

# Government

**Names:**

*conventional long form:* none

*conventional short form:* Bermuda

**Digraph:** BD

**Type:** dependent territory of the UK

**Capital:** Hamilton

**Administrative divisions:** 9 parishes and 2 municipalities\*; Devonshire, Hamilton, Hamilton\*, Paget, Pembroke, Saint George\*, Saint Georges, Sandys, Smiths, Southampton, Warwick

**Independence:** none (dependent territory of the UK)

**National holiday:** Bermuda Day, 24 May

**Constitution:** 8 June 1968

**Legal system:** English law

**Suffrage:** 21 years of age; universal

**Executive branch:**

*chief of state:* Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor Lord David WADDINGTON (since 25 August 1992)

*head of government:* Premier John William David SWAN (since NA January 1982); Deputy Premier J. Irving PEARMAN (since 5 October 1993)

*cabinet:* Cabinet; nominated by the premier, appointed by the governor

**Legislative branch:** bicameral Parliament

*Senate:* consists of an 11-member body appointed by the governor

*House of Assembly:* elections last held 5 October 1993 (next to be held by NA October 1998); results - percent of vote by party UBP 50%, PLP 46%, independents 4%; seats - (40 total) UBP 22, PLP 18

**Judicial branch:** Supreme Court

**Political parties and leaders:** United Bermuda Party (UBP), John W. D. SWAN; Progressive Labor Party (PLP), Frederick WADE; National Liberal Party (NLP), Gilbert DARRELL

**Other political or pressure groups:** Bermuda Industrial Union (BIU), Ottiwell SIMMONS

**Member of:** CARICOM (observer), CCC, ICFTU, INTERPOL (subbureau), IOC

**Diplomatic representation in US:** none (dependent territory of the UK)

**US diplomatic representation:**

*chief of mission:* Ambassador Robert A. FARMER

*consulate(s) general:* Crown Hill, 16 Middle Road, Devonshire,  
Hamilton

*mailing address:* P. O. Box HM325, Hamilton HMBX; PSC 1002,  
FPO AE 09727-1002

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*FAX:* [1] (809) 295-1592

**Flag:** red with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Bermudian coat of arms (white and blue shield with a red lion holding a scrolled shield showing the sinking of the ship Sea Venture off Bermuda in 1609) centered on the outer half of the flag

## **Defense Forces**

**Branches:** Bermuda Regiment, Bermuda Police Force, Bermuda Reserve Constabulary

**Defense expenditures:** \$NA, NA% of GDP

**Note:** defense is the responsibility of the UK