

The British Virgin Islands

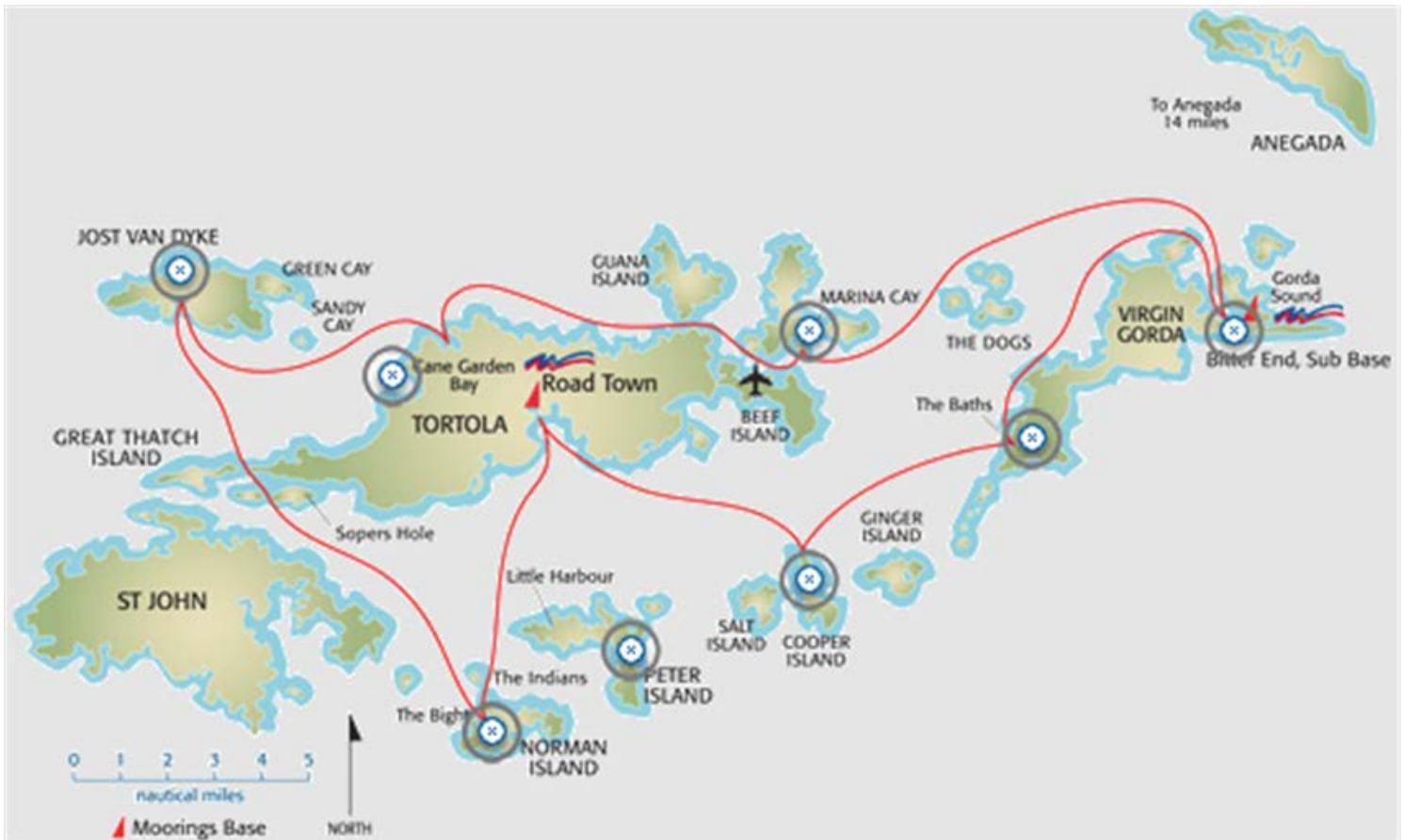
Main language: English

Currency: US dollar. Major credit cards accepted in many, but not all, establishments. Travellers Checks

Taxis from Airport: To West End \$30. Taxi service available from the airport to the base - approx. 30 min.

Weather: Tropical and tempered by trade winds. Little variation between summer and winter.

Rainfall is low, varying slightly from island to island. Night-time temperatures drop to a comfortable level. The wind direction throughout the Virgins is dominated by the movements of the Bermuda High. During the winter months of November to January, the prevailing wind is from the Northeast at 15-20 knots. By June, they are out of the Southeast at 10-15 knots. From September to October, the Trade Winds are weakest, and the weather can be less settled.



Tortola -- Alternate Typical 7-day Itinerary

Day 1: Road Town to Cooper Island - 6.5 nautical miles • Depart Road Town for Cooper Island, arriving early enough to pick up an overnight mooring ball at Manchoneel Bay. The holding is not good at this anchorage. Dinghy ashore and enjoy the sandy beach, snorkeling and restaurant on the beach.

Day 2/3: Cooper Island to Virgin Gorda - 5 nautical miles to Baths, 9 nautical miles to North Sound • Head for Virgin Gorda, stopping at the Baths for a swim and walk through the rock formations, leaving early enough to get up to the North Sound for your next anchorage, possibly stopping at the Dogs to snorkel and have lunch. Once up at the North Sound, there are plenty of overnight mooring balls and anchorages to choose from. Enjoy a variety of restaurants, water sports, diving, snorkeling or even an island tour.

Day 4: North Sound to Marina Cay or Trellis Bay - 10 nautical miles • There is good snorkeling at either anchorage. Cruisers may be interested in a book called "Our Island" by Rob White, telling how he and his wife built their house, a portion of which still stands on Marina Cay.

Day 5: Marina Cay or Trellis Bay to Cane Garden Bay - 5.5 nautical miles • Sail down the north side of Tortola to Cane Garden Bay. Dinghy in to enjoy the long sandy beach, waterside restaurants or visit the rum distillery.

Day 6: Cane Garden Bay to Great Harbour - 11 nautical miles • Sail over to Jost Van Dyke, stopping at Sandy Cay en route. Spend the night at Little Harbour or Great Harbour. Great Harbour is the home of Foxy's, the famous restaurant and beach bar.

Day 7: Great Harbour to Norman Island - 7 nautical miles • On to Norman Island, the caves and the Indians. Spend the night in The Bight, at anchor or on a mooring ball. Visit the "Willie T" (the William Thornton), a converted lumber schooner which is now a floating restaurant, or go ashore to Pirates Bight beachside.

Final Morning: Return to Road Town - 7 nautical miles • Check in by noon.

Tortola -- Typical Alternate 7-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Road Town to Norman Island - 7 nautical miles • Leave Road Town and sail down to The Bight at Norman Island. Snorkel around the Caves and the Indians. Eat at the well-known floating restaurant The William Thornton (locally known as the Willie T.), or at Billy Bones bar & restaurant on the beach.

Day 2: Norman Island to Great Harbour - 11 nautical miles • On to Little Harbour at Jost Van Dyke, or Great Harbour – home of Foxy's restaurant and bar. Stop on the way at Sandy Cay or Green Cay, each with beautiful sandy beaches.

Day 3: Great Harbour to Cane Garden Bay - 5.5 nautical miles • It's an easy sail from Jost Van Dyke to Cane Garden Bay, with it's long sandy beach, restaurants and water sports. Quitto, a well-known local singer, has a hotel and restaurant here. Callwood's Rum Distillery is also located at Cane Garden Bay.

Day 4: Cane Garden to Marina Cay - 10 nautical miles • Sail up the north side of Tortola to either Trellis Bay or Marina Cay, making a stop for snorkeling or lunch at Monkey Point. Both anchorages have plenty of mooring balls, excellent snorkeling and restaurants. Ice and water are available at Marina Cay.

Day 5: Marina Cay to Spanish Town (5 nautical miles) or North Sound - 9 nautical miles • Continue up to Virgin Gorda with a stop at the Baths at Spanish Town. Dinghy in and explore the rock formations. While there is no overnight anchorage at the Baths, you may choose to dock at Spanish Town or sail up to the North Sound, where there are plenty of overnight mooring balls at Leverick Bay, Bitter End, and Drakes Anchorage to name a few. Stock up with water and ice at The Moorings sub-base at the Bitter End.

Day 6: North Sound to Cooper Island - 14 nautical miles • Get to Cooper Island early enough to pick up an overnight mooring ball, as this anchorage does not offer good holding. Mannchoneel Bay is a very pretty anchorage with a sandy beach, trees, a good restaurant and beach bar.

Day 7: Cooper Island to Peter Island - 5.5 nautical miles • Take a short hop to Little Harbour at Peter Island, maybe stopping for a quick swim at Deadman's Bay at the east end. Little Harbour is usually a very peaceful anchorage, and an ideal setting for your last night out.

Final Morning: Return to Road Town - 4.8 nautical miles • Check-in before noon.

Cooper Island

The principal anchorage on Cooper Island is Manchioneel Bay, located on the Northwest shore. There are many moorings you can use for a fee. There is a nice sandy beach, home to Cooper Island Beach Club with views of many of the islands to the west.

Things to do:

- Dine ashore on the varied menu of the Beach Club.
 - Fill your dive tanks at Sail Caribbean Divers station next to the boutique.
-

The Baths, Virgin Gorda

Located on Virgin Gorda, Spanish Town is the former capital of the B.V.I. It is named Spanish Town because of the huge influx of Spanish miners who used to mine copper ore from the island. Also located

near Spanish Town on Virgin Gorda is a long beach called The Baths, which are large granite boulders, a must see on your visit to Virgin Gorda.

Things to do:

- Visit The Baths, where immense boulders are scattered along stunning beaches, creating magical grottos and pools.
 - Walk around the historical former capital of the B.V.I.
-

North Sound, Virgin Gorda

Still on Virgin Gorda, North Sound is a bay that is ideal for dropping anchor and staying over night. It is secluded, calm, and beautiful. This is one of the places that will easily remind one of why they are down in the B.V.I.'s on a Moorings yacht. Location of the Moorings Sub Base to provide customer Support

Things To Do:

- Drop anchor and explore the reefs in this sheltered bay.
 - Visit the Bitter End Marina and get dinner.
-

Marina Cay

Located near Guana Island, Marina Cay is Marina Cay is a picture postcard island paradise just minutes from Trellis Bay and the airport. It's nestled behind a reef on one side and a calm lagoon on the other side, making Marina Cay an ideal location to drop anchor.

Things to do:

- Shop at Pusser's Company store, or enjoy a refreshing drink while watching the incredible sunsets over Great Camanoe Island from the Sunset Bar, the highest point on the tiny island.
 - Marina Cay offers fuel, ice, water, garbage disposal and laundry facilities.
 - Learn to scuba dive at Dive B.V.I.
-

Cane Garden Bay

Considered one of the most beautiful anchorages in B.V.I. for being so picturesque. The white sandy beach is lined with large palm trees making it a great place to spend a lazy B.V.I. afternoon soaking in the sun. The night life in Cane Garden Bay is lively with bars and restaurants lining the beach and live music.

Things to do:

- Get dinner ashore at Myett's Garden and Inn, and enjoy fresh seafood in a fun setting.
 - Stop at Rhymer's Beach Bar to cool off and re-provision your boat.
-

Jost Van Dyke

Located on Jost Van Dyke, know by many as "Barefoot Island," this is the point of entry into the B.V.I. The harbor is protected by 1000 foot peaks that seem to shoot out from the sea, and coral reef located right off the beach. This is an ideal place to stop for an afternoon of re-provisioning, checking out local shops, and meet new friends at large beach parties.

Things To Do:

- Go to the world famous Foxy's located right on the beach for a drink.
- Not only an island landmark, Foxy himself is a world-renowned entertainer who keeps his guests enthralled with his musical folklore.



- Snorkeling around the coral reef
- Try some fresh seafood at Rudy's Mariner Inn
- Head over to White Bay and mix your own drinks at Ivan's Stress Free Bar.
- **The Bubbly Pool**
Featured in photos around the World, the "Bubbly Pool" is still a closely guarded secret of Jost Van Dyke!!! Nature's Jacuzzi, this naturally formed tidal pool is located behind jagged cliffs facing

the open ocean coming from the North. When the North swell is up, this is absolutely a **National Geographic experience** as you wade in the pool and fearfully watch as the rolling sea comes at you with full force!!! Just at the last second as it looks as if the wave will go straight over you, the unique formation outside the pool prematurely breaks the wave and the resulting “bubbles” fill up the pool and give everyone a reason to be glad to be alive!!! **The Bubbly Pool is a place that makes everyone smile.** It is a short hike from where we stop the boat... through Mangroves, a Wild Sage forest, and a little amateur-amateur rock climbing. For the more adventurous, serious free-style rock climbing affords unbelievable photo opportunities of the whole area as well as a visit to the “Eagle’s Nest” and to the “Mighty Blow Hole”.

Norman Island

Norman Island is South of Tortola. It helps form the southern perimeter of the Sir Francis Drake Channel. It is often called “Treasure Island” by the locals because of stories of lost pirate treasures. One unique feature of Norman Island is “The Caves” which are rumored to be the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island.

Things to do:

- Visit the famous Caves rumored to inspire the novel Treasure Island
 - Dive at the shipwreck of the Rhone, voted best shipwreck in the Caribbean by Skindiver Magazine.
 - Dine as you watch the sun set at Pirates Restaurant on the beach.
 - Drink at the “Willie T,” the infamous floating bar and restaurant where revelers stay up late!
-

Peter Island

With dozens of beaches and coves to choose from it is easy let all of your worries sail away in the warm Caribbean air. The most famous beach on Peter Island is Deadman’s Bay, part of the Peter Island Resort complex, and often featured in The Moorings brochures. It’s a day anchorage at the most southeastern end and be sure not to take your dinghy through the swim area.

Things to do:

- Visit the Famous Peter Island Resort and enjoy their creamy mudslides at the beach bar.