenings and other art-scene events.

**BERMUDA SOCIETY OF ARTS GALLERY**

Another interesting place to browse on the 2nd floor of City Hall is the **Bermuda Society of Arts** (☎ 292-3824; www.bsoa.bm; admission free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat), which displays and sells works by island artists. Many of these pieces, which include both abstract and realistic works, depict scenes of Bermuda through the media of watercolors, pastels and oils.

**Bermuda Historical Society Museum**

This wonderful little **museum** (☎ 295-2487; 13 Queen St; admission free, donations welcome; ☎ 9:30am-

**THE GOODWILL AMBASSADOR**

You might be surprised to be greeted at the Hamilton city limits by a cheery gentleman waving with both hands, blowing kisses and shouting, 'I love you.' No, he's not running for public office, nor has he slipped off the deep end. But he may well be the friendliest person in Bermuda.

Johnny Barnes, who is sometimes referred to as 'Bermuda's goodwill ambassador,' has been faithfully greeting the Hamilton morning commuters for more than 20 years. A retired bus driver, this spry octogenarian sporting a generous silver beard and a straw hat stands at the Crow Lane roundabout, just east of the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute (BUEI) from 5am to 10am each weekday morning.

If you happen to pass by outside of these hours, you can still be greeted by Johnny Barnes...in the form of a bronze statue, hands outstretched, on the ocean side of the road between the BUEI and the roundabout.

3:30pm Mon-Sat), which occupies the front rooms of Par-la-Ville, is run by Colin Benbow, the island's foremost historian. Not surprisingly, it has one of the most insightful museum presentations you'll find in Bermuda. It's a bit of a hodgepodge, but take the time to look around and you'll discover plenty to captivate.

Start in the lobby, where you'll find models of the ill-fated *Sea Venture* and the two ships that Admiral George Somers built to replace it. Tucked away in the same room is Somers' actual sea chest, made of Italian cypress, and the lodestone that Somers used to magnetize his compass (which obviously didn't serve him very well).

Other fun things to search out are the 1615 'hog money' shilling, a map of Bermuda drawn in 1622 and a 250-year-old bracket clock with a trio of musicians that play a jig on the hour. Tidbits of history that you may walk away from here with: Boer prisoners of war were interned on Bermuda in the late 19th century (their handicrafts are on display); and George Washington made a plea in 1775 requesting the support of Bermudians in the American struggle for independence (look for the letter in the corner of the lobby). There are plenty of quality antiques here as well, including two rooms of 18th-century furniture built of Bermuda cedar and pieces of period china painted by Josiah Wedgwood.

### Fort Hamilton

With its panoramic views and its endless nooks and crannies, this hilltop fort (☎ 292-1234; Happy Valley Rd; admission free; ☎ 9:30am-5pm) is a thoroughly enjoyable place to explore.

Erected in the mid-19th century when tensions were rising between Great Britain and the USA, Fort Hamilton remains a steadfast testament to the era. Its immense ramparts are still mounted with muzzle-loader guns that were capable of firing a 400lb cannonball through an 11-inch-thick iron plate – more than enough penetration force to have sliced any iron-hulled vessel that sailed the seas. But as history would have it, no enemy ships ever appeared.

Today the fort is as much park as historic site. The south-facing ramparts offer a bird's-eye view of Hamilton Harbour. Take some time to scurry about in the fortification's dungeon-like magazine and you'll find gun

embrasures, shell hoists, munitions storage rooms and the like. And don't miss strolling through the fort's narrow moat, which has been turned into one of Hamilton's more unusual gardens. Sandwiched between the steep walls of the fort's inner and outer ramparts, this dry moat is cool and shady with a luxuriant growth of ferns, bamboo and other tropical vegetation. Some of the plants are identified with name plaques.

Keep an eye out for the inconspicuous entrances to the magazine and moat, which are both to the left of the main fort entrance immediately after you cross the bridge over the moat.

If you're in Bermuda during the winter season (November through March), try to plan your visit to coincide with the colorful skirling performance held at midday on Mondays by the kilted bagpipers and drummers of the Bermuda Islands Pipe Band.

To get to the fort from the city center, walk east to the end of Church St and turn north on King St for a block; at the top of the hill make a sharp right onto Happy Valley Rd – the fort is about 150 yards further east. Although it's just a 15-minute walk from town, not many visitors come up to the fort, making it a quiet retreat from the city's hustle and bustle.

### Sessions House

Hamilton's centerpiece building, the **Sessions House** (☎ 292-7408; 21 Parliament St; admission free; ☎ 9am-12:30pm & 2-5pm Mon-Fri), encloses the chambers for Bermuda's 40-member House of Assembly and its Supreme Court. Although the building dates to 1817, much of its grand appearance, including the landmark clock tower and Italianate ornamentation, were added in 1887 to mark Queen Victoria's golden jubilee.

Everything inside rings with Old World tradition. The House of Assembly meets on the 2nd floor, where the speaker of the house, outfitted in British-style wig and robes and flanked by paintings of King George III and Queen Charlotte, presides over the parliamentary debate. Members of the House are arranged Westminster-style in rows on either side of the chamber, with the two major parties facing each other.

House sessions, which are open to the public, are held at 10am on Friday from

late October to late July. If you happen to be around at budget time (February and March), the House typically convenes on Monday and Wednesday as well and the debates get more heated as members vie for funding of their favorite projects.

Although it's of greatest interest when sessions are under way, the assembly meeting room can be visited throughout the year. Photography is allowed only when the House is not in session.

### Cabinet Building

The **Cabinet Building** (☎ 292-5501; 105 Front St; admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri), a stately 19th-century limestone edifice, houses the meeting chamber of Bermuda's Senate. Visitors are welcome to climb the steps to the 2nd-floor chamber and take a look at the round table where the 11 Senate members gather to conduct business. If you want to witness government in action, their sessions are open to the public and held at 10am each Wednesday from late October to July.

Although the chamber has been reserved for island government, the Cabinet's round table, whose shape gives members equal prominence, has served a more international role. In 1953 the table was dismantled and moved to a private location for a conference between Sir Winston Churchill and President Dwight Eisenhower. In 1971 the table was again borrowed, this time being taken to Government House (p65), for a meeting between Prime Minister Edward Heath and President Richard Nixon.

### Par-la-Ville Park

This pleasant public park (admission free; ☎ 8am-6pm), a haven of birdsong in the city center, abounds with manicured lawns, blooming flowers and a variety of trees, including Bermuda cedar and a huge India rubber tree, both found at the east side of the grounds. The **rubber tree** (*Ficus elastica*), which casts shade onto the adjacent library, was planted by Hamilton's postmaster in 1847 using a seed sent from British Guiana. As is often the case with exotics, the tree hasn't fit its environment as well as it may appear – its extensive root system not only extends beyond the library and post office, but has spread clear down to the waterfront, eating its way through cement en route! Still, the tree's historic significance (Mark Twain

once quipped he was disappointed to see the tree didn't have a crop of hot-water bottles and rubber overshoes hanging from its branches) has thus far saved it from the ax.

Most people enter the park from busy Queen St, but one of the park's jewels is at the less-frequented southwestern tip of the property. Stroll over to the rear entrance of the park, which is off Par-la-Ville Rd, and you'll discover Bermuda's oldest moon-gate. A walk under this gracious stone arch, which spans the entry, will guarantee you a long spell of good luck.

### Bermuda Cathedral

This Anglican **cathedral** (☎ 292-4033; Church St; admission free; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Sat), a weighty neo-Gothic building, is one of the city's most dominant landmarks. The original church that stood here dated to 1844 but was burned down by an arsonist. In 1894, the present reconstructed church was designated as a cathedral. Built of native limestone block, the cathedral has lofty arches and handsome stained-glass windows. But best of all, for a \$3 donation you can climb the 157 steps to the top of the church tower for a sweeping 360-degree view of greater Hamilton; the tower is accessible from 10am to 3:30pm on weekdays.

### ACTIVITIES

Several cruises and party boats depart from Hamilton Harbour.

**Hayward's Snorkelling & Glass Bottom Boat Cruises** (☎ 236-9894; departs from ferry terminal; 4hr tour \$50; ☎ 9:45am & 1:30pm May-Oct) uses a 54-foot motorboat that has an easy-access platform for its snorkeling tours to the northwestern barrier reef and nearby shipwrecks. The captain of this ecologically oriented operation has done work with *National Geographic* and provides fascinating commentary.

**Fantasea Bermuda** (☎ 236-1300; www.fantasea.bm; 5 Albouy's Point; half-day dive from \$65, 3hr boat tours \$50; ☎ 9am-5pm) offers a full range of dives, cruises and water activities, and also rents out snorkel sets (\$10). There's a boat tour to suit every taste, including kayak tours with an emphasis on ecology, a catamaran sail that includes snorkeling time and a traditional glass-bottom boat cruise.

'Party with the right attitude' is the motto of **Bermuda Island Cruises** (☎ 292-8652; departs from ferry terminal; adult/child \$85/45; ☎ 7-10:30pm



### FALL INTO SPRING

If you think Bermuda is a sleeper in the off-season, you're in for some surprises. From November 1 to March 31 the Bermuda Department of Tourism lures wintertime visitors with a special series of weekly activities. All of the fun things that follow are free – just show up and join the crowd.

At 10am on Monday, a guided walking tour of the City of Hamilton begins at the waterfront tourist office. At 11:15am there's a tour of the parliamentary Sessions House and at noon there's a colorful skirling ceremony at historic Fort Hamilton; both are included in the walking tour or can be taken in separately.

At 10:30am on Tuesday there's a 90-minute tour of the Bermuda Botanical Gardens in Paget Parish, beginning at the garden's visitor center; it's followed by a midday visit to Camden, the official residence of the premier. At 4pm on Tuesday, in the City of Hamilton, a spirited performance by a troupe of costumed Gombey dancers takes place at the No 1 cruise ship passenger terminal.

On Wednesday, the Town of St George offers an hour-long walking tour from King's Square at 10:30am, ending with a greeting from the mayor in the town hall, and a midday reenactment of the ducking-stool punishment that was once meted out to gossipers.

Thursday features Bermuda's West End, with an hour-long walking tour of Somerset Village departing at 10am from the Somerset County Squire restaurant on Mangrove Bay. In the afternoon at 1:30pm, there's an hour-long guided tour of the Royal Naval Dockyard, leaving from the craft market.

On Friday it's back to the Bermuda Botanical Gardens in Paget Parish, with a garden tour beginning at 10:30am, followed by a midday visit to historic Camden house.

Saturday again features an hour-long walking tour of the Town of St George, starting at King's Square at 10:30am. As with the Tuesday tour, this includes a greeting from the mayor in the town hall and the midday ducking-stool reenactment.

Sunday's events take you back to the West End. If you're a nature lover, meet at the moongate at the Willowbank hotel at 2pm for a 90-minute guided walk around the meadows and woods of the Heydon Trust property. If you're a history buff, head instead to the Royal Naval Dockyard, where an hour-long walking tour of the Dockyard's period buildings begins at 2:15pm at the entrance to the craft market.

Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat May-Oct), which cruises to its own private island. This is hands-down the best of the party boats. If you're ready to let your hair down it's a fun carnival-style scene with a steel-pan band, limbo dancing, a beachside barbecue and an open bar.

### WALKING TOUR

Hamilton's history comes to life on this walking tour that takes you to the city's top cultural and historical sites. The **tourist office (1; p50)** on Front St makes an ideal starting point. Walk out the back to **Albouy's Point**, where there's an inviting little grassy **park (2)** with benches and water views. The picturesque salmon-colored building at the west side of the park quarters the island's elite **Royal Bermuda Yacht Club (3)**.

From the park, walk back to the main road and continue to the intersection of Queen and Front Sts, where there's a colorful box that is used during rush hour by a bobby

(police officer) for directing traffic. With its metal posts and tiny roof, it's easy to see why it's nicknamed the **birdcage (4)**.

Heading north on Queen St, you will shortly come upon the **Perot Post Office (6)**, which occupies a classic Bermudian building, whitewashed with black shutters, that was erected by Postmaster William Perot in 1842. As is duly noted on the bronze plaque fronting the building, it was here, in 1848, that Perot issued the first Bermudian postage stamps. Although the main post office has long since moved to larger quarters, this historic building is such a treasured landmark that it still functions as a neighborhood post office.

Next to the post office is Par-la-Ville, a graceful Georgian-style house built in 1814 by William Perot, the father of the aforementioned Hamilton postmaster. The building now houses the **Bermuda Historical Society Museum (8; p51)**, and the family gardens

have now been turned into **Par-la-Ville Park (7; p53)**, which makes a wonderful place to stroll. You might want to pick up a couple of mouthwatering pastries at the adjacent **Lemon Tree Cafe (5; p58)** and enjoy them on one of the park benches.

Continuing north along Queen St, bear right onto Church St and you'll arrive at **City Hall (9; p51)**, which houses two art galleries and has several other interesting features both inside and out.

Next on Church St is the lofty Anglican **Bermuda Cathedral (10; p53)**, with its 144ft tower. An interesting tidbit – Queen Victoria wouldn't allow Hamilton to be recognized as a city until the cathedral's construction was completed in the 1890s.

As you continue on Church St, it's easy to see how the street picked up its name, as a church adorns every block. The **Wesleyan Methodist Church (11)** is followed by **St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (13)**, a pretty pink building that dates to 1846, which makes it the oldest church still standing in the city.

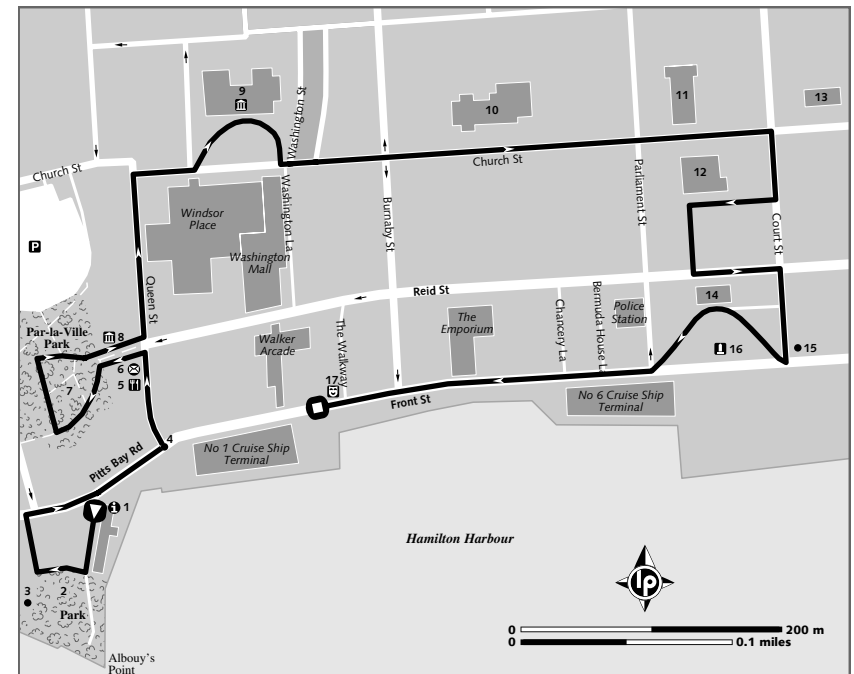
Heading south on Court St, you'll pass Bermuda's two stately 19th-century govern-

ment buildings, **Sessions House (12; p52)** and the **Cabinet Building (14; p53)**, both of which are open to the public.

At the east corner of Court and Front Sts is the **old town hall (15)**, which boasts one of the longest histories in Hamilton. It was erected in 1794 as a warehouse for customs, served as a chamber for the House of Assembly from 1815 to 1822 and was converted into Hamilton's City Hall in the late 19th century. It is currently used as the Registry of the Supreme Court.

Continue west along Front St to view the **Cenotaph (16)**, a war remembrance monument built of Bermuda limestone. The cornerstone was laid in 1920 by the Prince of Wales. The monument is a replica of the cenotaph that stands in Whitehall, London.

As you walk west on **Front St**, back toward the tourist office, you'll pass Hamilton Harbour on the left and the city's most fanciful Victorian buildings on the right. Now would be a good time to treat yourself to a refreshing drink at one of the atmospheric veranda restaurants overlooking the harbor – the **Pickled Onion (17; p59)** makes a perfect choice.



## SLEEPING

There are no hotels or guesthouses within the strict boundaries of the City of Hamilton, but there are numerous places within walking distance of town; these are detailed on p66 in the Pembroke Parish chapter.

## EATING

It may come as no surprise, but more than half of the restaurants in Bermuda are right here in Hamilton. Thanks in part to the ever-increasing number of foreign businesspeople setting up office in the city, the variety of food just keeps expanding. You can find everything from local island fare and English pub grub to fine French pastries and authentic Japanese sushi.

There's an active café scene, some excellent waterfront restaurants and several good foreign options. In addition to eateries listed here, see p68 for places on the west side of the city.

## Restaurants

**Hog Penny** (☎ 292-2534; 5 Burnaby St; mains \$15-26; ☺ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) With its dark pub interior and reliably good British, Bermudian and East Indian fare, this place is a perennial favorite. Not to be missed is the fish chowder (\$6) spiced up with rum and sherry peppers sauce. Specialties include bangers and mash (sausages with mashed potatoes) and steak-and-kidney pie from the traditional pub menu. But really, everything from the Indian curries to the prime rib with Yorkshire pudding is a good bet here.

**Fresco's Restaurant & Wine Bar** (☎ 295-5058; 2 Chancery Lane; lunch \$13-20, dinner \$20-30; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) This atmospheric place offers a superb wine selection and a delectable fusion of Mediterranean and Bermudian influences. At lunch you can opt for lighter sandwich and salad fare or order from the dinner menu with indulgent choices like lobster minestrone and Bermuda wahoo grilled with palm hearts. Other dishes range from vegetarian risotto to rack of lamb.

**Spot** (☎ 292-6293; 6 Burnaby St; breakfast & sandwiches \$7-12, dinner \$13-17; ☺ 6:30am-10pm Mon-Sat; ☒ ☒) Bermuda's version of a neighborhood diner, the Spot has been serving solid Bermudian fare since 1941. It has perfected the double-decker club sandwich but also makes tasty veggie wraps, burgers and fish and chips. At breakfast you can order all the standards –

French toast, waffles and omelettes – along with a bottomless cup of coffee.

**Coconut Rock** (☎ 292-1043; 20 Reid St; dishes \$9-18, desserts \$5-8; ☺ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) A trendy meeting place, the Rock attracts a hip, young crowd. Standouts among the creative sandwiches are the vegetarian lentil burger with melted blue cheese and the 'C-Rock Sandwich' of grilled chicken breast with bacon and Swiss cheese. Other offerings include roast chicken, barbecued ribs and hot pastas. Or just hit the desserts, with temptations like honey-rum banana crêpes and a luscious lemon *tartufo*.

**Harbourfront** (☎ 295-4207; 21 Front St; sushi \$5-12, lunch \$10-20, dinner \$20-30; ☺ 11:45am-4pm & 5-10pm Mon-Sat; ☒ ☒) Harborview dining and a varied menu that offers fresh seafood in every conceivable form, from sushi to lobster linguini, are the draw at this popular restaurant. It also gets a lot of return customers for its huge Angus rib-eye steaks. Come before 7pm for good-value early dinner specials, or between 5pm and 7pm for the discounted sushi-bar happy hour.

**Barracuda Grill** (☎ 292-1609; 5 Burnaby Hill; lunch \$15-20, dinner \$21-38; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) Classy and contemporary Barracuda's menu features great seafood, steaks and prime rib. For a romantic meal, start with oysters on the half shell (\$12) and end with chocolate fondue for two (\$14). Rumor has it Michael and Catherine like to dine here. Cool amber bar too.

**Port O Call** (☎ 295-5373; 87 Front St; lunch \$10-15, dinner \$15-30; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) With its upmarket nautical decor and delicious seafood, this is a favorite dining spot for Hamilton's well-heeled business crowd. In addition to fresh local fish and lobsters, the place does a knockout filet mignon. And the wine list is even more extensive than the menu, with more than 50 different vintages that can be ordered by the glass.

**Porch** (☎ 292-4737; 93 Front St; lunch \$10-16, dinner \$18-29; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat; ☒ ☒) This restaurant takes its name from its 2nd-floor balcony dining room sporting a bird's-eye view of Hamilton Harbour. At lunch you'll find specialty salads and an array of sandwiches. Dinner is more eclectic with everything from satay chicken to rack of lamb. Ask about the early dinner special from 5pm to 7pm that pairs onion soup with black rum mahimahi for just \$20.

**Mediterraneo** (☎ 296-9047; 39 Church St; dishes \$10-18; ☺ 11am-3pm Mon-Fri & 5-11pm nightly; ☒ ☒) This cheery restaurant packs in a crowd with its delightful upstairs balcony and scrumptious menu of Mediterranean fare. In addition to a to-die-for seared tuna niçoise salad and a tantalizing calamari *fra diavoli*, it whips up lots of creative focaccia sandwiches, pastas and pizzas. You're sure to find something here that piques your interest.

**Yashi** (☎ 296-6226; 20 Reid St; à la carte dishes \$4-8; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat; ☒ ☒) This is the real deal – Bermuda's best sushi prepared by a Japanese sushi master in a serene setting that looks like it's right out of Tokyo. Tasty hand-rolled options include soft-shell crab, yellowtail tuna, fried tofu or smoked eel. There are also a couple of hot appetizers, such as shrimp tempura and deep-fried calamari. Wash it all down with steaming green tea or sake.

**Tuscany** (☎ 292-4507; 95 Front St; appetizers \$5-14, mains \$15-30; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat; ☒ ☒) Dine beneath frescoes of Tuscan scenes or opt for the great outdoors on the balcony overlooking Front St. Either way you can feast on authentic Italian fare including tangy carpaccio, eggplant parmesan and beef tenderloin in a Tuscan wine sauce. And of course there is plenty of pizza and pasta as well.

**Silk** (☎ 295-0449; 55 Front St; dishes \$17-26; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) Authentic Thai food has finally come to Bermuda. Aromas of ginger, garlic and lemongrass will pull you into this superb little restaurant. Specialties include snapper served on banana leaf, and crispy duck breast, while stir-fries and savory curries shore up the menu. Get a seat on the balcony for a view of the Front St action.

**Monte Carlo** (☎ 295-5433; 9 Victoria St; lunch \$10-20, dinner \$20-33; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) The food here masterfully blends the flavors of Italy and Southern France with a menu that runs the gamut from French onion soup to savory seafood bouillabaisse. The pan-seared duck with cranberry-plum sauce is an award winner but the pastas are innovative as well.

**La Trattoria Restaurant** (☎ 295-9499; 22 Washington Lane; lunch \$11-15, dinner \$15-28; ☺ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) Traditional red-brick decor and a wood-fired pizza oven are the hallmarks of this popular Italian eatery. The

scrumptious pizzas are packed high with toppings in a wide range of options from spicy seafood to classic pepperoni. Or select from the mains with hard-hitters like cheese-laden lasagna, grilled sirloin in wine sauce and blackened salmon with pesto.

**Loxter Pot** (☎ 292-6898; 6 Bermudiana Rd; lunch \$10-28, dinner \$25-33; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☒ ☒) OK, you guessed it, the specialty here is lobster. The top-of-the-line treat is the seafood-lover's feast, which includes half a lobster, mussels, crab claws, clams and shrimp simmered in saffron broth. Also worthy of note is the pan-fried local catch topped with bananas and almonds. A lobster tank and nautical decor set the tone.

**Chopsticks** (☎ 292-0791; 88 Reid St; lunch \$10-15, dinner \$12-17; ☺ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner to 11pm nightly; ☒ ☒) In Bermuda, if you think Chinese food you think Chopsticks. Hamilton's oldest Chinese restaurant serves good Cantonese fare and has a few Thai curries on the menu to boot. The spicy hot and sour soup (\$4) is a delight, the curried vegetables are a spicy awakening and naturally there's a full menu of pork, beef and poultry dishes. The same tasty dishes can be ordered for take-out (\$4 to \$12).

**Rosa's Cantina** (☎ 295-1912; 121 Front St; appetizers \$8-12, mains \$12-22; ☺ 11:30am-11pm; ☒ ☒) Tex-Mex in Bermuda? Why not. For starters, try the cheese-stuffed jalapeño peppers, called 'iguana eggs' (\$8), and wash them down with a frosty margarita. The menu includes all the regular favorites – burritos, quesadillas, enchiladas – as well as a handful of tasty vegetarian offerings and a 'L'il Texan' menu for kids.

## Cafés

**Paradiso Cafe** (☎ 295-3263; 7 Reid St; breakfast \$6-8, lunch \$7-12; ☺ 7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm Sat; ☒ ☒) It's hands-down the best café in Hamilton. Even the finest restaurants can't beat the specialty salads here, which are crispy fresh and delightfully creative. Another treat is the grilled Tuscan chicken sandwich. The European-style pies and cakes make a perfect finish. Only catch is, unless you arrive before noon for lunch, you'll never get a table!

**Rock Island Coffee Cafe** (☎ 296-5241; 48 Reid St; pastries \$3-5; ☺ 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat; ☒ ☒) The aroma of fresh roasting coffee wafts out the door letting you know you've found

Hamilton's finest java. This laid-back coffee shop not only fires its own beans but it makes unbelievably luscious strawberry pies – don't even try to resist! Relax in an easy chair and read the newspaper as you linger over your café au lait.

**Lemon Tree Cafe** (☎ 292-0235; 7 Queen St; pastries \$3-5, sandwiches \$6-10; ☎ 7:30am-4pm Mon-Thu, to 3pm Fri) Sit out back in the shaded garden of this brilliant lemon-colored café and indulge yourself with the finest French pastries this side of Paris. The fruit tarts are absolutely sumptuous, while a wrap sandwich makes a delicious, healthy lunch choice.

**Hungry Bear** (☎ 292-2353; Chancery Lane; snacks \$3-7; ☎ 7am-3pm Mon-Fri; ☎ ☎) If you enjoy artsy, unhurried places, this espresso bar and café on Chancery Lane fits the bill. In addition to a full range of strong brews, people flock for the fresh scones, homemade soups and creative sandwiches.

**Cafe on the Terrace** (☎ 296-5265; 59 Front St; breakfast \$4-7, lunch \$9-13; ☎ 9:30am-4:30pm Mon-Sat) Unwind over afternoon tea and scones (\$8) while watching the action on Front St from this quiet veranda café. Fluffy breakfast omelettes and lunchtime sandwiches and salads are also available. Enter the AS Cooper & Sons department store and take the elevator to the 2nd floor.

**Kathy's Kaffee** (☎ 295-5203; 69 Front St; dishes \$4-8; ☎ 8:30am-5pm Mon-Thu, 8am-4am Fri & Sat; ☎ ☎) If you get the munchies after midnight on weekends then this perky little café in the back of the Emporium is the place to go. Expect inexpensive breakfast fare, homemade cakes and good sandwiches and gyros. And of course there's always a fresh pot of kaffee brewing.

### Quick Eats

**La Trattoria Deli** (☎ 295-9499; Washington Lane; items \$3-7; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat) Join the office workers that queue up here for the best lunch deal in Hamilton. Strictly take-out, this hole-in-the-wall sells food prepared at the upmarket La Trattoria Restaurant across the lane. Choose from creative wrap sandwiches, huge pizza slices, lasagna and similar Italian items at bargain prices.

**Dorothy's Coffee Shop** (☎ 292-4130; 3 Chancery Lane; burgers \$4, omelette breakfasts \$5-8; ☎ 7:15am-3:30pm Mon-Fri; ☎ ☎) The best burgers in Bermuda are served up here. It's just a simple breakfast and lunch spot, with stools set

around an L-shaped counter, but it's so popular you may have to wait in line.

**Bob's Ice Cream** (☎ 292-5732; 95 Front St; cones \$2.50-4; ☎ 9am-5:30pm) If the heat's getting to you and you've a yearning for creamy rich ice cream, this is the place. For a treat, try the rum raisin, a flavorful local favorite.

**Deli** (☎ 295-5890; Washington Mall; items \$3-6; ☎ 8am-5pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat) It's not fancy but this take-out counter serves up generous made-to-order sandwiches at unbeatable prices. Everything is fresh and wholesome. There are also simple salads.

**Hamilton Ice Queen** (☎ 292-6497; 27 Queen St; items \$4-6; ☎ 10am-midnight Mon-Sat, to 10pm Sun; ☎ ☎) Bermuda's version of a fast-food eatery, the Ice Queen is spotlessly clean and open long hours. Hamburgers, gardenburgers (vegetarian patties), fried chicken and soft-serve ice cream are the standard-bearers.

### Groceries

**Marketplace** (☎ 295-6066; Church St; ☎ 7am-10pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) In addition to all the usual grocery items, this large, well-stocked supermarket has a good liquor section; fresh, inexpensive bakery items; and a superb self-service buffet (\$6.75 per lb) with salads and two dozen hot dishes such as baked salmon and fried chicken.

**Supermart** (☎ 292-2064; 125 Front St; ☎ 7:30am-9pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun) If you're down on Front St, the Supermart is a convenient choice and has offerings similar to those at the Marketplace.

**Down to Earth** (☎ 292-5639; 56 Reid St; ☎ 9am-5:30pm Mon-Sat) Hamilton's biggest and best natural foods store carries everything from vitamins to trail mix and frozen foods. There's also a juice bar that whips up tasty tropical fruit smoothies (\$4) that can be spiked with add-ins such as ginseng and bee pollen.

### DRINKING

Hamilton offers an enticing variety of watering holes to quench any thirst. In addition to the places that follow, most of the city's better restaurants also have a bar.

**Flanagan's** (☎ 295-8299; 69 Front St; ☎ ☎) An Irish pub and sports bar on the 2nd floor of the Emporium, Flanagan's has rock 'n' roll music from 10pm to 1am most nights with a nice mix of locals, expats and tourists. If you're not up for dancing, you can hang

in the adjacent sports bar, which serves up Irish brew on tap.

**Casey's Lounge** (☎ 292-9994; 25 Queen St; ☎ ☎) This welcoming bar attracts a broad section of the island community and there's always something happening. It's mostly DJ music, geared to a different crowd on different nights. For instance, Saturday is the traditional ladies night, while on Wednesday and Friday it's a gay-friendly crowd.

**Robin Hood** (☎ 295-3314; 25 Richmond Rd; ☎ ☎) British expats looking for a homey pub flock here, and it's not just for the UK brews – the pub grub is the real deal as well. And yes, you can watch cricket and European football (soccer) matches on the telly.

**Beach** (☎ 292-0219; cnr Front & Parliament Sts) This Front St bar offers the cheapest drinks in town, and its sidewalk tables make it a good people-watching spot. The big-screen TVs inside are often tuned to US sports programs, which draws lots of Americans who want to follow the action back home.

**Hog Penny** (☎ 292-2534; 5 Burnaby St; ☎ 11:30am-1am; ☎ ☎) This atmospheric English pub, best known for its food, is also a fun place to come for a drink. It serves up tall schooners of English draught beer and a guitar duo plays most nights from 10pm to 1am. It tends to attract a slightly more subdued and refined crowd, but it's not at all stuffy.

In addition, **Fresco's** (☎ 295-5058; 2 Chancery Lane; ☎ lunch Mon-Fri, dinner nightly; ☎ ☎) garden courtyard offers a romantic setting for lingering over a glass of wine, and **Coconut Rock** (☎ 292-1043; 20 Reid St; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner nightly; ☎ ☎), which plays music videos, is a casual spot for enjoying a drink of any sort, from coffee to cocktails. If you're up for afternoon tea, **Cafe on the Terrace** (☎ 296-5265; 59 Front St; ☎ 9:30am-4:30pm Mon-Sat) in the upmarket AS Cooper & Sons department store is the place. For the island's best coffee, head to **Rock Island Coffee Cafe** (☎ 296-5241; 48 Reid St; ☎ 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat; ☎ ☎).

### ENTERTAINMENT

If you're up for dancing the night away, then Front St is the place to head. In addition to the clubs that follow, a couple of the bars listed in the drinking section – Flanagan's and Casey's – also have music and dancing. The City of Hamilton is also home to the island's main theaters. A great way to keep up-to-date on what's happening is to check

#### HARBOUR NIGHTS

On Wednesday nights during the cruise ship season, Hamilton lures visitors into the streets by throwing a festival. From 6pm to 10pm Front St is closed off to traffic, and craft booths, Gombey dancers and food stalls take over. And of course the shops stay open late. It's very touristy, but fun and free.

the 'What's On Where' listings in the Lifestyle section of the *Royal Gazette* on Thursday.

**Ozone** (☎ 292-3379; 69 Front St, 3rd fl, Emporium; cover charge \$10-20; ☎ ☎) The city's hippest dance spot, Ozone attracts the singles crowd as well as other night owls, especially those in their 20s and 30s. The music is pumped up and runs the gamut from rock to R&B and techno. If you're hot on salsa dancing, come on Thursday, when the Ozone gets down and dirty with SalsaMania.

**Blue Juice** (☎ 292-1959; Bermuda House Lane; ☎ ☎) This 'disco bar' behind Tuscan restaurant plays music videos and spins hip-hop, reggae and R&B. It's less boisterous than Ozone and tends to attract a well-heeled crowd.

**Pickled Onion** (☎ 295-2263; 53 Front St; ☎ ☎) A friendly place that attracts visitors and locals in equal measure, this 2nd-floor restaurant pushes aside the tables to create a dance floor and rocks with live entertainment from 10:30pm to 1am nightly. It's typically R&B and classic rock, anything from Janice Joplin to Jimmy Buffett. It's also a wonderful place to enjoy an afternoon drink on its water-view balcony.

**Victoria Park** (☎ 298-5543; cnr Cedar & Victoria Sts) The Bank of Butterfield sponsors open-air concerts at the park's gazebo bandstand on some Sunday evenings during the summer months – mostly jazz but also rock, soul and island music. It's a fun family scene, with face painting for the kids and food stalls. The schedule varies each year.

**City Hall Theatre** (☎ 292-2313; 17 Church St) Plays, concerts and other performances are held in this 378-seat theater at City Hall, including some put on by big-name international artists during the Bermuda Festival in winter. Call for schedule and ticket information.

**Daylesford Theatre** (☎ 292-0848; 11 Washington St) Opposite Victoria Park, this small theater is the home of the Bermuda Musical and



Dramatic Society, which stages performances of Shakespeare, Chekhov and the occasional contemporary work.

**Little Theatre** (☎ 292-2135; 30 Queen St) This cinema in the city center shows first-run British and American movies.

## SHOPPING

Hamilton offers Bermuda's greatest selection of shopping opportunities with a wide range of merchandise available, from simple souvenirs to fine art. Most of the shops are either right on Front St or within a block of it.

The island's largest department stores, **Trimingham's** (☎ 295-1183; 37 Front St), **Smith's** (☎ 295-2288; 35 Front St) and **AS Cooper & Sons** (☎ 295-3961; 59 Front St) are all in the block of Front St between Queen and Burnaby Sts. These are good places to get an idea of selection and costs, as they carry everything from Waterford crystal and international designer clothing to Bermuda shorts and Royall Bay Rhum cologne.

## Arts & Crafts

**Desmond Fountain Gallery** (☎ 292-3955; 69 Front St, Emporium) If you're taken with those lifelike bronze statues fronting City Hall, you can pick up a version here for around \$40,000. Fountain also makes some smaller pieces priced under \$1000 and the gallery is fun to browse around even if you're not buying.

**Carole Holding** (☎ 296-3431; 81 Front St) If you want to take home memories of the island, Holding's pastel watercolors delightfully capture Bermuda scenes. The shop sells mostly prints and notecards at affordable prices, but there are also some originals for sale.

**Masterworks Foundation** (☎ 295-5580; Bermuda House Lane, behind 97 Front St) This nonprofit organization sells Bermuda-inspired prints, notecards and jewelry. One popular item is the collector-style china plates with paintings of Bermuda scenes.

**Bermuda Society of Arts** (☎ 292-3824; www.bsoa.bm; admission free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Sat) On the 2nd floor of City Hall, this gallery sells artwork by resident and visiting artists, most with local themes. The mediums are varied, including watercolor, pastel, acrylic, oil and sculpture.

**Windjammer Gallery** (☎ 292-7861; 87 Reid St) This eclectic art gallery sells select original watercolors, oils and bronzes, as well as posters, prints, cards and calendars with Bermudian themes.

## Collectibles

**Bermuda Monetary Authority** (☎ 295-5278; www.bma.bm; 26 Burnaby St) The national mint, which issues Bermuda's money, also sells collectors' notes and coins. At least one commemorative set, in gold or silver, is issued each year.

**Bluck's** (☎ 295-5367; 4 Front St) This shop has a fine collection of antiques, particularly fine china and crystal – period Waterford and Wedgwood are its specialty.

Stamp collectors can go to the Bermuda Philatelic Bureau window at the General Post Office (p50) to buy commemorative stamps.

## Jewelry

**Gem Cellar** (☎ 292-3042; Walker Arcade, off Front St) This is a good place to find affordable charms and pendants with Bermudian motifs such as tree frogs, longtail birds and hog pennies, made right on the premises.

**Walker Christopher** (☎ 295-1466; 9 Front St) This one-of-a-kind shop sells fine antique jewelry, rare gems and such treasures as gold doubloons recovered from an 18th-century Spanish shipwreck.

**Crisson** (☎ 295-2351; 71 Front St) This high-end shop specializes in exclusive items such as Rolex watches, diamonds and international designer jewelry, but also has Bermuda-themed necklaces and bracelets.

**Astwood Dickinson** (☎ 292-5805; 85 Front St) This shop has a little bit of everything in the jewelry realm, ranging from island-themed pendants to Omega watches.

## Souvenirs

**Trustworthy** (☎ 296-4164; cnr Front St & Old Cellar Lane) Operated by the Bermuda National Trust, proceeds benefit the trust's historical restoration projects. A fun place to browse, with a bit of everything – trinkets with Bermuda insignia, Bermudian cookbooks, sherry pepper sauce – you name it.

**Flying Colours** (☎ 295-0890; 5 Queen St) Looking for some quality souvenirs with Bermuda logos? Head here first. You'll find everything from porcelain coffee mugs to stylish T-shirts and tank tops sized for children and adults.

**Hodgepodge** (☎ 295-0647; cnr Point Pleasant Rd & Front St) Every tourist town has a shop that revels in kitsch. This place, adjacent to the tourist office, is chock-full of inexpensive mugs with Bermuda decals, sun hats, coral jewelry, painted wooden fish etc.

## QUIRKY TRAVEL

So you think the days of horse and buggy (p156) or 10mph choo-choo trains are gone? Well, think again – Bermuda just doesn't give up that easily on tradition. Some of those same buggies that Mark Twain hopped on to get around town in days long past still carry passengers along the waterfront, right past the grand ole Princess hotel where Twain stayed. The traffic is certainly heavier than in Twain's day but the waterfront buggy ride is still an enjoyable way to cruise the west side of town.

As for the train, now that's just plain quirky. It's an open-air carriage, pulled by a small truck designed to resemble an old-fashioned train engine. Yes it looks a bit tacky, like a toy kiddies' ride in an amusement park, but heck, this is Bermuda and you're on vacation, so why not! The **Bermuda Train Company** (☎ 236-5972; tour \$23) runs a 60-minute tour around the city and the botanical gardens at 10am on weekdays.

**Music Box** (☎ 295-4839; 58 Reid St) Here you will find the best selection of CDs by local musicians, ranging from steel-drum music to the Bermuda Regiment Band. For something really offbeat, try the recordings of Bermuda's tree frogs chirping through the night. A handy headphone setup allows you to sample tunes before deciding what you want to buy.

## GETTING THERE & AROUND To/From the Airport

It's a 30-minute taxi ride from the airport to the City of Hamilton. The taxi fare is about \$25. Bus Nos 1, 2, 10 and 11, which take about 40 minutes to Hamilton and cost \$4.50, stop in front of the airport terminal which is in St Georges Parish, but the bus is only practical if you're traveling very light, as bus rules require that your luggage fits on your lap.

## Boat

Ferries (p154) leave from the terminal adjacent to the tourist information office on Front St. They connect Hamilton to St George, the Royal Naval Dockyard and places in Sandys, Southampton, Warwick and Paget parishes. For more information see the Getting There & Around sections of those chapters.

## Bus

Of the 11 bus routes serving Bermuda, all except the St George–St David's route leave from the Hamilton bus terminal on Washington St. Consequently, if you're exploring the island by bus, you'll find yourself coming through the city frequently.

Ticket books and tokens and transportation passes (p155) can be purchased at the bus terminal information booth from 7:15am to 5:30pm weekdays, 8:15am to 5:30pm Saturdays and 9:15am to 4:45pm Sundays and holidays.

For information on getting to and from Hamilton from specific destinations see the relevant parish chapters.

## Motor Scooter

Scooter rentals (p157) are available at **Wheels Cycles** (☎ 292-2245; 117 Front St), in the city center, and **Oleander Cycles** (☎ 295-0919; Gorham Rd), just off Bermudiana Rd. Scooter parking is clearly marked and easy to find along the main roads, including Front and Church Sts. There are no parking fees.

## Taxi

Taxis are readily available along Front St near the cruise ship terminals and the ferry terminal, as well as on Church St just south of the bus terminal.

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