

british virgin islands

NEWBIE

2016

WELCOME TO THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS,
HOME OF LIME
THE #1 NETWORK.

LIME

JOIN THE LARGEST, FASTEST AND ONLY
FIBRE NETWORK IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.



the
ultimate
go-to
guide
for
visitors
and
residents
free
in the bvi
bvinewbie.com

ISBN 9780956969750



9 780956 969750

www.lime.com

Newbie Welcome Letter

Welcome to the British Virgin Islands!

aLookingGlass presents the sixth edition of the British Virgin Islands' go-to guidebook for visitors and residents. Newbie addresses common questions and provides useful information to make your time here even more enjoyable.

As a recent "newbie" myself, I used the book as an encyclopedia of knowledge and have highlighted and sticky-noted my personal copy. We hope Newbie will be an ongoing resource that you never leave home without. Keep your copy of Newbie in your car or briefcase, as you never know when or where it may come in handy!

Most new residents will agree that the "Relocating" section provides invaluable information prior to and after your arrival. Long-term residents and locals even refer to Newbie for current information and tips which are updated each year.

During your time in the BVI we encourage you to explore "nature's little secrets", get out there and "rock-hop" and discover each island's unique charm.

New to this edition are some personal insights on common experiences you may come across in the BVI - hope they help!

Our online "Ask Newbie" section, bvinewbie.com/ask, continues to respond to any additional questions you may have, or put you in touch with the best person to contact.

Whether your stay is a short vacation, a temporary living arrangement, or for life, we wish you the very best with your BVI adventures!

Thank you for picking up a copy of BVI Newbie. See you around.

Lauren Charley

Editorial Coordinator
BVI Newbie

PS: Look out for other aLookingGlass publications distributed throughout the year!



Welcome from the Governor of the British Virgin Islands

It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the fabulous British Virgin Islands.

If you have just relocated to the BVI, you have before you over 60 islands, islets and cays to explore. I have no doubt that you will be enthralled by the wonderful beaches, glorious waters and never-ending sun. But there is a lot more to see and do than meets the eye at first glance. I would strongly advise you to get around the islands and really begin to live the BVI life.

As a relatively new BVI resident myself, I am still discovering the extent of the Territory's beauty, its cultural heritage, cuisine and unique character and I hope you will be as delighted as I have been to explore. BVI Newbie will give you plenty of ideas on what to see and do during your time here. And I hope you will enjoy unlocking Nature's Little Secrets as much as I have, and that your time in the BVI is a rich and rewarding one.

Welcome again, and thank you for choosing
a life in the British Virgin Islands.



John S Duncan, OBE
Governor





**nick
cunha**
co-creator



erin
paviour-smith
account
manager



**lauren
charley**
editorial
coordinator



**scott
taylor**
design
and layout



**françoise
frank**
office
administrator



**maros
pristas**
web
development

2016 Edition Contributors

**heather anderson, david blacklock, kelly bos, charlie bufton
brian jermyn, traci o'dea, charlotte mcdevitt and colin rathbun**

A special thanks to our original authors:

**sachkia barnes, judy haycraft, claire hunter, dr mitch kent
clive petrovic, louise reardon, and gareth thomas**

Contents

relocating

Finding a Job • Immigration and Work Permit
Preparing to move • Finding a Home
Money and Banking • Home Insurance • Utilities
Communications • Transportation • Health Insurance
Island Pets • Waste and Resource Management

living

Socialising in the BVI • Getting Married
Starting a Family • Education and Schools
Healthcare • Laws, Police and Crime
Tropical Weather • Flora and Fauna
Shopping • Where to Shop • Shipping and Duty

resources

Taxi Fares • Ferry Schedule • Directory

basics

BVI Information • Islands at a Glance
Outer Islands National Parks and Hidden Gems

playing

Wining, Dining and Limin'
Eating and Drinking Establishments
Spas and Salons • Culture and Festivals
Sports and Recreation • Activities for Kids
Getting off the Rock • 2016 Full moon Calendar

splashing

Beaches • Sun Protection
Marine Industry and Watersports
Learning to Sail • Aqua Activities
Fishing • VISAR



BVI NEWBIE: 2016, 6th Edition

ISBN: 978-0-9569697-5-0

Designed in the British Virgin Islands

Published by aLookingGlass

Printed in China

The information contained in the BVI NEWBIE is for general information only. While our authors have made every effort to be as accurate as possible, aLookingGlass, publisher of BVI NEWBIE, assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the content placed in its publications. For the avoidance of doubt, aLookingGlass gives no warranty or guarantee in regards to any information placed in its publications.

BVI NEWBIE and its contents are the intellectual property of aLookingGlass Ltd. Neither this magazine nor any part of it may be reproduced without written permission from aLookingGlass Ltd.

For more information or advertising rates, contact info@alookingglass.com or (284) 494.7788.



bvi information 7
islands at a glance 8
outer islands 10
national parks and 12
hidden gems

basics

THE 'CANTENNA' BOOST YOUR WI FI

LIME
LIFE HACK

1 carefully cut
round the base
edge of a clean
empty soda can



2 do the same
with the top
but not all
around. leave
a 1cm space



3 on the opposite side from the
1cm cut from the base to the
top and bend the can out



4 place the can hole over
the router antenna so
the shiny can interior
can boost signal strength



BVI information

Etiquette

Generally, the BVI is a relaxed place, but a few items of social etiquette are worth mentioning if you wish to immigrate along with your emigration.

It's considered rude not to greet strangers you encounter in the BVI. Before noon, say 'Good Morning' whenever you enter a room, shop, car or even meet someone on the street. If it's past noon, say 'Good Afternoon.' When dusk sets in, say 'Good Night,'—note that 'Good Night' is a greeting not a farewell.

Even though it's a tropical environment, the BVI is more than a tourist destination, and people who live here frown upon beach attire at any place other than the beach. Even then, it's best to cover up if walking into a bar or restaurant.

Government

The BVI is classified as a British Overseas Territory. According to the BVI government website, "The government of the British Virgin Islands is legally a constitutional democracy with the Executive Authority vested in Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth."

The Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 spells out the title of a governor to represent Her Majesty in the islands, and for a premier and ministers, who form a Cabinet together with the Attorney General. Executive authority in the BVI

is vested in the Queen and is exercised by the governor, who is chosen to his or her position by the queen.

A Cabinet is nominated by the premier and appointed by the governor. The legislature consists of the Queen (represented by the governor) and a unicameral HOA made up of 13 elected members plus the Speaker and the Attorney General.

Public Holidays

The BVI holds several public holidays throughout the year including the highly anticipated Emancipation Festival each August.

For a complete list of 2016 public holidays visit: bvinewbie.com.

International Finance

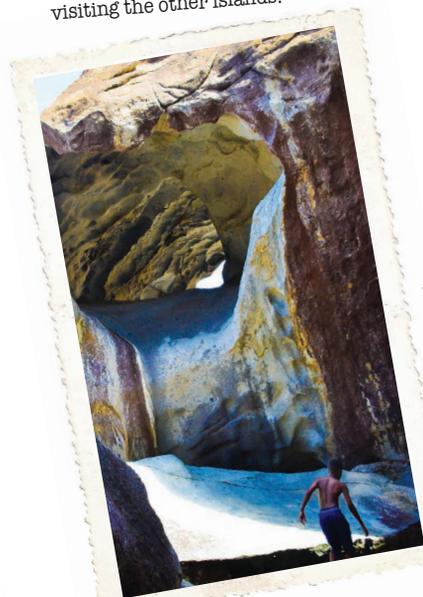
As stated in A Concise History of the British Virgin Islands, the newly elected administration in 1983 "revised and amended several old ordinances and acts and introduced a very important law called the International Business Companies Ordinance in 1984. This resulted in the registration of over 3000 foreign companies in a very short time. These businesses are not taxed in the BVI as long as their business is conducted outside the territory." See the Global Finance section on bvinewbie.com for more information.

islands at a glance



Tortola The City Centre

Stretching about 21.5 square miles and housing approximately 24,296 inhabitants, Tortola is the largest and most populated of the British Virgin Islands. Road Town, the territory's capital and financial hub as well as the location of most bars and restaurants, is situated on Tortola. Beef Island, connected to Tortola by a small bridge, is also often included as part of the main island and is home to the international airport. To some residents, Tortola has it all—beaches, nightlife, watersports, mountains, wildlife—which is why they are content to explore all it has to offer without visiting the other islands.



Virgin Gorda The BVI Showcase Island

A short ferry ride from Tortola, Virgin Gorda seems like another world - the air feels lighter over there. Snorkelling among the boulders at The Baths, driving past Savannah Bay and over Gorda Peak, exploring the Caves, watching the incredible super yachts in the North Sound and relaxing in Spanish Town bars rank among the best times a resident or visitor can have here. The vibe on the eight-square mile island is very friendly with a tight community of approximately 4,031 residents that includes both expats and BVI Islanders. Since the island does not have the same financial district as Tortola, its central industry is tourism, and VG boasts several high-end resorts and excellent customer service.

Anegada

The Unique One

A 15-square mile coral and limestone island, the flat Anegada is not visible as you approach until you're about a mile away as its highest peak is only about 8.5m above sea level. The island boasts some of the clearest waters in the area. Relatively free from industry, self-sufficient, and with a population of approximately 315 people, the community of Anegada centres on its visitors and caters in hospitality. Anegada

is aptly known for its fresh lobster. Must-sees are the mile-long walks across Pomato Point, the flamingos at the salt ponds and the wild shorelines of the west. The island can be toured by foot, bicycle or scooter but not ruling out yachting, kiteboarding, kayaking, paddleboarding or windsurfing.

Things are big and wild in and on Anegada. Most common approaches are by air, private boat and ferry from the North Sound or Road Town.



Jost Van Dyke

The Party Paradise

Jost Van Dyke—the fourth largest British Virgin Island—is approximately three square miles and lies five miles northwest of Tortola. Jost Van Dyke is internationally famous for Foxy's Old Year's Night (a New Year's Eve party) in Great Harbour—often voted one of the best parties in the world. White Bay is a popular spot for Sunday revellers from neighbouring islands. The Bubbly Pool near Diamond Cay is a refreshing reward after a short hike. In 2015, the island's population was estimated at 307 people. Jost Van Dyke also contains the popular snorkelling spots of Little Jost Van Dyke, Sandy Cay, Green Cay and the miniature Sandy Spit. Jost Van Dyke is an island concerned with conservation; the Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society serves to protect the history, wildlife, culture and environment of its small archipelago.

outer islands

The Virgin Islands are blessed with one of the most island-speckled archipelagos in the Caribbean. Our steady tradewinds and warm waters are a couple of the main allures for the boating traffic we receive. The total population of residents on the outer islands is approximately only 108. An additional 121 people are registered boaters in the BVI who travel throughout the islands on their floating homes.

Norman Island

The most infamous pirate base in the BVI, Norman Island is the rumoured former residence of Captain Blackbeard and scores of other booty-seeking scallywags. It's assumed that Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island was also based on tales of Norman. Today, tourists travel to the island to hike its trails and explore its watery caves.



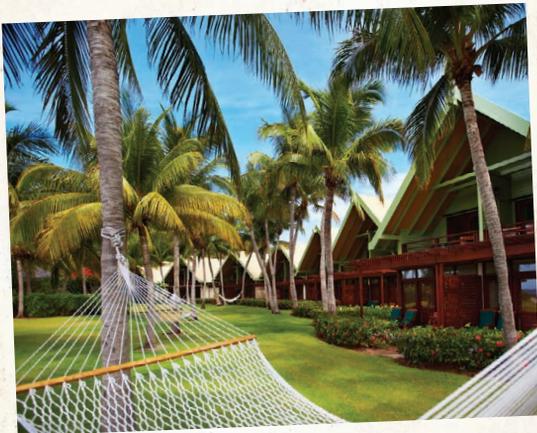
Cooper Island

Situated on this unique island are Cooper Island Beach Club Resort—the most beautiful eco-friendly retreat you will ever come across—and five privately owned properties. The island is a popular destination for daytrips and darts tournaments. It also lies adjacent to wreck alley, the popular dive site that is home to the Wreck of the RMS Rhone.

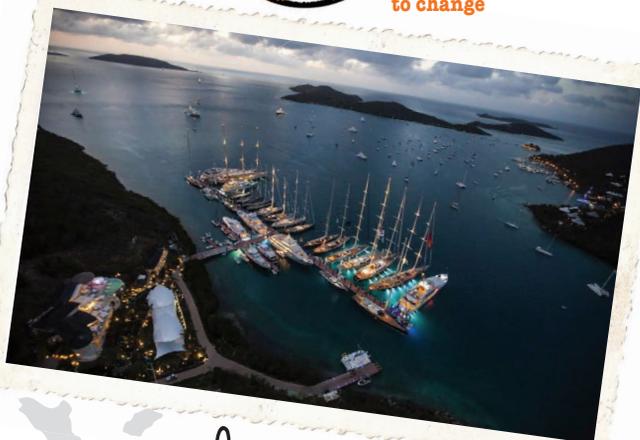


Peter Island

Home to the BVI's largest private island and the fifth largest of its 60 islands, cays and rocky outposts, Peter Island is the residence to a 52-room resort, consistently ranked among the most prestigious in the world. Visitors are able to access its famous spa, trails and beaches, but be sure to call ahead. Ferry service is available from Baughers Bay on Tortola.



The North Sound Express is a ferry service that departs daily from Trellis Bay and goes directly to Leverick Bay, Gun Creek and Bitter End Yacht Club. Call to check the ferry times in advance, as occasionally they may be subject to change



North Sound Neighbourhood

The North Sound is privy to some of the most elite resort destinations and anchorages in the BVI. From what is rumoured to be Larry Page's Eustatia Island to Richard Branson's Necker and Moskito islands, the waterways are well-worth the trip. Saba Rock also pokes out with a bar and restaurant, and is fondly regarded as the North Sound's inviting living room—a great perch in the middle of it all. Remember that while all beaches are open to the public, it's against the law to enter these high-end properties to the vegetation line without an invitation.

national parks and hidden gems

Information provided by
National Parks Trust

Established in 1961, the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands is responsible for safeguarding 21 of the BVI's most unique natural and cultural areas. These areas are situated throughout the Territory and comprise glowing portions of "nature's little secrets," as these beautiful islands are fondly referred to.

All listed below are designated as either national parks or protected areas, spanning the marine environment. Included under this umbrella of protection are historic sites, tropical forests, bird sanctuaries and beaches. A visit to any one of these parks is certainly a highlight and a treat to anyone living or visiting this island sanctuary.

Be sure to check out all of the Territory's national parks, including these other hidden gems and hideaways:

- Dead Chest
- West Dog
- Fallen Jerusalem
- Diamond Cay
- Little Tobago/Great Tobago
- Cam Bay
- Prickly Pear
- Wreck of the Rhone
- The Queen Elizabeth II Park
- Shark Bay at Brewers Bay

- Devil's Bay
- Little Fort National Park
- Gorda Peak
- Spring Bay

- The Bat Cave
- White Bay, Guana Island
- Nature Boy's Trails
- Salt Island Graves
- The Bubbly Pool
- The North Shore Shell Museum

For more information about the individual National Parks, please log on to **bvinewbie.com**



Just scan here!

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IN THIS SECTION?

Log onto bvinewbie.com/ask and we will be happy to answer your questions



finding a job 15
immigration and work permit 16
preparing to move 20
finding a home 20
money and banking 22
home insurance 24
utilities 25
communications 26
transportation 29
health insurance 32
island pets 32
waste and resource 33
management

relocating

Bringing people & rental properties
together for over 25 years



Caribbean Realty Limited
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

call +1 284-494-3999
rentals@caribbeanrealtybvi.com
www.caribbeanrealtybvi.com



British
Virgin Islands

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

MARITHA KEIL (BROKER)
+1 284 340 5555
maritha@bvisir.com

TORTOLA OFFICE
Mill Mall, Road Town
+1 284 494 5700

VIRGIN GORDA OFFICE
Spanish Town Yacht Harbour
+1 284 495 6700

BVISIR.COM

Each office is independently owned and operated

finding a job

Most people find a job through knowing someone here or applying for a posting online, but Trust, Accounting and Law firms here often hire from other offshore branches of their companies and recruit internationally.

The hiring methods for boat crew—a huge industry in the BVI—works differently because crew members from other countries are often passing through the BVI on deliveries or for regattas, so while they may not be here actively seeking employment, they often meet potential employers on the sailing circuit.

When finding the perfect yacht to work for, getting to know the departing crew can help in securing a position because they can make the recommendations direct to the yacht's owners.

Try these useful avenues to break into the job market



ask newbie

Just scan here!

The BVI Beacon - Classifieds are displayed in the weekly (Thursday) newspaper.

Online News Site - Check into bvinews.com for classified sections there.

bviemployment.com or the **Ballast & Capel Jobs** website, ranks number one as a BVI online recruitment site. Register as a job seeker to receive email alerts when suitable vacancies become available. All vacancies are current and live, and are also showcased on www.bviplatinum.com, www.bvinewbie.com, and hlscc.edu.vg.

Facebook and Networking—Probably the most active place for community-based groups here, Facebook groups such as BVI Community Board, BVI Crew File, BVI Job/Employment Search, and individual company pages offer a great interactive forum for potential employees and their employers. Business-oriented social networking websites such as Linked-In are also a great way to browse and contact companies in your field.

Check bvinewbie.com to ensure you follow the correct guidelines to adhere to when seeking employment, and also learn the possibilities for starting a new business or company formation in the BVI.



Market Research
Recruitment
Training
Development
Jobs
Coaching
HR Consultancy
Skill Testing

Our team of experienced consultants can guide you down the right path towards achieving your professional and business goals.

BALLAST & CAPEL
MAXIMISE THE POWER OF YOUR PEOPLE
info@ballastandcapel.com :: Call us 1.284.494.9203
www.ballastandcapel.com

immigration and work permit

Before You Arrive

Before you get here, you should attempt to familiarise yourself with the Labour Code, passed by government in 2010. The hefty piece of legislation remains an enigma for many, but effectively lays the groundwork for inevitable laws and regulations to come if you intend to work here. To view the Code in its entirety, go to bvinewbie.com and search our Immigration and Work Permit section for a downloadable PDF version.

Obtaining a Work Permit

In order for you to work in the BVI, an employer must first offer you a job. The same employer must also prove that he or she has taken the necessary steps to find a qualified BVIlander or Belonger to fill the position, through two consecutive weeks of advertising the vacancy in one of the territory's print newspapers. If no suitable local applicants are available, an employer may seek a work permit for an expatriate worker.

This process takes on average 7-10 weeks from when the application is submitted to the Labour Department to when the immigration clearance forms are issued.

The work permit form consists of four documents to be completed by both the employee and the employer. In addition to the forms, your employer must concurrently submit the following:

Please see bvinewbie.com/working for templates and BVI documents that you can download for free to help you with your immigration processing.



- ✓ Two passport photos
- ✓ Your Curriculum Vitae
- ✓ A certified copy of the photo and signature page of your passport
- ✓ Certified copies of academic degrees and professional qualifications (these should be translated and notarised if the original is not in English)
- ✓ One professional reference on company letterhead
- ✓ One character reference written by a professional person or academic that has known the individual for at least five years
- ✓ A copy of the employer's trade licence
- ✓ The job description of the vacancy being filled

✓ A copy of the newspaper recruitment advertisement.

Before departing for the BVI, make sure you have all the following documents with you to show upon your arrival in the Territory:

- ✓ Passport
- ✓ An approved and stamped work permit application
- ✓ A clean police report no more than six months old
- ✓ A return airfare or ferry ticket to your country of origin valid for 12 months (or as near to that date as the airline will allow you to book)
- ✓ A copy of the signature page of your passport
- ✓ An address where you'll be staying when you first arrive
- ✓ A visa if one is required for you to reside in the BVI

Completed enclosed medical form requiring several tests to be conducted no more than one month before arrival and using the original medical document attached to the clearance forms. These tests include a blood test, VDRL test, and a TB test which can take up to 72 hours to process. Note that some doctors do not provide TB testing in which case you can request a quantiFERON test as an alternative. In the event that you are able to obtain a Mantoux TB test - please ensure that your physician states the number of millimeters of your reaction. Even if there is no reaction they must stipulate '0 millimeters', as opposed to 'no reaction'. Be sure that all your medical paperwork is stamped and signed by your physician.

Once You're Here

When arriving at the airport or the ferry dock for the first time, you will need to present the original copies of the aforementioned documents. Immigration officials will check your documents and then stamp your passport, allowing you two weeks in the territory and tell you what day to visit the health clinic.

Until your work permit is approved, you are not legally allowed to work for your employer. During those two weeks, you must complete the work permit process.

On the day advised by the immigration officer, you should proceed to the clinic at Peebles Hospital. Newbies must obtain the BVI Health Services Authority Health Card in order to be seen at Peebles.

The clinic is currently located at the old Peebles hospital, immediately in front of the new facility. Arrive by 8:30am, check in at the reception counter, and wait for your name to be called. All medical paperwork is checked here which means that your medical forms must be accompanied by all the requested test results in the demanded format. Make sure all of your medical records have been stamped and signed by clinic personnel or the physician whom

administered your tests. You will need a check for \$100 to pay for the stamp of approval from the medical clinic. Once this is all checked and signed off by the local doctor, you can go on the correct day to Labour Department where your work permit documents will be checked and reviewed.

The Labour Department is located on the other side of the roundabout by CCT and Eureka. Arrive before the Labour Department opens at 8:30am to get a prime spot in the queue. Take a ticket from the machine on the wall by the entrance and wait your turn.

You'll need to complete one more form during this visit, and once done you should then have your photo taken and be issued the work permit card. The fee for the work permit is currently \$500-600 for employees making less than \$25,000, and \$1,000 for those who make more. There is also a \$75 administration fee. If paying by check, be sure to have separate checks for the work permit and the administration fee. After getting your work permit, you'll head next door to the Immigration Department. There, you will be presented with a Bond form for the employer to sign on your behalf. Once this is completed, you can return to the Immigration Department and complete the process. For this you will receive a stamp for a \$25 fee in your passport legitimising your status as a legally employed resident. Congratulations! Once the Labour and Immigration process is completed, take your passport and work permit card to the Social Security office, located across from First Caribbean Bank, and obtain your Social Security card. This is the easiest part of the gauntlet and takes only a few minutes.

Work Permit Processing Days

Mon, Tues, Wed - Renewals
Wed, Thurs - New Work Permits
Friday - Change of Employer/Transfers
Mon - Fri - Temporary Work Permits

NOTE: If you are going to be working in a senior position for a financial services organisation, there is a good chance that you will need prior approval from the BVI Financial Services Commission; this needs to be obtained before work permit approval. Your potential employer will provide all the details related to this.



One of the steps at Immigration involves taking your passport for a day or two. It's a little worrying at first, but don't worry,

they will give you a scheduled time to come and collect it as they congratulate you on your official resident status!

Dependents

If you are moving to the BVI with a spouse, partner, or family members that do not plan to seek employment, you will need to seek permission from the Immigration Department once your work permit has been approved. A request for dependents to enter will only be processed once you have entered the BVI and regularised your status. Families and partners should therefore be prepared to wait for this permission to be granted before they enter the territory; unfortunately, they can not apply for a tourist visa to visit you during this time. The request should be

presented as a letter from you requesting permission for your dependents to reside with evidence of financial support and relevant documentation such as a marriage certificate, birth certificate and passport copies for each dependent.

Once approved for entry, you will receive a letter from the Chief Immigration Officer detailing what will be required for entry for your dependents along with the same medical form that was attached to the work permit clearance form. Once on island, the process starts for dependents as yours did, at the clinic. Medicals must be checked and approved after which the dependent may proceed to the Immigration Department, where a bond will need to be completed and paid for by the sponsor (generally you—the newly employed spouse or parent).

A stamp will then be placed in each dependent's passport regularising the dependent's status. Note that once dependent status is granted, it is generally frowned upon for the dependent to request a change of status to seeking employment. It's best to wait for a period of at least one year for this to be considered by the authorities. Once permission is granted, a period of time is given when a dependent may officially seek employment.

If you have children who are aged 5 and over, their entries will need to be approved by the Ministry of Education before securing them places at school. The deadline for applying for the fall term is usually April, but some exceptions are made to ensure that children are able to continue their education.

Get the protection that you need from the world's most reputable insurance companies.

HOME & BUSINESS • HEALTH & LIFE • MARINE • AUTO • TRAVEL

www.caribbins.com



CARIBBEAN INSURERS LTD

Tortola (284) 494 2728
Virgin Gorda (284) 495 5020
F (284) 494 4393
info@caribbins.com
Located on Waterfront Drive in Road Town

Renewal Work Permit

Work permits are valid for one year, and a renewal application must be submitted five weeks prior to expiration. If you have more than one work permit, the permits should be renewed at the same time.

Documents required:

Application for renewal of work permit

Work permit card

One passport-sized photograph

Bio page of passport

If self-employed, a copy of the trade licence

Complete your work permit renewal form with your employer then drop off the completed, stamped form to the Labour Department. They will take your current work permit and give you a receipt that you must keep in place of your work permit. The Labour Department should contact you in a few weeks when your renewal is ready. If they have not done so by the time your immigration status is running out, call them a week or so before and check on your permit. If it's not ready by the time it expires, you must visit the Immigration Department to get an extension (and pay \$25). Once your renewal is ready, make an appointment to pick it up but arrive at the Labour Department by 8:30am regardless of your appointment time to make sure you are seen that day. You will need a check to pay for your renewal (\$575-675 for employees making less than \$25,000, and \$1,075 for those who make more). After you have your new photo taken, you must go to the Immigration Department to update your status. You will need cash or a check for \$25 for this as well.

Transfer of Work Permit

All of the aforementioned documents and information are required, plus the release letter from your former employer, an updated immigration stamp allowing you to extend your time in the BVI whilst the permit is being processed, your letter of

resignation from your former employer, and your work permit card.

If the employer is a new company or individual, you must produce a copy of their trade licence. Also, a Memorandum of Association or Certificate of Incorporation may be required.

You will need to notify Immigration of the end of your employment and provide evidence of the new offer of employment. You will normally have to leave island whilst the new work permit is being processed and provide evidence of this to the Department of Immigration in order for the new permit to be processed. Once the new permit is approved, you will be allowed to re-enter the BVI.

Paying Taxes

Living and working in the BVI has its benefits—especially when it comes to tax breaks. But as long as you are employed on this soil, you are responsible for your contribution to society. If you are an employee working in the private sector, you will not get taxed on the first \$10,000 you earn per year. After that, you will pay 8% toward payroll tax—that's a gross on salary payment to government—and employers are responsible for a 6% payroll tax (bosses get a break because they're deemed to contribute more toward economic growth). As an employee, you'll also contribute 4% to the Social Security Board, while employers chip in 4.5% of their income.

BVI Residency and Citizenship Statuses

Unlike many other countries, being born in the BVI does not, according to the BVI Immigration Department's website, "automatically grant any rights" if your parents are not citizens or belongers. Citizenship in the British Overseas Territories is determined by the British Nationality Act (BNA) 1981, as amended by the British Overseas Territories Act (BOTA) 2002.

For a list of the different classifications, visit bvincwbie.com.

preparing to move

Flight Info

If you're flying from the States, you can fly through Puerto Rico or fly into St Thomas and take a ferry in to the BVI. There are no direct flights from the US to the BVI. If you fly to St Thomas, you could save a few hundred dollars in airfare, but you should consider the costs for the ferry, taxi rides to the airport and the extra time.

UK travellers have the option of flying from London Gatwick to Antigua to the BVI (usually the quickest route) or flying Heathrow or Manchester to New York, Miami or Boston to San Juan to the BVI or St Thomas (usually the cheapest route).

Newbies from other parts of Europe will probably have to fly through Paris and St Maarten or Amsterdam and Antigua. But the cost of the flight should be about the same as the UK flight. Do not buy a ticket until your work permit has gone through and you have received it in hand because you can't arrive in the Territory without all your paperwork in order. It's important to note that all non-US nationals must apply for an Esta VISA for any flights or ferry trips to the US—including daytrips the neighbouring USVI. Forms can usually be completed 24 hours prior to travel.

For further questions regarding airline services to the BVI, please log on to bvinewbie.com/ask where we and the BVI community will be happy to answer your questions.

Voltage

The BVI electric current is 110v (compatible with North American plugs). If you're bringing a laptop or other electronics from Europe, you'll need an adaptor. A surge protector is also advisable due to frequent power outages and surges on island.

Time Zone

The BVI is on Atlantic Standard Time, which is the same as Eastern Standard Time (New York, Washington DC) except in the winter, when the BVI is one hour ahead due to the fact that the BVI does not observe Daylight Savings Time.



Renting an Apartment or House

Choosing a place to live in the BVI can make the difference between liking and loving the Islands. It's recommended you find a spot that feels like home the minute

DROWNING IN A SEA OF AGENTS?

Coldwell Banker can rescue you!

Call Corrinne on (284) 495 3000 for your next home.

COLDWELL BANKER

REAL ESTATE BVI

www.coldwellbankerbvi.com

BVI VILLA RENTAL

www.bvillarental.com

1 855 MY BVI VILLA

1 855 692 8484

you walk through the door. Remember, this is the place where you're going to be eating, sleeping, relaxing, entertaining and recuperating. Make sure you love it. Neighbourhoods can also make a big difference varying from social spots to places of solitude. Before you move, review the classified ads and the different BVI real estate agents' websites to get a feel for pricing and what's available. Recently on Facebook, the group "BVI Real Estate ~ Apartments for Rent and Properties for Sale" has taken off as being a primary resource used by both private landlords and the main Real Estate companies. Once you arrive, drive around different neighbourhoods and talk with people that live there or ask your co-workers what they like about where they live.

According to Maritha Keil of Caribbean Realty Limited, the most satisfied tenants tend to be the individuals who choose lodging based on where they play as opposed to where they work. Surfers are happiest

living near Josiah's Bay, Apple Bay or Cane Garden Bay. Beach babies prefer a location near Smugglers or one of the North Shore beaches. Boaters and sailors might want to live near one of the marinas. Those who like to party tend to be happiest living near the bars in town. Families with kids like living near the beaches or close to the children's schools - Nanny Cay and Lambert Beach Resort are great options for families with children—they each have a pool, beach, restaurants, and plenty of space to run around.

A furnished apartment is typically fully furnished, including all major appliances, bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture, television, lamps and rugs. Many furnished apartments also include kitchen items such as pots and pans, dishes, glasses, and utensils, as well as bedding. Semi-furnished usually includes a bed and all kitchen appliances and a couch. Unfurnished is often a bare apartment, but can also include major appliances—stove, oven and refrigerator.

It may have taken you months to find a house, now its finally time to jazz things up and make it your home with paint from The Paint Factory. Stop in at their store in Port Purcell and get everything you need including paint, stains, tools and helpful advice from their team of paint specialists. Be sure to check your lease agreement as you might require your landlord's permission before making any alterations to the property.

Create something.
Unique!

paintfactory
inspired by life's colors

(234) 494-1800 | PAINTFACTORYBVI.COM

Temporary Lodging

When you first arrive and are looking to find a more permanent place to settle, temporary lodging options include villas, hotels, month-to-month lease apartments, boats, or residences that are only occupied part of the year. "A snowbird house is a useful interim property," said Maritha, referring to the houses of BVI residents who flee the snow to live in the BVI during the winter months and leave their homes vacant in the summers. Lambert Beach Resort, East End rents apartments on a month-to-month basis as do a few other select landlords.

Finding a Roommate

The best way to find a roommate in the BVI is to ask around at your office, join the ever-growing BVI Community Board on Facebook, post details on the BVI NEWBIE Facebook page or place a classified in the newspapers. Go to the normal social hangouts like a bar and start chatting with people—most people on island know someone with a spare room.

Living on a Boat

Living on a boat is a great option, but best for those who already have some knowledge of boats and the maintenance required. Choose a good marina with resources available should you need assistance with your home. Breaking and entering thefts on boats tend to be more common in the BVI than in apartment or houses, so be sure to lock up each time you go out. It is also highly recommended that you buy a small air conditioning unit, as it gets very hot inside!

Buying a House –

Applying for a Non-Belonger Land Holding License

Firstly, individuals who intend to apply for a license must enter into an agreement for sale with the land owner. It should be noted, however, that the property must be advertised for four consecutive weeks in a local newspaper. This is required in order to give Belongers ample notice of the sale of the property and a first opportunity to buy the residence at the advertised price.

Proof of advertisement is required as part of the application process and the onus is on the seller of the property to provide such. Additionally, applicants must submit a completed application form together supporting documents; a complete list can be found on bvinewbie.com.

The application is submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour. Provided the application is in order, it will be processed by the Ministry and submitted to Cabinet for determination. The applicant will be informed by the Ministry whether or not approval has been granted. This usually takes a minimum of 3 months but can span up to 12 months. The average application process approval is 6 – 9 months.



The US Dollar

The official currency of the British Virgin Islands has been the US Dollar since 1959. This is most likely due to the proximity

WELCOME TO THE
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

FLY the
Caribbean
aboard

FLY BVI

CARIBBEAN AIR CHARTER

ANEGADA • VIRGIN GORDA
TORTOLA • ST. MAARTEN
PUERTO RICO • ST. THOMAS
ANGUILLA • ANTIGUA
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
ST. LUCIA • ST. KITTS & NEVIS
BARBADOS • DOMINICA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

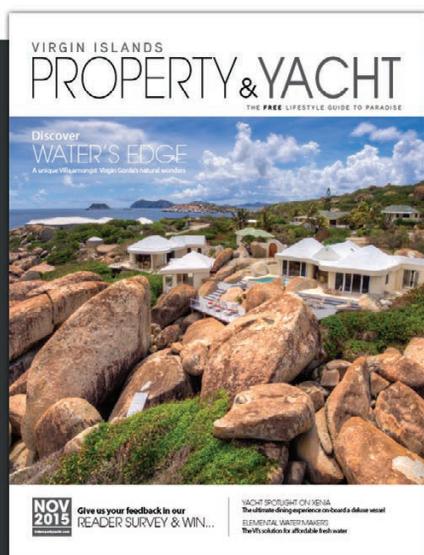
info@flybvi.com (284) 495-1747

VIRGIN ISLANDS PROPERTY & YACHT

THE FREE LIFESTYLE GUIDE TO PARADISE

For mobile, web & print

The Virgin Islands' definitive guide to Property, Yachting and Luxury Lifestyle. Available on mobile devices, online and in print for FREE at over 200 locations in the BVI: including ports of entry, retail stores, marinas, corporate offices and tourist destinations.



Look out for our Reader's Choice issue every October and vote online!

Published by



bvipropertyyacht.com



[VirginIslandsPropertyYacht](https://www.facebook.com/VirginIslandsPropertyYacht)



[@VIPropertyYacht](https://twitter.com/VIPropertyYacht)



between the BVI and the USVI and the convenience of using the dollar when conducting all those offshore business transactions.

Banking

The five main banks in the BVI are Banco Popular, First Caribbean, First Bank, Scotiabank, National Bank of the Virgin Islands and VP Bank. A visit to each branch should help you decide which one has accounts that fit your needs. First Bank and Banco Popular may be easier to deal with if you have frequent transactions in the States, because they are both subsidiaries of US banks.

To open a checking account in the BVI, you need the following:

- **A passport**
- **A BVI Social Security Card**
- **A local address (which can be your employer's address if you haven't found a home)**
- **A minimum deposit (varies from bank to bank)**
- **Three references:**
 - 1. letter from your employer with employment details (length of contract, salary)**
 - 2. letter of good standing from your home bank**
 - 3. letter from a professional reference**

Another reason to choose a specific bank might be the proximity of cash points to your home or workplace with the avoidance of competing banks' service fees.

ATM Locations

Tortola from East to West

- EIS Airport: Banco Popular
- East End, Ritebreeze: First Caribbean
- Port Purcell: First Caribbean
- Riteway Pasea: Scotiabank
- Wickhams Cay II: First Caribbean
- Wickhams Cay I: Scotiabank, First Bank, First Caribbean, Banco Popular
- Road Town Ferry Terminal: First Bank

- Nanny Cay Taxi Stand: FirstBank
- Cane Garden Bay, Myett's: Banco Popular

Virgin Gorda

- Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour: First Caribbean
- Spanish Town, Lee Road: First Bank
- Spanish Town: Scotiabank



By Brian Jermyn, Director -
Caribbean Insurers

Why Do I Need Home Insurance in the BVI?

A home is generally the largest asset for most people and home insurance can help protect this investment in the event of a catastrophe such as a fire or hurricane. Banks make home insurance mandatory if a mortgage is in place, to protect their interest in the property.

What are the Standard Home Insurance Coverages?

A standard home insurance policy is generally broken down into the following sections:

Buildings - including your home, landlord's furniture and fittings, patios, swimming pools, paths, walls, fences, satellite dishes, tennis courts and can include sea walls, docks, piers or jetties

Contents - including household goods and personal effects belonging to you or your domestic employees permanently residing with you

Liability - can include both Public Liability and Employer's Liability

Insured Perils

generally include the following:

Fire, Lightning, Smoke & Explosion
Earthquake or Volcanic Eruption
Hurricane, Cyclone, Tornado or
Windstorm
Flood or Overflow of the Sea
Subsidence, Heave or Landslip
Escape of Water or Oil from any fixed
water or heating installation or domestic
appliances
Riot, Strike or Labour Disturbances
Malicious Acts and Vandalism
Theft or Attempted Theft
Impact Damage caused by aircraft,
vehicles or animals
Falling Tree Branches

What if I Rent a Property?

A home contents policy can be obtained to cover your personal possessions as these items would not be covered by the landlord's insurance policy.



When seeking utility services, you should always have proper photo ID, typically a work permit card, but you may also be asked for a valid passport or driver's license. For all utilities, obtain the account in your name. This will allow you easier access to query the account if needed.

Electricity

The BVI Electricity Corporation provides the island's electricity. Blackouts or power shortages can be frequent dependent on your location, so after you have gotten connected, ensure you have suitable surge protectors to protect your electrical appliances from frying. Also, have plenty of candles, flashlights and hurricane lamps, or even a back-up generator, for when those

infamous power outages do occur. To get hooked up to the grid, visit the BVLEC's office on Tortola, or if you are living on Virgin Gorda, in the Valley. You will need to make two trips—first, to get a Customer Change Request Form. This form must be filled out and signed by you and your landlord if you have one. You will then have to fill out an Agreement Form and pay a refundable deposit of two month's average usage, roughly \$120-\$200. The use of electricity for your new apartment or home will be transferred to your name on the same day.

If electricity was disconnected to the property, a technician will visit your dwelling between 5:30pm and 8:30pm to restore power to your home that day.

Solar panels are an increasingly popular choice to power water heaters and reduce electricity costs, after the The BVI Electricity Corporation (Amendment) Act 2015 to create regulations that will then allow the Territory to realize the benefits of grid-connected renewable energy projects.

Water

The Water and Sewerage Department (WSD) manages the Territory's public water supply. They are located by the CSY dock in Baugher's Bay. If you're renting a property that is connected to the public supply, you will need to visit WSD for a Transfer Form. Both you and your landlord must sign this form. Return the form to your nearest WSD office and be prepared to present a photo ID and pay a \$20 application fee and \$100 refundable deposit (\$200 deposit for commercial businesses). Once this is done, water supply will be reconnected to the property within 24 hours. Many homes and apartments, especially those in the hills, are not connected to the public water supply and utilise rainwater stored in a property's cistern. If your only water supply is through a cistern, familiarise yourself with the size of the cistern and its access points. Check the water levels regularly (especially during the dry season) to make sure you don't run out of water. Use water sparingly. For those

properties that are connected to the water supply, expect rationing of the Territory's potable water when the WSD turns off town water. It's advisable to have spare water on hand for drinking and bathing if you are only connected to town water and do not have a cistern. The Water and Sewerage Department posts planned water outages on their Facebook page to give residents notice, but in the event of emergencies or unscheduled outages, you can call the department to report the incident. See phone numbers in the back of the book under "Resources".

Gas

If you're renting or buying a home here, chances are you'll need to know how to fill your propane tanks—most stoves and ovens and various kitchen appliances are gas powered.

Gas tanks will likely be marked with either a 'Delta' or 'Sol' insignia. On Tortola, Delta's Pasea location will accept either brand, but the Pockwood Pond location will only refill Delta tanks. For 100-pound tanks, you'll pay \$76; 20 pounds, \$25. Your other option is Sol, which offers 100-pound refills for \$85 and 20-pound refills for \$27 at their Baughers Bay depot, located across from the CSY Dock and at the Botanic Service Station near the cinema. If you're on one of Tortola's sister islands, or you would like a serviceman to deliver to your residence, you'll need to call your distributor for assistance.

communication

Mobile Services

If you're curious why mobile service in the BVI is so good, just take a look at the surrounding hillsides which are often enhanced with gleaming cell phone towers at their peaks. Dead spots are pretty rare but may occur on the outer islands. The three communication companies—CCT, LIME and Digicel—offer very similar prepaid and monthly plans. All three BVI phone operators can be found within a few steps

from the Road Town roundabout - simply ask around when you're in the area.

For prepaid accounts, you will need to present valid ID, purchase your SIM card and initial credit for your phone. For prepaid customers, there are top-up locations at most gas stations, grocery stores, convenience stores and tourist areas, or you can top up online. If you have LIME, and you get in a pinch, you can text GM5 (Give Me 5) to number 126, and they'll give you an instant five-dollar top up that will be deducted the next time you add minutes to your phone.

Keep track of how often you top up on a monthly basis and see which plan works best for you. For post-paid accounts, you need to fill out an application form, present valid ID, sign a contract for at least 12 months and leave a deposit.

The amazing thing that expats discover when moving to the BVI is that, unlike in the US, mobile phone customers only pay for outgoing calls, so your friends from the US can call or Skype your BVI number, and it costs you nothing!

High-Speed Internet

If you have a laptop, most bars and restaurants in the BVI have WIFI access for their customers.

There are several main internet options: Landline with Lime or CCT Max (mobile internet for home use). Both cost approximately the same, around \$100/month for slower connections (including payment for landline in case of Lime).

In recent years, providers have aggressively pursued hi-speed networks (like 3G and 4G), with more and more people carrying smart phones than ever before.

Digicel have a highly reliable 4G data network with plans. They also provide a variety of 4G dongle and MI-FI plans for internet on the move or as a useful yacht internet coverage solution. They even boast 97% off roaming charges with their Roam Like you're Home service, allowing accessibility through Digicel Caribbean, Central America, the USA, the USVI, and Canada. Digicel Business specialises in Cloud services, dedicated internet access, disaster recovery and mobile device management.



UPGRADE
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Make Your House A Home
With **LIME**

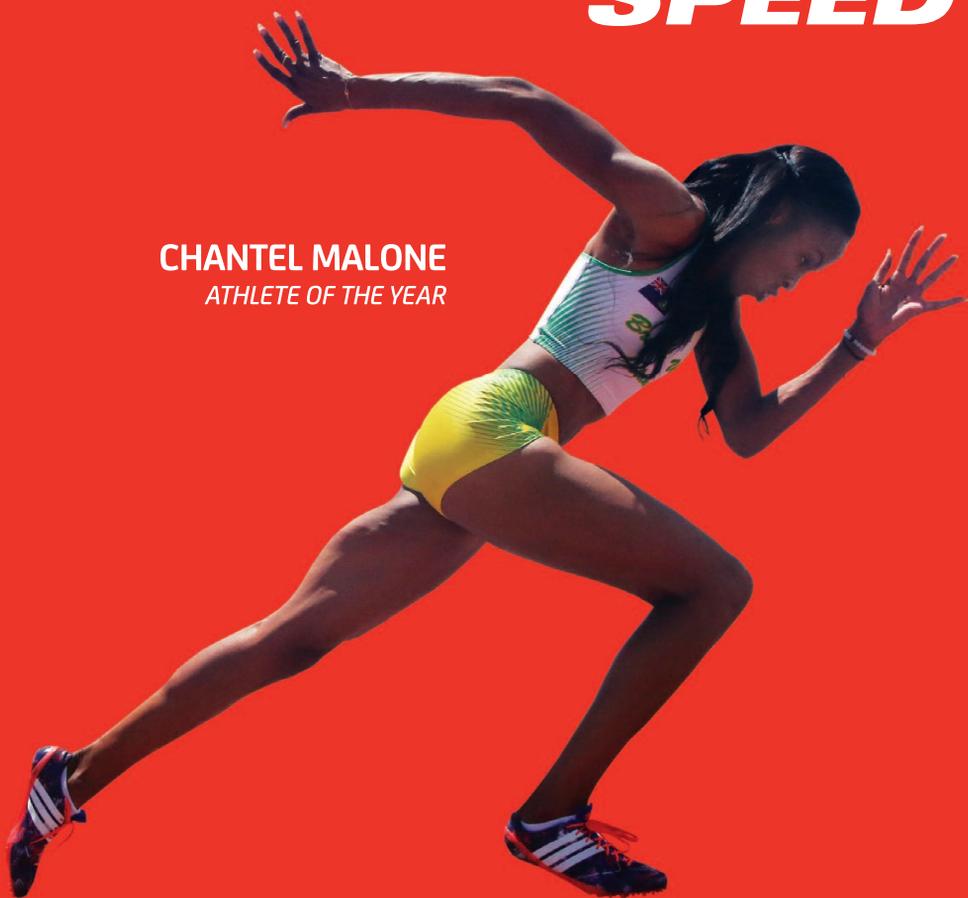
**SUPERFAST
BROADBAND**

LIME

lime.com

STRENGTH *PLUS* **SPEED**

CHANTEL MALONE
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



**JOIN THE BVI'S MOST RELIABLE
AND FASTEST 4G NETWORK.**



DIGICELBVI.COM

Digicel

Digicel terms and conditions apply.

Landlines

There are two options for landlines in the BVI – LIME, formally Cable & Wireless, and Digicel. To get connected with LIME, you simply need to fill out an application form at their main office in Road Town or in the Valley, Virgin Gorda, and provide a valid picture ID. A two-month deposit is charged to your first bill. Your deposit is refunded after a year of consistent service with the company. Presently, telephone plans are as low as \$20 per month. Connections are usually done within 2–15 business days, but it is not unheard of to take up to 3 months. Expect a similar procedure with Digicel.



BVI roads have been described as fun, intimidating, bumpy, thrilling and dangerous. Sometimes they are all those things. When in doubt, drive cautiously because you never know when something is going to stop in front of you—another car dropping someone off, a cow or goat, a tourist thinking Main Street is a pedestrian thoroughfare, a chicken, a taxibus filled with photo-snapping cruise ship passengers or a neighbour pulling over to throw trash in the dumpster. There are also plenty of speed bumps, often in unexpected places, as well as dips, potholes and blind turns.

Ticket violations run from reckless driving to stopping a vehicle to talk to another person in their motor; however, the most common offences, tend to be driving while using a cell phone, expired

registration and failure to use a seatbelt. Driver's License

If you are simply visiting the BVI, a valid overseas license permits driving for up to a month. As long as you have this license, you can also legally drive in the BVI for no more than three months via a temporary license for a fee of \$10.00. It is not required for the applicant of a temporary license to take a written or road skills test.

If you are establishing permanent residency in the BVI, you must obtain a Virgin Islands Driver's license, to which there is a procedure depending on your status as an overseas driver or non-driver.

Even if you already have a valid foreign license, you are still required to take the BVI written test as well as the Cone Test and Road Test. If you have reached the age of 70 years, in addition to the tests, you must provide a medical report no more than six months old from a licensed practitioner stating your fitness to operate a motor vehicle. This medical must include an eye examination. The eye examination can also be taken at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) located at R&R Malone Complex in Pockwood Pond.

If you do not have a valid foreign license, you must take the practical and written tests and also acquire a Learner's Permit from the DMV for \$20.00.

Visit the DMV for a copy of the Road Rules booklet, and study it. Do not attempt the test without studying the book. Once you have memorised the BVI driving rules, you can take the written test at the DMV.

Written Test (Theory Test)

To take the written test you must provide a picture ID with your date of birth or your Learner's Permit.

The Written Test has sixty questions and you must score fifty correct answers for a passing mark. The time allotted to take this

test is 60 Minutes. You must also correctly answer the two mandatory questions about speed limits, or you will not pass.

Obtaining Permanent Driver's License

After passing the tests, take the following to the DMV at the Pockwood Pond facility on Tortola or in Spanish Town on Virgin Gorda to obtain your license:

- **Either a valid driver's license from another country or the form for application of a license provided on passing the BVI driving test**
- **A Written Test certificate, Cone Test certificate, and Road Test certificate**
- **An official document showing your blood type (obtained at the hospital or at Eureka)**
- **Your BVI Social Security card**
- **A valid passport**
- **Passport-sized photo**
- **An eye examination**
- **A BVI work-permit card, an employment letter for those working for Government, a Belonger's Card for those who are Belongers, or proof of residency in the BVI (Land Holder's Card)**
- **\$35 for a three-year license or \$15 for a one-year license**

Purchasing a Vehicle on Island

Due to the many speed-bumps, potholes and switchbacks, this is not the place to choose a low-ride sports car though you will see them from time to time. Power and 4WD should be your mantra, especially if you want to explore some of the islands' secrets that are only accessible by dirt roads.

Like most imported products on the islands, cars are more expensive in the BVI than other countries due to shipping duty and import costs.

Check the local papers and online classifieds for up-to-date deals on used cars. BVI Cars and Parts is a great group to join on Facebook; just be sure to get cars checked by a trustworthy mechanic.

Getting Your Car on the Road

The first step in legally getting your car on the road is the transfer of ownership. You can transfer a car into your name even if you only have a foreign license, although a BVI one is preferred. Both buyer and seller need to be present at the DMV to complete the paperwork so they can see that the signatures are valid. When purchasing a car from someone that has already left the island, that person's signature must be on an original, notarised form before being sent back for you to complete in the BVI.

Obtaining Car Insurance

Once the car has been transferred to your name, you will need to insure it before licensing it. There are many reputable insurance companies on island. Depending on the age of the car, you may or may not be able to comprehensively insure it. Many insurance agencies will only insure the car third party if it is over eight years old.

Tortola Automobile Association is the only 24 hour road side assistance company in Tortola, but is well worth the reasonable annual fees as it is not unlikely for drivers to get in pickles, especially on the hills, even in vehicles in good condition.

Licensing a Vehicle

You can license the car once you have your insurance documents. The cost of licensing depends on the size/weight of the car. You first need to have the car inspected by one

of the officers in the lot behind the licensing office. Following, you go inside with your insurance documents and certificate of inspection to pay your licensing fee. Then once you have the receipt, take it back outside so that the officer can apply your sticker.

Passing Inspection

You might think that almost anything that has wheels and potters along the road in the BVI seems to pass as a vehicle, but think again. While many prefer an old-beater over a shiny new wagon because of the wear and tear vehicles endure on our rough and wild roadways, you'll need to ensure your road warrior passes inspection through the DMV. If it can't pass yearly inspection, and doesn't bear the appropriate year's registration sticker on the inside of the front windshield, you could be looking at a hefty fine - the authorities often organise road stops to specifically check for proof of current registration.

For an inspection checklist and further instructions in the process to pass inspection visit bvinewbie.com.

Renting a Car

Most rental companies do not rent to drivers under 25, but some don't ask. Always get the optional insurance, or you might end up paying \$800 for a broken taillight and a gouged bumper. Some rental companies offer off-season deals that are less expensive than a one-way taxi ride from the airport, so car rental is a great option in the BVI.

Taxis

The best thing about the proliferation of taxis in the BVI is that you will never get stranded. Taxi drivers usually hang out during the day at all the major tourist hubs, but if you are in need of a ride from somewhere slightly off the grid or late at night, you will need to call. It's a good idea to call and let a driver know ahead of time

so that they can be prepared to pick you up. Taxis are great for more than just rides to the airport. You can hire a taxi bus for a big night out, like a limo, in order to keep anyone from drunk-driving.

Scooters

Scooting around the island is another option. Scooters are great because you can pull up to the front of the line at traffic lights and you barely have to spend any money on fuel. If you are considering this method of transportation, rent a scooter first and zip around the islands for the day. As with all vehicles, be certain to ride with caution. Once you purchase a scooter, be sure to keep all weather gear in the storage compartment just in the case of a sudden rainstorm which can occur sporadically.

Hitching a Ride

If you find yourself without a vehicle for a few days (or years), another possibility is to hitch rides. The BVI is one of the few remaining places in the world where you can safely get into a stranger's car. Most drivers will stop and pick you up. Obviously, common sense is a must.



Just scan here!

A graphic for 'health insurance' featuring the words in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is set against a green, textured background that looks like a splash of paint. Several green coins are scattered around the text, some overlapping it. The overall style is modern and clean.

health insurance

By Brian Jermyn, Director -
Caribbean Insurers

Why Do I Need Health Insurance?

Health care costs have become increasingly more expensive over the years. Serious illnesses or injuries can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars and cause severe financial difficulties.

The purpose of health insurance is to help you pay for care that you or a family member may need. It is best to enrol in a health insurance plan at an early age as generally pre-existing conditions are excluded from coverage. If you wait until you become seriously ill or injured, you will likely not be able to obtain the health insurance coverage you require.

People with health insurance are also more likely to get routine and preventative care on a more regular basis which can reduce the chances of a medical problem escalating into something more serious and more costly.

At the very least, you should consider a medical plan with a higher deductible and establish a savings account, to ensure you will have the funds available to meet your deductible should a medical emergency arise.

What are the Standard Health Insurance Coverages?

Most health insurance policies have coverage for the following medical services: Hospitalisation, Doctors Office Visits, Prescription Drugs, Diagnostic Tests such as X-Rays and MRI's, Surgery, Maternity, Organ Transplants, Radiotherapy & Chemotherapy and Annual Check-Ups.

Optional coverages generally include Air Ambulance, Dental, Vision, Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment coverage.

Most insurance plans are "coinsurance plans" where the insurance company will cover a percentage of the eligible medical expenses after the deductible has been met

(say 80% or 90% for example) with the remaining (20% or 10%) to be paid by the insured as their coinsurance share.

National Health Insurance

This information is accurate at the time of publication

The National Health Insurance system aims to provide medical coverage available to everyone. The contribution is based on individual's salary and is automatically deducted from the payroll of all BVI employees. 7.5% is split between the employee and employer (3.75% each). Unemployed spouses must contribute 7.5% of their partner's earnings. Children under 18 are exempt to the levy. The ceiling for the deductions is \$77,220, earnings above this level would not be subject to payments. Most treatments insured under the NHI are subject to copayments.

Copayments

- 0% at community health clinics
- 5% at the public hospital
- 10% at local private clinics in network
- 20% at local private clinics out of network
- 20% at overseas in network clinics in network (required to be pre-approved by Medical Review Committee)
- 40% at overseas clinics out of network



You want to move your pet to the BVI, but you've heard horror stories about importing pets to other countries—six-month quarantine, freezing cargo spaces on planes and hundreds of vaccination shots. Importing a pet to the BVI is not as difficult as it can be in other countries - you simply

have to follow some simple procedures and choose whether you want to get your pet tattooed or micro-chipped.

Other than a microchip or tattoo, pets from other countries need an import permit, an official health certificate filled out from a licensed vet and endorsed by a government veterinarian, and a \$10 importation fee to enter the BVI. Pets from rabies-endemic countries need a bunch of vaccinations that could take four to six weeks to administer. Once all the forms and vaccinations are taken care of back home, you must official application forms to the Government of The BVI Veterinary Division which they will provide, along with the certificate and fee in order to obtain a permit. Once the permit is processed, the division must be given at least 24 hours' notice of the animal's arrival into the territory.

Resources for Importing Your Pet

Government of The BVI Veterinary Division,
Dept of Agriculture, Paraquita Bay, Tortola
Ph (284) 468-9247 (Deveaux) or (284) 468-9693 (Dr Montrose)
Email: bvigov_vet@gov.vg.com

Your Pet Arrives

Once your pet is here, though, should you be worried about heat? Tropical diseases? Caribbean predators?

Virgin Islands veterinarian Dr Laura Palminteri of Canines, Cats & Critters vet said, "Because it's the tropics and humid, there are a lot of parasites, but you just need to keep them on Revolution [a monthly, topical medication for the prevention of parasites in pets]. There are no insects that are going to be fatal. There are lots of stray dogs and cats on the island compared to the States, so they're more likely to be an issue." The reason these other strays can be an issue is that they carry contagious diseases which they can pass on to your pet. Feline leukemia and Feline AIDS are rampant among island stray cats.

Unfortunately, animal poisonings have been reported on Tortola—mostly in Josiah's Bay but also on other beaches. The culprits, who have yet to be discovered, wrap poison in meat and bury it just below the surface of the ground in paper bags so that dogs sniff it and eat it.

Acquiring a Pet on Island

So you want an island dog (also known as a coconut retriever)?

The best place to acquire an island dog or cat is at the BVI Humane Society. It also seems that every other month someone announces a litter of puppies or kittens they know of in their neighbourhood. If you do acquire an island dog, be prepared for tourists constantly asking, "What kind of dog is that?" Our island dogs may look normal in the BVI, but they're a little wacky looking to the rest of the world.



Solid Waste and Resource Management

Trash collection service is limited and each district representative is tasked with hiring private contractors to collect and dispose of solid waste. Residents are expected to deposit their waste in metal dumpsters that are situated every mile or so, on the roadsides. On Tortola, you'll often see the loud, diesel dump-truck barreling down the road en route to Pockwood Pond where the collected waste is dumped in an incinerator and burned.

The BVI has seen a three-fold increase in waste volumes over the last decade with waste within the Territory being either landfilled or incinerated.

Three unlined landfill sites are currently in operation (Tortola, Virgin Gorda and Anegada) with open burning unfortunately a common practice. A new transfer station has been built on Jost van Dyke. Waste is collected and barged to Tortola, and glass and cans are separated for recycling.

The BVI Government has adopted a Strategic Waste Management Plan that calls for an 80% diversion of waste in 5 years that:

- Promotes waste as a resource;
- Creates jobs and products including renewable energy;

Recycling systems for glass and plastics are being implemented for Jost van Dyke and Virgin Gorda. Plans are currently underway to develop a viable recycling system for the BVI.

Sewage

Currently sewage treatment plants are being built by the BVI Government to better manage sewage. Green VI aims to use sewage in a methane digester to create energy.

Metal

The recycling of derelict vehicles is currently undertaken by a private recycler, Floyd Stoutt. He has a car crusher in Sea Cows Bay. Scrap metal is then shipped off to be recycled. It is hoped that soon our aluminium and steel cans can be collected and recycled.

Composting

The tropical climate in the region is perfect for composting because the heat assists in the decomposition process. One of the simplest ways an individual can help with waste management is to compost.

For most people, the thought of composting seems difficult and unmanageable, however composting can be easy, healthy and unintimidating. Check on-line to find a composting system that suits you along with other recycling and waste management tips from Charlotte McDevitt, Executive Director of Green VI.

284 494 7788
Road Reef Plaza, Tortola, BVI

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IN THIS SECTION?

Log onto bvinewbie.com/ask

and we will be happy to answer your questions

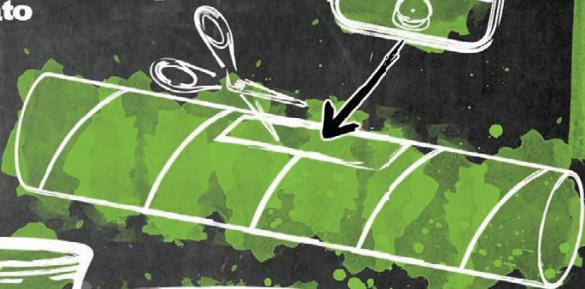


wining, dining and limin' 37
eating and drinking establishments 38
spas and salons 41
culture and festivals 42
sports and recreation 42
activities for kids 43
getting off the rock 43
2016 full moon calendar 45

playing

THE QUICK CUP AMPLIFIER

1 Cut a rectangular hole in a paper towel roll for your smartphone to fit into



2 mark circles in the 2 cups using the paper towel roll ends, then cut them out

3 slide the 2 cups into the ends of the paper towel roll

4 place the phone in the speakers then hit play



TURN UP THE BEATS!

wining, dining and limin'



In coming to learn the social scene, you will hear the word limin' a fair amount. Meaning differs from person to person, resident to visitor, BVIlander to Expat, going from the serenity of 'relaxing' to the hedonism of 'partying'. The main thing is, it's about enjoyment and if there's one thing the BVI is synonymous with, it's fun!

BVI Cuisine, Restaurants & Bars

For local cuisine, the BVI, especially Anegada, is known for lobster.

Another popular local seafood dish is conch (pronounced konk) as in the critter that lives in the shells that you listen to on the beach. Conch fritters usually consist of battered, breaded and fried pieces of the creature, which is actually a type of sea snail. Other conch dishes, including conch chowder, can be found on the majority of local menus.

Roti, in the BVI, is curried vegetables and meat in a chickpea-flour wrapper and is often served with chutney. It's filling and delicious. Though they may look like Hot Pockets, patties which are similar to British pasties, are crusty turnovers filled with salt-fish, chicken, beef, lentils or vegetables.

A common side dish which accompanies most local cuisine is called "rice and peas". However, the "peas" are "pigeon peas", unlike the green vegetable, peas in the pod, which most cultures outside the Caribbean would expect to get.

The BVI has a range of dining options offering international cuisine at a variety of different venues. Captain Mulligan's is a

classic sports bar with an outdoor Caribbean twist, situated amongst exotic palms where you can enjoy live sport matches as you and your family can dine on pizza, wings and beer. Dove Restaurant & Bar 1864 is an upscale, fine dining restaurant serving an eclectic mix of gourmet cuisine, offering a patio overlooking Road Town Harbour. Foxy's Tamarind Bar and Foxy's Taboo, both located on Jost Van Dyke, are beach bars with a mix of food options, renowned for catering to day trips and their world famous New Year's Eve parties.

Most establishments serve lunch from noon to 3:00pm and dinner from 6:00pm to 9:30pm. Some are closed on Sundays, Mondays, or Tuesdays. Reservations are encouraged at most of the upscale establishments.

In the BVI, it is a customary practice to tip 10-15% minimum, depending on the quality of the service you receive (we have some outstanding servers and bartenders here, so if they exceed your expectations, you may wish to be more generous). Some restaurants include gratuity of 15-18% on the bill already. Be sure to also tip bartenders when paying cash at the bar.

As we are a British Overseas Territory, like the United Kingdom, our legal drinking age is also 18 years old.



Our two signature BVI drinks you'll see down here are the 'Painkiller' and the 'Buschwacker'. The Painkiller tends to be a popular choice amongst visitors, as it is a unique creamy blend of coconut, pineapple and orange, shaken over ice. I prefer the Bushwacker- basically an alcoholic milkshake containing shots of creamy liqueurs and dangerous spirits blended with ice.

For information and resources on staying sober, **visit bvlnewbie.com**

eating and drinking establishments

Please note that all listed establishments use the area code (284) unless otherwise specified

Road Town

Brewley's.....	494-1093
C&F Bar & Restaurants.....	494-4941
Can Can Cafe.....	494-0590
Capriccio di Mare.....	494-5369
Caribbean Flavas.....	495-8600
Charlie's at the Moorings.....	852-3602
Chillins' Café.....	494-9237
Crandall's.....	494-5156
Deli France.....	494-2195
Dockmasters.....	494-2771
La Dolce Vita.....	494-8770
Dove Restaurant & Bar 1864.....	494-0313
Family Food & Bakery.....	340 0077
Fantasia by Giorgio's.....	495-5684

Fort Burt Hotel & Restaurant.....	494-2587
La Gelateria.....	494-8660
Ginny's.....	852-3602
Island Roots Café and Art Gallery.....	494-3751
Jamaican Kitchen.....	340-2982
Lucky Star.....	346-8686
Marché.....	494-3626
Maria's by the Sea.....	494-2595
The Mariner Inn.....	494-2333
Mellow Moods.....	494-6403
Midtown Restaurant.....	494-2764
Nature's Way.....	494-6393
Origin.....	494-8295
Plum Rose.....	494-3033
The Pub.....	494-2608
Pusser's Pub.....	494-3897
Roti Palace.....	494-4196
Roti Queen.....	441-0770
Sharky's Mexitalian Grill.....	494-8140
Simply Delicious.....	494-8766
Star Luck Café.....	494-8420
UP's Cinema.....	494-4567
Village Cay.....	494-2771
Virgin Queen.....	494-2310
The Watering Hole.....	346-5950



"damn fine food
and wine"

DOVE

Open for Lunch and Dinner
Monday to Friday
in Dove.

Open for Coffee, Tapas & Drinks
Monday to Saturday
in Bar 1864

dove1864.com



Captain MULLIGAN'S
YOUR NUMBER ONE
SPORTS BAR, RESTAURANT
AND FAMILY RECREATION
ON ISLAND

SPORTS EVENTS SCREEN 12 X 24
APPAREL GOLFING, SPORTS, TRAVEL, TANKS, COCKTAILS, ETC.
CHEESE BURGER ON ISLAND
HAPPY HOUR MONDAY - THURSDAY 4-6PM
THE MULLIGAN PIZZA **FREE WiFi** **GOLF** HOLE-IN-ONE

NANNY CAY MARINA, TORTOLA, VIRGIN ISLANDS
284-494-0602 | captainmulligans@gmail.com

Scaramouche.....343-1602
Sugar Mill.....495-4355

Cane Garden Bay

Elm Beach Bar & Restaurant.....494-2888
Myett's Garden & Grille.....495-9649
Paradise Club.....340-8241
Quito's.....495-4837
Rhymer's Beach Bar & Restaurant495-4639
Tony's Welcome Bar.....495-9424

Jost Van Dyke

Abe's By the Sea.....495-9329
Corsairs.....495-9294
Foxy's.....495-9258
Foxy's Taboo.....340-9258/495-9258
Gertrude's Beach Bar.....495-9104
Harris' Place.....495-9302
Ivan's Stress Free Bar495-9358
Jewel's Snack Shop.....495-9286
One Love Bar & Grill.....495-9829
Soggy Dollar Bar.....495-9888
Sydney's Peace & Love.....494-9271

South

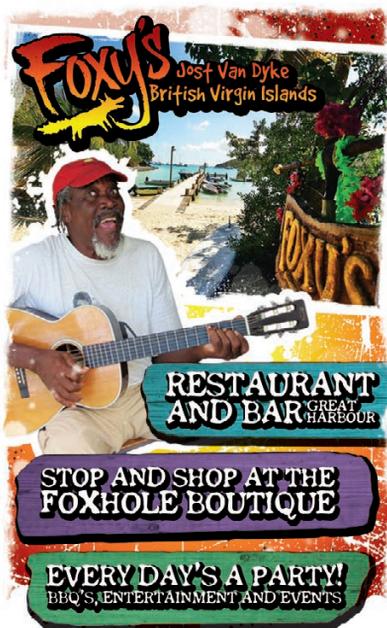
Captain Mulligans.....494-0602
Genaker Cafe at Nanny Cay.....494-2512
ext. 2339
Peg Leg Landing.....494-0028

East

Bing's Drop Inn.....495-2627
Brandywine Estate Restaurant.....495-2301
D' Best Cup.....495-0259
De Loose Mongoose.....495-2303
Emile's Restaurant & Cantina.....495-1775
The Last Resort.....495-2520
Naomi's.....495-2818
Nature's Way East.....495-2852
Pusser's Marina Cay.....494-2174
Red Rock Restaurant & Bar.....495-1646
The Tamarind Club.....495-2477
Trellis Kitchen.....495-2447
Turtle Restaurant (Lambert Beach
Resort).....340-2878 or 495-2877

West

Bananakeet.....494-5842
Bomba's Surf Shack.....495-4148
Cruzin'.....446-6201
D'Best Cup.....495-0259
D'Coal Pot.....495-4998
Fish 'N Lime Inn.....495-4276
Frenchman's Cay (The Club House).....495-4862
Long Bay Beach Resort.....495-4252
North Shore Shell Museum.....495-4714
Pusser's Landing Soper's Hole495-4554
Sebastian's on the Beach.....495-4212



Foxy's Jost Van Dyke
British Virgin Islands

RESTAURANT AND BAR GREAT HARBOUR

STOP AND SHOP AT THE FOXHOLE BOUTIQUE

EVERY DAY'S A PARTY!
BBQ'S, ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENTS

1 284 495 9258 www.foxysbar.com

Virgin Gorda

Bath & Turtle/Rendezvous Bar.....	495-5239
Bitter End Yacht Club.....	494-2746
Chez Bamboo.....	495-5752
CocoMaya.....	495-6344
Fat Virgin Cafe.....	495-7154
Fischer's Cove Beach Hotel.....	495-5252
Hog Heaven.....	547-5964
Leverick Bay.....	495-7154
Little Dix Bay Resort.....	495-5555
Mermaid's Docksides Bar & Grill.....	495-6663
Mine Shaft Cafe.....	495-5260
The Rock Cafe.....	495-5482
Saba Rock Resort.....	495-7711
Sugarcane Restaurant.....	494-8000
The Clubhouse at YCCS.....	393-2000
Top of the Baths Restaurant.....	494-5497

Anegada

Anegada Beach Club.....	852-4500
Anegada Reef Hotel.....	495-8002
Big Bamboo Restaurant.....	495-8129
Cow Wreck Beach Bar & Grill.....	495-8047
Lobster Trap.....	547-0539
Neptune's Treasure.....	495-9439
Potter's By the Sea.....	495-9182
The Wonky Dog.....	547-0539

Cooper Island

Cooper Island Beach Club.....	443-1305
-------------------------------	----------

Norman Island

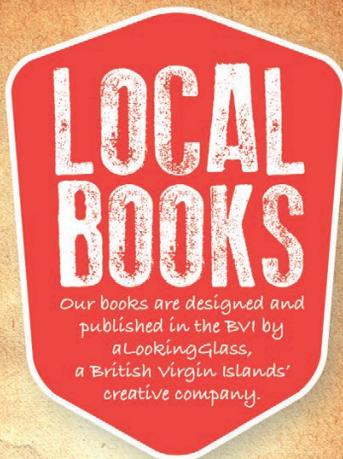
Pirates Bight.....	443-1305
The Willy-T.....	441-8603

Peter Island

Peter Island Resort.....	495-2000
Ocean's 7.....	340-1177

Scrub Island

Caravela.....	440-3440
Tierra Tierra.....	440-3440



Dining on Deck II



A venue where crewed charter chefs display their outstanding talents and showcase their yachts, an all-new recipe collaboration of these culinary experts can be found in *Dining on Deck Volume II* – a fantastic souvenir for avid fans of BVI sailing and cuisine.

Building a Virgin Islands Sloop



 alBOOKS

Call for details 1284.494.7788
Email us: books@alookingglass.com

visit our store on
 amazon.com

and spas salons



One of the advantages of living in a tourist destination, is the availability of luxury services and with spa treatments at astonishingly good value, regular visits are well worth exploring.

Studio One Salon and Spa, located at 132, middle Main Street provides a unique spa atmosphere, with 5 star European hair & spa products, Swedish massage treatments, mani/pedis, 3D eyebrow micro pigmentation, and waxing services.

Peter Island Resort and Spa which has won international awards, earned #1 in Caribbean Best Spas 2014 in Caribbean Journal. They offer a 10% discount on treatments to all residents as a special community gift.

One

"More Than 15 Years Of Experience In Beauty"

SKIN & HAIR CARE • PRODUCTS • TREATMENTS



130 Main Street, Road Town, Tortola
1 (284) 494 9988 | 1 (284) 346 5622
studioonebvi@gmail.com

THE SPA AT PETER ISLAND

A "TOUCHING" GIFT FOR ANY AND EVERY OCCASION.

Be it a bridal party, baby shower or girlfriend getaway, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day or birthday, gift certificate or employee incentive program, The Spa at Peter Island is perfect for every occasion. Don't forget to ask about our 10% local discount.

Guests of the Spa receive complimentary access to:

- Ferry transfers
- Steam room, oceanside Jacuzzi, infinity pool
- Yoga on Sunday and Wednesday
- Meditation garden, beaches and fitness center



  PETERISLAND.COM | 284.495.2000


PETER ISLAND RESORT & SPA
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

culture and festivals



The BVI offers an array of cultural activities, with new ones cropping up every year. Newbies simply need to know where to look to find them.

The BVI Theatre Series brings screenings of international dramatic and dance performances to the big screen at the HLSCC auditorium. The Performing Arts Series at HLSCC also showcases international performers in a concert-style setting.

The art of dancing thrives in the BVI and is celebrated through the annual BVI Dance Festival which features hip hop, ballet, tap and jazz performances by students throughout the territory. Other places to see dance include shows by the CADA Players, Killi Killi, and dance troupes during festival parades such as the Tortola Dance Project Dancers. Diandra Jones of The BVI dance school offers dance classes including ballet, tap, belly dancing, and unique theme dance projects for both kids and adults.

If you're looking for blockbuster films at a reasonable price, visit UPS Cineplex in Road Town.

Museums

Located on Waterfront Drive is the Government House Museum, a stunning, historic building which is a great place to take your visiting friends who want a little background about the island's history.

The Lower Estate Sugar Works Museum houses a collection of artifacts from the building's original use as a place where sugar and cotton were processed as well as other historical items. The museum also hosts regular exhibitions by local visual artists.

The Virgin Islands Maritime Museum, located at the Marine Centre at H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, showcases and celebrates the islands' maritime heritage.

Festivals

Two of the biggest festivals of the year are the August Emancipation Festival (which includes three days off work for most people) celebrated in locations across Tortola, and the BVI Spring Regatta and Sailing Festival in Nanny Cay Marina. Both events bring visitors to the islands, treating tourists to live music, rowdy parties, booths of souvenirs, local food, and general merriment.

Other BVI annual festivals include Virgin Gorda's Easter Festival/Fisherman's Day.



J'ouve is a large street party celebrated twice during the Festival week, once in Road Town and once in East End. Dress colourfully and get ready to celebrate Caribbean culture as you dance to local music!



Most sports circulate around associations, clubs or federations, which are open to anyone who has a desire to play. Some clubs are more formal and competitive while others are more social and casual. Some organised sports compete on an international level while informal clubs exist for everything from acro-yoga to rock-lifting, and members are always looking for new recruits for their quirky fitness activities. If you are interested, ask around. These activities will not come to you, and they are often scheduled around weather, season, and different events.

In addition to the sports clubs and activities, several gyms offer the latest in equipment, classes and training trends - recommended locations are Sensus Health Club in Manuel Reef, Body Images and Tortola Sports Club both in Road Town. Personal trainers are available, as well as spin, yoga, Pilates, body-pump, Zumba, step, circuit training and boxing sessions. If you're more of person who loves sports on the big screen, there is no other location like Captain Mulligans next to Nanny Cay marina in Tortola - they show all major sporting events on a huge projection screen.

For information on specific sports, visit bvinewbie.com.

activities for kids

Being a kid on the islands is second to none. While kids can't (yet) hang out at shopping malls, they have a ton of choices on land and sea including hiking, cycling, watersports, swimming, dancing, snorkelling and diving. Most activities run through afterschool programmes, private organisations and charities.

Kids can learn everything from sailing to surfing, ballet to basketball, track to tree-climbing. Lots of parents get their kids involved in sailing and water sports at a young age as many businesses offer summer and holiday camps.

The movies are great to take or drop off your kids, as well as Captain Mulligan's in Nanny Cay where they can enjoy mini golf, and recently the addition of a full playground.

It's also important to take your kids off island from time to time so they know that there's more to the planet than paradise.

getting off the rock

The BVI is paradise. But every so often non-native residents are susceptible to island fever. The best way to cure this ailment is to get off the rock. This can be as simple as booking a daysail to one of the smaller islands, taking a ferry to Peter Island, St John or St Thomas for the day, chartering a seaplane, or flying to Puerto Rico, St Martin, Antigua or St Kitts for the weekend. Even better, go someplace cold - sometimes we need to get off the rock and escape the climate to appreciate why we live on it.



PIRATE ISLANDS

Set sail for adventure, with pirates, poems, and puzzles in this exciting book just for kids in the British Virgin Islands

BVIPIRATEISLANDS.COM

 [BVIPIRATEISLANDS](https://www.facebook.com/BVIPIRATEISLANDS)



Staycations

Sometimes there's no reason to go too far to feel like you're miles away from home and work. Many residents choose vacation options within the BVI. These sorts of next-door-getaways have been coined "staycations" by local businesses and the BVI Tourist Board. Many villas, resorts, dive centres, charter companies and watersports centres offer year-round local discount rates that make staying close by a feasible option for a vacation choice.

In the summer, most businesses drop their rates considerably—from 10 to 50 percent or more— so it's also a good time to invite family and friends for a visit. For many residents, preferences like North Sound Virgin Gorda where for a reasonable rate you can enjoy the prestigious amenities at Bitter End Yacht Club, or Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, will transport you worlds away from your responsibilities, allowing true island fever therapy.

Our Island Neighbours

Here are some of our neighbouring islands that are accessible daily from the BVI. Great for refreshing and recharging.

dominican republic
puerto rico
st. croix **st. thomas**
st. john
st. maarten
anguilla
st. kitts and nevis
antigua
guadeloupe
dominica
martinique
st. lucia
barbados
st. vincent
grenada



DOLPHIN DISCOVERY

The Experience of a Lifetime!

10% OFF

your **DOLPHIN SWIM***
Mentioning this AD.

Information & Reservations (284) 494 7675

TORTOLA B.V.I. • ANGUILLA B.W.I. • GRAND CAYMAN B.W.I. • CANCELIN • RIVIERA MAYA • COZUMEL • COSTA MAYA • VALLARTA • LOS CABOS • MEXICO CITY

www.dolphindiscovery.com    @dolphin_swim

*Applies to any dolphin instructor programme. Valid until December 31st 2015

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY TORTOLA B.V.I.

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IN THIS SECTION?

Log onto bvinewbie.com/ask and we will be happy to answer your questions

Full Moon Calendar 2016

In the BVI, full moon dates are most commonly associated with beachside celebrations—from shore to shore. The main full moon parties that draw a monthly slew of tourists from the neighbouring USVI and beyond are as follows:

At Apple Bay on Tortola's west side, rowdy revellers imbibe under the bright moonlight with mushroom tea and live music at the **Bomba Shack**. **Paradise Club** in Cane Garden Bay hosts parties with a new theme each month. At **Trellis Bay**, Beef Island, vendors line the beach with arts and crafts for sale, and partygoers get their groove on to live calypso music and poi shows. At midnight, a giant fireball is set ablaze in the bay.

It's worth calling ahead or asking around before heading east or west for a full moon party. It's also worth considering a sick day if you attempt a full moon party on a school night. Cocomaya on Virgin Gorda and Foxy's on Jost Van Dyke are additional options if you wish to experience the celebration on other islands.

january 24th	february 22nd	march 23rd
april 22nd	may 21st	june 20th
july 19th	august 18th	september 16th
october 16th	november 14th	december 14th

TIME FOR A QUICK HACK?

LIME LIFE HACK

- 1** fill an ice cube tray with aloe vera gel and freeze, when ready rub on sunburn areas



- 2** sandy from the beach? rub a small amount of baby powder over sandy areas to remove it

- 3** place some frozen bottles of water on a plate in front of a fan then switch on to get instant air conditioning



- 4** get the bbq really going by using tortilla chips to get it fired up



FIRE IT UP!

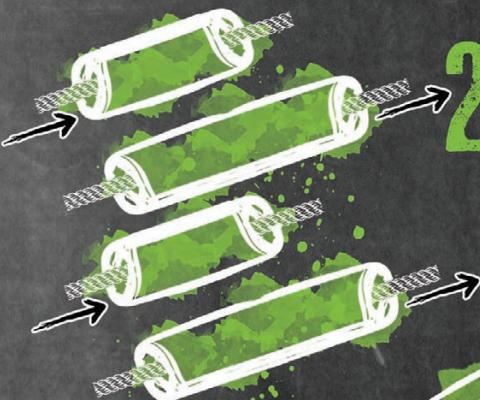


socialising in the bvi 49
getting married 50
starting a family 50
education and schools 50
healthcare 52
laws, police and crime 53
tropical weather 54
flora and fauna 55
shopping 56
where to shop 57
shipping and duty 58

Living

THE BEVERAGE BOAT

1 using a pool noodle, cut it into 4 pieces, 2 long and 2 short



2 use rope to tie them all together through the holes, and wrap the noodle and rope around the top rim of a medium-size plastic container.



3 fill the container with ice and beverages then float it in the pool



DRINKS ALL ROUND!

socialising in the BVI

The social scene in the BVI is as vibrant as you want to make it. When you can buy a rum and coke for \$4.00 with the equivalent alcohol measure of a triple in the UK or US, things are going to be lively. Nevertheless, on occasion, someone will pipe up and unveil the query that plagues us all from time to time: What is there to do in the BVI other than drink?

The answer is: a lot.

Because the BVI is a tightly woven community, Facebook is an especially useful tool for getting started in the quest to meet like-minded individuals for energetic and inspirational activities. Facebook Groups can range from cultural connections to buying and selling items. Some examples include: BVI Bring and Buy, BVI Community Board, and BVI Cars and Parts, as well as many social group pages.

There are always special events occurring on the island, and most of these are posted on the Community Board or BVI Events.

Here is a list of Facebook group names, profile pages and fan pages you can try via Google Search or Facebook itself to begin your journey in joining the BVI community:

A great place to start:
BVI Community Board

To hit the water sports scene:
BVI Sup Co and/or Breeze Paddle Surf

For the thespian or dance enthusiast:
The Cada Players

For adult dance classes, yoga, and Pilates:
The BVI Dance School

For the newbie to veteran sailor:
BVI IC24 Racing

To hone your public speaking craft:
Tortola Toastmasters

For the love of all creatures great and small:
Humane Society of the BVI

Dig the 'green' scene? Check out:
Green VI

For the lover of words:
Callaloo Poets

To lend a helping hand:
Hands on Volunteers or BVI Red Cross

For the superhero, volunteer for:
VISAR (Virgin Islands Search and Rescue)

To grow a moustache to support prostate cancer: **BVI Movember**



Joining a club or group is the best way to feel settled in your new home. When I joined Tortola Dance Project, I met an awesome new set of friends and the practices and performances were a great way to keep me busy when not working!

Counselling

Kelly Bos is passionate about personal wellness and healthy relationships which she advocates for in her counselling practice and her published work. She can be followed at [facebook.com/kellyflanniganbostherapy](https://www.facebook.com/kellyflanniganbostherapy) or kellybos.com. Additional options can be found at bvlnewbie.com

**ask
newbie**

Just scan here!

getting married

Once you've lived in the BVI for a while, you realise why people come here to get married.

Once you've sealed your engagement in one of the epic tropical settings of the BVI, tying the knot in the Territory is the most romantic scenario imaginable and can be as extravagant or as simple as you and your partner desire.

Obtaining a Marriage License

The first thing you need to do is call or stop by the Registrar's Office (above Varieties Electronics store by the roundabout in Road Town) to book a date and time with the Acting Registrar General.

You need to apply for your marriage license costing \$220 if you have been in the territory for less than 15 days, or \$120 if you have been here for longer. Additionally, and most importantly, you will need your other half present, your passports and any divorce decrees that are applicable. You'll fill out a short application which asks for the date and place of your ceremony, and that's it.

Officiants

You can get married by the Registrar General in the Registrar's Office for \$120, or you can have the officer come to a ceremony outside the office to officiate for a \$220 fee for an outside ceremony. Other options include priests, ministers, or an ordained buddy. However, unlike Love Boat, a ship's captain cannot perform the ceremony in the BVI.

starting a family

Expecting parents in the BVI have several options when deciding where to have their baby. Mothers who have decided to have their babies here in the Territory have found Peebles Hospital to be absolutely professional. The maternity ward is fully equipped and the doctors and nurses are highly skilled and very caring.

Many go home to be close to family, and some travel to the USVI or Puerto Rico for larger hospitals or naturalisation reasons.

education and schools

For any transplanted child, going through the education system in the BVI can be challenging but also exciting. The territory provides unique opportunities for children to explore the culture of the islands while receiving a sound education both in the public and private school systems.

The BVI houses a total of 15 primary schools and four secondary public schools and 10 primary and three secondary private schools. The BVI also has a technical and vocational school. Being a British Overseas Territory, the education system in the BVI is much like the traditional learning system in the United Kingdom. The school year runs from September to June.

Children between the ages of 5-16 are required to be enrolled in a matriculating educational programme whilst residing in the territory. Children may start elementary school at age four if they will turn five within their first school year. In the

public school system, children spend seven years in elementary school, from stage one to two, then from class one to five. In class five, students sit the national Primary Five Exam for entrance into secondary school. Once in secondary school, students spend a minimum of six years - three at the lower secondary and three at the higher secondary levels. The completion of three senior years, with passes in five subjects including Mathematics and English, and 120 hours of the National Citizen Service Programme (community service) will allow students to be awarded a secondary school-leaving certificate.

During the final year, students in the four public secondary schools also take the regional Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) exams. These exams are given in a wide variety of subjects. Passes in the exams are also required for admission to some colleges and universities in the United States and the Caribbean.

In the BVI, students have two options for tertiary education: the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College and a branch of the University of the West Indies. Both offer resident courses at an associate's level before students may further their studies via distance learning, completing studies at the University of the West Indies' home campus or transferring to a university abroad. HLSCC was recently approved for accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Getting Your Child Enrolled

Several private and public options exist for elementary and secondary education in the British Virgin Islands. Schools are not zoned in the territory, so students may apply at any school they prefer, whether the school is in their neighbourhood or even on the island they reside. While most islands have both primary and secondary schools, if you plan to live on Jost Van Dyke, the secondary school advances up to form two. After students successfully complete those two forms, they must transfer to secondary

school on another island to complete their education.

Your child must apply with the Department of Education for placement in both the private and public schools. The Department accepts applications between January and April for consideration for the start of the following school year in September for both private and public schools and again from November to December for placement only in a private school for the school semester beginning the following January.

You are required to submit the following with an application form that can be picked up at the BVI's Department of Education:

- **Child's birth certificate**
- **Updated immunisation form**
- **a passport-sized photo**
- **Letter of good health from the Road Town Clinic**
- **Transcripts from previously enrolled schools**
- **Proof of your immigration status in the BVI (from passport)**
- **Your work permit or government appointment letter**
- **Acceptance letter if the child will be attending a private school**

Once those items have been successfully accepted, the application will be reviewed, and you will be notified of the status of the application with further instructions by the Department of Education. Prospective students may be asked to sit a placement exam to ascertain the child's educational level.

Home schooling is another option in the territory. Parents, however, are required to apply for this option with the Department of Education. Once the department is satisfied that the child will be following a reputable programme for educational advancement, the child will be granted permission to continue. Online curriculums where parents simply pay for the materials and textbooks are mailed to the student and online or telephone support are available. Students are required to be independently tested regularly. Some programmes have testing facilities in

nearby US Virgin Islands or testing can be arranged with the assistance the Education Department.

For Preschoolers

Many new parents find help in talking to other parents when tackling each new stage with their little one. This is no different for island parents and arguably an imperative action when you are a newbie, far away from the usual supports of home. Killi Killi is an artistic space full of toys, creative space and places to sit and chat. There are also additional playgroups which meet hosted by organisations throughout the Territory. For more information visit bvinewbie.com

Daycare

Daycare services are available in most of the populated areas in the BVI, with the majority located in Road Town. Daycares are offered at different price points and with various service hours. They are run by independent businesses, as preparatory preschools for the aligning private schools, and also by faith-based institutions. Personal nannies

A warm, loving atmosphere for babies, toddlers and preschoolers.



Willows, BVI

Call: 284 340 2728 or email: jenniejermyn@gmail.com

facebook.com/willowsbvi

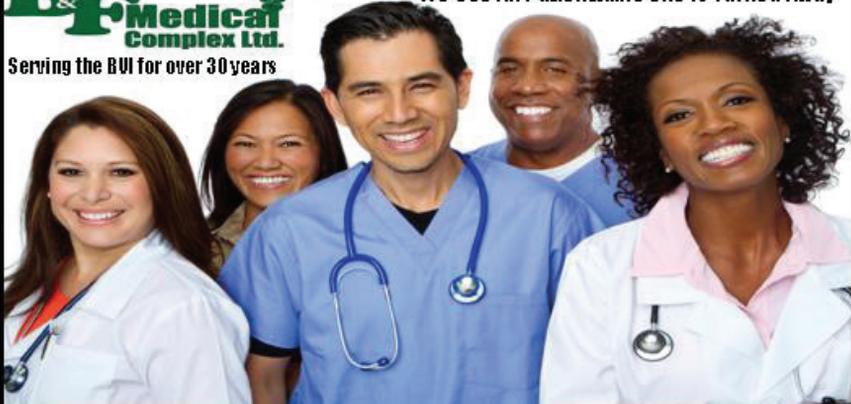
are also available. Willows BVI run school holiday camps during Easter, summertime, and Christmas.



The territory's healthcare system has rapidly become diverse and consistently stays on par with global medical advances.



B & F Medical Complex Ltd.
Serving the BVI for over 30 years



**Where Your Health Comes 1st...& People Really Care
We See All Patients...No One Is Turned Away**

Professional & Affordable Medical Services Available 7 Days a Week

Now Open in 2 Locations:

Road Town 284-494-2196	East End 284-495-2197
----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Appointments, Walk-ins Welcome...

- General & Specialist Doctors
- Full Dental/Orthodontist
- Med-Lab/Pharmacy/Optomtry
- X-Ray/ Ultrasound

The responsibility of operating the public health system goes to the statutory body, BVI Health Services Authority (BVI HSA). Throughout the territory, residents may seek assistance for medical, mental and dental health through various clinics managed by the BVI HSA.

At the end of 2014, the Government opened a brand new health complex immediately behind the original building, Peebles Hospital. The old Peebles Hospital operated as the territory's primary health care site for more than 90 years still remains open as part of the new facility. In addition to 24-hour emergency and ambulance services with a laboratory and x-ray facilities, the new hospital is equipped with a pharmacy, catering and dining area, gift shop, physical therapy unit, hydrotherapy pool, and a psychiatric ward.

B & F Medical Complex Ltd offers two locations, one in Road Town and one in East End, providing a full range of medical services including pharmacy, optometry, dentistry, orthodontist, obstetrics, gynecology, lab, GPs, x-ray, ultrasound and work permit healthcare assistance.

On Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke, day clinics serve residents. Public healthcare professionals also live on those islands and are available for emergencies outside of the 8:30am - 4:30pm work schedule.

Accessing full treatment at Peebles Hospital from those islands can also be achieved via helicopter or ferry evacuation when needed.

There are a number of private facilities that are available to render most health services needed by the public, including specialty treatments in dermatology, orthopaedics, plastic surgery, chiropractic care, dentistry, and reflexology. In fact, the BVI is an operation-vacation destination, so many come to top up their tans while improving their looks.

For emergencies, 911 or 999 are utilised in the territory. That call will patch you through to the 24-hour fire station that will connect you to the particular service you seek.

If you are still a bit uncertain about the level of care available in the territory, you have options outside the BVI. Expatriates that can afford to maintain their health

We love to see you
Smile!



Premier Dental

T (284)494-8062

E premierdental@surfbvi.com

Skelton Baylot, FishBay, Tortola BVI

insurance in their home countries while living abroad, often return home annually for check-ups, routine or preventative visits to their healthcare providers.

Additionally, the BVI is very close to neighbouring US islands that can provide further health services. St Thomas is just a 45-minute ferry ride away, and San Juan, Puerto Rico is a half hour flight. We also recommend purchasing pre-paid emergency assistance insurance in case you need to be airlifted to the States or PR.



The most common ticketed offences are traffic violations, and police officers often conduct random stops to check for seatbelts, legal drivers' licences, and current vehicle registration. Talking or texting on a mobile phone while driving is also illegal; however, if you travel with a roadie, or bar bevvly to go, you'll likely be alright.

Within the Caribbean, the BVI holds the high reputation as a relatively safe place to live and visit. However, theft, assault and burglary are crimes that do occur, as with anywhere, so it's important to use presence of mind.

Car theft also occurs in the BVI. Use necessary precautions when leaving your car—even if to socialise on the beach for a few hours. Common sense dictates concealing valuables in your car and locking your doors.

When travelling away from the island for extended periods of time, try to avoid leaving your vehicle at the ports of entry (ferry terminals and airports). Car theft in Trellis Bay and by the Road Town Ferry Terminal are common, so do yourself a favour, and hitch a ride if you plan on leaving your vehicle overnight.

As long as you bring your general smarts with you, there's no reason to fret among these peaceful islands. Since gun possession is illegal in the BVI, the crime rate is nowhere near as high as neighbouring islands that do allow guns. Be thankful for that.



In the tropic zone, serious weather events are inevitable—live here long enough, and you are guaranteed a hosing. The weather doesn't have to reach hurricane status to have devastating effects—serious weather can mean anything from a tropical depression to a category five hurricane. It's all a matter of intensity. Along with the wind come massive amounts of rain, electrical activity and storm surges, any one of which can cause serious disruptions. Heavy rainfall can wash out roads, topple trees, and undermine the foundations of houses. Electrical activity like lightning strikes can disrupt domestic electrical service, start fires, and damage structures. Storm surges can cut off coastal roads and flood low-lying areas, damaging houses and other structures.

During hurricane season—June 1 to Nov 30—a period of time when dramatic natural hazards can occur, but are extremely unlikely, the intensity of these natural events, their unpredictability, and the uncertainty of duration mean that a prudent resident must prepare thoroughly for a substantial period of self-sustainability several months ahead of time in the rare case things turn nasty. In such a sporadic

situation, it is entirely possible that you could be isolated in a house or other location for many days at a time. At that time, it is too late to try to find drinking water, cooking gas, food, durable covers for windows, and all the essentials of a secure stay.

In order to stay informed on local developments, tune in to ZBVI or one of the area's TV stations to watch BVI DDM's (Department of Disaster Management) Focus show. The BVI DDM website and Facebook page has links to local weather information and updates on weather conditions and alerts. For those made homeless by natural or manmade disasters, the DDM operates a number of emergency shelters—often at churches, schools, or community centres. A list of such shelters can be obtained from the department. Check their website for details – bviddm.com

For additional information on tropical weather, a list of hurricane holes, as well as how to prepare for a hurricane, visit bvnewbie.com

Boat Safety for Bad Weather

For those who own boats in the BVI, certain procedures must be followed to ensure your vessel doesn't end up in the bushes at Soper's Hole or on the bottom of Baugher's Bay. Again, it's wise to have insurance for any sized vessel due to our unpredictable hurricane season. The BVI Marine Awareness Guide's storm precautions include removing the boat from water, if possible, or taking it to an approved hurricane hole; making sure all moorings, anchors, chains, cables and ropes are in good condition; securing the bow and stern to strong points on land or with an anchor or mooring; ensuring the boat and its moorings or anchors are not blocking access to the mooring or anchorage; leaving room for late-arriving boats; and not returning to your boat until the storm has passed and wind and seas have subsided.

flora and fauna

Poisonous Fruits, Plants, and Creatures

The BVI is not a scary place to live, but there are a few things newbies should know to avoid. First up in this list of notorious villains is a poisonous bright green fruit by the name of manchineel, also known as “the death apple,” which when consumed has the violent effect of leaving its victim with a burning throat and lips and could cause bad enough throat swelling to impede breathing.

Ironically, another poisonous plant is the BVI national flower—oleander that grows everywhere.

The venom of a brown recluse spider is also poisonous. They tend to hide out and only defensively respond with their harmful bite if threatened. They secrete a necrotic venom that kills the flesh around the bite. If you suspect that you have been bitten by a brown recluse, see a doctor immediately to get the wound cut out. The quarter-sized spiders are recognisable by the violin-shaped marking on their backs.

Snakes

Snakes in the BVI are generally non-venomous, but a small fraction of people could have an allergic reaction if bitten.

Lionfish

Lionfish are considered enemy No. 1 among the Virgin Islands’ intricate reef systems. In fact, dive operators and fishermen throughout the Caribbean are actively pursuing the invasive little creature. Large, poisonous spines protect the fish from potential predators, and should be avoided at all costs. While Conservation and Fisheries

Department officials encourage fishermen and professional divers to hunt the creatures, nautical newbies are asked to steer clear of the fish and contact authorities if sighted.

Bugs.

Aedes aegypti, the mosquito that acts as a vector for the dengue virus and chikungunya, is recognisable by the white stripes on its black legs and body. They often dwell in enclosed, human-inhabited, indoor spaces, and breed in places where water collects. The best way to keep the mozzie population under control is by not giving larvae a place to grow. If you see little green wormlike wigglers in your guestroom toilet or dog’s dish, they are mosquito larvae. Use bug spray to avoid contracting one of the mosquito-borne illnesses. Dengue and chikungunya cause painful and long-lasting symptoms.

Sand flies are tiny black bugs that mostly inhabit coastal areas and are prevalent around sunset, sunrise, or in the shade. The biters can hurt, and an allergic reaction can cause red bumps similar to mosquito bites.

The best way to treat bites from either mosquitoes or sand flies is with hydrocortisone cream or an oral antihistamine to combat the allergic reaction. After a few months, most newbies seem to become immune to the mosquitoes and bites cause less of an allergic reaction (or maybe the bugs have just moved onto fresh blood).



Did you know...

Mosquitos are drawn to anything black, such as clothing or fabrics on furniture, and also the carbon dioxide in our breath.

We recommend buying an electric “tennis racket” to kill as many as you can. A natural way to reduce mosquitos on your property is buying citronella candles and plants which are available at Fort Garden Centre. Local stores such as the Arawak boutiques also carry natural sprays and repellents.

shopping

Food and Provisioning

The best thing about shopping in the BVI—no sales tax! The worst? Most things are imported; therefore, you pay for the price of the item plus the price of shipping it over to the BVI, making the cost of goods quite expensive. That said, you're also more likely to have fruit trees in your yard, so eat as many mangoes as you can and look for local produce at the grocery store.

RiteWay are the preferential grocery and provisioning stores. There are seven locations around Tortola, including Harbour Market in the West of the island, Fine Foods in the East, and the most modern super store in the centre (Road Town) with the largest selection of fresh foods, beer, wine, and liquor. They also have a hot take-away food and a salad bar – all at competitive prices.

For bulk shopping, visit the Cash & Carry right next door, with no membership required. In addition, provisioning is made easy with their online ordering service - visit rtwbvi.com.

Other preferences include Bobby's Supermarket, Supa Valu which is well-priced for buying meats, and One Mart which also has favourable pricing across the board.

Be sure to check your local supermarkets to find out what day(s) to expect fresh produce and new stock.

Nutrition

Some grocery stores have a section dedicated to the locally grown or caught. There are market stalls on Fridays in Road Town and often at the roundabout in town. There are also different roadside sellers of locally grown vegetables or fish throughout the island, including the much adored lobster when in season.

Good Moon Farm is an organic farm situated in Turnbull Estate which sells produce both on their website goodmoonfarm.com and also at Aragorn's Studio in Trellis Bay.

Tortola's Provisioning Experts.

Ca\$h & Carry

RiteWay FOOD MARKETS

The more you buy, the more you save.

RiteWay quality and value, all year long.

VISA MasterCard

East End | Pasa | Fleming Street | Road Reef Plaza
Affiliate Stores Fine Foods | Harbour Market

T: (284) 340-2263

Shop online www.rtwbvi.com

There are wellness specialty food stores on island and many establishments are expanding their health food selections as well, which can aid with shopping around food allergies and sensitivities.



Growing your own produce is a great option. The best time to plant is in October or November when the temperatures begin to cool and a friend of mine

recommends buying seeds from produce which was grown here as they are less prone to bugs and diseases in our environment.

Local Discounts

Traditionally in 'off season' or 'slow season' as it is also known, you will find you are able to enjoy the tourist experience at discounted rates and some stores offer special discount cards which you can sign up for at the register.

where to shop

Department Stores

If a shop is labelled 'department store' in Tortola that usually means that it carries more than just one type of item, but it doesn't mean that it carries everything. Varieties and Electronics in Road Town sells mostly men's and women's clothing, but also carries shoes, linens, and all the necessary electronics in a separate building adjacent to its clothing counterpart.

Island Department Store in Sea Cow's Bay doesn't sell clothing, but carries housewares, linens, electronics, appliances, furniture and toiletries. Bolo's in town provides one of the best arrays of cosmetics and a pretty

extensive perfumery upstairs, but they also sell children's toys, electronics, housewares, bedding, stationery and cleaning products.

Clothing

When seeking outfits for the beach or the bars, the BVI has a vast selection of funky, sexy, comfortable clothing for every shape and size. The shops at Nanny Cay and Trellis Bay offer some great choices for water-wear for men, women and children. A great starting spot is Arawak boutiques, a one stop for surf and resort apparel for in and out of the water. With a large selection of clothing, accessories and gifts for all occasions, they have three locations across the BVI - Nanny Cay and West End in Tortola and Leverick Bay in Virgin Gorda.

For ladies' party clothes, meander down Main Street, starting behind Pusser's and ending by the bottom of Joe's Hill and stop into all the shops along the way to find quirky, trendy fashions. Then hop onto Waterfront Drive and crisscross the street, stopping in the department stores and clothing stores you pass. You're guaranteed to find a few preferences.

On the other hand, finding quality, office-appropriate clothing in the BVI can be a challenge, especially for men, but there are several stores on Main Street and Waterfront Drive that sell shirts, ties and suits. While the no-franchise law keeps the BVI from looking like a McTourist destination, it also prohibits the designer stores you might be used to.

Home Furnishings

There are several home interior stores in the BVI, including Arawak Interiors, who import high quality wood and synthetic furniture and accessories. They offer a wide range of stock, custom orders and personalised interior design and sourcing service. Between the selections available, you can easily kit out your pad with choices both funky and functional. L & L Buy and Sell in Fish Bay on Tortola is a consignment and resale store. This is a great place to find deals on used items from people who have left island.

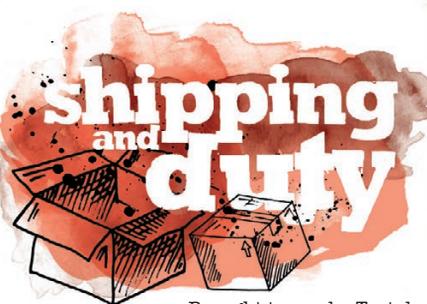
Shopping online is often the best way to procure specific items that are not on island. See Shipping and Duty Costs for more info on online shopping.

Home Services

Services such as plumbing, house cleaning, gardening and pool maintenance, tend to be reasonable and reliable in the BVI, but it's worth shopping around and asking for estimates as there are no set pricing guidelines. Rates can range from \$10 an hour for a cleaner who does everything from windows to ironing, to \$25 an hour for a cleaner who mops floor.

Laundry

Many homes in the BVI lack laundry facilities, but residents have options ranging from dry cleaners, laundry drop-off, and coin-operated machines. Prices for washers range from \$2.00-\$3.00 per load. Dryers usually cost \$.25 for every five minutes. Drop-off laundry services can run from \$7.00 per load to \$15.00 per load, depending on the weight.



Brought to you by Tortola
Express/Aeropost

PO Box

The BVI is the perfect place to fall off the grid. When you get your work permit and driver's licence, you'll be asked where you reside—your address. A simple, "Cane Garden Bay" or "Haver's" will suffice. And when giving directions to your home, you'll use landmarks, like, "take a right at the green, overflowing dumpster" or "continue past the herd of goats." Sometimes however, you need a physical address like when your mother asks where to send your birthday card. That's where the PO Box is helpful.

There are several providers on island that offer PO Box services and since some stateside companies only ship to US zip codes, you may want to consider this for your online shopping needs:

Your local stop is the Post Office, where you'll be able to set up a local PO Box near their offices

At Inland Messenger Service, you can get a local drop box or an address in the USVI for an annual fee.

Khoy's Mailing Service will set you up with an address in St John - he collects items from this address twice a week

Tortola Express/Aeropost has addresses available in Miami, all incoming shipments are insured, and will ship back your RMAs (Return Merchandise Authorisations) for free.

Parcels & Mail

There are several shipping and mailbox services on island that offer a US or USVI address where you can ship items from the States. This is especially convenient for online shopping which has become extremely efficient in this last few years and is very safe.

When shipping smaller items, like documents and items that fit in reasonably

sized boxes, there's always the Post—but understand their limited schedule times and often long delays for product shipment. This was realised quickly as the financial sector began to boom through the early 1980s, sparking a need for quick and reliable delivery services.

Fedex, DHL and UPS are all here with overnight or two day service from the US or other major hubs.

Tortola Express is another company offering reliable shipping needs, and prices are determined by weight, not volume. Its customers are granted a Miami address, which comes in handy when ordering from companies that only ship within the continental US. With this option, send your stuff to your Miami address as if you lived there and then TortolaExpress/Aeropost takes care of the rest of the journey with customs clearance, delivery and online payment and tracking solutions the whole way. Because most US retailers don't ship outside of the US, this means you instantly get access to ordering from Amazon, eBay, Jc Penny, etc... Especially useful is their insurance program called Aeoprotect. With this they will return your package to the vendor free of charge if you have to return

something which would not normally be covered since you live outside of the US.

When shipping large items overseas, like cars and furniture, you'll need to call upon a cargo company. Locally, Tropical Shipping and Carib Trends handle the bulk of this traffic. TortolaExpress/Aeropost have just started offering a maritime service too. Since they take care of all the import work, it's a lot easier.

Duty Charges

Be sure to familiarise yourself with duty fees. Some costs significantly exceed others, while others items—like books—are free of charge. If you have a large, varied shipment coming through, check the handy calculator on Aeropost/Tortola Express' website via a Google Search for Tortola Express. For a generalised breakdown of duty charges visit bvnewbie.com

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IN THIS SECTION?

Log onto bvnewbie.com/ask and we will be happy to answer your questions

Pack some water and sunscreen, gather your family and friends and discover the landscape that lies beneath the canopy.

From seaside-to-summit through the National Parks and hidden ruins to unspoiled, sandy beaches and into the historic streets of Road Town, discover the trails and read the tales in British Virgin Islands' new hiking guide!

\$15

LOCAL BOOKS
Our books are designed and published in the BVI by alookingglass.com, a British Virgin Islands' creative company.

alBOOKS | Call for details 1.284.494.7788 | Email us: books@alookingglass.com | visit our store on amazon.com



Daily Flights

For your online shopping

Newbie's, you'll soon find out that if you want to shop online, most websites don't ship outside the USA. Get your Miami shipping address with TortolaExpress and start shopping instantly!



Signup online

www.aeropost.com/eis



AeroProtect:

Extends warranties to the BVI.



Free Delivery*



AutoPay:

Register your credit card for speedy package pickup.



Free Customs Clearance

*Conditions apply, call us for details.



facebook.com/tortolaexpress
www.aeropost.com/eis
Ph. 284-494-0707

TortolaExpress >>> Parcels

AEROPOST
NETWORK

beaches

On days without ships, it's a great place to bring the family. Also notable in Cane Garden Bay is the historic Callwood Rum Distillery.

Brewers Bay: Snorkelling, Swimming, Drink, Camping, Dog-Friendly, Diving

Lambert: Snorkelling, Swimming, Chairs, Dog-Friendly

South

Nanny Cay: Food, Drink, Chairs, Dog-Friendly (on leashes), Snorkelling, Swimming, Bathrooms

Brandywine Bay: Swimming, Snorkelling, Dog-Friendly

East

Josiah's Bay: Surf, Food, Drink, Socialising, Watersports, Bathrooms, Privacy

Residents love Josiah's on a Sunday afternoon, especially if there's surf. When the swell is in, swimming at Josiah's is rough going—most of the shore is covered in rocks and coral.

Long Bay, Beef Island: Snorkelling, Swimming, Food, Drink, Dog-Friendly, Kitesurf, Windsurf

Trellis Bay, Beef Island: Watersports, Food, Drink, Dog Friendly, Socialising

West

Smugglers Cove: Dog Friendly (Before 8am and after 5pm), Chairs, Socialising, Snorkelling, Swimming, Surf

This is an ideal locale for a beach party. Smugglers beach has the best of both worlds—smooth sand in the centre with teeming reefs on either side of the swimming area. It's also, deservedly, one of the most photographed spots in the BVI.

Apple Bay: Surf, Food, Drink, Swimming

A narrow but long beach, Apple is known for its fairly consistent surf and Bomba's Surf

All beaches in the BVI are public to the high-water mark. That may sound impressive but bear in mind that the usual tidal range (from low to high and vice versa) is in the range of about half a meter (1.5 feet). So whilst the beaches at private islands such as Guana, Mosquito and Necker are theoretically open to the public, it is a very narrow stretch of sand we would get to enjoy. Highlighted here are some of the more popular beaches in the BVI; part of the pleasure derived from enjoying the less accessible beaches comes from discovering them yourself. At this time, the only beach currently patrolled by lifeguards is Josiah's Bay on Tortola. All beaches observe a 'no smoking' policy.

Cane Garden Bay is where my friends and I spend "Sunday Funday". In high season, many beach bars offer 2 for 1 frozen cocktails, and this is the best place to find live music or a DJ during the daytime.



Tortola

North

Cane Garden Bay: Surf, Swimming, Food, Drink, Chairs, Dog-Friendly, Socialising, Watersports, Bathrooms

Cane is more than just a beach - it's a beachside town. One of the most popular locales in the BVI, CGB has the most bars and restaurants of any beach on Tortola. Lunch is mostly standard fare, but dinner specials, including beach barbecues, are worth sticking around for after a long day sunbathing on the shore. On cruise ship days, the beach can be packed with tourists.

Shack, a hangout for residents and tourists that is famous for its mushroom tea and raucous monthly Full Moon parties.

Long Bay West: Food, Drink, Chairs, Bathrooms

At over a mile long, this is one of the best places to walk the beach in the BVI and the view is astounding – then again, it is in most spots here...

Virgin Gorda

The Baths and Devil's Bay National Park: Food, Drink, Snorkelling, Swimming, Bathrooms

The Baths, the Caves and Devil's Bay are famous for their colossal granite boulders. You won't believe it until you see their amazing size. The beach at the Baths can be crowded, especially if there are cruise ships in, so sometimes it's best to go through the Caves to Devil's Bay. Both beaches have fantastic snorkelling right off the shore, but beware of dinghies.

Jost Van Dyke

White Bay: Food, Drink, Swimming, Bathrooms, Socialising, Snorkelling...the lot! This is a global hotspot.

On White Bay, you'll find some of the best beach bars in the BVI, if not the world. If your friends aren't relaxing at Josiah's or Smugglers on a Sunday afternoon, it's likely they have sailed to White Bay. Famous favourites are The Original Painkiller at Soggy Dollar Bar, a Bushwacker at One Love's, burgers at Gertrude's or hot dogs at Jewel's Snack Shack.

Anegada

Food, Drink, Swimming, Bathrooms, Socialising, Snorkelling, Scuba Diving, Abundance of Colourful Sea Life, Sport

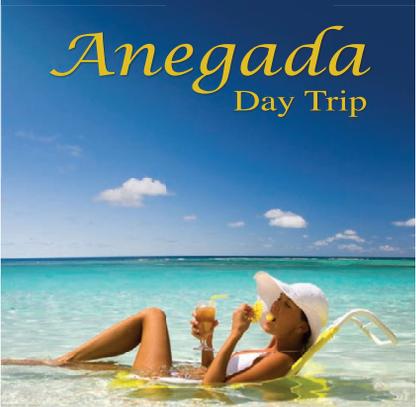
Fishing, Bone Fishing, All-Star Watersports Paradise, Unspoiled Beauty

Anegada is known as the 'sunken/drowned island' – it measures 11 miles by three and its highest point is just 28ft above sea level. There are few waterfront developments which make for open beaches, and you can circumnavigate the island on land without too much interruption via the beach. Beaches include **Cow Wreck Beach, Flash of Beauty, Bones Bight and Windlass Bight.**

There are numerous ferries and flights—Fly BVI being a top choice—heading to Anegada from Tortola and Virgin Gorda .

West Point is exposed to waves, but the remainder of the island is protected by barrier reefs. Most people will bring their watersports toys with them if they feel the need, but a snorkel is a must. Most beachgoers flock to the snorkelling heads off Loblolly.

Indulging in the local cuisine of lobster is also an obligation in visiting Anegada. It's reputed to be the Caribbean's best.



Anegada
Day Trip

Relax,
You're with Fly BVI



If found...
Please return to Anegada

beach safety flags



Lifeguard on Duty
Safe to Swim



Craft Only. Do not
swim in marked area



Marine Life Warning
(Jellyfish, etc)



Swim With Caution



Dangerous Conditions
Do Not Swim

For a list of great Snorkel Spots,
check out bvinewbie.com



One of the most dangerous newbie mistakes (aside from eating a fruit nicknamed “the death apple”) is ignoring the potential damage of the sun. A lot of newbies have moved to the BVI from a spot further away from the equator, so they are not used to the intensity of the UVA and UVB rays in the tropics. It is recommended to wear sunscreen that is at least 30 SPF and reapply every two hours and after swimming.

Quoting directly from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) “Manufacturers cannot label sunscreens as ‘waterproof’ or ‘sweatproof,’ or identify their products as ‘sunblocks,’ because these claims overstate their effectiveness. Sunscreens also cannot claim to provide sun protection for more than 2 hours without reapplication or to provide protection immediately after application (for example—‘instant protection’) without submitting data to support these claims and obtaining FDA approval.”

In addition to sunscreen, we advise the use of stronger barriers to block out the sun.

Wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved t-shirts, rash vests, umbrellas and sunglasses all assist in protecting the skin from ultraviolet rays. If you do plan on swimming while wearing sunscreen, we recommend finding coral-safe products to protect the reefs while protecting your skin.

The BVI sun is very harsh. Always wear sunscreen and a hat when out on the water, even on cloudy days as the sun is still strong and you can easily get windburn. Don't forget about your lips!

They are sensitive and can easily burn if you don't wear a good lip palm with at least 30 SPF.



marine industry and watersports

The BVI's charter industry began when Charlie Cary and his wife Ginny showed up cruising in their own boat back in the 1960s. In those days, cruising sailors were a small community.

The Carys formed The Moorings and commissioned a fleet of identical yachts that could be offered strictly for charter. The Moorings grew from a humble half-dozen yachts into its current iteration as one of

240 brands, including Sunsail and Footloose, under the corporate umbrella of TUI Travel PLC. The Charter industry is now a core industry of the BVI.

The growth in the charter industry has seen established companies such as Horizon and TMM expand their operations to more crewed yacht charters, and newcomers such as Dream Yacht Charters, MarineMax and others join the game.

The waters of the BVI sometimes seem to have reached a saturation point with mooring balls being tussled over, boats anchored in ridiculously deep water and even the National Park mooring balls occupied overnight.

For a new resident or visitor in the BVI, there is a vast array of water-based adventures available. Diving, surfing, powerboating/RHIBs, kiteboarding, paddleboards, jet-ski rentals and windsurfing are all available. There's something for everyone—unless you're looking to go parasailing.

For those with a service-oriented outlook, Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (“VISAR”) (see page 68), always has openings for new volunteers who want to ensure our waters remain safe. The training for volunteers is first-rate and the rewards substantial—in the form of confidence on the water, camaraderie and the knowledge that an essential service is always available.



Many learn to sail in the BVI to truly take advantage of the Territory's enjoyable sailing climate and it's 60 islands and cays.

For those with a desire to sail but who lack skills or experience, a number of sailing schools offer certification of various types—which might best be described as the British system vs the American system.

Be aware though, that a sailing certification isn't a driver's license—a

charter company isn't obligated to rent you a boat on the strength of your piece of paper. They like to see a resume detailing a wide variety of sailing experience too. Many charter companies offer sailing instruction—if you get certified through a charter company, the benefit is that you might be able to charter a yacht from that company.

Bareboat Skippering

To qualify to be a bareboat captain in the BVI you will only be asked to complete a resume of your sailing experience as no licenses are required for bareboat cruising in the BVI.

Holding a certification improves your chances of chartering larger yachts, however, it is experience that is your real assessment. If there are any questions about your skill set, you will be expected to go out on the water with a 'friendly skipper' from the charter company so they can assess your practical skills.

You will also be signing a contract with the charter company, stating that you have the required experience and are capable of handling the yacht safely and will take sole responsibility for it, should there be any later disputes.

Racing

For those living in the Territory, the opportunities to join a crew of a serious racing yacht are surprisingly good. A good place to start is by joining the Royal BVI Yacht Club which holds races throughout the season.

Also, the weekly IC24 fleet races held at Nanny Cay Marina every Friday evening present the chance for beginners through to veterans to practice their skills.

Crews are always needed, even if your only position is as Rail Meat (extra weight). The IC24 skippers welcome new recruits (especially if they bring beer). This is a fun, fast-paced, hands-on way to learn the terminology and basics of sailing.

aqua activities

Charter Companies

Once you're a certified sailor, you might want to charter a yacht for a week or so and go explore the beauty of Nature's Little Secrets. There are a number of charter companies, but in general, the smaller companies are more flexible and might let you have a boat for the day or a few days as opposed to the week-long charters generally required by the bigger operators. A good site to look is sailonline.com which offers access to owner's time at reduced rates.

When chartering, the companies prefer that there be more than one capable sailor aboard—though a well-experienced sailor does have the edge here. If you can show years of sailing experience then the limitations are few.

Yacht Sales

With so many charter yachts moving out of the fleets each year, there's always something available in your price range whether it's a runabout or a world cruiser. The BVI has a surprising number of yachts for sale. Many owners keep their boat here and buyers prefer to take over a boat that

is already stationed here in the world's premier cruising waters. The larger charter companies have dedicated sales staff offering the "phased-out" yachts that have reached the end of their contracted periods (usually around five years), so a visit to the charter bases can be instructive. Also, a buyer in the lower price range might look at Craigslist Virgin Islands or The Facebook group BVI Boats and Parts sites is a good resource, and ask around on the docks and in the boatyards, too.

Dive Operators

The BVI is a fantastic place for the beginner diver. Easily accessible dive sites, well-trained instructors and a multitude of companies offering dives in various locations means that there are many options. For the beginner diver, the major certification on offer is the PADI system which is recognised virtually everywhere worldwide and has become the default standard in diving (though NAUI adherents will violently disagree). Many diving centres will offer training spread over several weekends to accommodate the workers among us. Each dive centre has its own culture, so to speak, ranging from the very laid-back to the very buttoned-down, so ask around for people's favourites. What works for one person might not work for another. "For divers who visit the British Virgin Islands, a must see dive site is the world renowned Wreck of the Rhone situated off Salt Island in 30 to 80ft of water; the site is infamous for the filming of the movie *The Deep*, filmed in 1976. If you are not a diver you can snorkel the stern section of the wreck which is in shallow water," advise the experts at Blue Water Divers.

www.bluewaterdiversbvi.com
E-mail: bwdbvi@surfbvi.com
Tel: (284) 494-2847
Fax: (284) 494-0198
VHF Ch. 16

2 Locations:
Nanny Cay &
Soper's Hole
Marina

Rendezvous Diving ●
Padi, SSI & Universal ●
Certifications ●
Discover Scuba ●
Rentals ●
Airfills ●
4 Custom Dive Boats ●
Full Service Dive Shop ●

BLUE WATER DIVERS

Come dive the fabulous "Blue Water" of the British Virgin Islands with the longest established and most experienced dive shop on Tortola

Kitesurfing, Windsurfing, Surfing and Stand-Up Paddleboarding

Lessons for kitesurfing, windsurfing and surfing are available at several locations, and there are annual events for the experienced and/or competitive rider that might make training a necessity. Several operators sell cabin space on charter yachts as part of week-long boarding events that are as much about the time on the beach as they are time on the water. Equipment can be rented or purchased at several local shops.

For paddle boarding, in addition to racing and long distance cruising, the BVI has become a fantastic back drop to get into the sport. Breeze Paddlesurf is a stand up paddle board company (SUP) offering board sales and rentals. They also provide classes in Cane Garden Bay, consisting of novice to expert SUP instruction, SUP yoga, kids SUP and tours around the BVI.

Windsurfing and Kite Surfing have evolved past their competitive nature and both sports enjoy the same conditions with Nanny Cay and Trellis still maintaining hot spots for launches in side shore conditions with ocean swell.

Deep Sea Fishing

The Virgin Islands chain is situated handily between two remarkably deep troughs known as the North Drop and the South Drop. The North Drop lies in Atlantic waters, on a line just north of Anegada, about 20 miles out. Depths plunge quickly from about 100 metres to 1000 metres and beyond in a very short distance. The warmer waters of the Caribbean are more likely to offer up mahi-mahi, wahoo or kingfish. Recent years have seen many world record catches of game fish in VI waters. While the majority of game fishing activity is centred in the US Virgin Islands, a good number of boats are available in the BVI—principally out of Virgin Gorda's North Sound and Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour, as well as from Anegada and Tortola's several harbours.

CLOSED BVI FISHING SEASON

Within these dates, no person shall catch, sell, offer for sale or buy any of the marine life mentioned.

MARGATE

January 1st - March 31st

RED HIND

January 1st - March 31st

NASSAU GROUPE

March 1st - May 31st

TURTLE

April 1st - November 30th

LOBSTER

July 31st - October 31st

CONCH

August 15th - October 31st

WHELK

August 15th - October 31st

VISAR

Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR) is a volunteer-run, independent organisation that serves as the official search and rescue service of the British Virgin Islands. VISAR welcomes support and volunteers for everything from answering distress calls to assisting with search efforts to bartending at fundraisers. VISAR provides training in first aid, seamanship and small-boat handling. Getting involved in this organisation is one way to instantly meet other individuals concerned about doing their part to maintain safety at sea.

VISAR OFFERS 24-HOUR ASSISTANCE AND CAN BE REACHED BY DIALING 767

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING
FOR IN THIS SECTION?

Log onto bvlnewbie.com/ask

and we will be happy to answer your questions

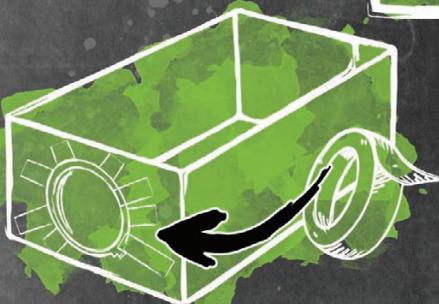
beaches 63
beach safety flags 65
sun protection 65
marine industry and watersports 65
learning to sail 66
racing 66
aqua activities 67
fishing 68
visar 68



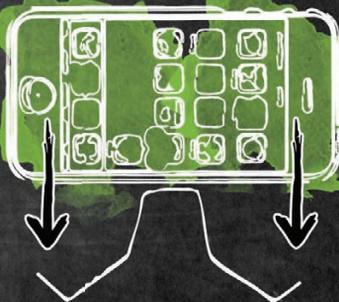
splashing

THE MINI SMARTPHONE PROJECTOR

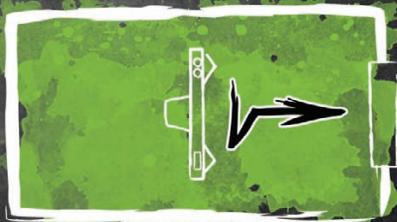
1 on the short side of a shoebox, draw round a magnifying glass and cut out the hole



2 remove the handle and with tape, stick the magnifying glass over the hole



3 bend a paper clip out to make a stand for the phone to sit on



4 flip the screen display on your phone, and position your phone inside the box facing out to the glass

IT'S
MOVIE
NIGHT!



taxi fares 71
ferry schedule 71
directory 71

resources



THE QUICK FIX LIST

SIMPLE HACKS FOR EVERYDAY



1 charge your phone faster by placing it on flight mode in the settings menu



2 headphones tangled again? pick a point about halfway along the wire and shake. easier and quicker than unlooping from one end



3 after swimming to the soggy dollar with the mistake of your phone in your pocket, you will need rinse it off with fresh water asap, then place it in a sandwich bag with dry rice as soon as possible, leaving it overnight



BVI Taxi Fares Additional Charges

Child (3 years or younger)	No charge
Child (4-10 years)	Half fare
Child (11+)	Full fare
Pet Carrier (w/animal secured)	\$15/each carrier
Baggage	1 piece - No Charge \$1/each additional piece
Waiting	First 15 minutes - no charge \$10 additional charge / 15 minute blocks
After Hours (11pm - 7am)	30% additional charge (per journey)

To (one way)	From Airport	From RoadTown	From West End
Around Road Town		\$5	-
Airport	-	\$27	\$50
Brewers Bay	\$50	\$24	\$40
Cane Garden Bay	\$50	\$24	\$30
Nanny Cay	\$36	\$15	\$20
Road Town	\$27	-	\$27
Wickham's Cay II	\$27	\$5	\$27



The schedule for ferries leaving the BVI changes on a weekly basis. For the latest information, please visit bvincwbc.com where this is updated or alternatively, call the ferry companies directly (See Directory)

basics

Please note that all phone numbers listed, use the area code (284) unless otherwise stated.

BVI Information

Attorney General's Chambers.....	494-6760
BVI Customs.....	494-3475
BVI FSC.....	494-1324
BVI IFC.....	468-4335

BVI Info & Public Relations.....	494-2052
BVI London Office	011.44.207.355.9570
BVI Post.....	468-3701
	ext. 4996
BVI Tourist Board.....	494-3134
BVI Veterinary Division.....	495-2110
Civil Registry.....	468-3442
Conservation & Fisheries Dept.....	468-2700
Department of Culture.....	468-3701
	ext. 4369
Dept of Disaster Management.....	468-4200

Department of Education.....	468-3701 ext. 2036
Department of Environmental Health.....	468-5110
Department of Immigration.....	494-3471
Department of Labour.....	494-3451
Department of Solid Waste.....	494-6245
Department of Trade.....	468-3701 ext. 4300
House of Assembly.....	494-4757
National Parks Trust.....	852-3650
Office of the Governor.....	494-2345
Premier's Office.....	468-3701 ext. 2152
Royal Virgin Islands Police Force Headquarters.....	494-2925
Road Town.....	494-3822
Social Security.....	494-3148
Vehicle Licensing Department.....	468-3701 ext. 4938/4939
Vehicle Licensing (VG).....	495-5707
Virgin Islands Shipping Registry.....	468-2902

relocating

Business Consultants

aLookingGlass Printing.....	494-7788
Ballast & Capel.....	340-0391
Hunte & Co Law Chambers.....	495-0232
SPS Affiliates.....	495-4480
Phoenix Caribbean.....	495-2379
Rawlinson & Hunter.....	494-5414

Finding a Job

Ballast & Capel.....	494-9203
Collin's Consultants.....	545-3937

Immigration & Entry Requirements

Department of Immigration.....	494-3471
Department of Labour.....	494-3451
Social Security.....	494-3148

Starting a Business

Department of Trade.....	468-3701
Deloitte & Touche.....	494-2868
Hunte & Co Law Chambers.....	495-0232
Phoenix Caribbean.....	495-2379

Automobile Dealers

Alphonso Car Rental.....	494-8746
Auto Sales & Parts Ltd.....	494-2193

International Motors.....	494-2516
Mitsubishi Motors.....	494-8653
Virgin Island Motors.....	494-2496

Automobile Rentals

Alphonso Car Rental.....	494-8746
Andy's Rentals (VG).....	495-5252
Avis Rent-A Car.....	494-3322
BigSexy Car Rentals.....	544-9141
Budget Rent A Car.....	494-8902
Burke's Garage.....	494-2531
Coconut Car Rental.....	494-8357
Courtesy Car Rental.....	494-6443
D&D Car Rental.....	494-8241
Dede's Car Rental.....	495-2041
Del's Jeep & Car Rental.....	495-9356
Denzil Clyne Car Rental.....	495-4900
Dollar Rent-A-Car.....	494-6093
First Choice Cars.....	543-1423/342-9939
Hertz Car Rental.....	494-6228
International Car Rentals.....	494-2516
ITGO Car Rental.....	494-5150
JRB Auto Rental.....	494-4893
L&S Taxi & Car Rentals (VG).....	495-5297
Mahogany Rentals (VG).....	495-5469
Mellie's Car Rental.....	495-5469
National Car Rental.....	494-3197
Paradise Jeep Rental (JVD).....	495-9477
Penn's Car Rental (VG).....	498-5803
S & K Rentals (Aneg).....	346-5658
Speedy's Car Rental (VG).....	495-5240
Tola Rentals.....	494-8652
West End Car Rental.....	494-6228
VI Motors.....	494-2496
Scooter Rentals Courtesy Bikes.....	494-6117

Communications

CCT Global Communications.....	444-4444
Digicel.....	300-1000
LIME.....	494-4444
TRC (Regulatory Commission).....	468-4165

Finding a Home

BVI Sotheby's International Realty.....	494-5700
Caribbean Realty.....	494-3999
Coldwell Banker.....	495-3000
Island Real Estate.....	494-3186
Paradise Realty Ltd.....	494-1044
Property BVI.....	494-0101
Dougall Real Estate BVI.....	495-3003
Smiths Gore.....	494-2446
South Sound Properties (VG).....	312-0152
Trude Real Estate.....	494-2500

Insurance

Allied BVI.....	494-8925
Alphonso Warner.....	494-3354
Atlantic Southern Insurance.....	494-6498
Caribbean Insurers Ltd.....	494-2728
Colonial Insurance.....	494-8450
Creque's Insurance Agency.....	494-2337
Insurance Store Ltd.....	494-5546
Mio Insurance.....	494-3795
Mutual Insurance.....	340-1082
Nagico Insurance.....	494-6433
Premier Insurance Limited (PIL).....	495-6800

Island Pets

BVI Veterinary Division.....	468-9247
or (284) 468-9693 (Dr Montrose)	
Dr. George Clinton.....	494-4498
Humane Society.....	494-2884
Dr. Laura Palmintieri.....	495-3109
The Veterinary Clinic (VG).....	495-5857

Money & Banking

Banco Popular.....	852-2600
First Bank.....	494-2662
First Caribbean.....	852-9900
National Bank Virgin Islands.....	494-3737
Scotia Bank.....	494-2526
VP Bank.....	494-1100

Security

Caribbean Security Limited.....	495-3162
---------------------------------	----------

Taxis

BVI Taxi Stand.....	494-3456
Beef Island Taxi Association.....	495-1660
Elroy's Pleasure Tour (VG).....	495-1022
Jennifer & Nat's Taxi (VG).....	495-5470
Potter Gafford Taxi (VG).....	495-5960
Quality Taxi Association.....	494-8397
Road Town Taxi Stand.....	494-8755
Waterfront Taxi Stand.....	494-6362
West End Taxi Association.....	495-4934

Transportation

Vehicle Licensing Department.....	468-3701
ext. 4938/4939	
Vehicle Licensing (VG).....	495-5707

Utilities

BVI Electricity Corporation	
Road Town.....	494-3911

East End.....	495-1280
Virgin Gorda.....	495-5418
Emergency Night Service.....	494-3911

Water & Sewerage Department. During the day the phone numbers, including emergencies, are 468-5799 (Operations:Sewerage and Water); 468-5766 (Administration); 468-5834 (Customer Services).

Emergency numbers are operational from 4:00 pm. to 7:30 am. the next day. West End emergency 499-2926 Road Town emergency 499-2924 East End Emergency 499-0500. Virgin Gorda 495-5951.

Waste Management

Department of Solid Waste.....	494-6245
--------------------------------	----------

playing

Accommodation

(Hotels/Resorts)

Anegada Beach Club.....	494-8000
Bitter End Yacht Club.....	494-2746
Cooper Island Beach Club.....	495-9084
Fischer's Cove Beach Hotel.....	340-5252
Fort Burt Hotel.....	494-2587
	or 494-8171

Fort Recovery Beachfront	
Villa & Suites Hotel.....	495-4354
	or (855) 349-3355
Guana Island.....	(212) 482-6247
Hodge's Creek Hotel & Marina.....	494-5000
Hotel Castle Maria.....	494 2515 / 2553
Lambert Beach Resort.....	495-2877
Leverick Bay Resort & Marina.....	495-7421
Little Dix Bay Resort.....	495-5555
Long Bay Beach Club.....	866-237-3491
Maria's By The Sea.....	494-2595
Mooring's Mariner Inn	
Hotel & Spa.....	393-2181
Myett's Garden Inn.....	495-9649
Nanny Cay Resort & Marina.....	494-4895
Necker Island Resort.....	494-2757
Oil Nut Bay.....	393 1000
Peter Island Resort.....	495-2000
	or (800) 346-4451
Saba Rock Resort.....	495-7711
Scrub Island Resort.....	(877) 890-7444
Sebastian's On The Beach.....	495-4212
	or (800) 336-4870

Sugar Mill Hotel.....	495-4355
Surfsong Villa Resort.....	495-1864
Tamarind Club.....	495-2477
Treasure Isle Hotel.....	494-2501
Village Cay Hotel & Marina.....	494-2771

(Villas)

Agape Cottages.....	495-4825
Baraka Point.....	541-1102/1103
BVI Sotheby's International Realty.....	494-5700
BVI Villa Rental.....	495-3000
Golden Pavilion Villa.....	541-0185
Guava Road Apartments Limited..	495-3398
Fort Recovery Beachfront Villa & Suites Hotel.....	541-0955
Villas of Tortola.....	542-7872

Culture, Festivals & Events

Department of Culture.....	468-3701 ext. 4369
Aragorn's Studios.....	495-1849
BVI Inside Art Gallery.....	544-0213
BVIMusic.com.....	540-2075
Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society.....	540-0861
Good Moon Farm.....	542-0586
Government House Museum.....	494-4091
Innovative Entertainment.....	443-0663
North Shore Shell Museum.....	495-4714
Virgin Islands Folk Museum.....	468.3701 ext. 5005
Virgin Islands Maritime Museum...	852-7169

Getting off the Rock

(Airlines)

Antillies Helicopter Services.....	441-7335
BVI Air Link.....	495-2271
BVI Airways.....	341-2994
Cape Air.....	495-1440
Fly BVI.....	495-1747
Island Birds.....	495-2002
Liat.....	495-1187

(Ferries)

Bitter End Ferry.....	494-2746
Inter Island Ferry.....	494-4166
St Thomas Number (340) 776-6597	
Marina Cay.....	494-2174
Native Son Inc.....	494-5674
St Thomas Number (340) 774-8685	
New Horizon Ferry Service.....	495-9278
Norman Island Ferry	494-0093
North Sound Express.....	495-2138

Peter Island Ferry.....	495-2000
Road Town Fast Ferry.....	494-2323
St Thomas Number (340) 777-2800	
Saba Rock Ferry Service.....	494-2746
Scrub Island Ferry.....	440-3440
Smith's Ferries.....	494-4454
St Thomas Number (340) 775-7292	
Speedy's.....	495-5240

Spas and Salons

Almond Tree Salon.....	495-4208
Amara Spa.....	393-3604
Bless Hands Health Spa.....	494-8156
Ixora Spa Scrub Island.....	440-3440
Journeys Health Spa.....	494-9070
La Ambience Spa.....	543-7924
Lili's Beauty Salon.....	494-9094
McKelly's Beauty Salon.....	494-4343
New Generation Beauty Salon.....	494-4525
Oasis Salon & Spa.....	494-8891
Peter Island Resort Spa.....	495-2000
Sense Spa Little Dix Bay.....	495-5555
Serenity Spa & Yoga Studio.....	495-7899
Solé Spa.....	494-5999
Spa Tranquility.....	495-4252
Starworks Beauty Salon, Barber Shop & Spa.....	495-7166
Studio One Salon & Spa.....	494-9988

Sports and Recreation

Body Images.....	494-8512
BVI Rugby Club (Coach).....	340-2179
Cutting Edge Gym.....	494-5040
Fit 4 You.....	545-6730
Original Virgin Canopy Tour.....	494-9239
Pelican Gym.....	495-4252
Sensus Health Club.....	494-0300
togetherwecanworkout.com.....	541-1569
The BVI Dance School.....	546-2459 (adults) or 346-1212 (children)
Tortola Sports Club.....	494-3457

living

Cleaning and Maid Services

Becco's Housekeeping.....	494-5789
---------------------------	----------

BRBS.....494-3482
 Corea's Cleaning & Maintenance...494-1422
 Superior Property Services.....494-5580

Counselling Services

Community Mental Health Center...852-7670
 CADA.....494-2324
 Sandra Mazurkewich Henley.....495-4421
 Education and Schools Department of
 Education.....468-3701
 ext. 2036

(Day Care)

First Impression.....494-5637
 Little Rainbow (VG).....495-5528
 New Life.....494-6580
 Simmonds Pre-School.....494-2281
 Upper Room Academy.....494-0961
 Wendell Potter Learning Center...494-5771
 Willows Nursery.....494-0478

(Libraries)

Road Town.....494-3428
 Anegada.....495-9464
 East End/Long Look.....495-2472
 Jost Van Dyke.....495-9054
 Virgin Gorda.....495-5516

(Private Schools)

BVI Seventh Day Adventist.....494-3937
 Cedar School.....494-5262
 Century House Montessori.....494-1686
 St George's School.....494-2197
 Valley Day School.....495-7534
 Willows Preschool.....494-0478

(Public Schools)

Alexandrina Maduro Primary.....494-3465
 Althea Scatliffe Primary.....494-3467
 Anegada Primary & Secondary....495-8050
 Elmore Stoutt High School.....494-3468
 Joyce Samuel Primary.....494-3464
 Bregado Flax Educational Centre
 (Primary & Secondary).....495-5534
 Ebenezer Thomas Primary.....494-3469
 Enid Scatliffe Pre-Primary.....494-3735
 Enis Adams Primary.....494-3458
 Eslyn Richiez Learning Centre.....494-3488
 Francis Lettsome Primary.....495-2502
 HLSCC.....852-7226
 Isabella Morris Primary.....495-4626

Ivan Dawson Primary.....495-4625
 Jost Van Dyke Primary.....495-9238
 Leonora Delville Primary.....495-4821
 Pre-Vocational Centre.....494-3468
 Robinson O'Neal
 Memorial Primary.....495-7535
 Willard Wheatley Primary.....495-2503

Emergency

Fire & Rescue.....494-3822
 Marine Police.....468-3701
 Royal Virgin Islands Police
 Force.....494-3822
 VISAR.....494-4357

Flora and Fauna

Botanical Gardens.....494-4557
 Environmental Health.....468-5110
 National Parks Trust.....852-3650

Healthcare

(Chiropractors)

Dr Glenn Moore.....494-7545
 Island Chiropractic & Wellness....495-0016
 Pura Vida Chiropractic Ltd.....545-1188

(Dentists)

B & F Medical Complex.....494-2196
 Crown Dental.....494-2770
 Premier Dental.....494-8062
 Dr JE Rhymer.....494-5303
 Smile Dental Spa.....494-2004

(Medical Centres and Clinics)

B & F Medical Complex.....494-2196
 B & F Medical Complex East End... 495-2197
 Bougainvillea Clinic.....494-2181
 Eureka Medical Clinic.....494-2346
 Peebles Hospital494-3497

(Pharmacies)

B&F Medical Complex.....494-2196
 JR O'Neal LTD.....494-2292
 Medicure Pharmacy.....494-6189
 MWE Pharmaceuticals.....494-1997
 Qwomar Trading Ltd.....494-1498
 Reliance Pharmacy.....494-7323
 Vanterpool Enterprises.....494-2702

(Public Clinics)

Anegada.....	495-8049
Brewers Bay.....	495-9142
Cane Garden Bay.....	495-9447
Capoons Bay.....	495-4610
East End.....	468-3701 ext. 6119
Jost Van Dyke.....	495-9239
Long Look.....	495-2268
North Sound.....	495-7310
Road Town.....	494-3455
Sea Cows Bay.....	468-3701 ext. 2531

Hurricane Prep Center

EuroCarib.....	495-9616
Scaffco.....	495-2736

Laundry

Freeman's Laundromat.....	494-2285
Speed Clean Coin Laundry.....	494-9428
Steven's Laundry & Cleaners.....	495-5525
Subash Laundry.....	494-7138

Police

Royal Virgin Islands Police Force Headquarters.....	494-2925
Road Town.....	494-3822
House of Assembly.....	494-4757

Shopping

(Food Supply Stores)

Ample Hamper Too.....	494-2494
Best of British.....	494-3462
Bobby's Supermarkets.....	495-2140
Buck's Market (VG).....	495-6952
Elite Superette.....	495-1023
Great Mountain Water.....	494-1033
HarbourMarket.....	495-4541
North Sound Superette.....	495-7424
One Mart.....	494-4649
RiteWay.....	340-2263
Road Town Wholesale.....	494-2263
Rosy's Supermarket.....	495-6765
Trellis Bay Market.....	495-1421

(Bookstores)

aLookingGlass Books.....	494-7788
National Education Services.....	494-3921
Serendipity Bookshop.....	495-5865

(Clothing Stores)

Arawak Surf.....	494-5240
Everyday Fashion.....	494-6249
GoodFellas.....	494-2744
HIHO.....	494-7694
Latitude 18.....	494-7807
UMI Fashion.....	494-6014
Virgin Textiles.....	494-3135

(Jewellers)

Little Switzerland.....	809-5560
Mi Amor Luxury	494-7477
Martine Webster.....	495-8572
Pearls VI.....	346-1023

(Department Stores)

Bolo's Department Store.....	494-2867
Caribbean Department Store.....	494-3627
Island Department Store.....	494-3677
Said Department Store.....	494-2686
Tortola Department Store.....	494-3109

(Electronics and Computers)

Data Pro.....	494-6633
Infinite Solutions.....	494-8030
iSmart.....	494-1418
Radio Doctor.....	494-3219
Radiotron.....	494-6763
Varieties.....	494-3798

(Garden)

Fort Garden Centre.....	494-2362
Groundworks.....	494-6499
Minine's Plants & Landscaping.....	495-2264

(Home Improvements, Hardware & Appliances)

Clarence Thomas Limited.....	494-2359
Drake's Traders.....	494-3282
EuroCarib.....	495-9616
Island Paints.....	494-2891
Kelly's Hardware & Appliances.....	495-3209
PaintFactory.....	494-1800
Qwomar Trading Ltd.....	494-1498
Radio Doctor.....	494-3219

(Home Furnishings and Décor)

The Allamanda Gallery.....	494-6680
Arawak Interiors.....	494-5240
The Ark.....	494-9151
House.....	494-1920

The Gallery.....	494-1426
Bamboushay Pottery.....	494-0393
Cantik Interiors.....	494-7927
Images Gallery.....	494-1426
Joanne Roberson Designs.....	386-804-8287
Nutmeg Designs.....	494-9151
Pillowzone.net.....	541-1569
Voila.....	494-3759

Design Services

aLookingGlass Creative.....	494-7788
Graphic Design BVI.....	494-3992
Virgin Images Photography & Design Studio.....	544-5519
Virgin Textiles.....	494-3135 or 495-2306

Shipping & Duty

BVI Customs.....	494-3475
BVI Post.....	468-3701 ext. 4996
Caribbean Transport Limited.....	494-2183
Khoy's Mailing Service.....	494-4539
Lazarus Services.....	494-4220
Rushit Inc.....	494-4421
Star Shipping.....	495-1910
Tortola Express/Aeropost.....	394-0707
Tropical Shipping.....	494-2674

Tropical Weather

Dept of Disaster Management.....	468-4200
EuroCarib.....	495-9616

Veterinarians

Dr. George Clinton.....	494-4498
Humane Society.....	494-2884
Dr. Laura Palmintieri.....	495-3109
The Veterinary Clinic (VG).....	495-5857

Weddings & Event Planning

BVI Wedding Planners.....	494-5306
Navanchor Event Planning & Concierge Services.....	541-4243
Royal Concierge Services.....	543-6518
Stems Boutique.....	495-1000

Wine and Spirits

Bobby's Supermarkets.....	495-2140
Buck's Market (VG).....	495-6952

Callwood Rum Distillery.....	495-9383
Caribbean Cellars.....	494-4483
Grape Expectations.....	346-9463
Road Town Wholesale.....	340-2263
TICO.....	494-2211
The Watering Hole.....	446-2211

splashing

Beaches

Conservation & Fisheries Dept.....	494-5681
------------------------------------	----------

Charter Companies

Amazing Charters.....	+1 704 257 4766
Barecat.....	495-2202
BVI Yacht Charters.....	494-4289
Caribbean Sailing BVI.....	494-0096
Catamaran Co.....	494-6661
Charter Yacht Society.....	494-6017
Conch Charters.....	494-4868
Footloose.....	494-0528
Horizon.....	494-8787
MarineMax Vacations.....	495-2400
The Moorings.....	393-2417 / 393-2436
TMM (Sail and Power).....	494-2751
Virgin Motor Yachts.....	495-2526
Voyage.....	494-0740

(Small Boat Charters)

Big Sexy Boat Charters.....	544-9141
Cane Garden Bay Rentals.....	495-9660
Double D.....	499-2479
Island Time.....	495-9993
King Charters.....	494-5820
Sheppard's.....	495-4099

Day Charters/Day Sails

Aristocat.....	499-1249
Bravura.....	443-2586
BVI Adventure Tours (Caribbean Images Tours).....	496 7935
Kuralu Catamaran Charters.....	499-1313 or 495 4381
La Boheme Charters.....	547-7244 or 495-5816
Moorings/Sunsail.....	393-2417 or 393-2436
Mystique/iSpeed.....	494-0740 or 346-5535
Patouche.....	494-6300
Spirit of Anegada.....	340-7777
White Squall.....	494-2564

Fishing

Caribbean Fly Fishing.....	499-1590
Ocean Surfari.....	541 3074

Dive Operators/ Instruction

Aquaventure.....	494 4320
BVI Eco Tours.....	495-0271
BVI Scuba Co.....	540-2222
Blue Water Divers.....	494-2847
Dive BVI.....	495-5513
Jost Van Dyke Scuba.....	495-0271
Sail Caribbean Divers.....	495-1675
Sunchaser.....	495-9638
UBS Dive Center.....	494-0024
We Be Divin'.....	494-4320

Marine Industry/ Services/ Yacht Management

Bowline Yachts.....	495-5816
Charter Yacht Society.....	494-6017
Caribbean Marine Surveyors Ltd.....	494-2091
CRC Engines & Fabricating.....	495-5262
Marine Maintenance Services.....	494 3494
Nanny Cay.....	394-2512
Sopers Hole.....	495-4589
Tradewind.....	494-3154
VISAR.....	494-4357
YCCS.....	393-2000

Sailing Schools

Bitter End Yacht Club.....	494-2746
BVI Watersports Centre.....	494-0669
Offshore Sailing School.....	393-3643
Rob Swain Sailing School.....	494-0432
The Royal BVI Yacht Club.....	494-3286
Sail Caribbean BVI	
Summer Camp	499-1759
Sistership.....	495-1002
Sunsail - ASA/	
RYA Sailing School.....	393-2417 / 393-2436
Sailon.....	494-0669

Sailmakers

Doyle Sailmakers.....	494-2569
Next Wave Sail & Canvas.....	495-5623
Quantum Sails BVI.....	494-1124

Watersports Activities

Bitter End Yacht Club.....	494-2746
Blue Rush Water Sports	547-0583
Board Sailing BVI.....	495-2447
Breeze Paddle Surf.....	443-9663
Cane Garden Surf Shop.....	494-5423
Dolphin Discovery.....	494-7675
Fusion BVI.....	340-0054
HIHO.....	494-0337
Island Surf and Sail.....	494-0123
Last Stop Water Sports.....	494-0564
Leverick Bay Water Sports.....	495-7376

Yacht Brokers/Sales

123 Hulls.....	494-0054
Boatshed BVI.....	494-4289
BVI Yacht Sales.....	494-3260
Horizon Yacht Sales.....	494-8787
Moorings Brokerage.....	494-1000
Southern Trades.....	494-8003
Tradewind.....	494-3154
Virgin Gorda Boat Sales.....	340-7777
Voyage.....	494-0740
	or 346-5507

DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR IN THIS SECTION?

Log onto bvinewbie.com/ask

and we will be happy to answer your questions

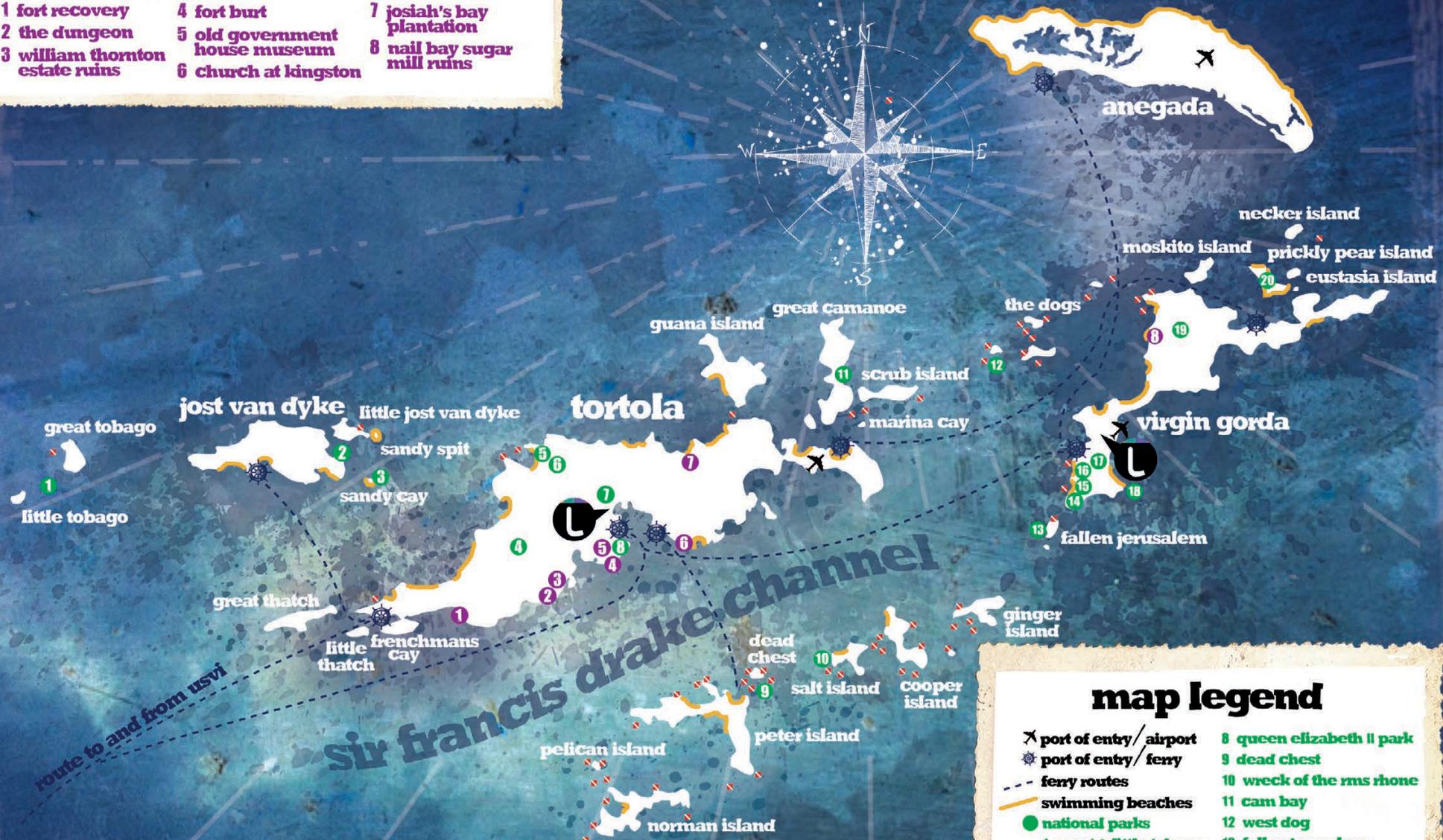


**ask
newbie**

**Just scan
here!**

historical sites  **dive site moorings**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 fort recovery | 4 fort burt | 7 josiah's bay plantation |
| 2 the dungeon | 5 old government house museum | 8 nail bay sugar mill ruins |
| 3 william thomton estate ruins | 6 church at kingston | |



map legend

-  port of entry/ airport
-  port of entry/ ferry
-  ferry routes
-  swimming beaches
-  national parks
- 1 great & little tobago
- 2 diamond cay
- 3 sandy cay
- 4 sage mountain
- 5 shark bay
- 6 mount healthy
- 7 j.r o'neal botanic gardens
- 8 queen elizabeth II park
- 9 dead chest
- 10 wreck of the rms rhone
- 11 cam bay
- 12 west dog
- 13 fallen jerusalem
- 14 devil's bay
- 15 the baths
- 16 spring bay
- 17 little fort
- 18 copper mine point
- 19 gorda peak
- 20 prickly pear

 **LIME STORE, TORTOLA**
Fleming Street, Road Town.

LIME STORE, VIRGIN GORDA
The Valley, Virgin Gorda

WITH OVER 300 TOP-UP LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE BVI, THERE'S ALWAYS A WAY TO STAY CONNECTED!



**BOOK
ONLINE
TODAY**

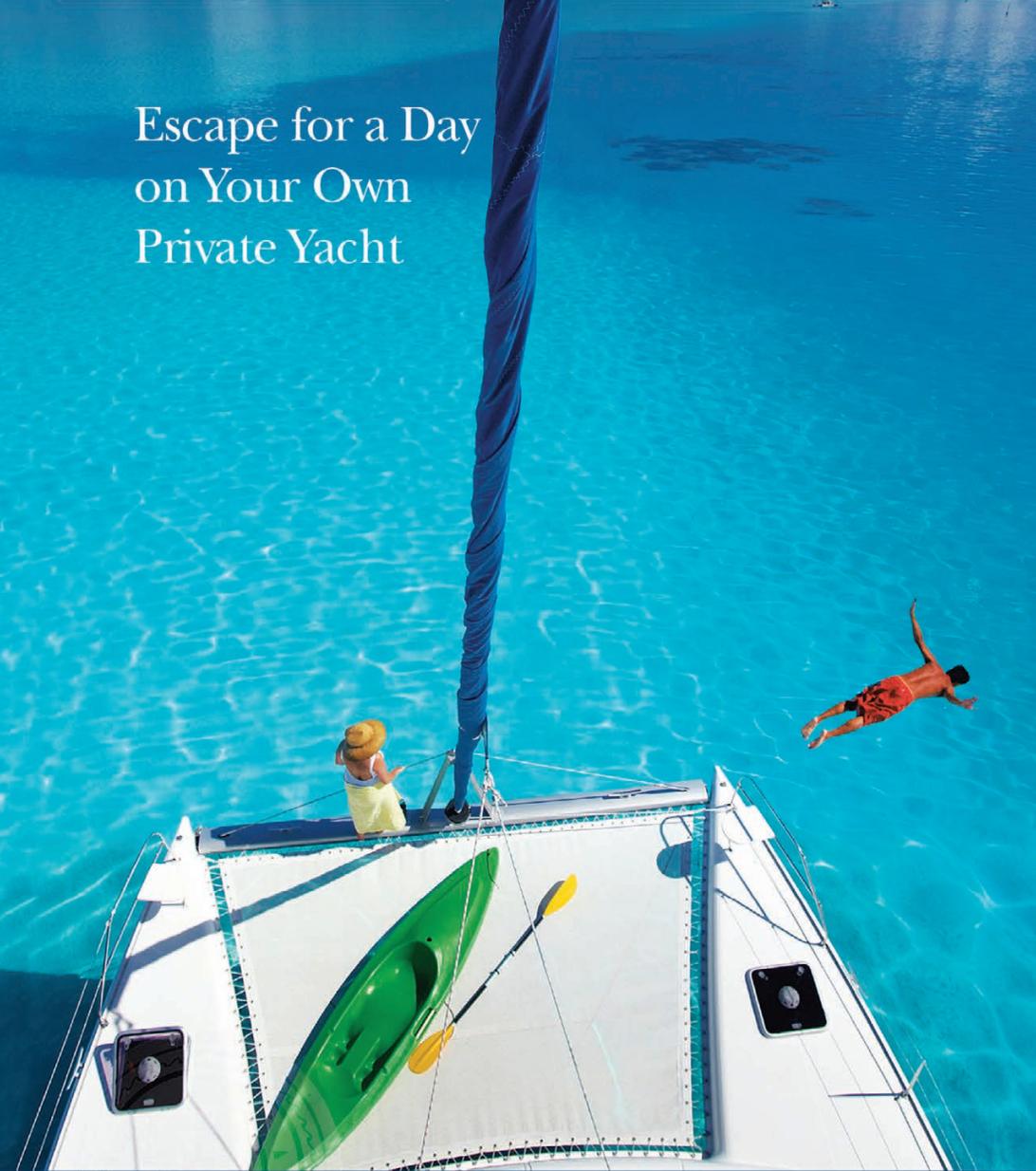
BVI   
TOUR CENTER

The Virgin Islands
at the tip of your finger!



*The best air, land, and sea activities
all in one place!*

info@bvitourcenter.com | www.bvitourcenter.com



Escape for a Day
on Your Own
Private Yacht

Discover the British Virgin Islands from the deck of a private yacht on a Day Sail with The Moorings. You can island hop with a professional skipper or even indulge in a full crew. Find the freedom to swim, snorkel or simply soak in the sun while surrounded by crystalline waters.

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS
on the water


The Moorings®
Est. 1969

Call 284.393.2417 or 284.393.2436 visit www.moorings.com or email gosailing@moorings.com