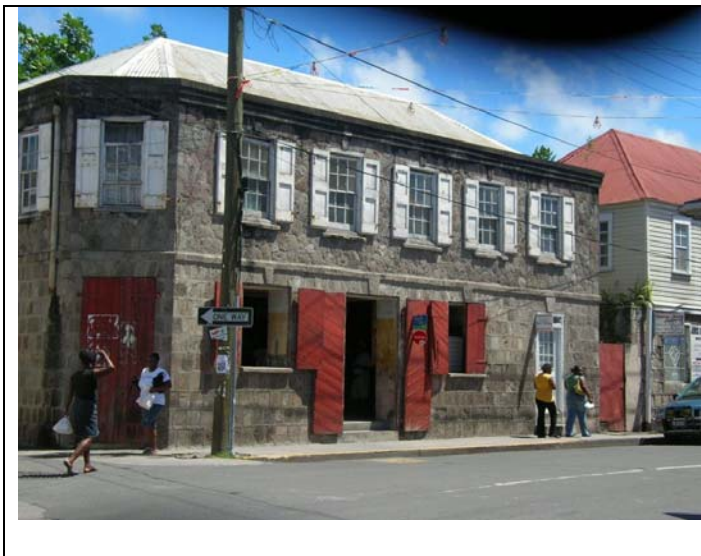


**Nevis:**

I love Nevis. So far it only has a bit of condo-ization, but a big Pinney's Beach development is in the works, alas. House lots rather than big time-shares – typical one shown, with view of St. Kitts.



There is a gracefulness to Nevis—its well-preserved traditional buildings, the women's dress (bosoms and waistlines more like Marigot than Basseterre), the easy pace (eg chicken in front of courthouse), residents so far not viewing tourists merely as walking dollar bills.





We tried to watch a high school cricket match – someone gave us a lift to the school athletic field but the start of the game didn't happen by the time we had to leave to meet fellow-boaters at Double Deuce (beach bar). But walking down the road where ordinary Nevisians lived I decided I could live in Nevis forever. They clean up and landscape their yards – only place in the Caribbean so far where local people seem to do that.

We did rent a car and drove extensively all over the island. On the slopes above Phinney's Beach we saw some beautiful homes (not mansions) almost certainly owned by ex-pat Americans or Brits. Many quite companionably located next to simple homes of much poorer people. Jalousy metal/plastic panels for windows.



The old plantocracy estates are on Gingerland (South side of Mt. Nevis) . Our big splurge was lunch at one estate called Golden Rock. The setting and presentation were beautiful. I wondered if it belonged to a descendant of original owners or if an enterprising newcomer now owned it.



We walked the short trail above the property – far enough to realize that any trail that climbs to the top would be a long, arduous slog indeed with no views at all, perhaps not even at the top, which looks totally vegetated.

We also saw the exterior of Montpelier, the estate where Nelson was married to widow Nesbit. I later read a short pamphlet on Lord Nelson. Nelson and Lady Hamilton!! My!! Ivory-Merchant could make a great movie with that material. The Lord Nelson Museum quite good, with intelligently written placards and lots of good books to buy in the reception area.

Two good beach bars: Double Deuce and Sunshine (the latter oozing self-conscious “beach bar simplicity” with signed pictures of various celebrity customers; during the 6 days we were there it did sudden levitation act from Four Seasons to further down the beach). Four Seasons imported their palm trees from Taiwan (or maybe Florida?) and they contained a fungus or insect that is busily destroying ALL the native palm trees on the west coast of the island but of course not the Taiwan palms at Four Seasons. It is ghastly and Four Seasons hasn’t had to pay a penny in fines or ameliorization costs.

The time to see Nevis is NOW, before it succumbs to the development/tourism rot infecting all islands so far.

Am discovering that West Indians on the British heritage islands are quite religious people in a low-key (NOT born-again) way. On Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis, BBC was

replaced at 5:30 or 6 am by an hour of hymns. Buses and taxis often have a piece of scripture or a scriptural reference lettered on the top of their windscreen (Gothic script favored). Here is a Nevis fishing boat with similar talisman. Note the protection against the evil eye on the other boat.

