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







Head of State and a Parliamentary system replaced Queen Elizabeth II, though Barbados remained in the Commonwealth of Nations.



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



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











Speightstown

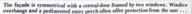














These smartly painted traditional homes are set above ground on a ground sill of loosely packed rubble stone, allowing air to circulate for cooling ... Their galvanized roofs are steeply gabled with jalousie windows for extra ventilation ...

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











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, Tiepper no.5, was built in 1914 by Arnold Jung Lokomotivfabrik in Germany and was sawed 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.



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































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 Greenads'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 Isunched 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, Domininca, 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.

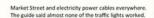
The islands are simply the tips of extinct volcanoes with Mount St Catherine dominating Grenada, rising to 2,757 feet above sea level.

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









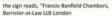


































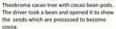
















Nutmeg, Myristica fragrans, was introduced to Grenada in 1843, when a merchant ship called in on its way to England from the East Indies. The ship had a small quantity of nutmeg trees on board which they left in Grenada, and this was the beginning of Grenada's nutmeg industry that now supplies nearly 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 file (at left of the flag).





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



cocoa seed when dried









Grand Etang Lake is a caldrera 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 lae but today it was very wet and misty - but fruit punch was served.

1910 ft.













"You are at 1910 ft. Drive Safely"

and don't look at the adverts on the wall

















"What fish am I?"



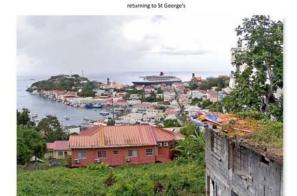












image of Bridge control screen taken from our balcony

our Pilot boat





# COMMONWEALTH of DOMINICA



Friday 28th January

from the Navigator.

Overnight, Queen Many 2 continued her Northerly course towards the sistend of Dominios, taking us over water reaching 3000m deep. We will continue to approach the sized normal to be some the sized normal to the East to come alongued the piec. After departing the berth, we will set a course to the North-North-West towards Eassaderns.

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 Britian 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.



arriving at 7am

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





Peltophorum pterocarpum, Yellow Flamboyant Tree





Calliandra surinamensis, Pink Powderpuff



In 1979 strong winds and heavy rain from hurricane David destroyed or damaged 80







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











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 Boardwak Cafe on deck 12

then dinner in the Britannia Restaurant





Saturday 29th January

# Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis



6.45am. St Kitts with Nevis on the right

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 Kits in 1625 and as a result, both parties agreed to partition the island into French and English sectors, From 1626 noward the English also began settling on Nevis, the adjacent island. By the close of the 1700 St. Kits 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 Newis 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 atter to the North and pass the island of News 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. Maerten



Port Zante, Basseterre, the capital, on St Kitts























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.are. 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









In English, French, Spanish and German, the sign says

"Bloody Point - for serveral 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 5t. Kitts."









Caribelle Batik at Romney Manor



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

















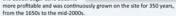




the factory chimney is just visible from the Romney Manor grounds



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



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 Liamuiga 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 fopm 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 router rather than a slow meandering one to arrive in Sint Maarten at 10pm rather than 7am tomorrow.

The cruise port at Sint Maarten

