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BERMUDA GROUP AND INCENTIVE FACT SHEET

LOCATION	650 MILES EAST OF Cape Hatteras, North Carolina; under 2 hours by air from the U.S. East Coast, 2.5 hours from Toronto and a 7-hour flight from London.
SIZE	Twenty-one square miles (21 miles long, maximum width 2 miles). Seen from the air, Bermuda resembles a fishhook. Bermuda consists of 181 named islands, and Hamilton is its capital.
POPULATION	Approximately 60,000. Most Bermudians have been settled in Bermuda for several generations. Ancestral groups include British, West Indian and Portuguese.
LANGUAGE	English
GOVERNMENT	Bermuda is the oldest British Colony and has the second oldest Parliamentary Democracy (after England) in the world.
TAX STATUS	Meetings on Bermuda are U.S. tax –deductible. Bermuda does not have a sales tax and food and beverage are not taxed for group functions.
CLIMATE	Bermuda has a year-round mild semitropical climate with temperatures ranging from 68 to 84 degrees. Relative humidity is 71 to 84 percent. Average annual rainfall is 57.6 inches. Summer water temperatures reach 85 degrees Fahrenheit.
SEASONS	Bermuda has two seasons, spring and summer. Spring is the Island’s value season, with reduced rates from November through March.
CURRENCY	The Bermuda dollar (BD\$) is divided into 100 cents and is pegged, through gold, to the U.S. dollar. The U.S. dollar is accepted by all merchants. Most hotels and stores accept major credit cards.
ECONOMY	Tourism; international company business; insurance; oil; computer software; investment holding and finance; communications; shipping. More than 75 percent of the Fortune 500 companies have set up businesses here, making Bermuda a world-renowned international business center.
DOCUMENTATION	Customs requires proof of citizenship, and a passport is the preferred document. However, a birth certificate with photographic identification is acceptable. Materials shipped from the U.S. to Bermuda must clear customs and can be pre-arranged. Items such as trophies or giveaways brought back to the U.S. will not incur duty fees.
MAIL	First-class postage is \$.60 for U.S. and Canadian postcards and letters.

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ELECTRICITY	110 volts; 60 cycles AC. Adapters necessary for United Kingdom and European appliances.
COMMUNICATION	Cable & Wireless provides international telecommunications services, including direct dial service to over 200 companies, fax, cellular phone service, video conferencing, digital private-leased circuits and international high-speed data services.
ON-ISLAND TRANSPORTATION	Mopeds, bicycles, taxis, buses, ferries and horse-drawn carriages. There are no rental cars in Bermuda. Due to a strong environmental commitment, only one car is permitted per household. Transport for large groups as well as “meet and greet” amenities can be easily arranged.
EVENT VENUES	Hotel beaches, private islands, forts, churches, homes and gardens, and the Aquarium are among some of the unique off-site venues available for group events.
HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS	Bermuda offers a variety of accommodations with in-house meeting space from full-service resorts to more intimate cottage colonies. Special packages are available year-round. Most hotels offer audio-visual equipment, direct-dial telephones, e-mail and data access services. Computers and support staff are obtainable through hotels or on-island services.
STORE HOURS	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Closed on legal holidays. Some stores vary. Visitors from the U.S. may make duty-free purchases of up to \$400 after 48 hours. Most shops will pack breakable purchases for travel or overseas shipping.
RESTAURANTS	Although some restaurants vary, most open at 11 a.m. on weekdays and noon on Saturday. Enjoy a fine selection of restaurants offering formal to casual dining to fit any group’s budget. Dine-around programs are available through many hotels.
DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANIES	More than six destination management companies are on-island to assist in planning. Services range from arranging transport and dining venues to creating special theme events.
ISLAND SERVICES	A variety of on-island businesses are available to facilitate meeting planning. Destination management companies, technology specialists, merchandising outlets and personnel companies are among the services provided by local business.
ACTIVITIES	Bermuda offers a range of group activities of cultural, historic and athletic nature. From scuba diving to golf to local museums, the Island has a variety of options for groups of all sizes. A year-long calendar of events provides read-made group functions, including golf tournaments and sailing regattas.
GETTING TO BERMUDA	From the air, Bermuda is served by American Airlines, Continental, Delta, JetBlue Airways, USAirways, USA 3000, Air Canada and British Airways. Direct service is available from Boston and Chicago, Atlanta, Baltimore, Miami, Newark, New York, Philadelphia, Halifax, Toronto and London.
MORE INFORMATION	For more information about group travel to Bermuda, call the Group and Incentive Sales Department: 800-223-6106, or visit www.bermudatourism.com .