

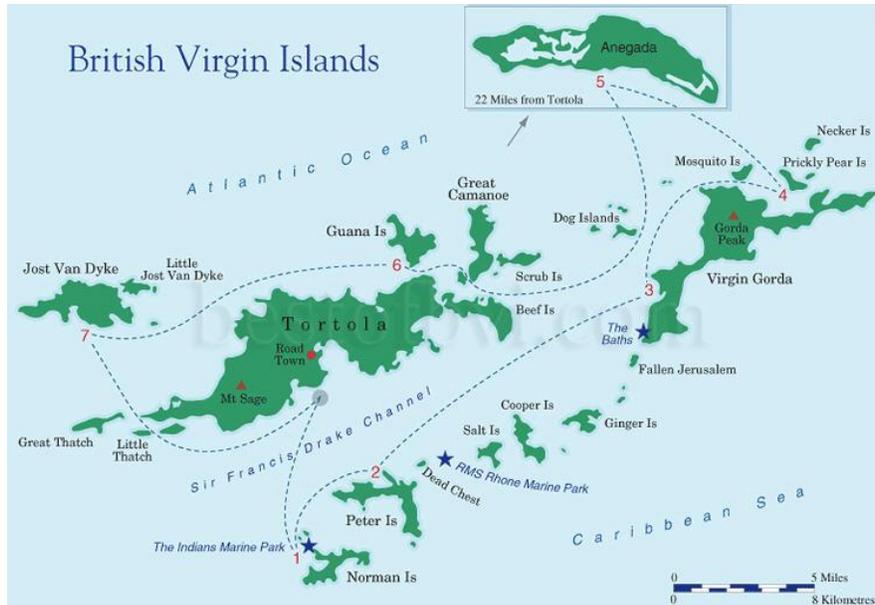


## HOPE'S RECOMMENDED BVI & USVI ANCHORAGES

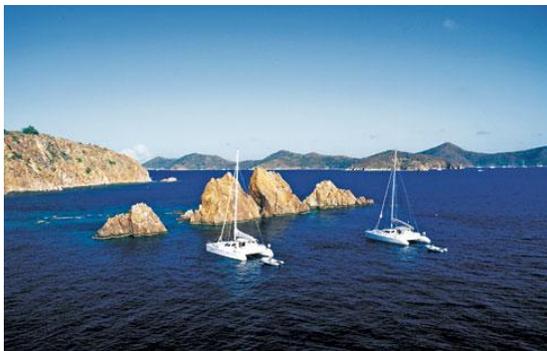
**First of All....** when you get off the plane..... stop, close your eyes, take a very deep breath in and as you breathe out, remove the "real world" from your mind as fast as possible and for the rest of your vacation! Concentrate on soaking in the beauty around you and **settle into the island lifestyle**. No one else is in a hurry there, so you may as well get into the same groove as quickly as possible.



**Note # 2:** This itinerary starts and ends in Soper's Hole, West End, Tortola, BVI, but you can pick it up anywhere and go from there or go the other direction (clockwise) if preferred. Keep in mind that the prevailing winds are from the East; just North of East in Winter months, and just South of East in summer. In the winter months swells can come in from the North from systems happening up north which can make some (northern facing) beaches and anchorages roly or unwieldy (Cane Garden Bay, the Baths, etc) so always have a plan B when setting up a float plan!



**DAY ONE** If you want to visit St. John this would be a good time. Nice downwind sail to one of the beautiful beaches, Leinster, Maho, Francis Bay etc. (Check in required at Cruz Bay) Alternatively sail on a nice beam reach to either **Norman Island** or **Peter Island** and sail counter-clockwise around Tortola. Pick up a mooring at **the Indians**, Pelican Island, off **Norman Island** (there are only about



5 moorings there so you may have to go to the caves or the Bight and come back later if full) Absolutely **wonderful snorkeling** here above and around this fascinating rock outcropping. If you are a diver, the walls on the "deep side" are fabulous and teeming with colorful corals and fish, and there is also large shallow area on the other side (East side) of the Indians rock outcropping which is **SUPERLATIVE** for corals and fish and **good for kids** and slightly nervous snorkelers.



Motor over to **the Caves** on Norman Island for lunch and **snorkle** the Caves after lunch. This is great fun. Keep a lookout for **NORMAN** the **BARRACUDA** a 4' "pet" barracuda who hangs out at the Caves getting handouts from visiting yachtsmen! Warn your kids about Normie because he looks scary but he is **TRULY HARMLESS**. This is literally the first thing my daughter ever saw underwater. At age 6 she donned her first mask and snorkle and fins and the first time she put her face in the water **THERE**

WAS NORMIE! Not the best introduction. Needless to say it took us awhile to get her to try that again! ANYWAY....Then over to **the Bight at Norman Island** for the night.

This is where the **William Thornton**, a floating ship which is also a restaurant and bar, is anchored.



Fondly called "**The Willy T**", this is a fun spot for lunch with the kids during the day or a quick drink in the evening. After about 10 PM it becomes a HOT spot for late night partying *for adults only!* Prizes are awarded to bravehearts who jump off the roof into the water (the less clothing on the better the prize). Do a Belly Shot on the bar (not for the faint of heart) Another "must do" is the famous SKI SHOT. Willy T's is a LOT of fun in along "college spring vacation" lines. Also in this cove is **Pirates beach bar** — your basic fun beach bar with VERY NICE folks running it. The sometimes have live music. Check your "Limin Times" for live music playing on all the islands. Always call to check if they have live music scheduled so you aren't disappointed. If you have WiFi check Limin Times' online calendar at [www.limin-times.com](http://www.limin-times.com)

**DAY TWO** Check back into BVI at Soper's Hole and Sail on to **Deadman's Chest Bay**, Peter Island for a morning of **kayaking** and **beaching**. Deadman's is one of my favorite beaches--truly lovely with crystal clear (all sand bottom) water, and palm-fringed white sand. Very nice easy **walking/hiking**. You can walk along beach or up to the top and over to White Bay on the other side. Look for Giant Iguanas running across the sand! **Peter Island** has a high-end resort and now has a full day spa with all sorts of massage, skin, and nail services offered. A live steel band plays on the beach on Sunday afternoons at Deadman's, compliments of Peter Island Resort.

Anchor for the night around the corner at Great Harbor, Peter Island (or you could go further around to White Bay for total privacy. (Deadman's Bay is NOT an overnight anchorage in winter prevailing-Easterly/NE-winds). Too



rolly. There's good **snorkeling** all around the shelf of Great harbor but it gets deep quickly so plan to let out a lot of scope!. I think there may be a new beach restaurant on the shore there— not sure. If you want to get fancy, you can don your jacket and tie (dress for ladies) and have dinner at the swanky **Peter Island Yacht Club** (Reservations via VHF a must). If you radio WELL ahead, slips are available.

**DAY THREE** Anchor, and dive or snorkle the **Wreck of the Mailship Rhone** off **Salt Island**. This is great for snorkelers and divers alike because much of the wreck is in 30' of water. Do not bother with this however if there is a lot of swell/heavy winds churning up the sea there because it clouds the area and not much can be seen.



Sail on to **Cooper Island** for the night or sail over to one of the many Tortola marinas. There is good snorkeling around the rocks at Cooper (lots of little yellow snappers which eat out of your hand and nip at your heels) and Cistern Point is on the west side of Cooper Island just south of the Cooper Island Beach Club which has great snorkeling. There is one small place to eat (Cooper Island Beach Club) which is fun, but that's all.

It is charming there and feels more private. It is a spot I would give a **MISS** to if you have to cut one or two anchorages out in order to get to other ones you care more about. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is essential to get to this anchorage before it is filled up if you plan to spend the night there, (i.e. by 11 AM or 12 noon) because the currents in this anchorage cause everyone to twirl in strange ways and if you are not on a mooring, (i.e. you have to anchor) *you will be up all night re-anchoring, untangling, and fending off.*



This is a good time to mention that, in general, if you are in the VI during a popular week (X-mas, New Years, Feb, April or March school vacations, etc) the best way to be assured of getting a mooring in each anchorage is to get off and away early each morning and get to your overnight anchorage by 11 or 12 (AM) because that is when people tend to leave moorings for their next anchorage, and I believe it is actually the "check out time" for most overnight mooring rentals. It is a bummer to arrive at cocktail hour ready to grab a mooring for the night and find them all taken. During non holiday and school vacation periods, keeping that kind of schedule is not necessary.

**DAY FOUR** Get up and away early and spend the day at the **Baths** on Virgin Gorda swimming, **snorkeling** and **walking/ exploring/** hiking through the fabulous nooks and crannies through and amongst





the rocks all the way over to Spring Bay & Devil's Bay. The baths are truly spectacular and are an absolute must. I need to note, however, that IF you have very high winds with Northerly swells you may have to give the Baths a miss as it can get very wavy and rough in certain conditions such as "Christmas Winds". Also, try to find out from your charter company or crew when the Cruise ships

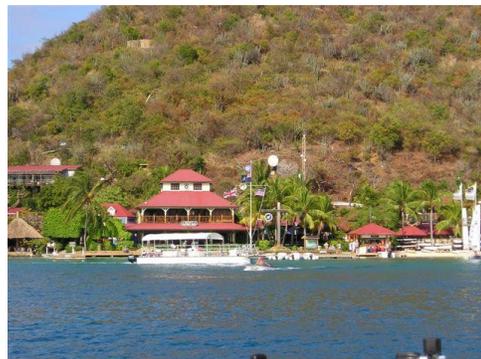
are scheduled to bring their guests here and **avoid that day!!!** It gets packed. This is a good time to mention cruise ships in general. They are probably the only negative thing I can say about the British Virgin Islands. It is sad that the BVI gov't is so short sighted that they have allowed cruise ships to dock and anchor off prime anchorages. But it is a fact. Try to pretend they are not there and try to avoid anchorages where they dump their human cargo. (e.g. Cane Garden Bay (Tortola), the Baths (Virgin Gorda), White Bay on Jost Van Dyke). Another gorgeous bay on Virgin Gorda which is more private and less frequented than the Baths on the way to Bitter End is **Savannah Bay**, a gorgeous white sand classic beach. Overnight at **Mountain Point**, in the Lee of Virgin Gorda (literally **Mountains** of colorful **coral heads!!**) OR you can go into Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbor, Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda. Good restocking/shopping spot. In Spanish town you will find the



Mine Shaft Restaurant near the old copper mine on top of the highest hill....great food, **AMAZING** sunset views, open air and off the beaten path. You will need to take a taxi but it is another fun adventure.

Sail downwind to **Marina Cay** (see discussion of this area further along in this missive) or sail upwind to North Sound, Virgin Gorda if you can for the night. Grab a mooring and have dinner or drinks at the **Bitter End Yacht Club** (reservations highly recommended for dinner.) They often have activities which you and/or the kids can join in on (outdoor movies in the "sand palace", music/dancing, barbeques, etc. There's a nice little boutique there "Reef Boutique". You can rent a windsurfer or daysailer there by the hour.

If you are on a crewed yacht see if they will take you through the reef to **Eustacia Sound**. We saw **EAGLE RAYS** there that were truly spectacular! There are several spots on the way in to North sound including **Saba Rock Resort** --fun for a stop/drink and there's a neat shop there with pirate coins and jewelry, but I wouldn't go out of my way to make a stop there.





There's also the "sandbox" beachbar on the way in. Also **Leverick Bay Resort** is on the way which has a very good restaurant and sometimes offers either a free entrée, or a



rebate free mooring. Some nights they have the **MOCKO JUMBIES** performing (fabulous dancers up on extremely high stilts wearing colorful, long silks—delightful!) and they have a beach BBQ at least 1 night a week with local live music. Again, check your Limin' Times or call them to make sure which nights there is something scheduled.

**DAY FIVE** Sail downwind (Finally) to one or another of **the Dogs** --Rock outcroppings with fabulous snorkeling and/or diving. There are mooring buoys out there! May be a bit daunting for kids because it is truly open water. But I always see Sea Turtles there, spotted rays and lots of Barracuda! Then to Marina Cay or the Last Resort for the night if you haven't already been there. (Alternatively sail to Monkey Point, Guana Island or Diamond Cay, Jost Van Dyke both discussed later) There's a one man band (Michael Bean) & entertainer at the **Pusser's at Marina Cay** and a singing Chef at **The Last Resort** in Trellis Bay. Both make for a fun evening! There's an excellent windsurfing, kayak, surf shop rental spot at Trellis Bay called BVI Windsurfing. This is also the home of Cybernet Café, an internet café. They teach and/or rent, and it's a good spot wind-wise. For those who want to windsurf once but don't want to rent one for the week and have it take up space on deck. **Diamond Reef**, near Marina Cay makes for good diving & snorkeling. Trellis Bay has a dinghy dock practically next door to the airport so this is a great place to pick up and drop off friends and guests if they are flying out of Tortola (Beef Island). Trellis Bay has a fun family-oriented full moon party and **New Year's party** on the beach featuring the "burning man" an island tradition.



A new private island resort, **Scrub Island**, is a new BVI "must" from what our clients have told us. It is one of the good places to go for those of you who like to be in a slip for a night or two. Dockage is



\$2.25/ft but allows you use of the island and its amenities including an amazing 2 level infinity edge pool, 2 great restaurants (one of which is **Tierra, Tierra**), great showers, a deli, and a dive shop. One of our clients borrowed one of their kayaks to go around the back of the island and had a ball.

**DAY SIX** Sail gloriously downwind stopping at **Monkey Point** off **Guana Island** for amazing **snorkeling or diving** there (strong current there though—just be watchful) and end up at **Cane Garden Bay** for the afternoon or night. Great tranquil anchorage (UNLESS there is a **NORTHERN** swell running (X-mas time) in which case it can be awful (rolly!) Lots of fun to be had in water and out, but it has gotten very commercial. Avoid **CGB** when Cruise Ships are in port. Lots of beach bars and shops along the beach (a result of cruise ships coming in over the last few years) **BIG music scene** ashore at night—Between **Myett's, Quito's, Stanleys** and **Big Banana** there is always live music (reggae, calypso etc). Check your Limin' Times for who is playing where! Myett's happy Hour with Kapeye (Jimmy Buffet type) is fun. They do custom grilling of meat and fish. There is a working Rum distillery there you can tour. (Arundel) Kind of interesting but not that great frankly. You can rent watersports equipment at Cane Garden Bay. While it requires getting into a cab, it is not too far & **WELL WORTH IT** to eat lunch or dinner (you must arrive before sunset though) at the **BANANAKEET CAFÉ** up and over a switchback or two towards Little Apple Bay.



**DAY SEVEN** Sail over to Jost Van Dyke stopping at **Sandy Spit** or **Green Cay** for a snorkle and/or lunch on the way over. **Diamond Cay** behind Sandy Spit is a tranquil anchorage with access to **Foxy's Taboo** (lunch, dinner and a **GREAT** little Caribbeaan clothing boutique!) Good water for kayaking and swimming. Walk the shore path to the "Bubbly Pool" a natural "Jacuzzi" of sorts when the swells coming in are big. Ask **Foxy's Taboo** how to get there. Good overnight anchorage, but you will probably want to go around the corner to **Great Harbor** so you can have dinner or drinks/dance at **Foxy's** -



always fun entertainment there whether **FOXY** himself or a guest artist or band is playing. It is just a big open barn of sorts on the beach. Dinghy over to **White Bay** the next morning (unless you see a cruise ship anchored off, in which case avoid).



Check out the famous **Soggy Dollar Beach Bar**. Walk the beautiful beach (but the reef there is all but dead—so don't bother to snorkle there). You can clear out of the BVI on Jost if you plan on going straight to St. John after this, or you can clear out at Soper's Hole if you plan to go there on your way to St. John. [A note here about clearing out](#)

and in between US and BVI waters. When you clear out of the BVI only the skipper has to go in to check out everyone with passports and boat's papers. When checking in to US on St. John, everyone has to appear personally but you can check IN & OUT at the same time if you plan on being in US waters less than 48 hours. You then have to check back in to BVI at Soper's or Jost or Roadtown.

**DAY EIGHT** Sail a nice reach over to **Soper's Hole** for some shopping at Pusser's Landing of **wonderful colorful shops**, stocking up on provisions or having a very civilized lunch at **Pusser's Landing** outdoors on the marina dock. Pusser's has live music on the dock Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons. They also have the **best Bushwacker** on the island! [This is another great place to pick up or drop off guests who are coming or going by ferry from St. Thomas or another island](#) as the ferry dock and one of the



BVI's Customs and Immigration Offices is right across the harbor from Pusser's Landing, so you can check into or out of the BVI here as well.

From Soper's (or from Jost Van Dyke), you could opt to sail to one of the **many lovely beaches on St. John**. I highly recommend Leincester Bay for a quick day visit. The beach isn't great, but **Waterlemon Cay** has great snorkeling all the way around it. (some current). If you plan to spend the night lying off St. John or go ashore to hike, explore, eat or shop, you will need to **check in at US Customs and Immigration**. The easiest way to do this is to grab a mooring at **Caneel Bay** and go around by dinghy to **Cruz Bay** to clear in. (Everyone has to appear personally. Per above note you can check in & out at the same time unless you plan to spend > 48 hrs



there.) Alternatively you can motor in, grab a mooring and dinghy in. I don't recommend going to the dock under any circumstances because you'll get tangled up with the ferries. Walk around the town, shopping, (Mongoose Junction!) taking an island tour by jeep, hiking one or more of the many beautiful trails (most of the island is protected national park!) eating a meal (The Paradiso). Besides Leinster & Caneel Bay two other **MUST beaches on St. John's North coast are Maho Bay and Francis Bay.** (I personally think St. John Beaches—especially **MAHO BAY** are among the most heavenly in the entire VI chain.



Both bareboat clients and crewed yacht captains have spoken highly to me of the less-frequented **SOUTH** side of St. John. **Salt Pond Bay** apparently is a **WONDERFUL** anchorage and is in the lee when there is a Northerly swell running, and a client recently told me that the water was abundant with turtles and rays! "The best snorkeling of the whole trip". **Lameshure Bay** is also supposedly very lovely and apparently there is a terrific walking trail which leads to caves where there are petroglyphs. I have yet to explore these areas!

These are the major spots I know of. I'm sure there are hundreds of other secret anchorages I have yet to discover. But it's a start! If you are on a crewed yacht, defer to your crew once they know the type of place you'll like because they are allowed to go places bareboaters can't and they know some really special places I have never even heard of!

**GOOD LUCK**, sail conservatively, check the weather forecast frequently, and **have a GREAT TRIP!**  
.....And send us a postcard!



**RUFUS SAYS "HAPPY SAILING!"**