

# Vacation Guide

## Bermuda's Rendezvous Time offers visitors weeks of h

**HAMILTON, Bermuda** - Enjoy flirting with the past? Then consider Rendezvous Time, the 15 weeks that annually mark Bermuda's winter season.

Running between Dec. 1 and March 15, the series of weekly Rendezvous events brings the island's bygone

days sharply into focus. Every Monday the schedule of events aptly begins with a mid-morning walking tour of St. George's, where Bermudian culture was spawned. Settled in 1612, the community is still littered with relics, including some from a time when public repentance was

in vogue. In the shadow of Town Hall (built 1782) on one side of King's Square can be found a whipping post, pillory and stocks, while over on Ordnance Island just off the Square is a ducking stool. Frequently during Rendezvous, the past is resurrected when a local lass is judged guilty of gossiping and ceremoniously dunked in St. George's Harbour, much to the delight of onlookers. Whenever the Monday duckings occur, they are always presided over by town crier Bob Burns who appears on the scene dressed in an authentic 18th Century English costume.

Part of St. George's allure and charm is its smallness. The buildings are closely spaced, the streets narrow and winding. On Mondays, Rendezvous guides shepherd groups of visitors up and down such antique-sounding back streets as Aunt Peggy's Lane, Shimbone Alley and Old Maid's Lane. One of the regular walking tour stops is on Featherbed Alley at the print shop where the curator operates a replica of a Gutenberg press.

St. George's served as Bermuda's capital until 1815 and as a result, today has many museums and points of historical interest. All of

them are open free each Monday during Rendezvous Season including the Confederate Museum. Loaded with artifacts and documents from the mid-1860's, the museum served as the Confederacy's operational headquarters for Bermuda-based blockade-running activities during the American Civil War.

Other interesting buildings with collections of memorabilia and antiques are Tucker House (built circa 1711), The Old Rectory (circa 1700) and the Historical Society Museum (built 1734). The Old State House, just off King's Square, is the island's oldest standing building, erected in 1619. Perhaps the town's premiere historical building, though, is St. Peter's Church. It was built in 1713 on the oldest site consecrated for Anglican worship in the western hemisphere and the altar dates from 1624.

Every Monday in St. George's is also marked by a personal meeting with the town's mayor. Then, at noon a detachment of uniformed soldiers from the Bermuda Regiment joins with the town crier in King's Square to fire the ceremonial Noonday Gun.

Tuesdays during Rendezvous Time start with guided tours of Bermuda Botanical Gardens just outside of the capital city of Hamilton.



**HAMILTON, Bermuda** - Rendezvous Time, Dec. 1 to March 15, gives visitors a glimpse of bygone days on Bermuda. Wednesdays, a traditional skirling ceremony (left) is performed by Scottish dancers, pipers and drummers; Tuesdays, local wenches (center) can be seen at Market Day; and on Mondays and Tuesdays, the town crier of St. George's (right) can be heard telling all within earshot of the day's

Later in the day in downtown Hamilton, local artisans gather for Market Day, displaying and producing a wide range of crafts. Also part of the Market is an English pub where visitors can quaff a mug of complimentary draught beer or indulge in a cup of Bermuda fish chowder ladled by a waitress in an 18th century English costume.

On Wednesdays, another

organized tour of the Bermuda Botanical Gardens takes place in the morning. Then, at noon inside Fort Hamilton overlooking the capital city, a traditional skirling ceremony is performed by costumed Scottish dancers. The music is provided by the killed bagpipers and drummers of the Bermuda Cadet Pipe Band.

On Thursdays, the Bermuda Maritime Museum becomes the focal point of

the day's activities. At the walled island, the large collection of artifacts and testimonies will be on display from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program will feature vocalists and instrumentalists. On Friday

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