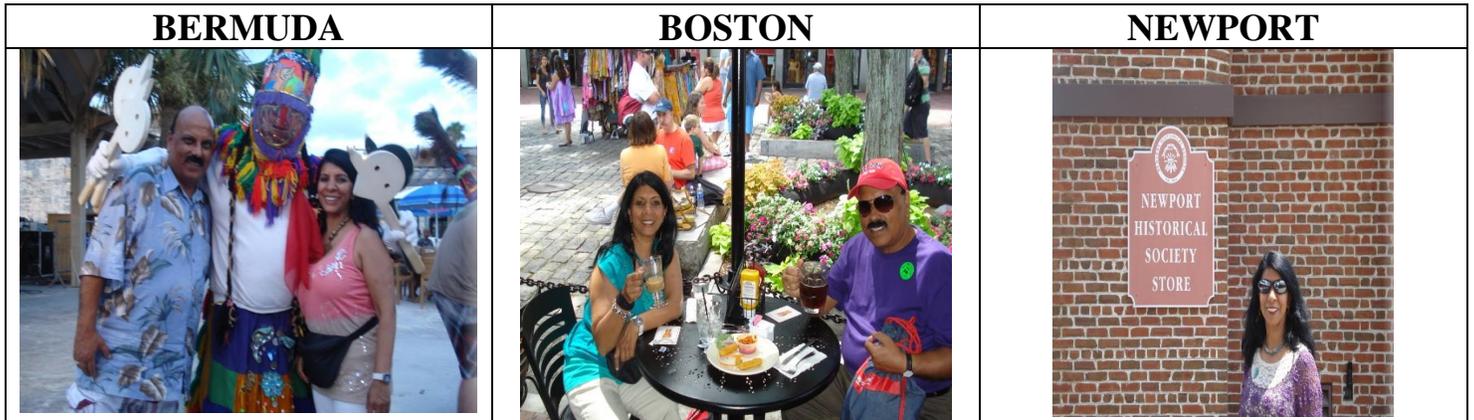
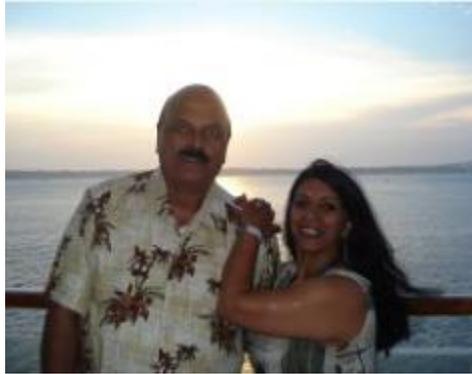
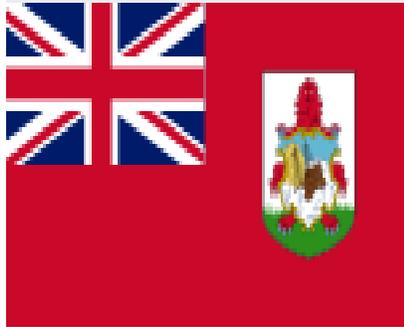
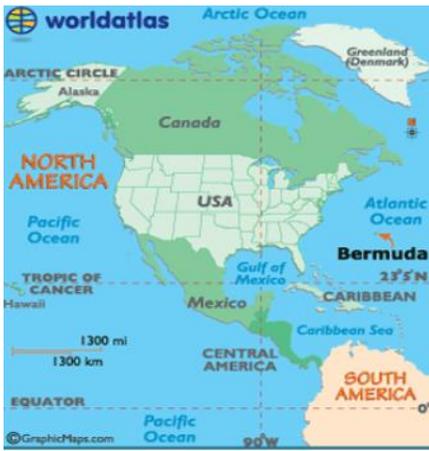


BERMUDA – Cruise
June 28 – July 6, 2012
Royal Caribbean – Enchantment of the Seas
Eight-night Bermuda and Northeast Region of United States
Bermuda + Boston + Newport
Sudha and Rajinder Rajput



**I. Our First Port on this 8-day Cruise:
King's Wharf Dockyard (Bermuda)**

Bermuda – British Overseas Territory



Arriving into Bermuda:

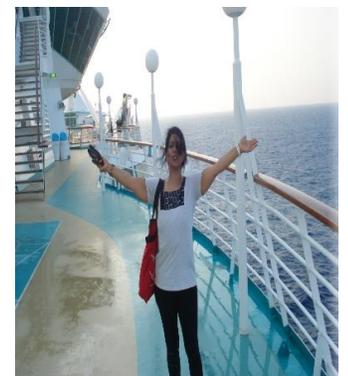
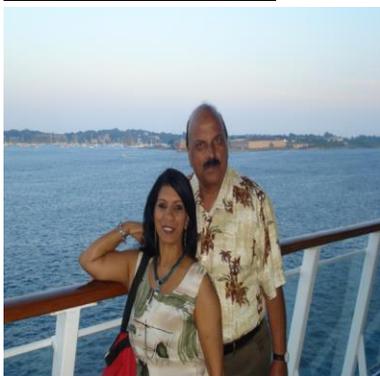
Clock Tower at King Wharf



White Roof-top Houses of Bermuda



Time on the Ship:



Wedding Anniversary:



About Our Trip: To mark our 30th wedding anniversary, we set sail from **Baltimore's Cape Henry Port** on the **Royal Caribbean**, on an 8-night cruise to Bermuda and the Northeast region of the United States, known as New England, covering the ports of **Newport** (Rhode Island) and **Boston** (Massachusetts). Our accommodation was at the large ocean view stateroom. Setting sail from Baltimore on June 28, at 4:00 pm and cruising the entire next day, next we docked at **Kings Wharf (Royal Navy Dockyard)** in Bermuda's Sandy's Parish. With an almost two full days in Bermuda we departed from Bermuda on June 1 evening. After cruising for almost 1.5 days, we docked at Boston, Massachusetts early morning, which gave us one day in Boston. Next day we arrived at Newport, Rhode Island and spent the day touring Newport. For the next two days we were at sea and arrived back at Baltimore Harbor on the morning of July 6.

About the Ship: Our ship, **Enchantment of the Seas** with 11 Decks, 8 Pools/Whirlpools/Bars and Lounges, and a capacity of 2,446, was built in Finland and is owned by Norway. On Deck 11 was the Viking Crown Lounge an architectural wonder with panoramic sea views and live entertainment. We visited the Comedy Club several times. The nightly Salsa dancing was at the Boleros club. On the last day of the cruise, we visited the onboard merchandise store, everything from pashmina-style scarves, watches, handbags for \$10.0. While at sea, was a good time to attend the many workshops showcasing napkin artistry, towel folding and ice sculpting. The most popular place for breakfast was the Windjammer Marketplace and My Fair Lady Restaurant for dining with open seating. The best part of the cruise was that it allowed us to be as active or as relaxed as we wanted to be from sunrise to sunset. The last day of the cruise was all about gathering our purchases, picking up photos, collecting the items purchased onboard, with the day ending with the International Parade of Flags, where the crew members representing 50 different nationalities carried their colorful flags in a parade.

Bermuda Trivia:

- ❖ **Island or Islands:** Bermuda is not one continuous landmass; it is a **collection of 181 different islets and small islands**, often written in plural (the Bermudas).

- ❖ **Caribbean or Atlantic:** In contrast to other islands that fall in the Caribbean region, Bermuda is **on the Atlantic Ocean**.
- ❖ **Bermuda Triangle:** A region of sea in which, according to legend, a number of aircraft and surface vessels have disappeared under mysterious circumstances, however several academics criticize the **legend as spurious and exaggerated**.
- ❖ **Pink Beaches:** The sands of the islands' pink beaches are a combination of **crushed coral**, calcium-carbonate, and the shells of tiny single-celled animals called Foraminifera.
- ❖ **Bermuda's Roads:** Limestone is a soft rock that becomes hard with exposure to air. The white shiny **roads** in Bermuda are made of **polished limestones**.
- ❖ **Bermuda Houses:** Pastel color houses in pink, yellow and blue, with shiny **white limestone roofs**, are a spectacular sight around the island. The white limestone roofs serve an important purpose, there are no fresh water lakes or rivers in Bermuda. By law houses are required to store the rain water in an underground reservoir for drinking purposes. The rainwater is purified before consumption.
- ❖ **Bermuda Forts:** There were over 90 forts in Bermuda since the first settlement in 1612 till the British garrisons were withdrawn in 1957, 16 of those forts are still present on the islands.
- ❖ **Bermuda a corporate tax haven:** Having **no corporate income tax**, Bermuda is a popular tax avoidance location. Over 15,000 international companies are registered in Bermuda and most hold no office space or employees.
- ❖ **Bermuda's Souvenirs:** Items to bring back from Bermuda are the famous rum cakes, Bermuda shorts and perfumes made from local flowers.
- ❖ **Environmental Law:** Bermuda's unspoiled beauty has been protected by the world's first-ever Environmental Laws, dating to 1600s.

Personal observation:

- ❖ Living standards in Bermuda are high in comparison to other islands. In 2019 Bermuda had the **6th highest GDP per capita in the world!** Things are expensive in Bermuda; the locals also do not engage in hair braiding-like activities for the tourists, in order to make money, there is also minimal bargaining.
- ❖ The locals are friendly and seem to know their island well. As people get in the bus, they wish everyone good day. Bus depots are organized and built with shades.
- ❖ Interesting signs around the island: (1) *Men's Talking Urinals*, which speak if alcohol is detected. (2) *Thanks to the Microchip, Cat Was **Instantly Reunited with the Owner After 4 Years!*** (3) Signs at the Shops: *Buy First Take Photo Later*.
- ❖ There are very few U.S. fast food establishments, such as MacDonald's, when U.S. left the islands, it took away McDonalds, only KFC remained.

Towns visited in Bermuda:

Kings Wharf Dockyard:

Once we docked at King’s Wharf, we purchased a 1-day bus pass from the nearby Clocktower Mall, allowing us to reach Hamilton, Bermuda’s capital. We spent the early part of the day at Bermuda Craft market and the surrounding sites and later took a guided boat tour to the **Bermuda Triangle**.



Hamilton: Capital of Bermuda

City of Hamilton is in Pembroke parish, we took the bus to Hamilton, to visit **Fort Hamilton**.



White Roof-top Houses

Financial Offshore Industry



GOOMBAY DANCERS:



St. Georges Island: ****UNESCO World Heritage Site****

St. George was Bermuda's original capital. St. George is home to old forts, homes and the oldest Anglican church in the Western Hemisphere. We visited **St. Catherine Fort**, the setting for Hollywood's 1950 production of Macbeth.

FORT ST. CATHERINE (St. Georges Island)



Details of the Towns visited:

(1) Royal Naval Dockyard (Kings Wharf):

As our cruise ship approached Kings Wharf, we could feel the unique nautical charm of the port's rich maritime heritage. Once a part of the Royal Navy Dockyard, the King's Wharf provided easy access to the shops and attractions of the Dockyard area. Bermuda's most popular visitor attraction is the Royal Naval Dockyard itself, most of the popular attractions, such as the National Museum, were near the Dockyard. One can easily spend the entire time off the cruise ship around the Dockyard without leaving the complex. Going to other Parishes required the use of public transport. The Dockyard offered history, heritage and shopping all around the cruise ship.

Dockyard History: This naval base was built by the British in early 19th century and is now a tourist attraction. After the British lost the American War of Independence (1781), they also lost their ports along America's Atlantic coastline. As an alternative, they began the construction of Royal Naval Dockyard in 1809. Kings Wharf operated for over 100 years serving the British forces in the American War of 1812. After WW2, the British realized that the dockyard was no longer necessary as a defense port, navy operations closed in 1995 and passenger cruise ships began to dock at Wharf.

Dockyard attractions: The dockyard is spread across 24 acres; the island's preserved fortifications reflect 200 years of old maritime history of Bermuda and its connections with the British Royal Navy.

Clock Tower Shopping Mall: These are two 100-foot tall towers with cobblestone floors and 24 stores. **Casemates** is one of the oldest buildings, once the barracks for the Marine Infantry, guarding the dockyard against enemy invasions, later becoming the prison for convicts in Bermuda. Now it is a charming covered shopping arcade, across the pier.

Bermuda Craft Market: This is located in the Old Cooperage near Dockyard Terrace. Here one can buy jewelry, bags and banana dolls.

Dockyard Train: The best way to move around the Dockyard is by the mini train that moves on the road with a 40-passenger capacity.

Bermuda Triangle Glass Bottom Boat: This was a guided tour in a glass bottom boat, to tour the mysterious Bermuda Triangle. As we sailed, watching the coral & fishes under the boat, the captain provided lively commentary.

(2) City of Hamilton:

About Hamilton:

Hamilton became Bermuda's capital when the capital was relocated from St. George's in 1815, now the city is the heart of Bermuda's political and economic activities. The city is named after Sir Henry Hamilton, governor (1786 – 1793). Government buildings include the parliament building, the Government House, the former Admiralty House of the Royal Navy and the British Army garrison headquarters. In 2017, Hamilton was named the city with the highest cost of living index in the world. This colonial town is also Bermuda's international and local business center.

Sites of Hamilton: In 1911 the **Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity** (Church of England), was consecrated here, later St. Theresa, a Catholic cathedral was constructed. The City of Hamilton has maintained a building height and view limit, according to which no buildings may obscure the Cathedral. **Fort Hamilton:** An easy bus commute from the King's Wharf brought us to the Fort, the entry to the Fort was free. The fort as a garrison was built by the British in 1870, by order of the Duke of Wellington, originally intended to protect Hamilton Harbor from an American invasion. However, the fort never came to be used in any battle. The trenches have now been transformed into a lush garden; however, the underground passages and dungeons can still be visited.

(3) St. Georges Island: **UNESCO World Heritage Site**

About St. George Island:

St. George was Bermuda's original capital and is now full of 'Old-World' charm. The iconic statue of **Sr. George Sommer** is a reminder of the first colonist to settle the town. St. George is home to old forts, homes, and the oldest Anglican church in the Western Hemisphere.

Sites of St. George Island: **St. Catherine Fort** is located in the middle of St. George island, with St. Catherine Beach and Achilles Bay on each side. In 1609, Sir George Sommer's ship, **Sea Ventures** was wrecked on a reef near this area. The crew came ashore near today's St. Catherine fort, they started the first settlement here. In 1612, Bermuda's first governor, arrived in Bermuda from England and built a wooden fort to defend Bermuda from the Spanish attacks. Today this stone fort houses a museum and is one of Bermuda's most impressive structures. Replicas of the British Crown Jewels are on display in the museum. St. Catherine Fort's main terrace overlooking the reefs below was the **setting for Hollywood's 1950 production of *Macbeth***.

About Bermuda, the Country:

Area/Location/Population: **Area:** Often written as Bermudas, the territory is a group 181 islands, with a total of 20.6 square miles. Some of the islands are as tiny as a bird's nest, only 20 of the islands are inhabited. **Location:** Bermuda is located in the **Atlantic Ocean**, 700 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and about 1,000 miles northeast of Cuba, the islands are on the western edge of the **Sargasso Sea**. **Population:** Bermuda, with 72,000 people is most populous of the British territories.

Other: The islands are named after Spanish sailor Juan de Bermúdez, who discovered the islands in 1505. Bermudian English as well as Portuguese is spoken by the natives. West Indian musicians introduced **calypso** music to the islands, most locals embrace **reggae** music. The island's **Gombey dancers** are famous around the world. In 1970 Bermuda switched from Bermudian pound to Bermudian \$, pegged with the US\$. Bermuda is an offshore financial center, gaining from its minimal standards of business regulation and absence of income tax, with 85% of GDP comes from offshore insurance and tourism. Things are expensive in Bermuda as the country is heavily dependent on imports. United States is Bermuda's largest trading partner. Bermuda is divided into nine parishes of which Pembroke, St. George's and Sandy's house the King's Wharf, Hamilton, and St. Georges Island.

Foreign Relations: As a British Overseas Territory, Bermuda does not have a seat in the U.N., it is represented by Britain in matters of foreign affairs. Bermuda's proximity to the U.S. had made it attractive as the site for summit conferences between British prime ministers and U.S. presidents. **Relations with Great Britain:** Bermudians served in the British armed forces during both World Wars. In 1995, the people held an independence referendum, whether Bermuda should become an independent sovereign state or remain a British Dependent Territory, 73.6% voted against independence, therefore Bermuda remains a British territory.

Bermuda's governor is appointed by the Queen, defense and foreign affairs are the responsibility of the U.K. **Relations with United States:** U.S. has base rights in Bermuda. United States maintains the largest diplomatic mission in Bermuda, comprising both the United States Consulate and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Services.

History of Bermuda:

Settlement by the English: In 1612, the English began the settlement of the archipelago. **St. George's Town** was settled and was designated as the **colony's first capital**. **Later 17th century:** **Somers Isles Company** tasked Bermudians to farm in order to generate income from the land, eventually the company was dissolved. **Bermuda and the American War of Independence:** Bermuda's ambivalence towards the American rebellion changed in September 1774, when the Continental Congress resolved to ban trade with Great Britain, The embargo meant the collapse of intercolonial commerce. **19th century:** After the American Revolution, the Royal Navy began improving the harbors on the Bermudas. To guard the dockyard, the British Army built a large Bermuda Garrison, and heavily fortified the archipelago. During the War of 1812 between Britain and the U.S. British attacks on Washington, D.C. and the Chesapeake were launched from Bermuda. **Hamilton Harbor in mid-1920s:** In early 20th century, as modern transport and communication systems developed, Bermuda became a popular destination for American, Canadian and British tourists arriving by sea. **Later Years:** During WW2, the U.S. Army was also using Bermuda's Royal Naval Dockyard, and the military garrison as its bases, American military presence lasted until 1995.

II. Our SECOND PORT on this 8-day Cruise: BOSTON: Capital of the State of Massachusetts Region of New England in the United States, nicknamed The Pilgrim State



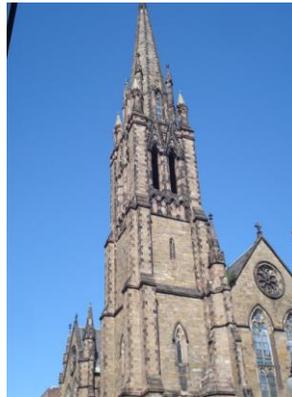
Arriving into Boston Harbor:



Touring Boston:



Boston's Amazing Architecture:





Arriving into Boston Harbor: Our 2nd stop on this 8-day cruise was Boston (the Northeast region of the U.S.), on way back to the U.S. As we were arriving into Boston, from Bermuda, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officials conducted a Mandatory Immigration inspection. Per U.S. agriculture law, we were reminded not to take any food/beverages off the ship into Boston.

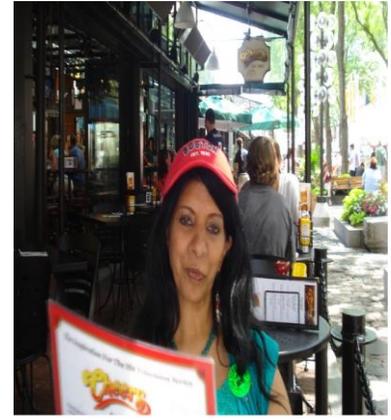
Once off the ship, we got a chance to wander through the cobblestone streets of Boston. Being in Boston a day before July 4 was special, the streets were lined with American Flags and patriotic memorabilia and U.S. Navy personnel everywhere. Boston is known as the **Cradle of Liberty**. One can feel the link of Boston’s rich past with American history and spirit. This is one of the nation’s oldest cities, where some of the most critical events of the American Revolution took place. While visitors travel far and wide to visit the site of **Boston Tea party**, the **USS Constitution** and **Paul Revere’s home** in Boston, there is a lot more around Boston. After the revolution, Boston became one of the worlds’ wealthiest trading ports, a leading manufacturing hub, and a center for the literary arts. We travelled on the route of the famous **Boston marathon**; an annual event held on Patriot’s Day (3rd Monday of April). Walking around we spotted numerous logos of **Boston Red Sox**, the baseball team.

Local traditions and sights of Boston: Boston Harbor is located on Taft Avenue.

- **Battlegrounds:** One can watch the battleground history of **Lexington and Concord** at the museums.
- **Beacon Hill:** Less than a mile from city center is one of the oldest and most picturesque 19th century neighborhoods. This famous Boston Brahmin neighborhood is laid with red brick sidewalks, cobblestoned streets with gas street lamps. **Boston Brahmins** or Boston elite are members of Boston's traditional old upper class, often associated with Harvard University. The Brahmins who did not live in the prestigious Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston lived in Cambridge, near the college.
- **Bunker Hill Monument/obelisk:** This is located in the Boston National Historical Park, and commemorate the **Battle of Bunker Hill**, among the first major battles between British and Patriot forces in the American Revolutionary War in 1775.
- **Cambridge:** This is a city in Middlesex County, in the Greater Boston areas, named in honor of the **University of Cambridge in England**, an important center of the Puritan theology embraced by the town's founders. Cambridge is home to two of the worlds' most prominent universities, **Harvard University** and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT).
- **Cheers:** The setting of the T.V. program of the 80's, there are two Cheers bars in Boston, one can walk from one to the other following the **historic Freedom trail**. This was the inspiration of the setting for the TV series on Beacon Hill, there is also the Replica of the cheers Hollywood set at Faneuil Hall Marketplace.
- **Fenway Park:** Ballgame at **Fenway Park** is one of the oldest baseball fields in the country.
- **Irish Pubs:** Visit to the Irish pub, practically an institution in Boston, people stop at the pub for a taste of the Old Country.
- **Libraries:** **John F. Kennedy and John Adams** libraries are among **national treasures**.
- **Quincy Market:** Trip to Quincy market can be made by catching a shuttle from the pier.
- **Walden Ponds:** This is located in Concorde (20 miles from Boston) where the writer Henry David Thoreau built a cabin, the basis of his literary work 'Walden'.

Lunch at the Famous 'CHEERS' Bar (setting for the TV show 'Cheers'):





III. Our THIRD Port on this 8-day Cruise:

NEWPORT (State of Rhode Island, Capital: Providence)

Arriving into Newport: As Newport is a **tender port**, our cruise ship was anchored offshore which required using tenders to transport the guests to the shore. The port of Newport also prohibits boats from traveling at speeds over 5 knots while in the harbor, that meant a slow process of covering the distance from the ship's anchorage location to the shore, each tender took 20 minutes to transport guests from the ship to shore.

Time in Newport: July 4th was a beautiful day to enjoy time in Newport, there was patriotic theme all around the town. Returning back to the ship at night, the town's fireworks celebrations could be seen from the ship's dining room.





About Newport: Newport is a city on Aquidneck Island in Newport County, 30 miles south of Providence, the capital of the state of Rhode Island. The area is famous for rich mansions and unique architecture and during Presidents Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy's time, it was known as the '**Summer White House**'. Newport is also home of Naval Station housing the **U.S. Naval War College**.

History of Newport: Since the first English settlers arrived in 1639, Newport served as a safe haven for all religious groups. They built a thriving colonial seaport where goods and ideas were exchanged. Even in the early days, Newport embodied American values and helped pave the way to independence. A stroll along **Historic Hill** and the landmarks such as the **Brick Market** and the **Quaker Meeting House** are popular tourist stops, additionally tour of the opulent Newport mansions is a worthwhile trip. Sailing along the coastline of Newport's rocky shores is also great fun. During the colonial period, Newport was the center of the slave trade in New England. Newport was active in the '**triangle trade**' where slave-produced sugar and molasses from the Caribbean were carried to Rhode Island and distilled into rum, which was then carried to West Africa and exchanged for captives. In 1764 Rhode Island had 30 rum distilleries. Many of the great fortunes made during this period were made in the slave trade.

History of the Mansions: Many of these properties are protected by The Preservation Society of Newport and are open to the public. From the homes of a colonial merchant and leading China traders of the Victorian era, to the great Italian and French Renaissance palaces of the Gilded Age, these houses span over 250 years of American architectural and social history.

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