



Bermuda

Arisha-Renee Butterfield

"Imagine you are the Minister of Tourism for your island. What would you do, and what projects could you create, to help bring locals and tourists closer together?"

What are the most exciting places in Bermuda? Let me name you some. There is the Botanical Gardens, Fort Hamilton, The St. David Light House and there is much much more, but there is a problem. Most Bermudians have already been to these places. They want something new, fresh, exciting. Something that will make Bermuda even more enjoyable and that will bring the locals and tourists together.

I am the Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Arisha-Rene Butterfield in the beautiful, sunny islands of Bermuda. I have proposed a plan to bring locals and tourists together. My proposal will highlight three initiatives. The first project is to introduce a local tour guide program. This program will encourage locals to become tour guides. Training will be given to ensure that those persons who embark on this program will have full knowledge of Bermuda, its intricate history, and unique culture. Before arriving to the island, visitors will be informed about this program. Advertising will be done through travel agents and also airlines will be asked to show a short video during flight time.



The second planned initiative will be to introduce an event that will highlight a very popular and exciting part of Bermudian culture. Everyone knows that Bermudians love to eat. They not only love to eat but they love to cook. This event will showcase Bermudian cuisine. This will include food festivals, food demonstrations, cook-off's, and food testing. Tourists will be encouraged to partner with locals and to assist in producing some of Bermuda's fine food delicacies.

My third and final proposal is to implement a home grown hospitality program. This project allows locals to show off what we are known for, and that is our warm and friendly hospitality. Bermudians will be invited to open their homes to our wonderful visitors. Locals will take the role as host families. Their homes will be used as accommodation for families with children. This will allow families from other parts of the world to get a first hand view on the way Bermudians live. This initiative will also encourage Bermudians to host social gatherings with their peers from other countries.

From my proposal it can be clearly seen that there are many ways to bring locals and tourists together.

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Cayman Islands

Jaida Alexander

"Imagine you are the Minister of Tourism for your island. What would you do, and what projects could you create, to help bring locals and tourists closer together?"

Tourism is very important to the Cayman Islands because it brings a lot of money into these islands. When our tourists enjoy their trips here, they return and we continue to be successful. My responsibility as the Minister of Tourism is to keep our islands attractive so that new tourists will want to visit our beautiful home again and again.

In order to help our tourist industry I will start some new projects that encourage letter relationships with our tourists and our locals. These new projects include: "Locals for a Day Tours", "Heritage Hot Spots", "Mini Cruises" and "Cayman Village Park."

The "Local for a day tours" will be tours which allow tourists to spend time with the locals and learn about our lifestyle and Caymanian culture. Transportation will be featured on specially designed tour buses, with themes of our Caymanian heritage. The tour guides will be locals dressed in traditional Cayman outfits. When the tourists board the bus they will be treated with the old time Cayman music and handmade Cayman mints. The tours will stop at our landmarks and also at our own "Heritage Hot Spots."

The "Heritage Hot Spots" will be featured all over our islands. When the local for a day tour bus drops off the tourists they will be entertained by locals who will tell stories about the past, play games like dominoes, and there will also be quadrille dancing. The tourists will be allowed to sample our traditional Cayman dishes like boiled conch and turtle stew and our fruits, such as, apple, bananas, june plums, guineps, and naseberries.

We will also be having "Mini Weekend Cruises" between the three islands. These will be on nice cruise ships designed like traditional Cayman and will allow tourists to get to visit all three of our islands while they are here.

My final project will be a "Caymanian Village." The Caymanian Village will be a big theme park that attracts tourists and locals of all ages. There will be water rides that look like Bluff and Hell. There will be lots of entertainment. The park will be designed like an old Caymanian Village and will also have our locals teaching about our beautiful islands. The park will sell only local food so instead of hamburgers and french fries there will be conch burgers or turtle burgers and fried bread fruit. Instead of sodas, we will use fresh fruit juices and coconut water. It will be a lot like Boatswains Beach, but much bigger.

Even though we will be starting all of these new projects, the final thing that I would like to say is that we cannot be successful without the help of our Caymanian people. We have to show the world that we are unique from all the other islands and the best way to do that is to be courteous and helpful to our tourists and show them that we appreciate them.



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Curacao

Maximiliaan Van Aalst

"Imagine you are the Minister of Tourism for your island. What would you do, and what projects could you create, to help bring locals and tourists closer together?"

Dear Citizens,

To me it seems like a good idea for our island to make plans on how we can make the island even more attractive for the tourists. Tourists will then want to visit our beautiful island even more and that is great for the economy.

I already have thought about a few ideas of how, in a few ways, to introduce the tourists and the locals to each other.

In the airplane we could have a transmitter with words in Dutch or English translated into Papiamentu, so that the tourists can already start to learn to speak the language. When they step out of the plane they will want to visit the museums or the Seaquarium, and if they bring along a local person they will get a 20% discount.

Many local people like to fish, and tourists will also want to enjoy that so together they can go fishing. We should let more tourists learn about the culture of Curaçao, e.g. with cultural activities, we should bring along a local guide. Also by placing signs at every important event in Curaçao, on them saying what is happening, why they are taking place and when they are occurring. We can also build restaurants serving local dishes, and in each restaurant have tables where tourists can share a meal with local people, if they want to do so.



We should not intimidate each other because if we don't do that we can become friends sooner. Tourists are not allowed to throw garbage on the ground and neither are local people, that way our island will stay clean and the cleaner it is the nicer it is for everyone.

Do you all want to help me execute these ideas? If you still have other great ideas let me know as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,
Minister of Tourism
Max v. Aalst

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