

Wednesday  
26th January,  
our second day in  
Barbados

we hired a taxi for the morning and the driver,  
Peter Young, took us on a tour round Barbados



It is not all posh hotels and beautiful beaches



the Barbados Parliament Building





house in which  
singer Rihanna  
Fenty lived



Paynes Bay



The monument at Holetown commemorates the first English landing in Barbados by Captain John Powell in 1625. Barbados was claimed on behalf of King James I of England and remained as an English/British territory until Independence in 1966.

Then a Republic since 30th November 2021, when a Head of State and a Parliamentary system replaced Queen Elizabeth II, though Barbados remained in the Commonwealth of Nations.

the bell with the inscription - "God bless King William, 1696". This bell pre-dates the famous American Liberty bell by 54 years.



St. James Parish Church is among the four oldest surviving churches in Barbados and is located near the island's first settlement, in Holetown.





Speightstown





The façade is symmetrical with a central door framed by two windows. Window overhangs and a pedimented entry porch often offer protection from the sun ...



These smartly painted traditional homes are set above ground on a groundhill of loosely packed rubble stone, allowing air to circulate for cooling ... Their galvanized roofs are steeply gabled with jalousie windows for extra ventilation ...

HAND SCREEN PRINTED IN BARBADOS ©

Judith Guter

part of a tea-towel bought in the cruise terminal, Georgetown, "Barbadian Chatel Houses"

Human chattel - "Human beings considered property, that is, slaves"









lots of directions



Evacuation Route - move away from the tsunami hazard zone



electricity power cables are everywhere







just visible through the trees, the former steam mill for rum production; at the St Nicholas Abbey plantation



St. Nicholas Abbey Heritage Railway, a very short 2 ft 6 inches narrow-gauge railway. This locomotive, Tjepper no.5, was built in 1914 by Arnold Jung Lokomotivfabrik in Germany and was saved from a sugar plantation in Java in 2009. After being rebuilt in Tamworth, England, in 2018, it now operates from The Abbey to Cherry Tree Hill, just a very short distance, well under a mile.

Our arrival here coincided with the arrival of the train.



being turned around on the turntable for the return journey





the Morgan Lewis windmill. Built in 1727 this mill crushed sugarcane to produce juice during the 18th and 19th centuries, and ceased operation in 1947.



*The Barbados  
National Trust*



on Cherry Tree Hill, on the north east part of Barbados, looking over the Atlantic Ocean.





seaweed blown on to the Atlantic shore  
if you sail directly east from here you arrive in  
Senegal on the west African coast  
odd things .... an unfinished building on a rock  
and, below, a bench on top of a boulder



an Egret





electrical power lines everywhere





teatowels made in  
Bardados,  
and a \$1 coin



MSC Seaview has left  
and Queen Victoria  
taken her place.



on deck 12 with Paul Fellows,  
Royal Astronomical Society  
Fellow. The weather was not  
at all good for seeing Sirius.

We sail this evening for  
Grenada, a distance of only  
162 miles.



### From the Navigator.



After departing the port of Bridgetown yesterday evening, Queen Mary 2 set courses for island of Grenada that have taken us on a West-South-West track through towards the Windward Islands. Overnight we passed over the Tobago basin where depths average 2500m. We passed between the islands of Carriacou and Grenada, then altered to the South, down the Western side of the Island and made approaches into the town of St. George's. Once we depart, we will head out the North-West to drop off the Pilot and then will alter to the North towards Dominica.

## GRENADA - ISLAND OF SPICE

Independence from Great Britain was granted in 1974 then Grenada became a member of the Commonwealth, with Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State.

In March 1979, the Marxist-Leninist New Jewel Movement overthrew Grenada's government in a coup d'état and established the People's Revolutionary Government, headed by Maurice Bishop as Prime Minister. Bishop was later arrested and executed by members of the People's Revolutionary Army.

In 1983 the United States launched a military intervention following receipt of a formal appeal for help from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States. Since then, the island has returned to a parliamentary representative democracy.

Thursday  
27th January

The original itinerary was to call at Roseau, Dominica, today and Castries, St Lucia, tomorrow. Due to restrictions on tender operation at Castries we are here in Grenada as a substitute and will be in Dominica tomorrow.



the capital of Grenada, St. George's



Like all of these eastern islands of the Caribbean, Grenada is small, about 20 miles north to south - just a little greater than the distance from Bracknell to Reading.

The islands are simply the tips of extinct volcanoes with Mount St Catherine dominating Grenada, rising to 2,757 feet above sea level.

The Caribbean tectonic plate is surrounded by the North American, South American and Atlantic plates.



a tour through St George's to Annandale Waterfall, a Rum Punch tasting and the Grand Etang Crater Lake

Market Street and electricity power cables everywhere. The guide said almost none of the traffic lights worked.





the sign reads, "Francis-Banfield Chambers,  
Barrister-at-Law LLB London











Theobroma cacao tree with cocoa bean pods. The driver took a bean and opened it to show the seeds which are processed to become cocoa.



a very colourful Eucalyptus tree



Nutmeg, *Myristica fragrans*, was introduced to Grenada in 1843, when a merchant ship called in on its way to England from the East Indies. The ship had a small quantity of nutmeg trees on board which they left in Grenada, and this was the beginning of Grenada's nutmeg industry that now supplies nearly 40% of the world's annual crop - hence the title of The Island of Spice™ and the inclusion of a nutmeg on the nation's flag (at left of the flag).

(The "Spice Islands" are in Indonesia)



Mace is the spice made from the reddish seed covering of the nutmeg seed.



cocoa seed when dried





Grand Etang Lake is a caldera lake, at 1,200 feet above sea level, in an extinct volcano responsible for the formation of the Island Grenada. Grand Etang House gives view of the lake but today it was very wet and misty - but fruit punch was served.



"You are at 1910 ft.  
Drive Safely"



and don't look at the  
adverts on the wall





"What fish am I?"



returning to St George's





Norwegian Epic and Queen Mary 2



image of Bridge control screen  
taken from our balcony



our Pilot boat



# COMMONWEALTH of DOMINICA



Friday  
28th January

## From the Navigator.

Overnight, Queen Mary 2 continued her Northerly course towards the island of Dominica, taking us over water reaching 3000m deep. We will continue to approach the island from the South to pick up the Pilot and will then turn to the East to come alongside the pier. After departing the berth, we will set a course to the North-North-West towards Basseterre.



arriving at 7am

The island was colonised by Europeans, predominantly by the French from the 1690s to 1763 who imported enslaved people from West Africa to work on coffee plantations. Great Britain took possession in 1763 after the Seven Years' War, then the island gained independence as a Republic in 1978. Dominica is a member of the Commonwealth.

The island is the same size as Grenada, and its capital Roseau. The name can be confused with the vastly larger Dominican Republic which is also in the Caribbean.



Roseau



Independence  
Street,  
Roseau



Royal Caribbean Grandeur of the Sea and Queen Mary 2



a tour to the  
Botanic Gardens  
and the Jacko Falls







the Botanic Gardens



*Adansonia digitata*, the Baob  
tree and its potato-like fruit



*Peltophorum pterocarpum*, Yellow Flamboyant Tree



*Calliandra surinamensis*, Pink Powderpuff

In 1979 strong winds and heavy rain from hurricane David destroyed or damaged 80 percent of the homes on Dominica leaving 75% of the population homeless. Damage was greatest in the southwest of the island, especially in Roseau, which resembled an air raid target after the storm's passage.

An empty school bus was crushed by a falling Baobab tree in the hurricane.





the Jacko Falls  
and another Rum Punch





the Jacko Falls  
and another Rum Punch



A mill of the late 18th and 19th centuries formerly used for  
sugar, rum and molasses production.



Car wrecks are just abandoned and litter the countryside, a  
common site in the islands.



the somewhat  
basic cruise  
terminal in  
Roseau

back on Queen  
Mary 2 for lunch  
at the Boardwalk  
Cafe on deck 12

then dinner in  
the Britannia  
Restaurant



Saturday  
29th January

# Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis St Kitts



6.45am, St Kitts with Nevis on the right



Port Zante,  
Basseterre, the capital,  
on St Kitts

The first European settlers were the English in 1623, led by Thomas Warner, who established a settlement at Old Road Town after achieving an agreement with the Carib chief Ouboutou Tegremante. The French later also settled on St Kitts in 1625 and as a result, both parties agreed to partition the island into French and English sectors. From 1628 onward the English also began settling on Nevis, the adjacent island.

By the close of the 1700s St. Kitts had become the richest British Crown Colony per capita in the Caribbean as result of its slave-based sugar industry.

After a brief period as part of the West Indies Federation (1958–62), the islands became an associated state with full internal autonomy in 1967. St Kitts and Nevis opted to remain within the British Commonwealth, retaining Queen Elizabeth as Monarch, represented locally by a Governor-General. In 1983 the nation became a Federation and joined the Commonwealth of Nations.

## From the Navigator.

Continuing our North-North-West passage, we will pass to the West of the Leeward Islands, we will then alter to the North and pass the island of Nevis and make our approach into St. Kitts. After spending the day alongside we will head out to the West and then make various Northerly courses towards St. Maarten.





Port Zante cruise terminal, Basseterre





walking through the Port Zante tourist shops to join our tour to Caribelle Batik at Romney manor and the Brimstone Hill Fortress



we found the Immigration Office and had our Passports stamped





Port Zante tourist shops



Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport



Leeward Islands Air Transport Services ATR 72 600 turboprop aircraft departing for St Lucia, 265 miles north from St Kitts. Photos taken from Queen Mary 2.





St. George's Anglican Church. A church was built on this site in 1670. I wonder what the slaves thought?



Independence Square, Basseterre area. Although decorative, the primary purpose of this 1857 fountain was to supply fresh water for the townspeople.



the green bottles - Ting. A carbonated beverage popular in the Caribbean, flavoured with Jamaican grapefruit juice





the usual electricity power cables



Egrets



In English, French, Spanish and German, the sign says  
"Bloody Point - for several days this river flowed red with blood after the English and French settlers massacred thousands of kalinagos (Carib) in 1626. This marked the end of the kalinago occupation of St.Kitts."





Caribelle Batik at Romney Manor



Caribelle Batik produced its first batik in 1976 and uses ancient Indonesian methods





talking with the owner, Maurice Widdowson



Rum Punches





the factory chimney is just visible from the Romney Manor grounds

Wingfield was the first land grant in the English West Indies in 1625 with the property's original crops being tobacco & indigo, dating from 1625 to the 1650s. Sugar cane became more profitable and was continuously grown on the site for 350 years, from the 1650s to the mid-2000s.

The sugar industry functioned over the centuries using, in order: animal-driven, water-driven, and eventually steam-driven methods of crushing the cane. Water power was used from the 1600s to 1920s, with aqueducts and a water turbine unique in the Eastern Caribbean.







**Brimstone Hill Fortress**

Cannon were first mounted on Brimstone Hill in 1690, when the British used them to recapture Fort Charles from the French. The French had not considered it possible to transport cannon up the steep and thickly wooded sides of Brimstone Hill. The construction of the fort then carried on intermittently for just over 100 years. In its heyday, the fort was known as 'The Gibraltar of the West Indies', in reference to its imposing steepness and height, its proximity to the sea, and its seeming invulnerability.



the view from the fortress of two very small islands of the Netherlands. Saba is 58 miles away, a dormant volcano, Mount Scenery. Sint Eustatius, dominated by The Quill, also a dormant volcano, is 9 miles.





the island of  
Nevis is in the  
distance



Mount Llamuiga  
volcano,  
dormant

on the roof of the  
Citadel



*Cryptostegia grandiflora* -  
Rubber Vine



we were told that the bark of  
this tree was used to beat the  
slaves for misdemeanours



the Citadel





stone tank for public supplies of water and a British Post Office ERII post box made by the London firm, W T Allen



St Thomas Anglican Church occupies the site of the first Anglican Church in the West Indies in the 1620s



Old Road Town, first settled in 1624







the Port Zante tourist shops





We departed from St Kitts at 6pm and were scheduled to sail overnight to Sint Maarten, a short distance of about 50 miles. Due to a medical emergency that could not be attended to on St Kitts the Captain decided to make a direct route rather than a slow meandering one to arrive in Sint Maarten at 10pm rather than 7am tomorrow.

The cruise port at Sint Maarten

