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## General

Bermuda is a group of islands located in the North Atlantic Ocean, E of North Carolina. The islands are low-lying coral formations.

The climate is subtropical, mild, and humid. Winter gales and strong winds are common.

The terrain is that of low hills separated by fertile depressions.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Bermudian dollar, consisting of 100 cents. Canadian and U.S. currency is also in use and is generally accepted.

## Government

Bermuda is a dependent territory of the United Kingdom with Queen Elizabeth II as its chief of state.

The capital is Hamilton.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; May 24, Empire Day; June 3, Queen's Birthday; Cup Match; November 11, Armistice Day; Dec. 25, Christmas Day; and Dec. 26, Boxing Day.

## Industries

Tourism is Bermuda's primary industry. Additional sectors of the economy are based in finance, structural concrete products, paints, pharmaceuticals, and ship repair.

## Languages

The official language is English.

## Pilotage

A VTS zone has been established in the approach sector of St. George's Harbor. Pilotage is compulsory and available during daylight hours only. The pilot boards in a position bearing 240° from St. David's Light at a distance of 2 miles.

A pre-entry report must be forwarded 24 hours before arrival to Bermuda Harbor Radio either directly, on VHF channel 12, or through the vessel's agent. Vessels must remain at least 20 miles offshore until clearance is obtained from Bermuda Harbor Radio.

Radar assistance is available, primarily for vessels having inadequately scaled charts of the area. The working channel for Bermuda Pilots is VHF channel 12.

Departure reports are mandatory 15 minutes prior to departure from any berth or anchorage and should be forwarded to Bermuda Pilots.

Vessels are asked to voluntarily report to Bermuda Harbor Radio on VHF channel 16 when passing within 30 miles of Bermuda.

### **Regulations**

Quarantine regulations are strictly enforced. All vessels requesting free pratique must anchor in Saint George's Harbor and hoist International Flag Q.

Naval vessels and commercial vessels calling regularly which have received prior permission, and vessels which have been granted pratique by radio, will be visited upon berthing.

An IMO-adopted Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) has been established in the area N, W, and SW of Bermuda. All vessels intending to transit this area must contact Bermuda Harbor Radio before entering it. Departure from the ATBA must be reported to Bermuda Harbor Radio.

Vessels must maintain a watch on VHF channel 16 when approaching Bermuda and when transiting this area.

The area is delimited by a line joining the following points, as follows:

- a. 32°32'N, 64°29'W.
- b. 32°39'N, 64°38'W.
- c. 32°39'N, 64°53'W.
- d. 32°24'N, 65°10'W.
- e. 32°12'N, 65°10'W.
- f. 32°08'N, 64°53'W.
- g. 32°15'N, 64°50'W.

### **Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is QUEBEC (+4).

### **U.S. Embassy**

There is a Consulate General situated at Crown Hill, 16 Middle Road, Devonshire, Hamilton.

The mailing address is P.O. Box HM325, Hamilton HMBX; American Consulate General Hamilton, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520-5300.