

Barbados – Interview with Canadian Travel Press



Chris Robinson

1 Chris – you joined Canadian Travel Press’s “Run Barbados” winners in Barbados earlier this month. How was the trip?

Barbados is always a tremendous destination and this was a particularly special time. We celebrated the 40th anniversary of Barbados’s independence, and also participated in the Run Barbados festivities. Great winners, fun parties, fabulous destination!

2 What were your impressions of Barbados?

I toured with the Canadian Travel Press winners to experience the best of Barbados. The Island Safari is a unique way to see the landscapes and history packed into this small island. This soft

adventure experience includes a 4-wheel Jeep drive through whispering sugar cane fields and forest tracks. Our trip aboard the Tall Ships Cruises’ catamaran “Excellence” was a glittering sail along the west and south coasts, scattering flying fish en route, with three stops for exploring. We lazed on a silky soft beach, snorkeled to two wrecks within easy reach and, unforgettably, swam with the sea turtles.

3 You and your team did a live broadcast back to Canada; clearly you found some great stories and interesting characters on the island...

We did five hours of live radio broadcasting, including the Travel Shows for Newstalk 1010 CFRB in Ontario and CJAD 800 in Quebec. Our challenge was fitting in all the wonderful people and their stories with the tremendous interest and many questions from our listeners back home! Here are some of the highlights. Predrag Mladenovic, gritty winner of the recent Toronto Half Marathon, participating in the Barbados Half Marathon. Joe and Cecile Saunders from Ottawa, in Barbados for their 40th time for the 40th anniversary of independence. And the hospitality of Wendy Cole, VP Marketing at Almond Resorts, and the hugely knowledgeable Gail Stewart from the Barbados Tourism Authority.

4 Congratulations on completing the Full Marathon; what was the experience like?

Marvellous! Certainly beyond my imagination... It was 42kms of pure Bajan warmth with half the island lining the streets or hanging out of windows to cheer. The Marathon started at 5am to avoid the heat. We ran along the south coast through the soft Barbados night and by dawn reached the characterful streets of Bridgetown. And in the hot Barbados morning we staggered up the beautiful Platinum Coast to finish at the Almond Beach Resort in Speightstown. To add to the elation of finishing the race in just over 4 hours was the joy of soothing my feet in the warm Caribbean waves, just meters from the finish line.

5 Tell the truth – is there any part of your being that didn’t hurt after running for more than 4 hours?

This 50 year old body of mine feels more like 100! But that will pass...unlike the memory of a thousand encouragements and a thousand smiling faces.

