

# did you know ?



- More than 23,000 couples honeymoon on Bermuda each year.
- Bermudians imported the idea of moon gates -- large rings of stone used as garden ornaments -- from Asia centuries ago. Walking through a moon gate is supposed to bring good luck.
- Somerset Bridge is the world's smallest drawbridge. At only 56 cm (22 in.) wide, the opening is just large enough for a ship's mast to pass through.
- Bermuda has more golf courses per square kilometer than any other place in the world; there are eight of them on the island.
- With the arrival of spring comes the blossoming of Bermuda's Easter lilies, first brought to the island from Japan in the 18th century.
- Bermuda has no billboards: There is a ban on outdoor advertising and neon signs.
- Bermuda shorts weren't initially Bermudian; they originated when the British army was sent to India. Later, when British troops were stationed in Bermuda, they were issued the shorts as part of the military's tropical kit gear. Now suitable attire for businessmen, the shorts are worn with a blazer, collared shirt, tie and knee socks.
- The discovery of Bermuda is attributed to a Spanish navigator, Juan de Bermúdez, who was shipwrecked here in about 1503.
- Bermuda was first settled in 1609 by shipwrecked English colonists headed for Virginia.
- From the roundabout (rotary in the USA) near Crow Lane Park in Paget Parish, Johnny Barnes, a remarkable Bermudian senior citizen, has made a unique tradition for decades of waving a cheery "Good morning" - in all weather.



- Bermuda has a total area of 53.3 sq km or 21 sq miles.
- Bermuda is about one-third the size of Washington, DC.
- In July 2007 the estimated population was 66,163.
- In 2006 there were 60,100 cell phones registered.
- In 2005 there were 42,000 internet users.
- There is a total of 447 km paved roadways and 103 km of coastline.
- Bermuda enjoys the highest per capita income in the world, more than 50% higher than that of the US. Its economy is primarily based on providing financial services for international business and luxury facilities for tourists.
- Bermudians rely on unique, shark-oil based "barometers" to predict storms and other severe weather, even with electronic meteorological facilities available. Local practitioners of the art today say a reliable way of knowing what the weather is going to be like is to secure them with string, hang them up, then read how the shark oil settles or remains cloudy.

- The Bermuda Triangle, also known as the Devil's Triangle, is a region of the northwestern Atlantic Ocean in which a number of aircraft and surface vessels have disappeared in what are said to be circumstances that fall beyond the boundaries of human error or acts of nature. Although a substantial documentation exists showing numerous incidents to have been inaccurately reported or embellished by later authors, there is no doubt that many ships and airplanes have been lost in the area.

