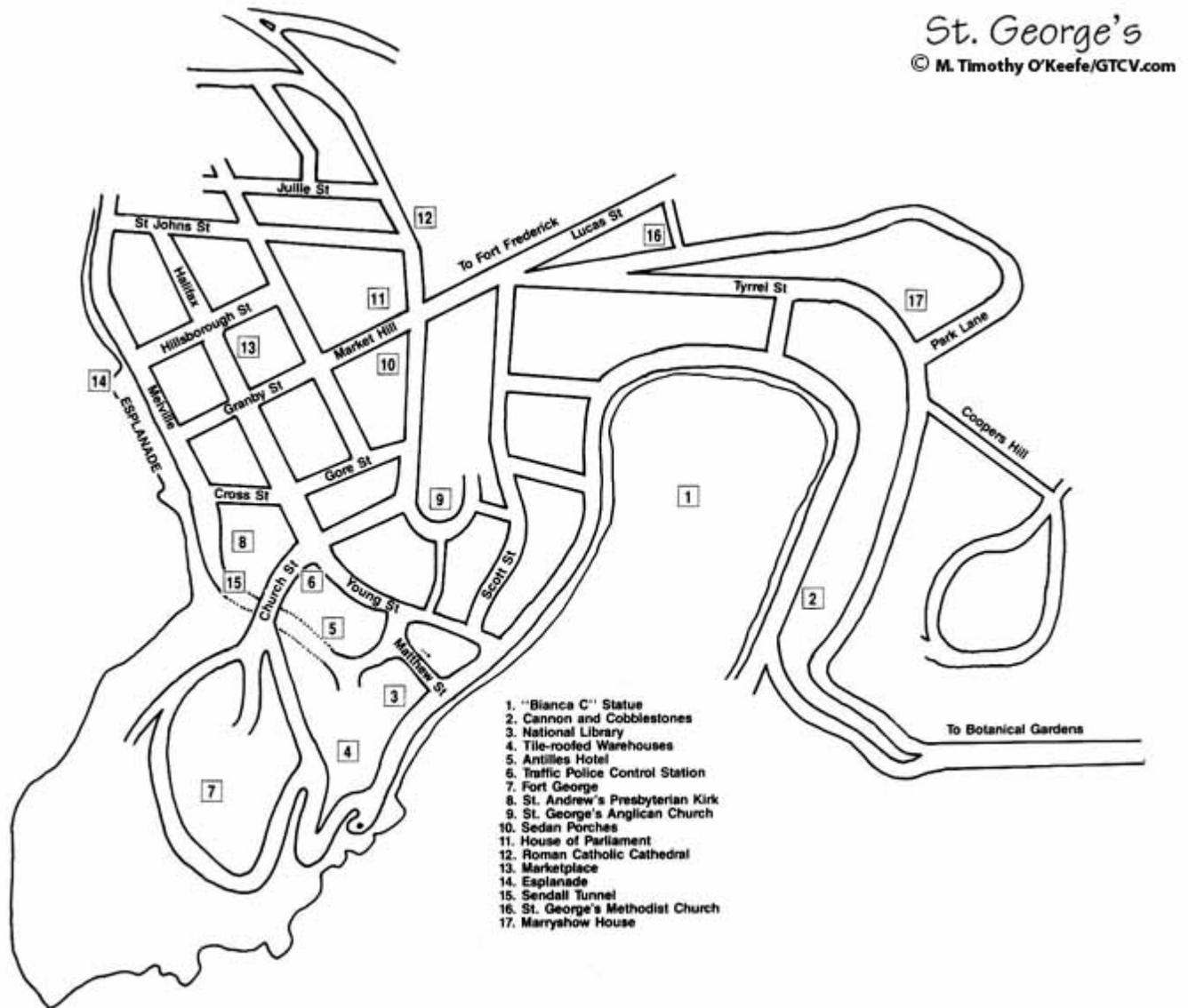


# St. George's, Grenada Walking Tour

**Time:** 2 hours. **Length:** 1 mile. **Difficulty:** 1 (2 up steep hills). **Trailhead:** Near the mid-point of the semi-circular harbor front.



The harbor was once an inland lake, and may be the crater of an extinct volcano.

The town of St. George's, named after **King George III**, is one of the Caribbean's most attractive. The old homes are painted delicate shades of yellow, beige and rose; their second stories flaunt ornate ironwork balconies.

The spine of a steep hill divides St. George's: the harbor side is the most picturesque. It's known as **the Carenage**, while the drabber looking

Esplanade fronts the Caribbean. However, the small mountain cutting through St. George's is quite steep, so this is not the easiest walk.

During the annual carnival, steel band platforms have to be winched up and down the main roads because motorized vehicles have great difficulty hauling such heavy loads on **the dramatic inclines**.

**1) "Bianca C" Statue:** Commemorates the gallantry of the Grenadian people in saving passengers aboard the 600-foot Italian luxury liner which caught fire in St. George's Harbour in 1961. Three crewmen were killed in the boiler explosion. The "Bianca C" now rests in 160 feet of water offshore, one of the largest Caribbean wrecks accessible to scuba divers.

**2) Cannon and Cobblestones:** This is an excellent example of St. George's many cobblestone streets and illustrates a practical use for all the old cannons removed from Grenada's various forts. The cannons are used as bollards to tie up ships and to protect corners of masonry walls from cars and trucks.

**3) National Library:** A former brick warehouse is where the library has been located since 1892; the library itself was established in 1846.

**4) Warehouse Roofs:** Look closely at the red tiles on these 18th- and 19th-century stone and brick warehouses. They are fish-scale tiles originally brought in as ballast.

**5) Antilles Hotel:** One of St. George's oldest buildings, it has served as French barracks, a British prison, a hotel and a warehouse. Now the *Grenadian National Museum*, it houses a small collection of artifacts and old newspapers dramatizing the island's history and culture. Included are Arawak petroglyphs, the marble bathtub of Empress Josephine (who grew up on Martinique) and a rum still.

**6) Traffic Police Control Station:** Watch the policeman control traffic as he stands safely above the motorized vehicles in a special box. Considering the steep inclines, this is the only way drivers from all directions can see the traffic signals.

**7) Fort George :** Built by the French in 1705 to overlook the harbor mouth, it is now the city's main police station. The imposing fort supposedly still contains a system of underground tunnels once linked to other fortifications. This is where Maurice Bishop and his colleagues were killed in 1983, prompting U.S. intervention.

**8) St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk:** Better known as Scot's Kirk and located on Church Street , it was built in 1831 with assistance from the Freemasons.

**9) St. George's Anglican Church:** This beautiful stone and pink stucco building was completed in 1825. It contains many plaques commemorating British victims of Fedon's Rebellion, a slave uprising of 1795.

**10) Sedan Porches:** These porches are open at both ends so wealthy planters in sedan chairs could travel under the row of roofs and avoid the rain.

**11) House of Parliament:** Both the senate and house of representatives of Grenada meet here.

**12) Roman Catholic Cathedral:** The tower from 1818 is the oldest part; the rest of the cathedral is much later, built in 1884 on the site of an 1804 church.

**13) Marketplace:** Site of the colorful fruit and vegetable display on Saturdays, where women sell small bags of spice (cloves, cinnamon and nutmeg) to tourists as useful and fragrant reminders of Grenada. The spices sold are pretty much the same; it is the colorful packaging (cloth sack, straw box or reed box) that should determine who you buy from. Take time to shop and compare; the spice ladies won't go anywhere, I assure you. The market square also is the rallying place for political speeches, parades and religious activities.

**14) Esplanade:** The commercial waterfront area of St. George's , including the fish market, most active at the end of the day when the catch is brought in, or almost anytime on Saturday.

**15) Sendall Tunnel:** Named after the governor when this technological wonder was completed in 1895. Still used today, the 340-foot-long tunnel is a shortcut through the hill to link the Carenage with the Esplanade. This also is the fastest way to reach St. George's from the cruise ships. Hug the tunnel wall walking against traffic, as the locals do. It's a bit of an adventure the first time.

**16) St. George's Methodist Church:** Built in 1820, it is the oldest original church building in St. George's .

**17) Marryshow House:** This fine creole building was the home of T.A. Marryshow, the Grenadian leader who attempted to turn the entire West Indies into one nation. Today, it is the local center for the University of the West Indies, headquartered in Barbados.