



CHARLESTOWN

NEVIS

Nevis is a small, beautiful island. Together with St. Kitts the two islands comprise what is known as The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Nevis shares much of the same history and culture which is found throughout many of the islands of the West Indies. The island was first inhabited by Arawak and Carib Indians. Following its discovery by Columbus in 1493 the island soon became one of the first landfalls for ships crossing the Atlantic from Europe.

As European powers all vied for possessions in the Caribbean and the Americas, Nevis often found itself caught up in the struggles. With the expansion of the sugar industry and the importation of West African slaves, little Nevis became an economic powerhouse.

The eventual collapse of the European sugar markets, the emancipation of the slaves and recurring natural disasters such as earthquakes and hurricanes all combined to cripple the island's economy. Over the past few decades Nevis has been able to establish an economic foundation based on tourism.

The capital of Nevis is Charlestown. The small city, together with Nevis as whole, is blessed with colonial charm and a warm and welcoming people. Combined with its inherent beauty these attributes attract visitors from around the world.



HISTORY

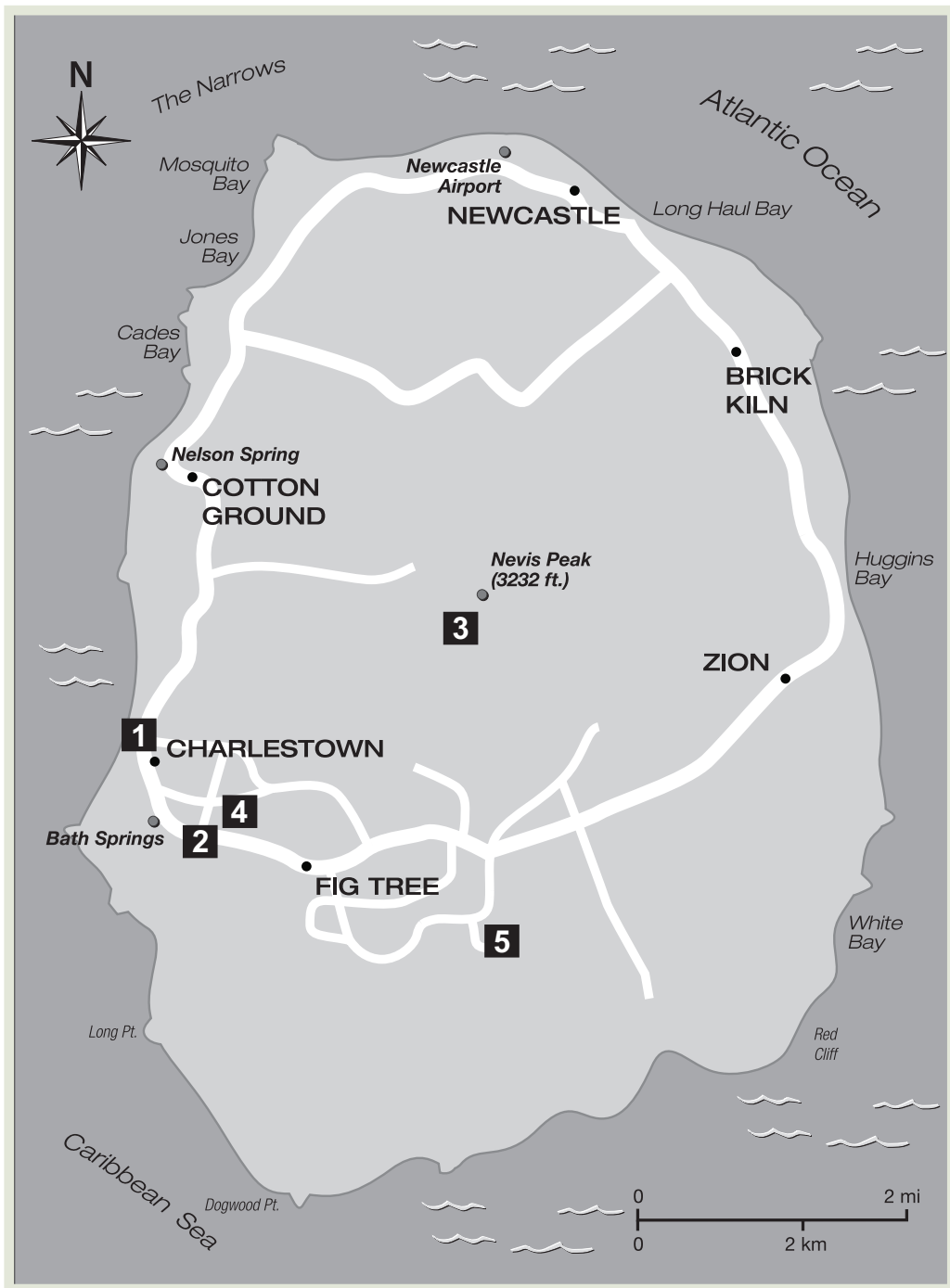
On the little island of Nevis, not far from the Charlestown waterfront stands an old, stone, two-story house. There is nothing about the building to attract initial attention. There is certainly nothing which would hint of the fact that on January 11, 1755 an illegitimate child was born in this house. The child was a British subject who would one day help shape the course of world events.

If ever a child had reason, an excuse to fail, this innocent child from Charlestown, Nevis certainly did. The illicit result of an adulterous mother and a fortuneless father, he would forever suffer the era's social disgrace of being labeled a "bastard son". He was tutored by Sephardic Jews on Nevis ...a people who knew the pain of being ostracized.

He was the grandson and name sake of a wealthy Scottish noble yet he would one day fight to throw off the British Empire and the monarch's colonial rule. He was abandoned at a very early age by the only father in his life and shortly thereafter by his mother through her death. Perhaps this explains why, from the incredible crossing of the icy Delaware River by night to the darkest days of Valley Forge, as personal aide-de-camp to the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army the young man from Nevis never wavered or abandoned his General.

Though poor and destitute as a child he would later prove his brilliance by creating and establishing a great financial system. He was appointed by the newly elected President George Washington as the fledgling nation's first Secretary of the Treasury. He had been an orphan boy yet he became one of the Founding Fathers of a great nation.

You have seen his likeness many times yet perhaps rarely taken notice. He is the poor boy from Nevis who became a dynamic young man and American patriot. Among so many other accomplishments, he established the U.S. banking system and its paper currency. He strongly supported the ratification of the US Constitution. He is only one of two men who,



without having been elected President of the United States, have been immortalized by having their portrait printed on U.S. “greenbacks”. His name is Alexander Hamilton. Nearly lost to modern American history yet one of the nations most important Founding Fathers ... now justly celebrated as an honored son of Charlestown, Nevis.

CHARLESTOWN PLACES OF INTEREST

1 The **Alexander Hamilton Museum** (The Nevis Museum of History) is located in the restored birthplace of one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. It has an interesting display relating to the contributions of the man from Nevis who was so important to the birth of the American nation. The museum also presents the history and culture of the Nevis.

Beyond Charlestown

2 The **Nelson Museum** is dedicated to the great hero of the British Royal Navy, Admiral Lord Viscount Horatio Nelson. Nelson sailed the waters of Nevis and the West Indies in the early years of his distinguished career. It was on Nevis Nelson met and married a beautiful young widow named Frances Nesbit. The museum’s collection of Nelson memorabilia and related material is reputed to be one of the best outside of Great Britain.

3 The **Rainforest of Mount Nevis** is a great place to hike. Some trails are easy while others are quite a challenge. There are nearly countless tropical plants and the view from 1,800 feet atop the island’s dormant volcano is spectacular.

4 The **Montpelier Plantation** is a historic sugar plantation. The beautiful property spreads out over many acres and provides visitors with a wonderful view of the island.

5 The **Nevis Botanical Garden** is home to a wide collection of tropical and sub-tropical plants which have been gathered from around the world. Orchids, palms, fruit trees and succulents are just a few of the thousands of gorgeous plants which make this garden a wonderful place to explore.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Charlestown and the surrounding area we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Prices are generally fixed. Local vendors may bargain.

Tipping: Some restaurants may add a 10-15% service charge.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

As is common throughout the islands of the Caribbean the cuisine of Nevis is a combination of traditional West Indian, French, Spanish and West African. When you add in the fresh seafood it all combines to make for wonderful dining. "Home cooking" in Nevis includes staples such as plantain, sweet potatoes or yams, coconut and white rice. Jerked goat, pork and chicken are always popular. Conkies are rolled dough filled with a mixture of sweet potato, grated coconut, brown sugar, raisins, nutmeg, milk and pumpkin then wrapped and tied with banana leaves and boiled. Goat Water Stew may not sound appetizing however it is a delectably delicious concoction of cubed goat meat (or lamb) simmered in beef stock with olive oil, parsley, thyme, garlic, salt and pepper, curry, carrots, onions, potatoes and tomatoes. Pelau is cubed chicken (or any other meat) which has been browned in hot oil and caramelized sugar into which garlic and onion are added and sautéed then combined with coconut milk and rice and simmered till you can't wait any longer.

Cane Spirits Rothschild (CSR) is described as a cross between vodka and white rum. It is produced on nearby St. Kitts from locally grown sugarcane and the island's famously pure water. Ting is a grapefruit soda from Jamaica but it is very popular in Nevis, straight from the bottle or in mixed drinks.

SHOPPING FACILITIES

Shopping on Nevis is Duty Free. Souvenirs, art and casual wear are among some of the most popular items found in the shops of Charlestown. There are a number of beautiful,

locally made items of traditional African design available such as clothing, wooden carvings, pottery and rugs.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The official currency on Nevis is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD). US dollars and major credit cards are widely accepted. ATMs are available.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE

There is a Post Office located at the junction of Prince Charles Street and Main Street, about a 5 minute walk from the pier.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Nevis Tourism Authority will have an information booth set up on the pier.

TRANSPORTATION

Licensed and insured taxis have the letters "T" or "TA" on a yellow license plate. Agree on a fare with the driver prior to departure. Car rentals and local buses are also available.

LANGUAGE

English is the official language of Nevis.

