

## ACCOMMODATION IN BARBADOS

Art Studios | Apartment 14 | Discovery Bay | St James Barbados

### Things to do



#### **Tours of the island**

Glory Tours (231 2932) Have a range of different tours around the island. There are half and full day tours covering all the places worth visiting on the island. They can also organise airport transfers and private tours as well. Prices start at approx US\$30.

Amigo / Jackie's Taxi Service specialises in door to door service and will organise a day tour of the island with your own

specifications and can take up to 4 people (233 0139 / 825 5161- cell, 432 1030 - work). Amigo or Jackie can be found in the car park of Discovery Bay most days.

If you don't fancy a tour, then here are some suggestions for trips we have done by bus. It may take a little longer, but it's cheaper and a great adventure.

#### **Bathsheba (East Coast)**

The bus to Bathsheba leaves from the Speightstown bus terminal at 9am and runs every two hours. It takes about an hour to get to Bathsheba, but the scenery across the island is worth the bumpy bus ride. It takes you past banana plantations and sugar beet fields and of course local houses and villages. When you arrive in Bathsheba, you will be facing the rugged Atlantic coast and not much else. It's pretty deserted and there is not much to do but admire the scenery. It is beautiful, but too dangerous for swimming. A walk along the beach is a must; perhaps bring a picnic and sit on the quiet, secluded beach. Alternatively walk up the hill to the Round House restaurant for lunch. It's a lovely spot with great views and food is reasonably priced. The buses back to Speightstown only come every two hours; you can easily do a walk and have lunch in that time, but don't get distracted and miss the bus back.

#### **Crane Beach Hotel**

This is a bit of a trek by bus, a car would be much easier, but less of an adventure. Get the bus to Bridgetown and walk across town to the Fairchild Street bus terminal to pick up the Sam Lord's Castle bus. It's around a 45 minute bus journey. Ask the driver to let you off at Crane Beach Hotel; you have to ask as you would never guess from the road that you were about to see one of the most exclusive hotels on the island.

We couldn't believe it when we arrived. It looked like a building site, but we were determined and plodded down the road towards the hotel reception. We were greeted at the reception by a number of security guards, so we asked about lunch and were escorted to the restaurant via the pool. We were taken aback by the views from the restaurant, which is located on the top of the cliff overlooking a rugged Atlantic ocean, with glorious white sandy beaches below. We enjoyed lunch and then walked down the stairs to the beach. There is beach access further up the road, but it is an easier walk through the hotel.

#### **North Point and Animal Flower Cave**

The Josey hill / Connell Town bus leaves the Art studios bus stop at approx 20 / 25 mins past the hour (depending on traffic). Ask the driver to let you off at North point (approx 40 min bus ride) and it is a short walk down the road to the spectacular views of the rugged Atlantic coast and cliff walk. You can also visit the Animal Flower Cave. It's very unspoilt and has beautiful views. There are a few gift stalls and one small bar that does very basic lunches. The bar is worth a visit and you should bring a business card or piece of memorabilia from home that you are happy to leave behind. They have quite a collection!

#### **Sandy Lane Hotel**

This hotel is set on the island's most famous golf course. It's very exclusive, but we managed to sneak in for a drink at the pool bar. It's actually a lovely walk from the apartment, walking left

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along the beach. Probably takes about an hour to walk, stopping for a dip in the sea to cool off on the way, but if you don't want to walk, you can travel by bus to the entrance, which is on the main road from Hometown to Bridgetown. As the beaches in Barbados are all public, you are well within your rights to use the beach in front of the hotel, but we thought we would take a look around . . . . . we made it to the pool before getting spotted, so we asked nicely if we could sit and have a drink. They were very happy to do this, but did make sure we left without venturing further into the hotel. We have heard of other 'visitors' that managed to take a swim in the pool – good luck!

### Other places of interest around the island

#### **Flower Forest**

This 50 acre forest was described as follows by an Italian visitor from Milan: "If I owned paradise and Flower Forest, I would rent paradise and live at Flower Forest." You can stroll between a profusion of tropical plants arranged as a cross between a botanical garden and a nature trail. Use the seats placed throughout the forest and revel in the wonderful views available. It is a nice shady place on a hot sunny day.

#### **Harrison's Cave**

Developed as a tourist attraction by the Barbadian Government, Harrison's Cave is a magnificent natural phenomenon – a series of beautiful underground coral limestone caverns, complete with stalactites and stalagmites, underground streams and waterfalls. Visitors are taken through the caves on an electric tram with an official guide.

#### **St. Ann's Fort and the Garrison Savannah**

The first British soldiers were stationed here about 1695. The fort was completed in 1703 and named in honour of the Queen. The building with the clock tower was once the guard house of the Garrison. It was built in 1803 and damaged by the hurricane of 1831, but the clock tower remained intact. The fifty acres of open space was the parade ground for the troops and, since the withdrawal of the troops in 1906, the Savannah has been used for recreation, sports and ceremonial functions. The Barbados turf club holds several horse race meetings here every year.

#### **Hackleton's Cliff**

Rising almost sheer within a few miles of the coastline to a height of one thousand feet above sea-level, Hackleton's cliff affords some of the most breathtaking views of the island's east coast.

#### **Morgan Lewis Sugar Mill**

The largest and only complete sugar windmill surviving in the Caribbean, the wind-driven machinery ground sugar cane in the 18th and 19th centuries. From the top of the hill, you can enjoy magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean and the lovely Scotland district.

#### **St Nicholas Abbey**

It is in fact not an Abbey, but an old plantation house. For a small fee you can visit the house and gardens, get a free Rum punch and purchase a sandwich.

They show a great film of the plantation in its working days, which shows some great footage of Barbados in years gone by and is very personal to the previous owners of the plantation.

#### **Earthworks Pottery**

You will see Earthworks Pottery pieces in most gift shops across the island, but the factory has the best prices and a great selection. You can see how the pottery works and also visit a few other shops and café that has a spectacular view across the west coast.

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### Sporting activities

#### Diving

Hightide Watersports is based at the Coral Reef Club and offers a good selection of diving activities and courses (432 0931). Barbados is formed from coral and offers some spectacular dives. There are a few wrecks that can be explored, one of which is the Stavronikita, which is located in the Folkestone Marine Park. The ship rests in 120ft of water less than half a mile from the shore.

#### Snorkelling

The beach at Discovery Bay has a great reef to snorkel in. It is an easy swim out to the raft and you can get to see plenty of colourful fish on your way out to it.

#### Sailing trips

If you would like a boat trip Mark at Sea Spray Water sports is your man. He has a glass bottom boat and organises both daytime and sunset cruises with snorkelling, swimming with turtles. He also has jet skis and diving gear.

TEL: 249 5001

#### Other Water Sports

There are many opportunities for jet skiing, waterskiing, sailing, glass bottom boats and banana boats all at Discovery Bay Beach, and up the road at Mullins Beach. Prices are similar, but it is always worth trying to get a deal.

#### Cricket

During the season, Maple cricket club play at Trent's field which is between both of our self catering holiday accommodation. Matches are either three day (two innings each), or one day limited over. The three day matches start on the Saturday and finish the following Saturday / Sunday; with the one day game played on the first Sunday.

#### Golf

We have never played golf on the island and so have no experience of how available they are to the General Public. Barbados now has four excellent 18-hole championship golf courses; there are also two 9 hole courses:

- **Sandy Lane Golf Club** – 1 mile South of Holetown: [www.sandylane.com/golfNow](http://www.sandylane.com/golfNow) boasts 3 courses. Two brand new courses have been completed. These Tom Fazio designed courses make Sandy Lane one of the finest and most exclusive golf resorts in the world.
- **Royal Westmoreland** – 2 miles North of Holetown: [www.royal-westmoreland.net](http://www.royal-westmoreland.net) 18 hole championship course by Robert Trent Jones Jr. Placed high up on a former sugar plantation, with a magnificent view of the Caribbean Sea.
- **Heywoods Golf Course** - adjacent to Almond Beach Hotel, near Speightstown - a small executive course, 9 Holes (Tel: 422-4900); more for relaxation than a challenge for dedicated golfers.
- **Barbados Golf Club** – near Oistins in the south 18 Holes - 6,805 yard par 72 Championship golf course, open to the public. The work of Ron Kirby, one of the world's top golf course designers.
- **Rockley Golf Course** – South Coast A pleasant 9 hole course situated in a Villa resort area.

More Golf details can be found on the web at: [www.barbados.org/golf.htm](http://www.barbados.org/golf.htm)

#### Spa / massage

If all the above activities sound a bit energetic for you, how about treating yourself to a relaxing spa or massage. There is a spa at Royal Westmoreland, opposite Mullins beach, which offers lots of pampering treats. A 30 minute back, neck and shoulder massage will cost about \$95 BDS. Discovery Bay hotel near to our holiday accommodation has also opened a spa facility which is open to the public and is a bit cheaper.

For more information contact [info@accommodationinbarbados.com](mailto:info@accommodationinbarbados.com)