

# BERMUDA AND THE WEST-INDIES

## *Ports of Call*



CANADIAN NATIONAL (WEST - INDIES) STEAMSHIPS



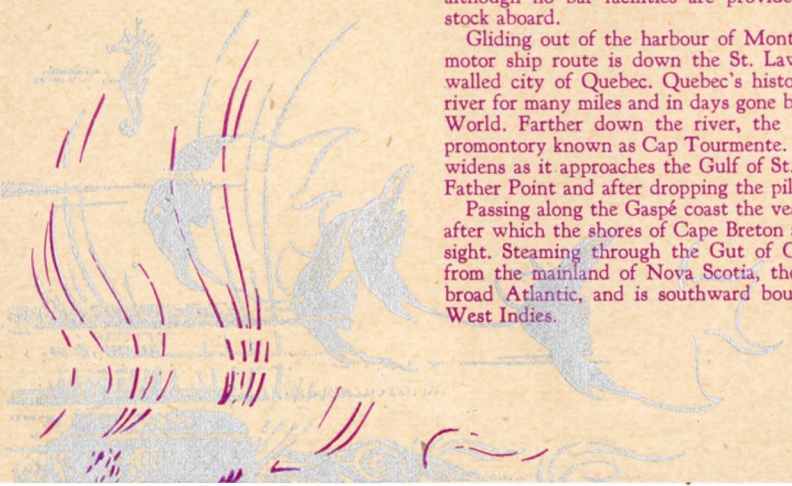
# To our Passengers

In addition to the "Lady" Liners, (see opposite page) the Canadian National Steamships operates three motor vessels, the "Canadian Challenger", "Canadian Cruiser" and the "Canadian Constructor". During the period when the St. Lawrence River is open for navigation they begin their southward journeys and end their northward at Montreal, whereas the two "Lady" Liners start southward from Halifax and complete their northward runs at Saint John. In winter the motor vessels start from Halifax and return there or to Saint John.

These motor vessels follow no fixed schedule, being governed entirely by cargo conditions as to times of sailing and ports of call. The duration of the voyage may last from four to six weeks. There is accommodation on each of the three ships for twelve passengers in five double and two single rooms, all outside. The cabins are equipped with hot and cold fresh water showers, basins and toilets. Public rooms consist of a dining saloon and lounge and although no bar facilities are provided, passengers may bring their own stock aboard.

Gliding out of the harbour of Montreal, the largest city in Canada, the motor ship route is down the St. Lawrence, past Trois-Rivières and the walled city of Quebec. Quebec's historic citadel commands a view of the river for many miles and in days gone by it was the key fortress of the New World. Farther down the river, the north shore rises over 1,800 feet, a promontory known as Cap Tourmente. Farther eastward, the river gradually widens as it approaches the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The ship slows down at Father Point and after dropping the pilot, heads towards the beckoning sea.

Passing along the Gaspé coast the vessel enters the open area of the Gulf, after which the shores of Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island loom into sight. Steaming through the Gut of Canso, which separates Cape Breton from the mainland of Nova Scotia, the ship approaches the waters of the broad Atlantic, and is southward bound for the scenic splendours of the West Indies.



The islands of the West Indies are worlds in miniature and each of these "Gems of the Caribbean" has its own distinguishing characteristics, for nature was lavish when creating this wonderland of the tropics. Bermuda, the West Indies and British Guiana are year-round vacation centres and play host to many thousands annually. Each port of call of the "Lady" liners offers interesting and delightful contrasts. The southern latitude of the islands is tempered by the cooling "Trade Winds" which blow across the Caribbean to ensure a pleasing climate.

When the Canadian National Steamships fleet was launched in the 1920's it was decided to name the ships after the wives of five British Admirals whose careers had been intimately associated with the West Indies, and a life sized portrait of each of these hardy seamen was hung in the liner bearing his consort's name.

Veterans of nearly five years of war service, the "Lady" Rodney and the "Lady" Nelson have undergone a complete rehabilitation and are now back in the Canadian National Steamships West Indies service. These popular "Lady" liners were especially built for tropical travel and are among the largest steamers engaged in year 'round service between Canada, the United States and the West Indies. The spacious outside staterooms, comfortable deck space for promenade and deck sports are pleasing features on these ships. The liners have an efficient staff of stewards and stewardesses, and appetizing meals are prepared by the ships' chefs.

On "Round Voyages" aboard the "Lady" liners there is usually sufficient time allowed at the larger islands for bathing and sightseeing. Time at the Leeward and Windward Islands is governed by freight and other local conditions; limited time is allowed for visits ashore in daylight hours on either the south or northbound voyage.





# Bermuda

First port of call on a southbound Caribbean voyage is Bermuda, a group of some 365 islands situated 600 miles east of the North American Continent.

These islands constantly delight visitors. The luxurious green foliage is interspaced with the flash of gleaming white roofs, pink-tinted walls, the flaming red of the Poinciana trees and other tropical and temperate zone vegetation.

The houses which dot the islands, particularly in the two main towns of Hamilton and St. George, are usually made from blocks hewn out of the coral by which the islands are formed. The same material is used to make excellent dustless roads that are a particular joy to cyclists.

Nearly every type of recreation is available to visitors, whether it is relaxing on the pink and white sands on the beaches, swimming, cycling along winding roads through cedar groves or between hedges of red and white oleanders, or playing golf at one of the famous clubs which boast true "Bermuda grass".

Pre-war visitors to Bermuda will notice a difference. Gone will be the quaint railway linking the various parishes. In its place they will find small British automobiles travelling over the coral roads. The autos, banned on the islands before the war, made their appearance during wartime and were allowed to remain. However, the favorite means of transportation is still the bicycle and the horse and carriage.

There is always some major sporting event taking place. Ocean yacht races in June; international tennis and golf in March and April; international one-design yacht races in April . . . and sailing, fishing and golf tournaments throughout the year.

Bermuda's special charm has remained serene in a world of violent change. Its availability, physical beauty and the range of its activities make it one of the favorite vacation spots of the Western Hemisphere.



# St. Kitts

The next port of call on the Caribbean voyage is St. Kitts, one of the most northerly of the Leeward Islands. This tiny island is separated from its neighbor, Nevis, by a narrow but turbulent gap called The Narrows. St. Kitts and Nevis are often referred to as "the twin islands" because of their close proximity to each other.

Capital of St. Kitts is Basseterre, and it provides many beautiful drives and places of interest. Among the latter are Government House, the rebuilt Cathedral, the War Memorial and the Town Square with its memorial clock and stately palm. Not to be missed is the island's chief point of interest . . . Brimstone Hill. Here stands an old fortress built by slave labor on the top of a huge limestone hill. Because of this fortress, St. Kitts was known, as far back as 1690, as the "Gibraltar of the West Indies".

The island of Nevis is of special interest to Americans, because it was the birthplace of Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury in George Washington's government.

Nevis has other historical interests also. It was in the little Fig Tree Church that Horatio Lord Nelson married the Widow Nisbet in 1787. In those days Nevis was considered the most fashionable of the West Indies, with the centre of gaiety being the Bath House which boasted mineral springs and thermal waters.





# Antigua

Seat of government for the six Leeward Islands is Antigua, the third port of call on the southbound voyage. The visitor to this island colony is offered a wide range of attractions, including motor trips over fine roads to historic points, excellent swimming facilities, deep sea fishing and other forms of outdoor activity.

The physical features of Antigua are diverse. In the south and south-west it is volcanic and mountainous; in the north and north-east it is of coral formation, while the central part is flat and of clay formation. The shores are lined with coral reefs and the island has many natural harbours.

The chief point of interest is English Harbour with its well-preserved and historical dockyard which still contains relics from the time when it was used by Lord Nelson's fleet. English Harbour, or as it is also called "Nelson's Dockyard", saw such immortals of British naval history as Rodney, Nelson, Drake, Collingwood, Hood and Jervis anchor their ships in its well-protected waters.

Antigua has an average annual rainfall of only 46 inches, but the soil is retentive and crops thrive in its climate, which has a temperature range of about 68 to 82 degrees.

Named after a church in Seville by Columbus when he discovered the island in 1493, Antigua was not colonized until 1632 when a British party landed from St. Kitts.

St. John's, the capital, has a number of attractions for visitors. Situated on sloping ground at the head of a spacious harbour, the town was defended by Goat Hill Fort on the south; on the north by Fort James, while Rat Island, connected by an isthmus, was also fortified.

Sports available to visitors to Antigua include golf, tennis and lawn bowling.



# Montserrat

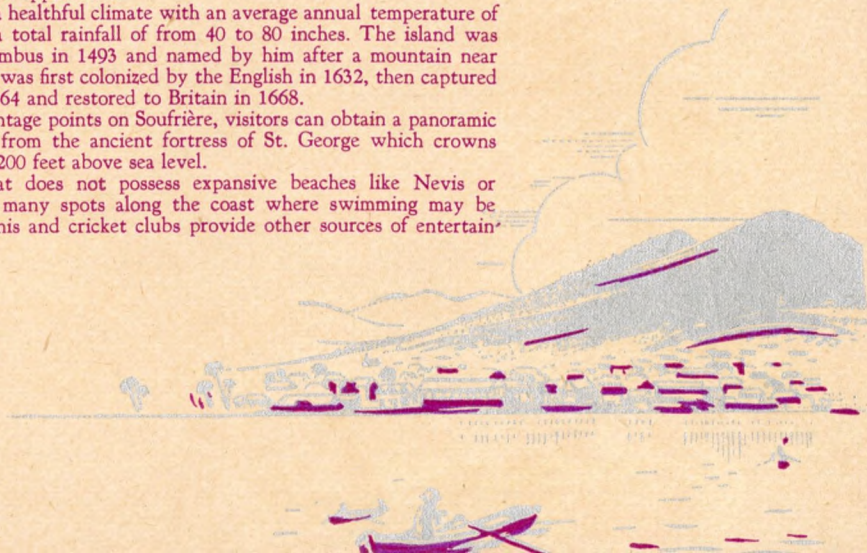
"The Emerald Island of the Antilles" . . . that's Montserrat, the next port of call, 27 miles southwest of Antigua.

The island, which has become a by-word in many nations because of its bottled lime juice, is of a rugged nature, possessing picturesque mountains, the highest being the Soufrière which has an elevation of 3,002 feet. This mountain is awe-inspiring. From its sides bubble several boiling streams; from its slopes magnificent views can be obtained. A natural forest clothes the summits of the two main mountain ranges and streams are plentiful. The slopes of the mountains are cultivated to a height of 1,500 feet and give the island a fertile and prosperous appearance.

Montserrat has a healthful climate with an average annual temperature of 78 degrees. It has a total rainfall of from 40 to 80 inches. The island was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and named by him after a mountain near Barcelona, Spain. It was first colonized by the English in 1632, then captured by the French in 1664 and restored to Britain in 1668.

In addition to vantage points on Soufrière, visitors can obtain a panoramic view of the island from the ancient fortress of St. George which crowns St. George's Hill, 1,200 feet above sea level.

While Montserrat does not possess expansive beaches like Nevis or Antigua, there are many spots along the coast where swimming may be enjoyed. Social, tennis and cricket clubs provide other sources of entertainment for tourists.





# Dominica

Dominica, first of the Windward Islands on the voyage south, is one of the most mountainous and fertile of the entire West Indian group.

Approaching the capital of Roseau, visitors are reminded of the more rugged areas of the North American Continent. And it is only on closer inspection that the luxurious tropical vegetation can be seen in the valleys which intersect the towering ranges of mountains.

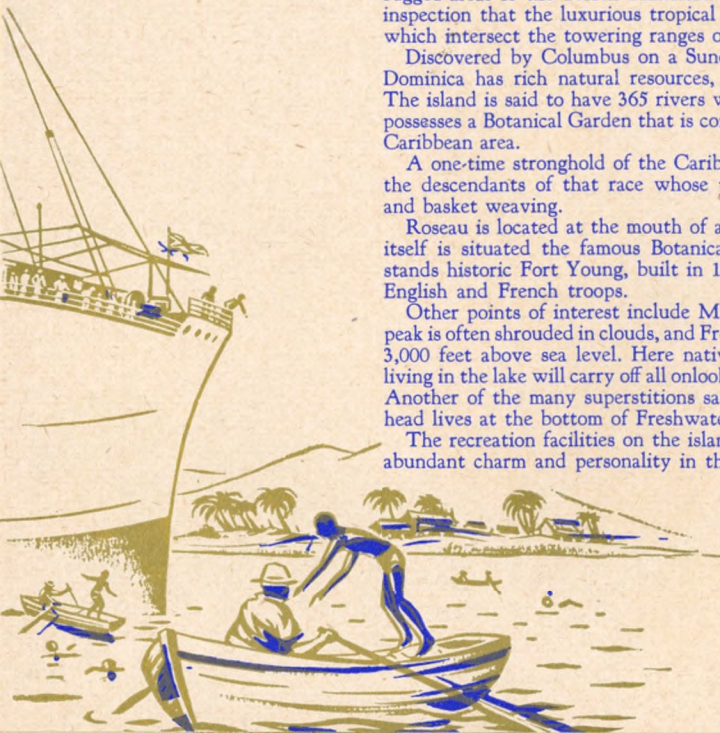
Discovered by Columbus on a Sunday and named in honor of that day, Dominica has rich natural resources, productive soil and valuable forests. The island is said to have 365 rivers within its area of 304 square miles and possesses a Botanical Garden that is considered to have no equal in the entire Caribbean area.

A one-time stronghold of the Carib Indians, it still harbors a remnant of the descendants of that race whose principal occupations now are fishing and basket weaving.

Roseau is located at the mouth of a river of the same name. In the town itself is situated the famous Botanical Gardens. Not far from the capital stands historic Fort Young, built in 1775 and the scene of battles between English and French troops.

Other points of interest include Morne Diablotin whose 5,000 foot high peak is often shrouded in clouds, and Freshwater Lake nestling atop a mountain 3,000 feet above sea level. Here native superstition has it that a mermaid living in the lake will carry off all onlookers who fail to say the correct prayers. Another of the many superstitions says a huge serpent with a jewel in its head lives at the bottom of Freshwater Lake.

The recreation facilities on the island are varied and the tourist will find abundant charm and personality in the colourful native folk.





# St. Lucia

The next link in the chain of islands dotting the Caribbean is St. Lucia, the scene of repeated battles between English and French troops in the 17th and 18th centuries.

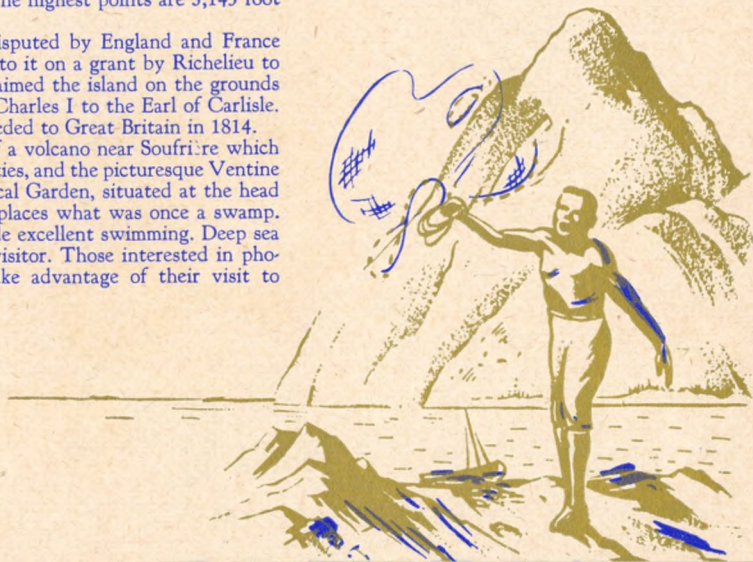
Capital and chief town of this mountainous island is Castries, once strongly fortified and garrisoned but now an important shipping and coaling station. The town is spread around a landlocked harbour in which the water is deep enough for ocean-going vessels to dock alongside the piers.

Fifteen miles from Castries is the small town of Soufrière, whose placid beauty has attracted many tourists. Not far to the south of this town are the twin conical peaks, the Greater and Lesser Pitons, rising a sheer 2,500 feet out of the sea. They are unequalled for grandeur throughout the West Indies. St. Lucia generally is mountainous. The highest points are 3,145 foot Morne Ginie and 3,012 foot Piton Canaries.

Possession of St. Lucia was constantly disputed by England and France in the 18th century. France based her claim to it on a grant by Richelieu to the French West India Company; Britain claimed the island on the grounds of a grant of the Caribbee Islands made by Charles I to the Earl of Carlisle. After many transfers, St. Lucia was finally ceded to Great Britain in 1814.

Of interest to the tourist are the crater of a volcano near Soufrière which contains thermal waters with curative properties, and the picturesque Ventine Waterfalls. Another attraction is the Botanical Garden, situated at the head of the harbour of Castries and which now replaces what was once a swamp.

The long stretches of coral beaches provide excellent swimming. Deep sea fishing and tennis are also available to the visitor. Those interested in photography or painting should not fail to take advantage of their visit to St. Lucia.



# Barbados

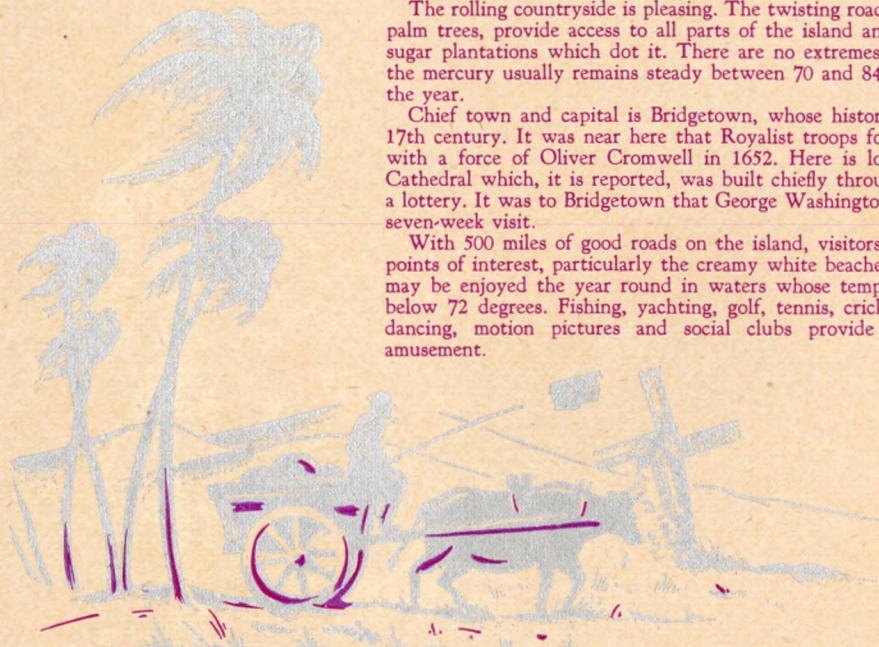
What Barbados—the seventh port of call on the southbound voyage—lacks in the rugged beauty of the other West Indian islands, it makes up for in climate.

This 166-square mile island, the most easterly of the West Indian group, is said to possess the most healthful climate for northerners in the Caribbean area. Of coral formation, Barbados is generally flat, although it rises in a series of terraces to a height of 1,500 feet above sea level.

The rolling countryside is pleasing. The twisting roads, lined with stately palm trees, provide access to all parts of the island and to the prosperous sugar plantations which dot it. There are no extremes of temperature and the mercury usually remains steady between 70 and 84 degrees throughout the year.

Chief town and capital is Bridgetown, whose history dates back to the 17th century. It was near here that Royalist troops fought a losing battle with a force of Oliver Cromwell in 1652. Here is located St. Michael's Cathedral which, it is reported, was built chiefly through money raised by a lottery. It was to Bridgetown that George Washington came in 1751 for a seven-week visit.

With 500 miles of good roads on the island, visitors can easily reach all points of interest, particularly the creamy white beaches where sea bathing may be enjoyed the year round in waters whose temperature never drops below 72 degrees. Fishing, yachting, golf, tennis, cricket, football, bridge, dancing, motion pictures and social clubs provide a wide variety of amusement.





# St. Vincent

St. Vincent, situated 100 miles west of Barbados, is a delight to all visitors who prefer mountainous areas. Massive, wooded peaks run the length and breadth of the island and are interspaced by fertile tropical valleys.

Highest peak on the island is Soufrière, of volcanic origin and towering 4,084 feet in the sky. It exploded in flame and lava in 1812 and again in 1902, killing 2,000 persons in the latter eruption. Other mountains are Richmond Peak and Grand Bonhomme.

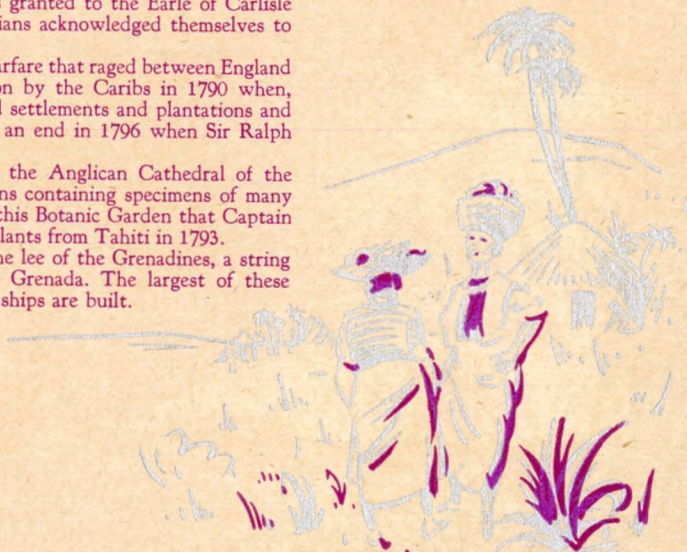
The capital of St. Vincent is Kingstown, located on the shoreline and at the foot of Mount Andrew which forms a magnificent backdrop to the town.

Discovered by Columbus in 1498, the island was left to the warlike Carib Indians for another 125 years when it was granted to the Earle of Carlisle by King Charles I. In 1660 the Carib Indians acknowledged themselves to be British subjects.

While St. Vincent escaped some of the warfare that raged between England and France, it did suffer a bloody rebellion by the Caribs in 1790 when, aided by the French, the Indians destroyed settlements and plantations and killed the inhabitants. The revolt came to an end in 1796 when Sir Ralph Abercromby arrived with his troops.

Points of interest include St. George's, the Anglican Cathedral of the Windward Islands, and the Botanic Gardens containing specimens of many kinds of tropic plants and trees. It was to this Botanic Garden that Captain Bligh, of Bounty fame, brought breadfruit plants from Tahiti in 1793.

From St. Vincent the route follows in the lee of the Grenadines, a string of islands stretching from St. Vincent to Grenada. The largest of these islands is Bequia, where many fine wooden ships are built.



# Grenada

There is a never-ending thrill for passengers as the steamship approaches the picturesque and almost circular harbour of St. George's, capital of Grenada.

This town, seat of the government of the Windward Islands, sprawls strikingly over the ridge of a promontory and around the harbour. St. George's is not unlike Quebec City in that it practically consists of two towns. Located on the waterfront, or "lower" town level, are the warehouses, stores, market places and docks. The "upper town" section comprises the residential area of pleasant homes and large gardens of bouganvillea, hibiscus and jasmine. It is here that Government House is located.

The island of Grenada is 21 miles long and 12 miles wide—and every foot of it is filled with beautiful scenery. Breaking the placid surface of the Caribbean between Grenada and St. Vincent are the Grenadines, a series of islands of which the largest is a mere 13 square miles.

Grenada boasts a pleasant climate. The hottest month is made comfortable by the sea breezes sweeping the island. Like most of the West Indies, the interior of Grenada is mountainous and this area provides a cool retreat.

St. George's possesses several points of interest for the visitor. One of these is the historic fortress of St. George which was hewn out of rock by the French in 1706 on a promontory at the entrance to the harbour. It is now used as a police barracks. Excellent roads make motoring possible to other interesting spots in Grenada, including Grand Etang, a small lake in an extinct volcanic crater 1,800 feet above sea level.

The dazzling white sand beaches providing excellent bathing facilities should not be missed. Deep sea and inland fishing are available for anglers. Other sports include tennis, golf, cricket and horse racing.





# Trinidad

Waving palms, green-clad mountains and white beaches greet the eye of visitors as their ship nears the tropical paradise of Trinidad . . . called "Iere" or "Land of the Humming Bird" by the aboriginal Indians.

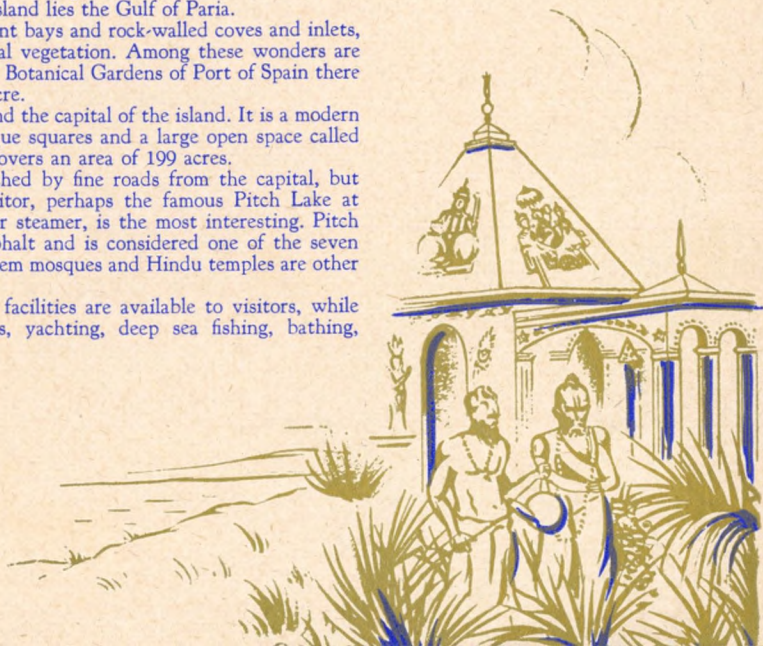
Trinidad is separated from South America at the north end by the narrow Bocas del Dragon (Dragon's mouths) through which the vessels pass to and from Port of Spain. The south end of the Island is separated from South America by a channel known as the Serpent's Mouth. In between the northern and southern tips of the island lies the Gulf of Paria.

Mountainous and with magnificent bays and rock-walled coves and inlets, Trinidad possesses luxuriant tropical vegetation. Among these wonders are fern trees as tall as fifty feet. In the Botanical Gardens of Port of Spain there is a banyan tree covering half an acre.

Port of Spain is the port of call and the capital of the island. It is a modern city and possesses several picturesque squares and a large open space called "Queen's Park Savannah", which covers an area of 199 acres.

Many attractions are easily reached by fine roads from the capital, but of all that Trinidad offers the visitor, perhaps the famous Pitch Lake at La Brea, reached by motor, train or steamer, is the most interesting. Pitch Lake is a vast deposit of crude asphalt and is considered one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Moslem mosques and Hindu temples are other fascinating attractions.

Fine golf, tennis and badminton facilities are available to visitors, while other amusements include theatres, yachting, deep sea fishing, bathing, night clubs and social clubs.



# British Guiana

Situated only 500 miles from the equator, Georgetown, British Guiana, is the final port of call on a southbound Caribbean cruise and offers a host of attractions for visitors.

British Guiana is the only British possession on the mainland of South America and boasts an ideal climate; one where the temperature rarely goes above 85 degrees or lower than 73.

British Guiana is rich in natural resources. Along the fertile coastline are to be found prosperous plantations, ranches and settlements, while the interior is covered with valuable hardwoods and produces extensive supplies of gold, diamonds and bauxite, the latter being used in the manufacture of aluminum.

One of British Guiana's most famous tourist attractions is magnificent Kaieteur Falls located in the hinterland of the country. This 800 foot waterfall—five times higher than Niagara, twice as high as the Great Pyramid—formerly was almost inaccessible. However, it is now possible to hire an airplane and make the round trip in a single day.

Georgetown, the capital, has many interesting features. Described as a "Garden City", it is four feet below sea level and a broad sea wall extends many miles along the coast to protect the city from inundation. The wall, however, is more than just practical. It provides a promenade where citizens gather to enjoy the sea breezes at twilight and where a military band plays concerts on Saturday afternoons.

Another "must" for visitors is a trip to the Botanic Gardens in Georgetown. They cover an area of 184 acres and are acknowledged to be one of the three finest tropical gardens in the world. A number of manatees, commonly known as seacows and which look like a hippopotamus with a beaver's tail, are to be seen in these fascinating Gardens.

The people of British Guiana love their sports and visitors will find they have a wide choice of amusements. Chief among these are golf, football, tennis, cricket, field hockey, horseback riding, sculling, badminton, horse racing, swimming, hunting and fishing. Theatres, shopping in the many intriguing stores and dancing at the hotels offer other diversions.





# Treaty Line

The original "Treaty Line" agreement between Canada and the British West Indies stated that Canada would provide the ships for passenger and freight service and the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships Limited was created for this purpose. As in the past the company is continuing to provide "Friendly and Dependable" service to these islands of the Caribbean and to the passengers who use its ships.

The famous Canadian National "Lady" liners are a familiar sight in the West Indies and although the war reduced them to two ships, courteous and attentive service still adds greatly to the pleasure of your voyage.

With the addition of three new, cargo-carrying motor vessels, the "Canadian Constructor", "Canadian Challenger" and the "Canadian Cruiser", a speedy and "personalized" service is provided for those who desire satisfactory transportation of freight. These new ships are essentially cargo-carrying vessels and are equipped with refrigeration facilities but they also have accommodation for twelve passengers in five double and two single rooms, all outside. Each cabin is complete with hot and cold fresh water showers and toilet.

In addition to the "Lady" liners and the Motor Vessels, the Canadian National Steamships operates a fleet of oil-burning cargo steamers between Canada, the Bahamas and Jamaica. "Dependability, Speed and Safety" are the essential factors governing the conduct of all the ships in the Company's fleet.

The Canadian National Steamships is closely allied with the Canadian National Railways, which not only maintains the largest railway system in North America but is also the owner of Trans-Canada Air Lines, the premier air line of the Dominion.

For further information, literature or reservations apply to any Canadian National Railways office, to your authorized Travel Agent, or direct to the Head Office, Canadian National Steamships, 384 St. James Street West, Montreal, Canada.





SAINT JOHN

BOSTON

HALIFAX

BERMUDA

ST. KITTS

ANTIGUA

MONTserrat

DOMINICA

ST. LUCIA

BARBADOS

ST. VINCENT

GRENADA

TRINIDAD

BRITISH GUIANA

