



B E R M U D A

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Contacts: Terence Gallagher / Susannah Gregory
Lou Hammond & Associates
Tel: (212) 308-8880; Fax: (212) 891-0200
E-mail: terryg@lhammond.com / susannahg@lhammond.com

DIVE BERMUDA FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

Bermuda offers dive sites for all levels of divers from breathtaking barrier reefs to sunken World War II steamships. Bermuda also offers a wide variety of 'on' and 'in' water activities as well as a wide variety of land-based adventures.

VISIBILITY

Visibility can range from 60 to 100 feet all year round, but often on any given day you can get 100+ feet.

WATER TEMPERATURE

Ranges from 83° in summer months to 62° in the winter. A bathing suit or 3 mm wetsuit suffices during the summer; in winter months divers need a 5-7 mm wetsuit and a hood.

WRECKS

Bermuda hosts an impressive array of over 300 shipwrecks ranging from the 1500s to the 1940s and from Spanish galleons to Greek freighters giving it the title of 'Shipwreck Diving Capital of the Atlantic'.

The wrecks include: the *Minnie Breslau* (1872); *Hermes* (1943); Bermuda's largest wreck *Cristobel Colon* (1923), a 500' cruise liner; the *Pelinaion* (1939), a 380' Greek freighter; the *Iristo* (1937), and many more.

REEFS

Bermuda has 280 square miles of coral reef surrounded by a wall of reef called the barrier reef. It is the northern most reef system in the Atlantic and has been touted by the Reef Association as being some of the healthiest coral ecosystems in the world. It hosts a large variety of coral encrusted topography from the spectacular flats on Bermuda's north shore to the breathtaking southern swim-throughs and from the SW Breakers up to the Cathedral.

TRAVELING TIME

Bermuda's sites are as easy to get to as the destination itself. All dive spots are within a 5-minute to a maximum 45-minute boat ride away from all the major dive shop locations.

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ENVIRONMENT

Yearly projects include the 'Keep Bermuda Beautiful Marine Clean-up' and a mooring programme established about 15 years ago and maintained at some 30-40 sites, and the Bermuda Turtle Project which has been involved with the study of thousands of juvenile green and hawksbill turtles since its inception in 1968.

TREASURE CHESTS

All through the 1500s and 1600s, Spanish gold ships past by Bermuda; some were wrecked on the coral reefs from which treasures have been found. There remains 12 undiscovered treasure wrecks still waiting to be discovered buried in the ocean floor.

AQUATIC ALTERNATIVES

Snorkelling and helmet diving (walking under water with a helmet that is continuously pumped with air) are among the alternatives to scuba diving.

TOPSIDE ATTRACTIONS

The Island offers championship golf, a variety of accommodations, dining options ranging from pub fare to fine French cuisine, great shopping and more. The Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute and the Bermuda Aquarium, Museum & Zoo offer water wonderlands for travellers who would rather stay dry.

SHIPWRECK CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME

Upon completion of one of the programme's 22 dives, guests receive a special free certificate on decorative parchment paper. Each certificate bears the name and a short description of the ship.

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