



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Gardens of Barbados

November 6 - 13, 2024

From \$4125.00

At 21 miles long and 14 miles wide, Barbados is a small and perfectly-formed vision of pure Caribbean paradise. This is a place of upbeat welcomes, radiant seas, sandy beaches, golden palms, and thick gleaming rainforest – the quintessential island idyll. It's also a place where private gardens blossom, lilies and heliconias burst vibrantly out of the undergrowth, and species of orchid thrive in their thousands. Escape the bustle of mainland life, and channel your inner castaway. Your rum punch cocktail awaits...

This laid-back tour really does have something for everyone. Picture gazing across the sweeping vistas of Cherry Tree Hill, discovering some of the 20,000 species of orchid at the Tropical Garden and exploring the George Washington House, an important remnant of the island's plantation past.

At Hunte's Garden we are excited to be accompanied by the man himself, owner and creator Anthony Hunte, who introduces us to his multidimensional mix of dark native jungle and sunny open spaces, one of the island's top destinations. There is also an optional excursion on offer, a relaxing cruise on a catamaran.

Itinerary

Day 1

On arrival in Barbados we transfer to our hotel, the 3-star **Dover Beach Hotel**, which is located on the south coast a few miles from the capital Bridgetown. As well as direct access to the beach, facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, sun deck, spa and wellness centre and poolside bar. The afternoon is free to rest and relax in the hotel, before dinner is served in the evening.

Day 2

After breakfast our tour of Barbados begins at the **George Washington House**, also known as Bush Hill House, a historic plantation house where the young George Washington and his ailing brother Lawrence resided for two months in 1751. Barbados was the only country ever visited by the future "First Father" of his country and Bush Hill House the only house he ever lived in outside of the continental United States.

This afternoon we will visit the **Barbados Museum** where we can learn all about the rich heritage of the island.

Day 3

We begin today with a visit to **Hunte's Garden**, located in a gully in the centre of Barbados' rain forest. Thanks to such an interesting location, the garden offers a multidimensional experience, with vigorous plants densely growing on many levels, from sunny and open spaces, down to a mysterious, dark heart of real Caribbean jungle. We will be welcomed by the genial host who will show us around the garden.

Our next visit provides a most colourful and fragrant experience as we explore the **Tropical Gardens**, home to more than 20,000 orchids. A meandering path lined with orchids leads through a coral grotto to the five orchid houses. Keep your eyes on the trees for orchids such as Schomburgkia that bloom once a year with spectacular results. Species such as Vandas, Phalaenopsis, Calanthe, Cattleya,

Ascocendas and Dendrobiums, to name but a few, can be found throughout, with some of the rainforest orchids appearing to hang in mid-air with their roots completely free of soil.

Day 4

This morning we depart for a visit to **Harrison's Cave**, a crystalline limestone cavern which lies in the centre of the island. Flowing streams, deep pools of crystal clear water and towering columns characterise this living cave, which is adorned with stalactites and stalagmites of all colours and sizes. We will also take a leisurely walk along the **nature trail** that has been created here.

We continue with a visit to the **Flower Forest**, located in one of the most breathtakingly beautiful areas of Barbados and built on a former sugar plantation. The views from the garden over the hills offer fantastic photo-opportunities - the forest towering and lush, the pathways lined with flowering plants, the tone quiet, peaceful and serene.

Day 5

After breakfast we explore the **St. Nicholas Abbey Plantation**. Located in the hills of St Peter, St Nicholas Abbey encompasses over 400 acres of undulating sugar cane fields, lush tropical gullies, mahogany forests and formal gardens. We will also enjoy a scenic ride on the **heritage railway** that winds through the plantation fields and mahogany woods with expansive views of the east coast from **Cherry Tree Hill**.

Later we visit historic **Speightstown**, which dates back to 1630 and has a pleasing blend of colonial and modern architecture along with excellent shopping and dining options.

Day 6

We explore the island's capital **Bridgetown** today, which was founded by English settlers in 1628. Historic Old Bridgetown and its Garrison is now inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After our tour of the city there will be time to shop and sightsee at leisure.

Day 7

Today is free to stroll along the beach, take a swim or perhaps venture further afield.

Alternatively, join our optional excursion, a cruise aboard a **Catamaran yacht**, ideally suited for sailing in these shallow, sheltered waters. Relax on board a catamaran and watch the beautiful coastline of Barbados slip by, then drop anchor in a quiet bay for a swim in the crystal clear waters, followed by a sumptuous Barbados lunch.

Day 8

After breakfast the morning is free for some last-minute shopping before we transfer to the airport where the tour concludes.

Included in the price:

- Seven nights' bed and breakfast in an Island View room at the 3-star **Dover Beach Hotel**, Barbados
- Two dinners
- Comfortable coach travel throughout
- All visits as described in the itinerary
- Services of a professional tour manager

Not included (per person)

- Single room supplement \$975
- Optional Catamaran cruise with lunch \$170

Room upgrades available on request