St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

Though it’s only 32 square miles in size, St. Thomas has a million miles’ worth of things to do. Go shopping and sailing, snorkeling and sightseeing, or diving and dining. Enjoy the island’s world-renowned golf course, picture-perfect beaches and spectacular nightlife. Take the Skyride 700 feet above the city or climb the famous 99 Steps of Charlotte Amalie for an incomparable view of the Caribbean. And if you’re interested in culture and history, don’t miss seeing the second-oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, the 1680-built Fort Christian or the childhood home of Camille Pissarro, one of the best-known French Impressionists.

Exciting Things to See and Do

Shop till you drop
Find great deals on duty-free jewelry, timepieces, and electronics along Charlotte Amalie’s Main Street—but don’t forget to pick up some locally made crafts as well.

Hit the links
Play through the “Devil’s Triangle,” an intimidating cliff-side trio of holes at Mahogany Run Golf Course.

Take a dip
Swim at Magen’s Bay, considered by many to be one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

99 Steps
This staircase “street,” built by the Danes in the 1700s, leads to the residential area above Charlotte Amalie and to Blackbeard’s Castle, a U.S. national historic landmark. If you count the stairs as you go up, you’ll discover, as thousands have before you, that there are more than the name implies.

Butterfly Garden
Step into this 10,000-square-foot mesh enclosure and watch hundreds of colorful, exotic butterflies flutter all around you. A 25-minute tour takes you through their life cycle. Outside the enclosure, you can wander a garden of native plants designed to attract local butterflies and hummingbirds. The butterflies are most active in the morning. If you’re a photographer, you’ll probably prefer the afternoon, when the butterflies move more slowly and are more easily captured in pictures.
Coki Beach
Funky beach huts selling local foods such as pâtés (fried turnovers with a spicy ground-beef filling), quaint vendor kiosks, and a brigade of hair braiders and taxi men make this beach overlooking picturesque Thatch Cay feel like an amusement park. But this is the best place on the island to snorkel and scuba dive. Fish, including grunts, snappers, and wrasses, are like an effervescent cloud you can wave your hand through. Amenities: food and drink; lifeguards; parking; showers; restrooms; watersports.

Did you know?
The Caribbean comprises more than 700 islands, islets, reefs and caves. The islands are divided into different island groups. There’s:
- the Lucayan Archipelago (f.e. the Bahamas)
- the Greater Antilles (f.e. Cuba)
- the Lesser Antilles, with sub island groups the Leeward Antilles (f.e. Aruba), the Leeward Islands (f.e. Antigua) and the Windward Islands (f.e. Grenada)

Currency in St. Thomas
As a U.S. territory, the currency is the U.S. dollar. Automated teller machines (ATMs) can be found throughout the island. Most establishments accept credit cards and traveler’s checks. The most widely accepted credit cards are Visas and MasterCard.

What Language is Spoken in St. Thomas?
English is the official language, but you can definitely detect the sound of colorful dialects and expressions that may take time to get accustomed to. Spanish is also commonly spoken.

Getting Around the Island
USVI taxis charge per person and have set prices. Drivers usually take multiple fares, especially from the airport, ferry docks, and the cruise-ship terminal. Most taxis are either safari-style or enclosed, air-conditioned vans. They can be hailed on the street (especially in town and near major shopping malls and attractions) and can also be called by telephone. There are taxi stands in Charlotte Amalie across from Emancipation Garden (in front of Little Switzerland, behind the post office) and along the waterfront. V.I. Taxi Association has exclusive rights to pick up customers at Cyril E. King Airport, Havensight Cruise Ship Dock, Marriott Frenchman’s Reef Resort, Sugar Bay Resort, and Sapphire Beach Resort.
Welcome to Tortola, B.V.I.

Tortola, B.V.I.
Powdery white-sand beaches, lush green mountains, and sheltered, yacht-filled harbours characterize the island of Tortola, the BVI's largest and capital island. The past of the West Indies and the present-day BVI mix and mingle with ruins existing alongside the luxury resorts that draw visitors from around the world.

Swim or stroll the secluded palm-shaded white sands of dozens of beaches, including Apple Bay, Brewer’s Bay, Smuggler’s Cove, Long Bay Beach, Elizabeth Beach and Josiah’s Bay Beach to name just a few.

If watersports or fishing are more your style, don’t miss the protected anchorages at Brandywine Bay, Soper’s Hole and Trellis Bay and surfing Cane Garden Bay or game fishing the North and South Drops.

Warm, friendly and hospitable, Tortola has a wide variety of places to stay, ranging from luxury resorts and private villas to a scenic campground.

Step away from the sand just long enough to discover Tortola’s history with a visit to the 1780 Lower Estate Sugar Works Museum, Fort Burt, Mount Healthy Windmill, Callwood’s Rum Distillery, J.R. O’Neal Botanic Gardens, Old Government House Museum and VI Folk Museum.

Exploring the Best of Tortola

Dolphin Discovery
Get up close and personal with dolphins as they swim in a spacious seaside pen. There are three different programs. In the Royal Swim, dolphins tow participants around the pen. The less expensive Adventure and Discovery programs allow you to touch the dolphins.

Long Bay Beach West
This beach is a stunning, mile-long stretch of white sand; have your camera ready to snap the breathtaking approach. Although Long Bay Resort sprawls along part of it, the entire beach is open to the public. The water isn’t as calm here as at Cane Garden or Brewers Bay, but it’s still swimmable. Rent water-sports equipment and enjoy the beachfront restaurant at the resort. Turn left at Zion Hill Road; then travel about half a mile. Amenities: food and drink; toilets; water sports. Best for: swimming.

Smuggler’s Cove Beach
A beautiful, palm-fringed beach, Smuggler’s Cove is down a pothole-filled dirt road. After bouncing your way down, you’ll feel as if you’ve found a hidden piece of the island. You probably won’t be alone on weekends, though, when the beach fills with snorkelers and sunbathers. There’s a fine view of Jost Van Dyke from the shore. The beach is popular with Long Bay Resort guests who want a change of scenery. Follow Long Bay Road past Long Bay Resort, keeping to the roads nearest the water until you reach the beach. It’s about a mile past the resort. Amenities: parking. Best for: snorkeling; swimming.

Fort Burt
The most intact historic ruin on Tortola was built by the Dutch in the early 17th century to safeguard Road Harbour. It sits on a hill at the western edge of Road Town and is now the site of a small hotel and restaurant. The foundations and magazine remain, and the structure offers a commanding view of the harbor.
Exploring the Best of Tortola

**J.R. O’Neal Botanical Gardens**
Take a walk through this 4-acre showcase of lush plant life. There are sections devoted to prickly cacti and succulents, hothouses for ferns and orchids, gardens of medicinal herbs, and plants and trees indigenous to the seashore. From the tourist office in Road Town, cross Waterfront Drive and walk one block over to Main Street and turn right. Keep walking until you see the high school. The gardens are on your left.

**Soper’s Hole**
On this little island connected by a causeway to Tortola’s western end, you can find a marina and a captivating complex of pastel West Indian-style buildings with shady balconies, shuttered windows, and gingerbread trim that house art galleries, boutiques, and restaurants. Pusser’s Landing is a lively place to stop for a cold drink (many are made with Pusser’s famous rum) and a sandwich, and to watch the boats in the harbor.

**Currency in Tortola**
Currency in Tortola is not the E.C. (Eastern Caribbean) dollar like many would assume. In fact, Tortola and all of the BVI islands use the U.S. Dollar as their primary form of currency. There are many banks found on the island that can assist in exchanging money at any time.

**Language in Tortola**
English is the official language of the BVI and Tortola island, though it is spoken with a West Indian lilt and woven with local slang.

**Tortola Island Driving**
Driving on Tortola island is British-style, on the left-hand side. So we encourage you to hire a taxi when needed. Taxis are a reliable and affordable method of transportation in the BVI. No matter what your travel requires, you’ll find a taxi to accommodate you – from open-air safari buses, to enclosed air-conditioned buses and smaller passenger vehicles. In the BVI, taxis are for more than just point A to point B: they’re some of the most popular methods of touring our beautiful landscapes quickly and comfortably. Whether you are looking for a ride to the beach or a trip around one the island, taxis and water taxis help you make it happen.
Nassau, Bahamas
Hidden among a group of islands poised between the Atlantic and Caribbean—and only a few hundred miles from the United States’ southern coast of Florida—Nassau Paradise Island has sheltered everyone from pirates and freed slaves to blockade runners, rum smugglers and runaway lovers over the centuries. And although times are peaceful now, we still cherish a tradition of people making their own rules under sunny skies.

It’s Better in the Bahamas

The Beaches
With so many stretches of beautiful beaches—and miles upon miles of powdery white sands as soft as fine sugar—there’s always a perfect place for you to lie back, relax and enjoy in The Bahamas. And with sunshine 300 days a year and water temperatures averaging 80 degrees, there’s almost always a gorgeous day of sun and fun waiting for you on Nassau Paradise Island.

From Pirates of the Caribbean to James Bond’s Casino Royale and Thunderball: Nassau Paradise Island’s long stretches of sugar-fine white sand and warm azure waters have appeared as the gorgeous backdrop to some of the most iconic films in the world.

Taste of the Bahamas
Be sure to sample conch, one of our most popular foods. Enjoy it raw with lime juice, in a salad, or in deep-fried conch fritters or cracked conch. You can find conch on most restaurant menus in The Bahamas.

Diving & Snorkeling
Stuart Cove’s Snorkel Bahamas
Billed as the world’s most exciting snorkeling adventure, Stuart Cove’s Snorkel Bahamas allows you to explore underwater. Visit up to three locations on a single voyage, including shallow reefs and a shipwreck used to make the James Bond films, For Your Eyes Only and Never Say Never Again.

Stuart Cove’s Extreme Shark Adventure
One of the highlights for divers at Stuart Cove’s is the Extreme Shark Adventure—a two-tank dive trip that takes you on an underwater encounter with Caribbean Reef Sharks. On the first dive, you’ll participate in a free swim with the sharks, while on the second dive, watch as a professional shark feeder enters the water with a box of bait. Then be prepared to be in shock and awe, as the waters fill with Caribbean Reef Sharks!
Stingray and Beach Day
This experience is the perfect opportunity to get up-close with stingrays right from the beach as you enjoy a private island getaway. The Southern Stingray can grow up to four feet in diameter and Balmoral Island is the only location in Nassau where you can interact with this species of ray.

Atlantis Aquaventure – Half Day
Come play at Atlantis Aquaventure, a one-of-a-kind 141-acre water park. Containing over 20 million gallons of water, this non-stop water experience consists of thrilling water slides, a mile-long river ride with high intensity rapids, wave surges and special effects. The excursion also includes access to their huge, open-air marine habitat where you can find over 50,000 fascinating sea creatures.

Seahorse Sail & Snorkel
This tour offers the ideal combination of sailing and snorkeling. After a short stroll, you’ll board your catamaran, which features a shaded lounge and spacious deck, for a cruise through historic Nassau Harbor en route to one of two spectacular reefs. Here, you’ll see natural coral reefs teeming with the ocean’s wildlife on a snorkel adventure.

Currency in the Bahamas
The Bahamian dollar is on par with the US dollar – no need to exchange currency! Visa, MasterCard, and most debit cards are also widely accepted throughout Nassau Paradise Island, as well as travelers’ checks. Banks in The Bahamas are open Monday-Thursday from 9:30-3:00 and on Fridays 9:30-5:00. Most restaurant and bar bills in The Bahamas have a 15% gratuity added so you don’t need to leave a tip, unless the service was exceptional and you’d like to leave something extra.

Language in the Bahamas
English is spoken everywhere in The Bahamas. No Rosetta Stone required – you’ll be able to communicate with everyone!

Getting Around Nassau
Stay left! Cars drive on the left-hand side of the road in The Bahamas, which can be a tricky adjustment for North American drivers. Consider cabs or car service rather than renting cars or scooters to avoid unfamiliar driving practices.

Fun Bahamas Fact:
The sparkling turquoise waters of The Bahamas are as remarkable from the sky as they are from land. In fact, astronaut Chris Hatfield has said The Bahamas’ waters were his favorite view from the International Space Station.

Did You Know?
About only 2% of the Caribbean Islands are actually inhabited.