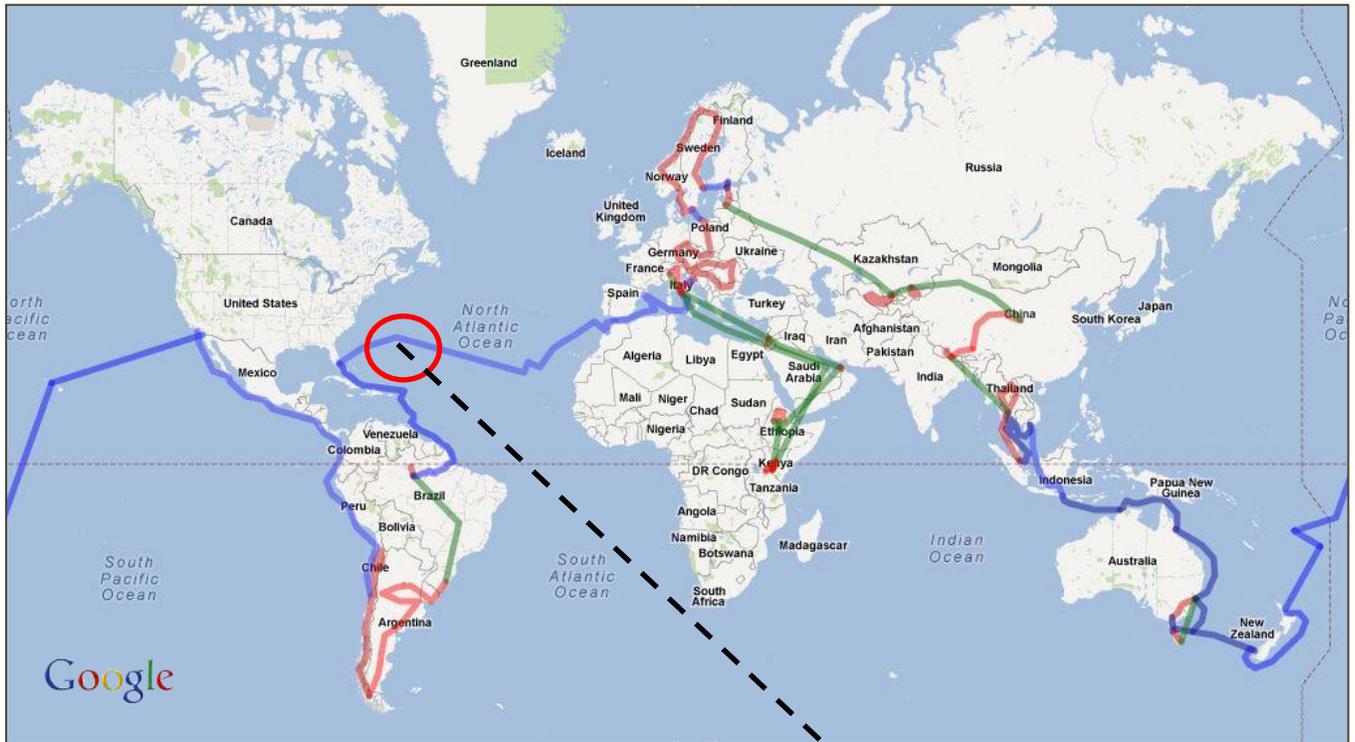




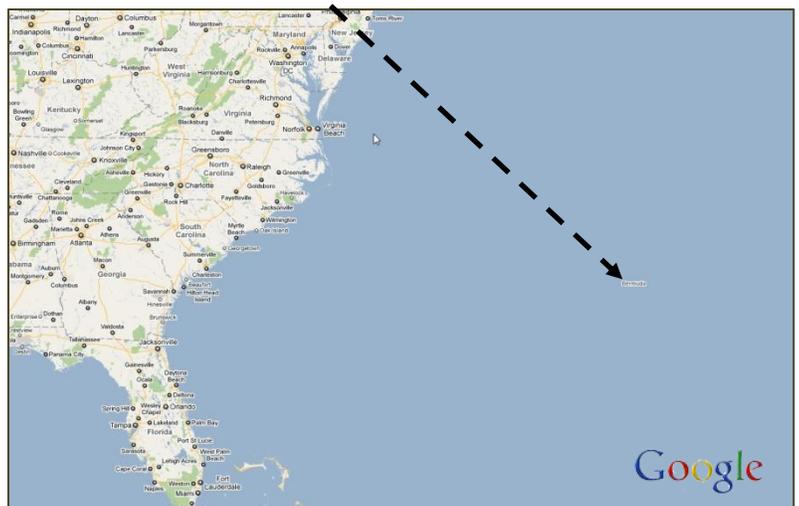
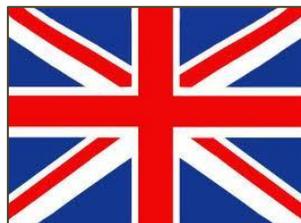
Trekking the Planet

Discovering the Cultural and Natural Significance of the World



Where are we now?

- Darren and Sandy are in Bermuda, located at 32° N and 64° W.
- We have traveled approximately 52,173 miles (83,964 kilometers) from our starting point in California.



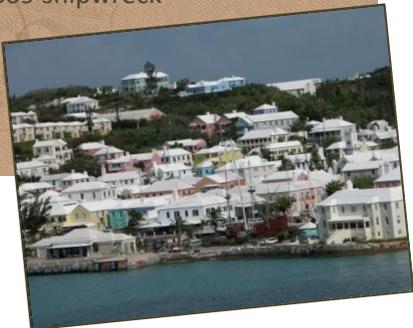
Google



Atlantic Ocean liner advertisement
(source : Wikipedia.org)

Did you know?

- Bermuda is the oldest British Colony
- Codfish and potatoes are a typical Bermudian breakfast
- Bermuda has the most golf courses per capita in the world
- The Shakespeare play "*The Tempest*" was based on the 1609 shipwreck



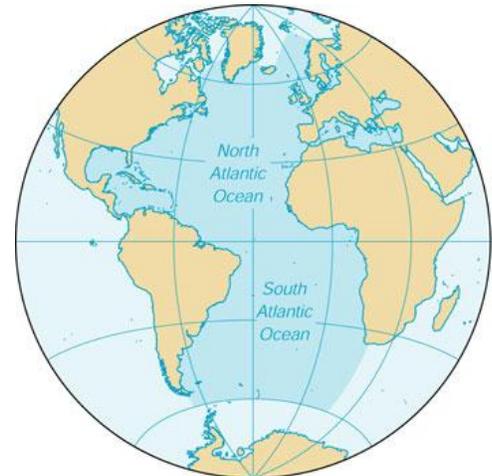
St. George is a UNESCO World Heritage site
(sources : Amateurtraveler.com, About-Bermuda.com, Bermudatravel.bm)

People and Culture

- The first explorers of the Atlantic Ocean ventured from Europe to chart West Africa, Iceland and Greenland.
- The North Atlantic became an important route for travel between Europe and North America. In 1818 the first sailing passenger service began between England and the U.S. These voyages took two months.
- Regular steamship service, beginning in 1840, cut travel time to about two weeks. Ocean liner ships increased in size and grandeur in the late 1800s to meet the demands of increased immigration to the US.
- The "golden age" of ocean liners lasted until World War II. After that time, air travel became the preferred way to cross the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Spanish explorer Juan de Bermudez discovered the islands now known as Bermuda in 1503. They were eventually named after him.
- After a group of colonists were shipwrecked for 10 months on the islands in 1609, the settlement of St. George was established in 1612. It is the oldest continuously inhabited English-speaking location in the Western Hemisphere. Bermuda is currently governed as a British overseas territory.
- The islands were a destination for slaves brought from Africa until it was outlawed in 1807. Today, about 60% of Bermudians are of African descent.

Nature and Environment

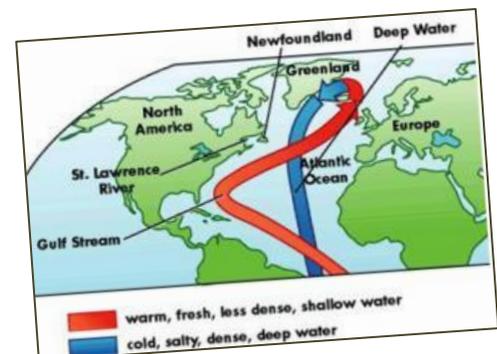
- The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest ocean on earth, after the Pacific. It covers about 20% of our planet and it is a little less than six and one-half times the size of the US.
- The Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, Mediterranean Sea and North Sea are all part of the Atlantic.
- Bermuda is located 650 miles (1,050 kilometers) off the coast of North Carolina in the U.S. Over 100 islands are in the area and seven main islands form the main area of Bermuda.
- It is known for its pink beaches, which are created by powerful waves that crush dead sea coral, clams, urchins and sea snails, some with dark red skeletons. These crushed shells mix with the sand.
- Bermuda is not part of the Caribbean, which is 1,000 miles (1,609 kilometers) south, but shares much of its semi-tropical climate. This is because of the Gulf Stream ocean current.
- The Gulf Stream carries water from the Caribbean to the North Atlantic, pushing the warm tropical water north. In England and Ireland, the Gulf Stream results in milder weather than other areas with the same latitude. For example, London, England, at latitude 51° N, has an average low of 42°F (5°C) in December. Conversely, St. John's in Newfoundland, Canada, at latitude 47° N and not affected by the Gulf Stream, has a average December low of 27°F (-3°C).



*The Atlantic Ocean, shaded in dark blue
(source: WorldFactsandFigures.com)*



*Bermuda's pink beaches
(source: Joytours.com)*



The Gulf Stream current (in red) (source: Outerbanksvacations.com)

Our Plans

- While in Bermuda for the day we plan to explore beaches and towns on the island.
- After two more days at sea, we will reach Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in the U.S. We will spend the day here between cruises and then leave that night to head to the Caribbean and ultimately to Brazil. Our next trek will be in the Amazon jungle right after the new year.
- As we head toward Brazil, be sure and send any questions that you have about what we will be seeing. We will try to include our answers in a future email.

More Information

- <http://worldinfozone.com/oceans.php?country=Atlantic>
- http://www.worldrover.com/history/bermuda_history.html
- <http://bermuda-guide.info/attractions/beaches/>
- <http://www.travellady.com/Articles/article-bermudakids.html>
- <http://geography.about.com/od/physicalgeography/a/gulfstream.htm>
- <http://www.bermuda-online.org/climateweather.htm>
- <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/earth/bermudatriangle.html>
- <http://oceancurrents.rsmas.miami.edu/atlantic/gulf-stream.html>

The Bermuda Triangle

This is an imaginary line located between Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Florida. Over the years, stories have emerged about the mysterious disappearances of boats and planes traveling through the area. Explanations include the possibilities of UFOs, the underwater city of Atlantis or weather patterns. Recent studies show that the number of incidents here are similar to other locations in the Atlantic.



(sources: Bermudatrianglefacts.com, Mysterieszone.com)

Our Partners



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