PRIVATE HOUSES & GARDENS OF BERMUDA
APRIL 1-5, 2019

Characterized by graceful Georgian houses of whitewashed coral limestone, manicured gardens, and sparkling turquoise waters, Bermuda holds a special charm for cultural enthusiasts. The Bermuda National Trust has acquired more than 60 historic properties and open-space areas and is a formidable force in the preservation of this fragile island. On this special tour, travelers will be welcomed by distinguished hosts into several of the most elegant homes in Bermuda. Experience behind-the-scene tours of Bermuda’s finest museums and cultural institutions. Outstanding guest lecturers and expert local guides await you at each visit along the way to bridge the shared history between Bermuda and the United States and share their love for Bermuda. Enjoy luxurious accommodations, superb cuisine, and special access to private estates. Discover Bermuda with special openings of private historic homes and hidden gardens and VIP tours of historic monuments.

GROUP SIZE: 15-20 guests

PRICING: $3,695 per person double occupancy / $495 single supplement

STUDY LEADER: MICHAEL WEISHAN ’86, PBS Host, author, and avid historian, originally intended to follow his grandfather into the State Department (hence his training in Classics and Romance Languages). Ultimately however – after spending several years at the Sardis Archeological Expedition at Harvard as editor and contributing author of the Byzantine Shops at Sardis (Harvard University Press 1990) – he decided to combine avocation and vocation in the field of landscape and architectural design.

Founding his own design/build firm Michael Weishan & Associates in 1988 – a practice he still actively heads – Michael began to share his design expertise through writing. He’s the author of three books: The New Traditional Garden (Ballantine 1999); From a Victorian Garden (Viking 2004); and the Victory Garden Companion, published by HarperCollins in 2006. In the field of electronic media, Michael is a veteran of National Public Radio where he hosted his own program, The Cultivated Gardener, for several years before he debuted as the host of The Victory Garden on PBS in 2001. Michael is currently working on a new PBS program, Garden Earth.

Michael is particularly fascinated by how architecture and landscape help shape the human experience, and is intimately involved with several historic preservation projects, including heading the FDR Suite Foundation, at Adams House, Harvard College, which has completely restored the 32nd president’s Harvard apartments to their 1904 appearance.
SCHEDULE BY DAY
_B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner_

MONDAY, APRIL 1
ARRIVE BERMUDA

Arrive at the Bermuda airport and transfer by shared hotel airport shuttle to the Fairmont Southampton, located on Bermuda’s south shore. Enjoy an introductory talk by your Bermudian guide or Harvard study leader. Celebrate your first night in Bermuda at a welcome dinner at one of the island’s best restaurants.

Overnight: _Fairmont Southampton Resort (D)_

TUESDAY, APRIL 2
ST. GEORGE & HAMILTON

Set out for the historical town of St. George, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the oldest continuously inhabited English town in the New World. Many of St. George’s narrow streets remain just as they were centuries ago as you will see during a walking tour led by a Bermuda National Trust representative. See King’s Square, the Town Hall, Deliverance, a replica of one of two ships built by the shipwrecked settlers, and St. Peter’s Church, the oldest Anglican church in continuous use in the western hemisphere.

Continue to the Bermuda National Trust Museum housed in the Globe, originally built as a governor’s mansion around 1700. View a notable collection of Bermudian furniture, portraits, hand-sewn quilts, and silver housed in the 18th-century Tucker House.

Enjoy lunch in a magnificent private home hosted by the owners. Continue on to Hamilton, Bermuda’s capital, for a guided tour by bus to see its cathedral. Enjoy a guided stroll through Hamilton, including a tour of the Bermuda Historical Society Museum at “Parla-Ville”.

Return to the Fairmont by ferry. The evening is at leisure.

Overnight: _Fairmont Southampton Resort (B, L)_

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
MAGNIFICENT HOMES OF BERMUDA

This morning, drive to Waterville, one of the oldest and most elegant houses in Bermuda, currently the headquarters of the Bermuda National Trust. Major renovations were undertaken in 1811, and the house has been restored in that period’s style. The waterfront grounds include the Bermuda Rose Society’s showcase garden of old roses. Continue to one of the most splendid private historical estates in Bermuda.

Next visit Verdmont, one of Bermuda’s most significant historic buildings. Built around 1710, Verdmont is a unique example of early Georgian architecture and has remained virtually unchanged for 300 years. The museum within features an extensive collection of antiques including Bermuda-made cedar furniture, portraits, English and Chinese porcelain, and a child’s nursery. The gardens contain an assortment of herbs, old roses and fruit trees, and the sweeping view of South Shore is spectacular.

Continue to another private home with magnificent gardens, and be treated to lunch hosted by the owner, a sixth-generation Bermudian. Enjoy a curator-led tour of the Masterworks Museum of Bermuda Art, which boasts a world-class collection of more than 1,200 pieces of art, including works by Henry Moore, Georgia O’Keefe, and Winslow Homer.

Enjoy your evening at leisure.

Overnight: _Fairmont Southampton Resort (B, L)_

THURSDAY, APRIL 4
BERMUDA’S MARITIME HISTORY

Drive to the Royal Naval Dockyard for a special walking tour led by the Bermuda Trust. Visit the National Museum of Bermuda, housed within a large fortress called The Keep. This fascinating museum is dedicated to Bermuda’s rich maritime history with extensive artifact collections and fine historical exhibitions.

Enjoy a private visit to the Commissioner’s House, the largest restoration project ever
undertaken in Bermuda. After free time to explore the Royal Naval Dockyard, enjoy a private luncheon cruise back to the Fairmont.

This evening, bid farewell to Bermuda during a memorable dinner at the island’s finest restaurant.

Overnight: Fairmont Southampton Resort (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 5
DEPART BERMUDA

Following a morning of leisure, take a shared hotel shuttle to the airport for return flights to the United States. (B)