



One week on a catamaran in the British Isles Virges

Day 1

We landed in St. Martin (french and Dutch Antilles) to 16 hours.

We were met out of the airport by our skipper , Fabio . After a 20 minute taxi ride , here we have arrived at the marina. This is where we expected the catamaran on which we will spend our week cruise . Our luggage is taken care of and get on board - this is one of the largest catamarans port !

We are warmly greeted by the hostess , Linda, who prepared the champagne , fruits, biscuits ...

We find our cabins and the safety board - we are frankly surprised by the space and comfort . Large screen television , air conditioning in the cabins, which in no way resemble small dark cabin monohulls . There are even large glass windows that allow you to see the sea from the bed, the bathrooms are spacious and well appointed.

We start the evening, after a good Italian meal , the pasta the chef! It is night , the captain made a remarkable maneuver - the catamaran, so sandwiched between two other boats we did concern - emerges easily. The crew works with calm and professionalism - we feel reassured directly . This is important because we have 10 hours of sailing ahead of us to get to the Virgin Islands archipelago . We leave the port, the captain immediately goes sailing, engine off , calm settles , we spin and surf the waves at 9 knots on a roll - here we go !

2nd day

I do not think I could sleep in navigation since it was my first experience , well it was the opposite !

Linda prepares us for breakfast and we see approaching the islands at daybreak . What a show!

Destination Virgin Gorda. We pride ourselves a dip (finally!) before going through customs to our entry into the British territory . We eat in the bay of " Gorda Yacht Harbour ," near the coral reef .

The water is turquoise, it's hot ... what a pleasure to take the plunge ! From time to time the turtles show on the surface , the time to take their breath before disappearing into the blue depths .

After a well deserved nap (swim , eat , this is tiring !) , We go to the Baths, the " Baths " , which are aptly named : the water is so clear that it looks like the pool. It is a beautiful place with huge rocks just as you would imagine the Maldives. Just arrived , everyone jumped into the water and takes the masks. "Water is fishy here," warns our captain . And indeed, there are of all colors ! After a while snorkeling to the beach and back, the sun begins to decline. Time to take a shower and change clothes , and Linda , the hostess, has prepared a fabulous appetizer : a feast for the eyes and taste buds ! We taste the regional drink, punch planter , while preparing a sunset as on postcards . We remain silent before this amazing show. Really, our holiday in style!

3rd day

With the jet lag , we get up early. We take our breakfast at dawn. Linda advises us to take a ride down " before the other boats arrive and all the tourists are coming! ". Indeed we are fortunate , we

are the only boat in the bay. We take a path that we passed between impressive rocks , feet in the crystal clear water. We feel like Robinsons discover the wonders of nature . The path then leads us to the mountain. We walk in the shade of trees, bare feet , the park is well maintained. We catch geckos and iguanas - and sometimes they are the ones that surprise us . At the top of the hill , surprise, it is a return to civilization : a café with a large terrace and pool overlooking all the natural park " Baths " .

We start at a time when other boats arrive . Well done! The crew goes sailing, and sail to Anegada , the most remote island of the archipelago . The arrival is spectacular. We are overwhelmed by the color of the water : we believe face a Pacific atoll . The captain tells us that we will anchor in a bay where we will be alone. We all put in front of the net to see better. We spend between coral reefs, we recognize the white foam of the waves. But the boat is not moving, the catamaran is very stable. We argue almost to the beach , Fabio , our captain , is sailing down at the last moment . He explains that the place is little known that only catamarans can access and because of the coral reefs, few dare to venture . Indeed we are the only ones. We are facing a white sand beach that stretches out of sight , deserted. After a hearty breakfast equally as delicious coffee with Sambuca offered by the Captain, we feel a little tired . But we still decided to go on a safari to explore the island , on the advice of our hostess . Fabio brings us to the village to annex the small zodiac , and we take a local minibus to visit the island , which turns out full of surprises : great salt lake with flamingos , villages with typical houses of all colors , small surrounded by shells , beach with crystal clear waters protected by a large coral reef , ranch decorated cow skulls , and a small cafe where the old photos we learn that the island was once the realm of gigantic crocodiles gardens. In the evening we decided to eat barbecued lobster , the specialty of the island, in a restaurant that offered us the crew, the only house that is located on the beach in front of the catamaran. We go barefoot. In return we expect the shooting stars. As there is no light around town , the night sky is wonderful.

4th day

Destination: Island Gorda Sound, Bay Creek Birras . The place is resplendent natural. We anchored near the mangroves. This time we have a few neighbors, but Bay exudes tranquility . Fabio takes us in the dinghy to boardwalk , and we walk in the park relay - castle. Day of relaxation : swimming pool, sea walks. Go boating 16h , Linda promised pancakes children. This is the general applause , everyone guzzler and recognizes the greediest Nutella in the figure. Despite this snack , we decided to eat in the evening at the castle over. The setting is so exceptional ! We dine on a large wooden deck . We are on a peninsula , out of sight , the sea calm one side wildest of the other with waves and lots of froth .

5th day

It is with regret that we leave the bay - it will come back! Lunch is provided for Guana Island. En route, we men fish as usual behind, but this time it bites! We take a good four feet tuna - Linda proposes a carpaccio input for lunch - the rest will be frozen, "it will remain prepare pizza tomorrow ," explains Linda who worked in a Italian Pizzeria restaurant knows how to do . Once there, we take a buoy and we throw in the water while Linda prepares us for the meal. This is the place to discover the flora and fauna underwater . Small yellow fish follow us by the dozens. Near the rocks and corals, we swim through schools of fish , and we marvel at the beauty of the parrot fish, trumpet fish and humor of fish safe Can we hold our breath a tarpon a fifty meter just went right next to us, it is a further leopard stripe - emotions are intense ! This adventure has given us so hungry this time, we skip the appetizer . After the entry whose fishermen are particularly proud Creole specialty of the day: Colombo chicken dish with spices Caribbean and coconut milk. The dessert today we like so much that Celia promises to rebuild : the sweetness with lemon, which is

aptly named .

Departure in the afternoon to the small island of Jost Van Dyke. We discover a small village , with banana plantations , mongoose ... Just before sunset , surprise : a couple of dolphins walks between boats at anchor ! After an evening barbecue tuna on the catamaran , we'll take a drink in the pub probably the best known of the British Virgin Islands : the legendary " Foxies " where every passerby leaves suspended from the roof beams and personal items : t- shirts , cards, and other more personal items !

6th day

Wake surprise we leave early , breakfast is expected to face a tiny island , Sandy Cay. We are only at anchor, and after breakfast , we venture on the island by kayak. What a feeling to be the only ones to walk the white sand and go around the island as if it had been reserved especially for us ! We start with the arrival of another boat to White Bay . The emotion of the day: we swim with a big turtle to the coral reef. For once , we will take the appetizer to the ground. It is reluctantly we go gourmet appetizer dishes prepared with the soul of an artist : guacamole, sour cream , tuna toast with salmon eggs , fresh vegetables But Linda has promised not to be disappointed with the BBC cocktail prepared by Gertrude , a Dominican . Along the beach , we spend Americans crowded shacks - and indeed , at the end , we find the small wooden hut Gertrude , quieter , where we taste the fabulous cocktail. We then spend the evening " Stressfree Bar " , a small bar decorated with love of thousands of small shells , where we listen to live music in a local atmosphere , simple and very friendly.

7th day

One last time before we leave, we want to take full advantage of the sea the program: " Caves " of Norman Island. Snorkeling at beautiful day along underwater caves intriguing , followed by thousands of small fish of all colors. In the late afternoon we sail to Beef Island . We spend our last night there, the airport is located next door. We were lucky : tonight is the full moon night : on the beach, flanked by very typical small huts , craftsmen set up their booths. Fires are sculpted in cast iron balls on water. One last time, we enjoy the pleasant temperature sipping a planter 's local reggae . The prospect of return we do not like at all! The return in the cold ... and we realize there is still so much to see , so many islands and bays to discover, nothing in the archipelago of the British Virgin Islands ! And then we got a little attached to the crew, not mine . Spend a week together , it creates links, and we seem to leave friends ... this is not goodbye , we'll be back to explore the rest of the islands. Or maybe we 'll go in the Grenadines ? Or why not been in Sardinia or Sicily ? If we find the same crew , it will be a pleasure ! " Promised ! " We reassure Fabio and Linda . "Now that we know each other and the contact went well, it will be with great pleasure ! "