



# BERMUDA

*diving*



*Thrill-seekers can indulge in hundreds of shipwrecks and mingle with 650 species of marine life, then celebrate the day with a civilized spot of afternoon tea.*



*Taunton*

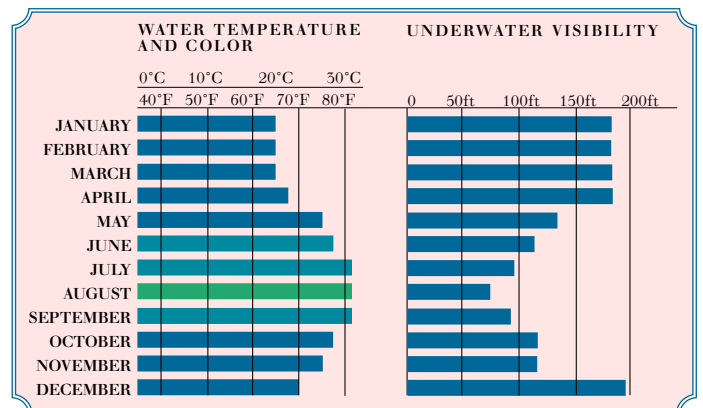
**B**ermuda has long been known as a romantic haven. Its warm Gulf Stream waters, pink sand beaches, perfectly manicured landscapes, excellent shopping, first-rate cuisine and friendly Bermudians make visitors feel right at home. Accommodation possibilities are endless and include Bermuda's unique cottage colonies, intimate B&Bs and a variety of resort hotels to suit any budget. Take all of those qualities, add in several hundred known and easy-to-explore shipwrecks, and this

romantic island becomes one of the most desirable dive-adventure destinations in the world.

Located in the Atlantic, 650 miles due east of Cape Hatteras, N.C., visitors can jet nonstop to Bermuda in less than two hours from several U.S. gateway cities. Less time spent travelling means more time to dive and enjoy the countless charms of this British Crown Colony. Comprised of about 180 islands, with the seven largest connected by quaint bridges and a

causeway, Bermuda's location in the Gulf Stream produces a

balmy subtropical climate that cools down slightly during the

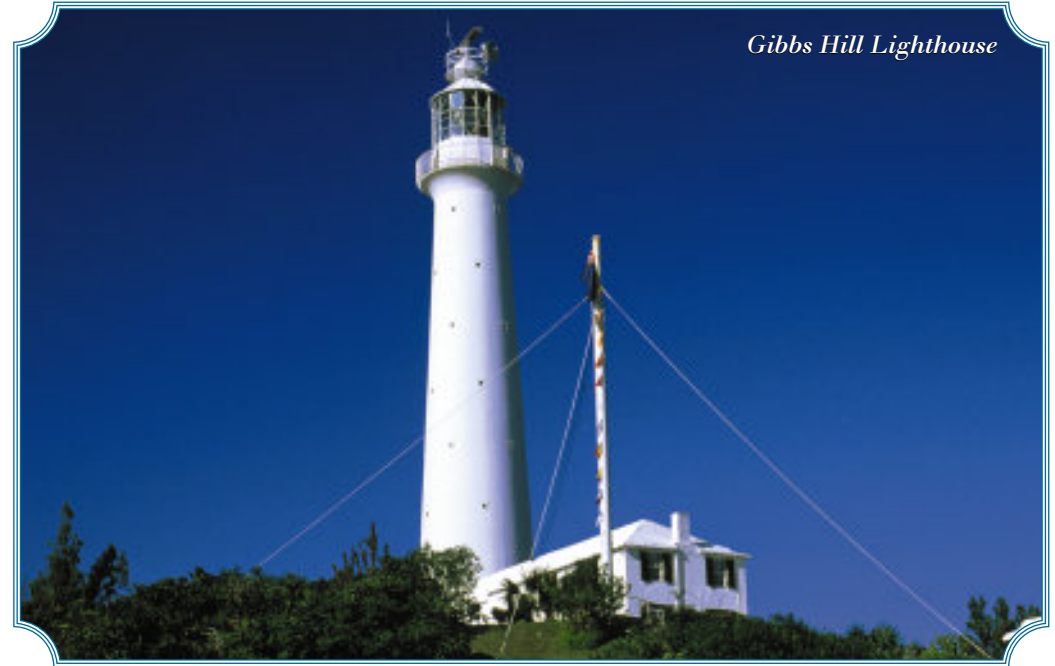


A visit to any of the Island's marine-related exhibits is a wonderful way to enhance your underwater adventures. Points of interest include museums, historic forts, and an aquarium & zoo. Our museums are home to treasure salvaged from Spanish galleons, as well as relics from the *Sea Venture* – the ship that brought Bermuda her first settlers after the vessel ran into a reef during a violent storm in 1609.

Relax on pink sand beaches, enjoy a round of golf or take a stroll through the City of Hamilton. When sampling Bermuda's culinary delights, don't forget to have a sip (or two!) of our famous local beverages such as the Bermuda Rum Swizzle or a Dark 'n Stormy. Whatever your après-dive pleasure, Bermuda is sure to please.

For more information on Bermuda visit [www.bermudatourism.com](http://www.bermudatourism.com) or call 1-800-BERMUDA.

winter months. The best time for divers to go, with the most inviting combination of warm



*Gibbs Hill Lighthouse*

water and good visibility, is Spring and Fall. But if you don't mind cooler waters, the visibility during the winter months is superlative, and exceeds 100 feet on average.

The warm air and moderate rainfall create lush greenery,

freshly coiffed at all times. Bermuda's rocky limestone hills are dotted with picturesque homes made of local stone, painted in bright pastel hues. The buildings are topped off with whitewashed, layered slate roofs, designed to direct falling rainwater into cisterns. Cast your gaze in any direction to view postcard vistas, including the turquoise-hued sea that stretches to the horizon.

The serenity you feel when you look at the sea is quickly replaced by intrigue as you imagine what lies beneath. Bermuda was a navigational point used by mariners crossing the Atlantic to and from the New World. Since the Island's encircling reef system extends outward up to 8 miles, many vessels were caught by surprise when they encountered the shallow reef in seemingly open waters. As a result, there are literally hundreds of documented wrecks sprawled on the sea floor surrounding Bermuda.

Exploring these relics can be fascinating, exhilarating and even eerie as you gaze up toward the surface. See the sun's rays penetrating through the wide variety of soft and hard corals that hang from the ribs, bulkheads and engines of the wrecks, much like cobwebs



*South Shore*

enveloping a haunted house. Since the wrecks lie in relatively shallow water (45-50 feet on average), Bermuda is one of the most accessible wreck diving locations in the world. Best of all, there's no special advanced certification required to enjoy Bermuda underwater, although this is a perfect place to obtain your PADI Wreck Specialty certification.

While the historic shipwrecks are truly the highlight of any Bermuda dive experience, the Island also boasts a diverse, 280 square miles reef system complete with tunnels, swim-throughs, coral gardens and more than 650 species of colourful marine life. Bermuda's marine environment and shipwrecks are protected by a number of laws and ordinances, preserving the future of this underwater dive mecca.



*Southwest Breaker*

## BERMUDA'S SHIPWRECKS



**SHIPWRECK CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME**  
Now you can take home a piece of this island's remarkable shipwreck history. Come to Bermuda, dive our best wrecks and you'll earn our Bermuda Shipwreck Certificates—mementos of your diving experiences.

The Bermuda dive operators, in cooperation with the Bermuda Department of Tourism, are offering — absolutely free — a set of 20 beautifully designed certificates printed on parchment paper, suitable for framing. Each certificate documents your dive and provides a brief history of the wreck. Start with one and collect them all!

*The following shipwrecks are included in Bermuda's Shipwreck Certificate Programme:*

**BLANCHE KING** A 192-foot classic American wooden schooner launched in 1887 and ran into the reef in 1920. Wreck includes bronze spikes, anchor winch, mast rigging and deadeyes.

**CARAQUET** A 350-foot British mail-and-passenger steamer hit the reef in 1923 and now sits in 30 feet of water. Wreckage includes the ship's anchor attached to the colossal anchor winch, massive boilers, a steam engine and steel masts.

**CONSTELLATION** This four-masted-wooden-hulled, 192-foot American schooner served as a cargo vessel in World War II. It fell victim to the reef in 1945 and sank in 30 feet of water with cement sacks, 700 cases of Scotch whisky and thousands of glass ampules.

**CRISTOBAL COLON** At 499 feet, this Spanish trans-Atlantic luxury liner, Bermuda's largest shipwreck, went down in 1936. Resting in 20-55 feet of water, hundreds of relics remain including boilers, steam turbines and propellers.

**DARLINGTON** This 286-foot steel-hulled freighter made a navigational error and sank in 1881 en route from New Orleans to Bremen. It lies in 20-35 feet of water. Steam boilers, propeller shaft and deck winches highlight the dive.

**HERMES** Built in 1943, this former U.S. Navy buoy tender was sunk as an artificial reef in 1984. Fully intact, it sits upright in the sand at 80 feet with its mast, wheelhouse, cargo hold and deck winch available for exploration.

**IRISTO (ARISTO)** This 250-foot Norwegian freighter spotted the *Cristobal Colon* in 1937 under way and attempted to follow it in. Unaware the Spanish luxury liner was

actually stationary and sitting on the reef, the *Iristo's* captain ran his own ship onto the reef as well. It now sits in 50 feet of water with its stern 20 feet below the surface.

**THE KATE** A 200-foot Brigantine rigged, English-built iron steamer, she was enroute to Le Havre, France when she struck a reef in 1878. Today she sits in 45 feet of water, with her boilers, engine, propeller shaft and deck winches still visible.

**LARTINGTON** A 245-foot steel freighter travelling from Savannah, Georgia to Russia with a cargo of cotton sank in a storm in 1879. It rests in 15-35 feet of water with boilers, bow and stern and propeller still visible.

**L'HERMINIE** This French 60-gun three-masted wooden-hulled warship was returning home after battle in Mexico and crashed into the reef in 1838. Dozens of giant 9-foot-long

cannons remain scattered on the ocean floor in 25-30 feet of water.

**MADIANA** This 345-foot steel hulled passenger ship operating under the Canadian flag ran aground in 1905 while making a planned stop in Bermuda. She lies in 25-30 feet of water southwest of North Rock.

**MARY CELESTIA** Built in England, this 225-foot side-paddlewheel steamer served as a Confederate blockade runner during America's Civil War. It hit the reef and sank in 1864 and now rests in 55 feet of water with one of its coral-encrusted paddlewheels standing upright.

**MINNIE BRESLAUER** This 300-foot steel-hulled English freighter was on its maiden voyage from Portugal to New York with a cargo of wine, dried fruit and cork when it sank in 1875. Resting in 35-70 feet of water, its remains include the ship's propeller, steam boilers and wheelhouse.

**MONTANA** A 236-foot side-paddle-wheel steamer, this Civil War blockade runner sank in 1865. It is encrusted with soft and hard corals and lies in 30 feet with its boilers and paddlewheel intact.

**NORTH CAROLINA** This 205-foot English iron-hulled barque struck the reef in 1880 on New Year's Day. It sits upright in 25-40 feet of water

with its bowsprit, sail rigging and deadeyes in place.

**PELINAION** When it sank in 1940, this 385-foot steel-hulled freighter was travelling from West Africa to Baltimore carrying iron ore. In 55 feet of water, its giant boiler and engine stand upright and come within 10 feet of the surface.

**POLLOCKSHIELDS** This 323-foot British supply ship was carrying ammunition from Wales to Bermuda to support the garrison when it ran into the reef in 1915. Its wreckage sits in 15-30 feet and includes two boilers, an enormous engine and large propeller.

**RITA ZOVETTA** A 1924 hurricane brought this 360-foot Italian cargo ship to rest in 20-70 feet of water. This huge ship is semipenetrable.

**TAUNTON** This 228-foot Danish steamer was en route from Norfolk, Virginia, with her cargo of coal and ran into the reef and sank in 1920. In 10-40 feet of water are its bow, triple-expansion engine and boilers.

**XING DA** The U.S. Coast Guard seized this 221-foot Cantonese freighter in 1996 while attempting to smuggle 85 Chinese nationals into the U.S. It was sunk in 1997 as an artificial reef. The wreck is home to larger species of marine life.





Since the 16th Century, several hundred vessels have met their unfortunate fate on Bermuda's jagged fringing reefs. Diving in Bermuda is like stepping into a time machine and opening a window to a past life on the high seas complete with pirate tales, naval battles and fierce storms. By diving in this underwater museum without walls, you will travel an incredible timeline that carries you from the era of Spanish treasure galleons to 18th Century British warships to Civil War blockade runners, all the way to the dawn of luxury trans-Atlantic passenger liners. Bermuda's wreck collection spans more than five centuries with vessels originating from 15 different countries.



*Iristo*

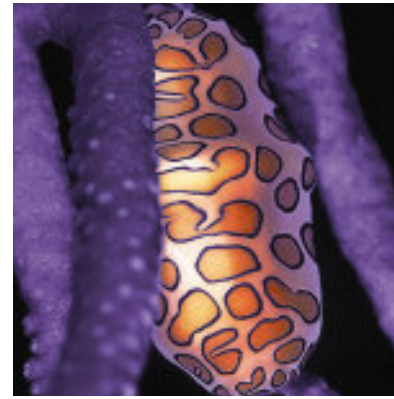


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Dolphin Quest, located inside The Bermuda Maritime Museum, is a place where people and dolphins meet through face-to-face encounters. Everyone from children to adults will enjoy the experience of interacting with these majestic creatures.

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