

Bermuda Vacation – Nov/Dec 2008

We traveled to Bermuda for three reasons: 1) we had friends who were living there, 2) we had never been there 3) it was definitely warmer than Seattle in winter. It was a great trip and Bermuda was a very interesting country.



Bermuda is a protectorate of Great Britain and is controlled by an elected governor. It is located off of the coast of North Carolina and it was about a 1 hour flight from New York.

It has a little over 28 square miles but is shaped like a big fishhook with lots of natural bays and protected harbors. It was uninhabited when

discovered in the 1600s, but later became a major British base.

We were visiting Jack and Brenda Myers. Jack is on assignment from the United States Customs and Border Patrol. He does the outgoing inspections for passengers going to the United States. They live near the town of St. George on the Northern Coasts (probably somewhere under the "t" in St. George on the above map). The United States government has a long term lease on houses which they provide to the Customs folks. The Myers got a GREAT house which overlooks the ocean and has beach front (albeit a rocky beach).



Since there is little fresh water available, all houses come with a cistern which collects rain water from the roof and is used by the household. It can be consumed, but the Myer's also have drinking water delivered. The front room looks out to the ocean and provides a great view. We got to see some cruise and container ships going by. It was indeed a great view. The house has two



bedrooms and a bathroom, but a sizeable kitchen, front room, and dining area. It also had a small basement and a mud room. It was a very comfortable house.

Their house was located near the small town of St. George. It was a short walk (as far as I was concerned) to the town. One interesting stop on the way was a Church which had begun being built in the 1600's but



was halted because of disagreements within the congregation and it was never finished. Oddly enough, the road it is on is called Church Folly Road and it is an historic monument...although to what I don't know. There were a lot of photo opportunities in the Church.



St. George itself is a nice little town. One might think that if a homeowner decided to paint the house in something other than pastel, they would get kicked off of the island. Almost all of the houses have that white roof to help keep the cistern rain water

clean.

The picture below shows a view of St. George from the road leading from the Myer's house St. George.



Since we were there during the "off-season" the town was quiet. The cruise ships don't dock here (I think they are at the Dockyards at the other end of the Island).

One noticeable thing is that there are no "franchises" to speak of here. That means: No McDonalds, no

Starbucks, no chain restaurants etc. I believe that there is one franchise restaurant and that is a single KFC down in Hamilton. I think I figured out that they needed the KFC because of the "feral chicken" issue. Not kidding, they have "wild" chickens everywhere. People must feed them because if you step out of the car, they come running in mass. It would make a great horror flick.

The weather was generally fine whilst we were in Bermuda....days around 70 degrees and nights around 65. What was funny was that the Bermudians were bundled up in quilted jackets and long pants. I guess that made us t-shirt, shorts wearing tourists stand out even more.

I didn't get to do much fishing. I caught a 2-3 lb bream in front of the Myers' house and we did go out on the boat one day. Here is a picture of the Myer's house from the sea. The street that the Myer's house is



on is called Salt Spray Lane. It is aptly named as you need to hesitate before you drive down the road in front as the waves do spray over the road (and no one

likes salt on their car). Jack said that during the last hurricane, he had Portuguese man-o-wars on his front lawn and hanging from the trees.



When we went out in the boat, it was a little choppy and so we didn't do much fishing, but I did get a 2-3 lb trigger fish. Jack wanted to keep it but I couldn't keep a fish that would have cost a couple of hundred dollars for an aquarium. I had a trigger fish a couple of times in my marine aquarium. They were about 2 inches long and cost me over \$50 about 25 years ago. So we let the little bugger go.

There were a lot of sights to see, the weather was great. Just one last shot of a grotto at horseshoe bay.

