



Geography

Capital – Hamilton

Bermuda lies in the North Atlantic, east of the USA. It consists of a group of 150 islands, of which about 20 are inhabited. It has an area of 58.8km² and 103km of coastline. The 10 main islands are inter-connected by bridges and causeways. The main island is 23km long and 1.6km wide. There are no rivers or lakes and the highest point of the main island is Town Hill at 76m (259ft).

Climate

Humid, with an average maximum temperature of 32°C (90°F) in August and minimum temperature of 9°C (48°F) in February. Hurricanes can occur in the summer and Bermuda was badly hit in September of 1987 and 2004.

History

Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists headed for Virginia. It was claimed as a British Crown colony in 1612. Tourism to the island first developed in Victorian times, to escape North American winters. Today about 60% of inhabitants are descended from African slaves, with the balance mainly British. A referendum on independence was held in 1995 and the islands decided to remain as a British territory.



Transport / Travel Information

GMT minus 4 hours. There are 225km (140 miles) of public highways and 222km of private roads. Vehicles keep to the left. Visitors are not allowed to drive cars and car-hire is not available. Buses and taxis are available, as well as self-hire of mopeds or bicycles (without a driving licence). There are three seaports. The international airport is the L. F. Wade International Airport, situated 15km (9.3 miles) from Hamilton. A departure tax is payable, except for passengers in transit.

Government / Legal

Bermudan law and the legal system are based on English common law. It is a British Dependency with a Governor appointed by the British Government and its own elected Government and Premier.

Economy

The Bermuda dollar (Bda\$) is closely tied to the US dollar. When visiting the islands you need only take US dollars. The economy rests principally on providing financial services for international businesses, many reinsurance firms have relocated there following 11 September 2001 and Hurricane Katrina. Tourism and fishing are the other main contributors to the economy. There is small-scale boat building/repair and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

How Guiding started

Girl Scouting was introduced to Bermuda in 1913 by the visit of Mary Swan, a US Girl Scout visiting her grandparents. She interested a group of girls who organised themselves into a Girl Scout Troop. Soon there were fifty members, but the group closed when their leader left Bermuda. Shortly after the local headmistress called a meeting to discuss starting Guiding and the Founder signed the registration form for the first Guide Company on January 1919. This was the 1st Hamilton Company. The 1st Hamilton Brownie Pack was registered in June 1921.



1913	Girl Scouting introduced from USA.
1919	First Unit registered.
1927	Lady Asser, wife of the Governor, sponsored fete to raise money for the Guide Headquarters, called the Lady Asser Hut.
1930	The Founder and the World Chief Guide visited Bermuda. Mrs Storrow, a resident of Bermuda, gave "Our Chalet" in Switzerland to WAGGGS.
1949	The first two Queen's Guides in Bermuda
1953	Visit of HM the Queen and HRH Prince Phillip. Sea Rangers piped the royal party ashore.
1954	Visit of the World Chief Guide.
1969	Bermuda celebrated the 50 th anniversary of Guiding with an International Camp.
1995	75 th anniversary celebrated with a week of activities. The Chief Commissioner, Mrs Jane Garside, visited. A birdbath belonging to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell was dedicated.
1999	Bermuda hosted an international camp celebrating 80 years of Guiding in Bermuda..
2004	Bermuda hosted a group of Senior Section members from the UK.
2010	A patrol of guides from Bermuda. came over with their Leaders to join in with the Centenary Camp and then onwards to "Branch Out" at Waddow for a special Centenary Branch Association gathering for
2012	Branch members. Secured ownership of the Lady Asser Hut



Guiding Today

Guides participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and travel overseas to international camps including the UK, USA, and Canada.

Uniform worn is similar to the UK, though only the lighter weight items are worn.