

18 (18)

Printed under Government Authority.



DOMINICA.

PRECIS OF INFORMATION

FOR THE USE OF

VISITORS TO THE ISLAND.



ISSUED BY

THE TOURISTS'

INFORMATION BUREAU.

(C. G. PHILLIP, PROPRIETOR.)

Printed at the "BULLETIN OFFICE," Roseau, Dominica.

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NOTICE.

The Tourists' Information Bureau has been established by Mr. Phillip solely for the benefit of visitors to the Island ; and this little précis of information is offered in the hope that it may assist in making their stay agreeable. Any services required of Mr. Phillip and his assistants will be rendered quite gratuitously. Information not found herein will be procured on request.

DOMINICA was discovered by Christopher Columbus on Sunday the 3rd of November, 1493, on his second voyage from Spain. Hence the name he gave it—Sunday Island. It is situated in Latitude 15'30° north, and Longitude 61'30° west; is some 30 miles in length and 16 miles in breadth at its widest point, and has an area of 291 square miles [120,000 acres], the greater portion of which is covered by virgin forest. The island is of volcanic origin, and contains, besides the famed BOILING LAKE, many solfataras and thermal springs. Its highest peak, *Morne Diablotin*, rises from the central mountain range, towards the northern end of the island, to a height of 4,747 feet, the highest elevation in the Lesser Antilles. The island is well watered, and the soil exceedingly fertile. The annual rainfall varies from 80 inches on the seaboard to about 300 inches in the uplands of the interior. The temperature varies from 66° by night during the winter months to 92° in the daytime in summer, in and about Roseau, but it is considerably lower in the mountains, where at least one fall of hail has been recorded. January and February are the coolest months. The population at the end of 1925 was 40,075—males 18,183, females 21,892. The revenue is £57,000 a year. Imports in 1925 were of a value of £146,200, and Exports £125,600, and in 1926 the Imports were £164,884 and the Exports £145,871. Lime fruit and lime products, and cacao are the principal products. Copra, ginger and vanilla also are important items of export. Tobacco is grown for local consumption.

LANDING FACILITIES.

There are two jetties at which passengers may land or embark viz: the Bell jetty, at the southern end of Bay Street, and the Customs jetty further to the north. The former is the more convenient for transient visitors. Persons intending to stay over must land at the latter, and have their baggage inspected by a Customs Officer.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, &C.

The Post Office is situated on Bay Street, within a few yards of the Bell jetty. The Customs House is midway along the same street. Barclays (formerly the Colonial) Bank and the offices of The West India & Panama Telegraph Co. and of the Pacific Cable Board (wireless) are near by in Long Lane and Hanover Streets, and the Royal Bank of Canada not far off in Old Street. The Tourists' Information Bureau is on Bay Street, near the Post Office, and the Women's Self Help Institution midway between this and the Customs House. In this section of the town are also situated the principal commercial establishments and steamship agencies.

TOURISTS' INFORMATION BUREAU.

This has been established by Mr. C. G. PHILLIP, the proprietor of the "Variety" Store, for the convenience of visitors from abroad. Here guides may be engaged; motor cars hired, postage stamps, both new and old, purchased, and local and other curios and souvenirs obtained. All services are rendered gratuitously. Collectors are advised to obtain any stamps required through its medium. Toys, Stationery, Fancy Goods, etc., can also be had from the Store adjoining the Bureau.

WOMEN'S SELF-HELP INSTITUTION.

Fancy needlework, baskets and curios of all kinds, old china and jewellery, picture post-cards, honey, cakes and native preserves are on sale. Light refreshments are provided at short notice; breakfast or luncheon to order.

PLACES OF INTEREST.

Fort Young. The erstwhile citadel of Roseau: now used as Police barracks, and headquarters of the local Defence Force. Beyond its historical associations it possesses no present interest.

St. George's Anglican Church is immediately opposite Fort Young. Erected in or about the year 1825, it was reconstructed in 1902, when the present chancel and apse at the southern end were added. In it are two handsome stained glass windows (by Jones & Willis, London). In the churchyard lie two former Incumbents, an Administrator of the Government and several members of the congregation whose public services were of outstanding merit.

Government House, standing in extensive grounds, to the rear of the Church, is the residence of the Officer administering the Government; the approach is by way of a carriage drive through the gateway a few yards further along Queen's Street.

Free Public Library. The Library is housed in a building presented by the late Andrew Carnegie, situated immediately opposite the gate of Government House grounds: it contains some 5500 volumes, and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. On the wall of the Free Library facing Government House is a Bronze Memorial Tablet, erected by private subscription, to the Memory of those from Dominica who gave their lives in the Great War.

Victoria Memorial Museum. This building (within the same enclosure as the Library), erected for the purposes of a Free Library, in memory of the late Queen Victoria, was later converted to the uses of a museum of the fauna, flora and agricultural products of the island, and other objects of local interest. In it is a replica of von Angeli's "jubilee" portrait of Her Majesty, (which hangs in Buckingham Palace,) painted by Davidson,

by special permission of His Majesty King Edward VII; the cost of this was defrayed by public subscription. Here may be inspected a small but choice collection of Carib stone implements, bequeathed by the late Sir Henry Nicholls, Kt., C.M.G., and specimens of the postage stamps of Dominica and of the Colony of the Leeward Islands. Among the photographs displayed is one of the extinct *Diablot* (the capped petrel—*Æstrelata hæsitata*) from which the mountain (its natural habitat) derives its name. According to Symington Grieve, the bird is only represented by about a dozen specimens, most of which are in public and private collections in Europe and the United States. The photograph is from one of the latter. Application for admission should be made to the Custodian at the Free Library.

The Court House stands opposite the Museum. In it are held the sessions of the Legislative Council, and of the superior Courts of Justice. Upstairs is the Registry of Deeds, &c. Over the Judge's bench hang the tattered remnants (protected by muslin covers) of the Colours of the disbanded Royal Regiment of Dominica Militia, and two of the regimental drums. The regiment earned the appellation "Royal" by the gallant part taken by it in the defence of the island from French invasion in 1805. The Colours bear the names *Pointe Michel* and *Morne Daniel*, the places near which the invasion was resisted, in association with the 46th Regiment, whose Colours also carry these honours. Near the village of *Loubiere*, about 2 miles to the south of Roseau, and at *Morne Daniel* about the same distance to the north, are the crumbling remains of masonry redoubts, where the defenders made their historic stand. In the Council Chamber is a silken Union Jack presented by the Women of the Empire, in remembrance of the part taken in the war by men of the Dominica Contingent to the British West Indies Regiment.

Beyond the Court House is the suburb of *Charlotte Ville* or *New Town*, which offers no attractions to visitors. Here is a large green used as a public cricket ground, and for football.

In High Street, which skirts the Court House enclosure, are the Dominica Club, and the Lawn Tennis Club, both private concerns. Visitors bringing introductions to, or making the acquaintance of members of either, may be assured of enjoying the amenities of the clubs.

The Botanical Gardens. Passing out of High Street into Bath Road, and turning to the left, the Botanical Gardens are entered by way of the southern gate. These gardens form the principal attraction to most strangers. They comprise an area of some 52 acres, most of which is devoted to the cultivation of econ-

omic and ornamental plants from all parts of the tropical world. There are extensive lawns for purposes of rest and recreation, and an excellent cricket ground. No stranger should leave the island without visiting these gardens: and those having the necessary time available will find it of advantage to spend several hours in the enjoyment of the ever varying views obtained from different points in and around them, and the study of their botanical features. An official guide book (price 6d.) may be purchased at the Tourists' Information Bureau, the Free Library, or the Curator's Office in the Gardens.

Morne Bruce. A stiff 6 or 8 minutes' climb up "Jack's Walk," at the eastern extremity of the gardens, takes one to the bluff of Morne Bruce, from whence, and along the edge of the cliff, splendid panoramic views are obtained of the gardens beneath, of Roseau, the Bath lime juice factory, the portions of the sea-coast. The view from the further side of the plateau, looking up the Roseau valley, should not be missed: it is one not readily forgotten. Those who do not care to essay the climb may ascend the hill, either on foot or by motor car, by way of the public road, with an easy gradient, starting from near the southern entrance to the Gardens.

Persons returning from either the Gardens or Morne Bruce may do so by way of Granby Street, when the Union Club and Recreation Club are passed (here also Visitors can enjoy the amenities of the Clubs by introduction) and on turning into Virgin Lane, the residences of the Bishop of Roseau and of the R. C. Clergy are passed and also the main entrance to the Cathedral is reached.

The Cathedral of The Assumption. The nave of this fine edifice was commenced early in the 19th century, but brought to completion as late as 1841. The two side aisles were added between 1846 and 1848. The small tower at the northern end was built in 1879, and the one at the southern end in 1916. In 1855 the main tower and spire were added, during the episcopacy of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Monaghan, the first Bishop of the See. On the eastern side is the Chapel of *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*, beneath which is a vault wherein are interred the remains of former Prelates, and several of the Clergy, who have died in the island. The massive Pulpit of mahogany is said to have been presented to the Cathedral by the Emperor Napoleon III. The clock in the tower has recently been installed in commemoration of the present Bishop's Silver Jubilee as a Priest.

Bethseda Chapel (Wesleyan), also in Virgin Lane, adjoins the Cathedral precincts. With it are associated the names of some of

Dominica's worthiest sons: notably that of Charles Augustus Filan, educationalist, and pioneer temperance advocate in the island.

Convent of the Faithful Virgin. This commodious building of comparatively recent date, adjoining the Botanical Gardens, is a branch of the *Institute of the Faithful Virgin*, at Norwood, England. The nuns conduct a school for the secondary education of girls of the upper class, and also a large primary school for children of the lower order.

Bath Estate, on the outskirts of the town, is the most extensive Lime orchard, and largest lime juice factory in the world. Rose's Lime Juice Cordial, and other preparations made from the fruit grown on this estate, are known everywhere.

The Water Falls, about 5 miles from Roseau, are reached by way of the Roseau valley. The road is rough, and somewhat steep for the last mile or more. The journey may best be made by motor car to *Copt Hall*, and thence on foot. Heavy boots should be worn, as much of the further end of the road is damp and sloppy.

Sulphur Springs. These are situated on the *Watton Waven Estate*, across the river from the waterfalls, and are reached either by motor car or on foot. Caution should be observed in moving about among the mud pools and hot springs, where the ground is sometimes treacherous. Application should be made to the proprietor, on the Estate, for permission to roam around.

Fresh Water Lake, 2,200 feet above sea level. About 8 miles distant. Reached in 2 hours on horseback, or 2½ on foot. There are 3 lakes joined by narrow passages: only one is visible from the road. The banks are inclined to be boggy and treacherous. No one should return from this visit without viewing the magnificent panorama of Rosalie and the windward sea-coast from the "divide," a short distance beyond the Lake. A mackintosh and pocket flask will probably be found useful, as showers are frequent and the air keen.

The Boiling Lake. This world-famous natural feature is situated in mid-forest, some 12 miles from Roseau. The journey is arduous, but can be accomplished by a good walker within the hours of daylight. It is more usual, however, to leave Roseau on horseback in the afternoon, sleep at the mountain hamlet of *Laudat*, and complete the journey at leisure next morning, returning to town in the afternoon. The forest track leads to the crest of *Morne Nicholls*, beyond which lie a drop of 600 feet into the crater (the scene of the eruption of 1880) and a somewhat dangerous jaunt to the Lake ¾ mile beyond. An experienced guide is

necessary, and one can be secured at *Laudat*: it is best, however, to engage one before hand. April and May are the best months in which to visit the Lake.

ACCOMMODATION FOR VISITORS.

Carlton House (The Misses Shew.)
 Woodstone House. (Mrs. Gordon.)
 Cherry Lodge. (Mrs. Tavernier.)
 Mrs. Musgrave.

(Terms \$2.40 a day, inclusive.)

Hotel de Paz. (Mr. J. A. Ferreira.)
 (Terms \$2.00 & \$2.50 a day, inclusive.)

BOATMEN'S FARES.

Landing or embarking a passenger 12 c.
 Trunk or other large package 6 c.
 Valise or small package..... 4 c.

PORTERS' CHARGES.

Approximately same as Boatmen's: but according to distance

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	\$ c.
Botanic Gardens.....	48
Canefield	1.20
Sylvania (Imperial Road)	6.00
Layou.....	5.00
Pointe Michel.....	1.50
Copt Hall (For Water Falls or Lake)...	1.20
Wotton Waven (For Sulphur Springs)...	3.00
Morne Bruce.....	1.20
The Rectory.....	60
Detention, per hour (Minimum 48c.)	1.00
Per Hour.....	2.40

N.B.—For the "Willis-Knight" Car 20% more on above rates.

GUIDES.

Strangers are advised to employ guides only through the Bureau. Urchins and others following, or otherwise annoying strangers should be given into charge of the Police.

FISHING.

The rivers abound in fish of several varieties, and fairly good sport can be obtained near Roseau, and elsewhere. The mountain mullet rises to the fly, like trout; but the large green grasshopper is more generally used; and worms are the most effective bait under certain conditions. At the embouchures of the larger streams a pike-like fish is found, which occasionally scales up to 20 lbs. King fish, barracouda, cavally and other sea fish are taken by trolling along the coastline; and gar fishing, in its season, offers exciting sport.

BATHING.

There are no regular bathing places, but deep pools in the Roseau River afford excellent facilities for indulging in this form of recreation. Sea bathing also may be obtained from the beaches at Canefield, Castle Comfort and Scott's Head. The latter, 5 miles from Roseau, is reached by boat, and is a favourite spot for picnic parties. Visitors should beware of the "manchineel" trees, which form an umbrageous shelter here not far from the shore, the leaves of which blister the skin if crushed, and its fruits (attractive to the eye) deadly if eaten.

EXTRACTS FROM "DOMINICA A FERTILE ISLAND."

(with kind permission of MR. F. S. FADELLE, B. SC.)

"The island of Dominica produces every species of fruit peculiar to the West Indies, all of which grow there in great perfection."

"The lemon and lime trees bear also very aromatic scented blossoms; and the fruit of both is in great abundance, large, and of excellent quality. Of those, the latter especially, great quantities are often sent in barrels to England and America."

Dominica offers attractions to the tourist in quest of the picturesque, for the invalid seeking health, for the naturalist in his researches, and for the settler bent upon business. Here exuberant wealth of tropical beauty, in variety and grandeur, is unapproached by that of the other islands: her scenery is a miniature of the finest prospects of the Swiss Oberland; and her uplands are noted for their salubrity.

Dominica is notable as

The second largest of the whole British Lesser Antilles ;
having the highest mountain, Morne Diablotin, 4,747
feet above the sea.

The first landfall of Columbus on his second voyage, and
the most southerly point of that adventure.

The only British island between two foreign territories.

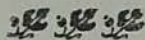
The home of the greatest number of the remaining ab-
original people of the islands, St. Vincent being the
only other West India island with Carib inhabitants.

The sole habitat of the two largest parrots in the world the
great "Sisserou" (*Chrysotis Augusta*) and the slightly
smaller "Jacko" (*Chrysotis Nicholli*).

The sole habitat among the islands of the biggest beetles
the huge "saw beetle" (*dynastes hercules*) over six
inches long, indigenous to South America.

"Board and lodging are as cheap as in any of the islands ;
house rent is low, and servants' wages moderate ; agricultural,
skilled and artisan labour generally are cheap ; fruit and vegeta-
bles are plentiful to a degree unknown in the rest of the Leeward
Islands ; fish is abundant, except on the Windward side ; and but-
cher's meat, though not plentiful, is cheaper than in most of the
other islands. There is some good shooting for the man who does
not mind roughing it ; and the principal streams afford very fair
mullet and other fishing."

"Lake Boeri, another old crater, some 300 feet above the
"Lake." A ride to the "Lake" and a tramp of several hours
under the high woods bring one to this secluded spot. Its shores are
much more accessible than those of the "Lake," which cannot be
thoroughly explored except afloat on it. The water of Lake Boeri
is exceedingly cold, and its level varies considerably."



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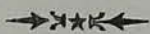
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*Concentrated Lime Juice
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