

# more than sea & sun

by Christine Skeete



Hotels, guest houses, villas and supplementary accommodation in Barbadian homes are available all over the island, and fortunately it's easy to explore Barbados from any point.

Maps are readily available at several duty-free stores and they make it easy to sightsee in our eleven parishes. Places of historical interest, nature, marine life, and breathtaking vistas confirm that Barbados has more to offer than sea and sun.

## Urban Sights

### St. Michael

The island's British military history comes alive in the **Garrison Historic Area** with its cannons, barracks, guard houses, hospital, cemetery and residences. The Barbados Defence Force is now based in the eighteenth century **St. Ann's Fort**. The recently restored Barbados Pavilion is now an environmentally-sound exclusive membership club and banquet facility.

The **Garrison Savannah** is the regular venue for joggers and walkers on any given day of the week. On weekends the horseracing enthusiasts take over. The Garrison also maintains its tradition as a parade ground, with the Independence Parade as the most significant of these spectacles. Every Easter Monday, it is also acts as the site of the national kite-flying competition.

Also in the Garrison Historic Area is **The Barbados Museum and Historical Society**. Museum tours take visitors through nineteenth century British military prison cells, while viewing impressive collections of archaeological remnants of the island's first inhabitants and implements that trace our heritage from our colonial past to the development of modern-day Barbados. Features of Barbados' natural history are also on display, and while touring the museum one can enjoy the outdoors firsthand in the open-air courtyard.

The Museum also hosts "Ole Time Excursions" from time to time on board the now rare Rocklyn bus.

As you make your way into the heart of The City the bridges of Bridgetown are hard to miss. **The Chamberlain Bridge** was named after Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary who played a leading role in maintaining the West Indies' share of the sugar trade in the face of competition from Europe. It used to be known to locals as "The Swing Bridge" because of its former ability to swing back so large schooners could pass into the Careenage. This bridge once was

popular with boys who used to dive for coins thrown by tourists into the waters where the Constitution River flows into the sea. The Chamberlain Bridge is easily identified by the **Independence Arch**, which rises above it.

The bridge parallel to the Chamberlain Bridge is named after **Charles Duncan O'Neal**, the founder of the Democratic League and the Workingmen's Association.



Photo: Gordon Gittens

**The Bridgetown Careenage**

**The Wickham-Lewis Boardwalk** was constructed in 2000 as part of a campaign to beautify Bridgetown. It hugs the docks of the Careenage and Carlisle Bay and makes the perfect point from which to watch the sun setting in the west in all its gold and orange glory.

Between The Boardwalk and the nineteenth century Parliament Buildings lies National Heroes Square. Formerly named Trafalgar Square, this bustling thoroughfare was renamed National Heroes Square in 1999. The controversial statue of Lord Nelson, erected in 1813, predates the one in London, and is a of the remnants of our colonial past in The City. Portraits of the 10 National Heroes overlook the square from the top of the Treasury Building to the left of the Parliament Buildings.

## Along the Coast

### St. Michael

After you've walked the length of **Broad Street** and you're ready to head out of busy Bridgetown, the Harbour Road leads you past the headquarters of the **Barbados Tourism Authority**, near the **Deep Water Harbour**, and on to the Spring Garden Highway. On the right is the **Mount Gay Rum Distillery Tour** and just past the popular **Brandons Beach** on the left is **Malibu Beach Club** and **Visitor's Centre**.

### St. James

After bearing left at the roundabout at the end of Spring Garden Highway, **Holetown** soon comes into view. **The Holetown Monument** was erected in 1905 to commemorate the landing of the first British settlers in this area, which was named Jamestown after the settlers returned later in 1627 to set about developing the island.

A few yards from Holetown is Folkestone Marine Park and Visitor Centre







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