

British Virgin Islands Flotilla!

March 25th - April 1st

Emergencies and Safety

If there is an emergency and you need to be contacted while on the boat, this is the contact information to provide. Please only have families use this in a REAL emergency, as contacting us will be very labor intensive once we are on the move. Cell phone coverage is pretty good between the islands except on our way to Anegada Island. There is also ample opportunity to use wifi at many restaurants along the way in order to let the world know how we are doing.

Emergency Contact Info:

NAUTILUS SAILING

800-680-7902

info@nautilussailing.com

*Note that on the weekends we are not in the office, but are still periodically checking emails and phone messages for emergencies

Following Our Adventure

If family and friends wish to follow our trip, they can track our trip via Garmin InReach. This is a fantastic adventurer's device that transmits a satellite signal of our exact location. InReach then plots a "track" of our progress on a chart. People can toggle between a chart of where we are and satellite imagery of the area. Friends and family often get jealous when they toggle to the Satellite view and see the places where you are anchored!

Here is the link to paste into browsers and the password is "sailing":

[Nautilus Sailing InReach](#)

Marina: Hodge's Creek Marina

Hodge's Creek Marina

Maya Cove, British Virgin Islands

GPS POSITION: [18°25'28.37"N - 64°34' 7.97"W](#)

Access by air

Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport (EIS): Fly into Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport (EIS), Beef Island, Tortola. There are international flights via San Juan, St. Martin, Antigua and other local connections with Liat, Seaborne, and Cape Air. The airport is 6km from the marina. Book with reputable companies, as some flights get canceled just a few weeks prior to departure. Especially here, plan to arrive the day in advance as literally everyone (including the airlines) is on island-time.

Access by Ferry from the USVI

You can book one of the many ferries from the US Virgin Islands to Road Town, Tortola. We recommend you book a taxi to take you from Road Town to Hodge's Creek Marina. It's a 15 minute drive. If you need help with your taxi transfer, please contact our customer service. Taxis are also available in front of the ferry dock.

Information subject to change without notice.

Money

The currency is US dollars. Incidentally, you will find most of the bars and restaurants will accept Mastercard and Visa. However, American Express is NOT widely accepted in the islands.

Saturday Arrival and Schedule

For those of you that arrive early, plan on enjoying your Saturday, whether that means relaxing by the beach or exploring the small town of Tortola. There is also a kite surfing school, a number of spas and scenic hikes in the area. All of the boats for the flotilla are not being returned until Saturday morning from the previous week's charters, so the local crew will be busy cleaning them. Please plan on boarding the boat between 5 or 6 pm. Your flotilla lead from Nautilus will be on site beginning around 3 pm, so stop by to say hi!

We highly recommend that everyone arrive in the BVI's on Friday night. If your flight lands on Saturday and there is a delay, we don't want you to miss the boat! Here are some options for lodging and hotels in the area for that Friday night.

Hotels

The best site to look for hotels in the area is at booking.com or hotels.com. They both have a good selection of properties from which to choose. We also have had some luck using airbnb.com.

Hotel Suggestions near Marina:

- Wyndham Tortola Bvi Lambert Beach Resort - East End, VG1110 Tortola
- Maria's by the Sea (Tortola) - Road Harbour, Road Town
- Fort Burt Hotel (Tortola) - Waterfront Dr | P.O. Box 3380, Road Town
- Hodge's Creek Marina Hotel - Waterfront Dr, Parham Town

Restaurant Suggestions near Marina::

- The Red Rock Restaurant (Tortola)
- Pusser's (Tortola)
- Brandywine Bay (Kingston)
- The Family Bar and Grill (Kingston)

Weather

Before you pack, we recommend you check the weather for the week ahead. Great weather resources to learn about local climate:

[Weather.com](https://www.weather.com) - Android, iOS

[Wunderground.com](https://www.wunderground.com) - Android, iOS

[Meteoblue.com](https://www.meteoblue.com) - Android, iOS

[Windguru.cz](https://www.windguru.cz) - Android

Diving

There may be a chance to go diving at various spots around the BVIs! If you are a certified diver and would like to get in a dive or two, let us know ASAP and we can start the diving conversation.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We cannot stress this enough. PLEASE buy travel insurance! We all do our absolute best to control all the variables we can, but ultimately, things beyond our control can happen. Travel insurance is a small investment and will give you HUGE peace of mind. Make sure you read the fine print of your policy. Some policies now offer "Cancel for Any Reason", which allows up to an 80% refund of all your money. If for some reason you have to cancel your trip (for example: due to illness or emergency), this would protect your investment.

By no means a comprehensive list, these are a few companies we recommend checking for travel insurance:

1. <https://www.worldnomads.com/usa/>
2. <https://www.squaremouth.com>
3. <https://www.travelinsure.com>
4. <https://www.travelguard.com>

Itinerary Information

I'm very excited about what we have planned this week! As always, please remain flexible because, despite my best efforts, I still cannot control the weather.

Island Information

Norman Island

Norman Island also has a documented history of pirate booty being stowed upon the island. The Island is, in fact, named after a pirate. Norman Island is a well-known destination for cruisers and other tourists because of three water-level caves at the base of cliffs just outside the western edge of the Bight. The caves are ideal for snorkeling, and, if one goes deeply enough into the cliffs, darkness makes the experience like a night dive. It also offers one of the most well-protected moorings in the area. The island has no permanent inhabitants (other than wild goats).

Coopers Island

There are five privately owned properties on the island, plus a small beach club resort. Cooper Island Beach Club has 12 hotel rooms, a restaurant, rum bar, coffee shop, solar powered brewery, and gift shop. The island lies adjacent to "wreck alley", a popular wreck diving site in the British Virgin Islands where a number of vessels have been deliberately sunk as dive sites.[2] A local dive store near the beach club rents tanks to certified scuba divers. **If you are interested in scuba diving please let us know ASAP so we can set something up.**

Virgin Gorda Island

Virgin Gorda is BVI's third-largest island, and was so named by Christopher Columbus. The island is regarded as one of the BVI's most beautiful, which is high praise given how utterly stunning the archipelago's isles are in general. Visitors to Virgin Gorda will discover vegetation-lined walking trails, several nature sanctuaries, and a truly awe-inspiring view from Gorda Point. From there, you'll enjoy a panoramic eyeful of the island's pristine beaches and national park space.

Natural beauty isn't the only sort that's on offer, however. Virgin Gorda is also home to several historic sides, including the remnants of early African, Spanish and Indian settlements. The island's largest city (Spanish Town) is a must-visit for exceptional cuisine, gifts, yacht clubs, luxury lodging, and local culture.

Anegada Island

Anegada is one of the archipelago's most unique islands, given its nearly level coral and limestone topography (in contrast to the volcanic origin of most of the region's other islands). In fact, Anegada only rises 28 feet above sea level at its highest point!

The island is also surrounded by striking reefs, underwater caves, tunnel formations and age-old shipwrecks, making it a popular spot for snorkelers and SCUBA divers. Expect to spot needle fish, bonefish, stingrays, parrot fish, and other native species.

Nature enthusiasts will also discover much to love on Anegada, thanks to a largely isolated ecosystem that incorporates several interesting native species (such as rock iguanas, wild orchids, lush tropical vegetation and colorful exotic birds).

Jost Van Dyke

Although it's one of BVI's smallest islands, Jost Van Dyke (named for a Dutch privateer) still encapsulates an abundance of charm and history.

Intrepid explorers can discover the ruins of early sugar mills, still-surviving explorer footpaths, and near-endless amounts of interesting wildlife here. Archaeological evidence suggests that Jost Van Dyke was visited by civilizations as diverse as the Arawak tribe, Caribs, Africans, the British, and — naturally — the Dutch. Despite its diminutive stature, Jost Van Dyke's rich melting-pot history has fostered some of the Caribbean's best dining, with barbecue, Indian and seafood dominating the menus at the isle's various beachside eateries.

Recommended Packing List

Please pack all items in soft sided, collapsible luggage (like duffel bags or backpacks). Wheeled luggage is very convenient for most traveling, however is a real nuisance on a boat as there is no place to store such a bulky item.

Everyone will have shelves and a closet in their cabin, so as soon as you arrive you can unpack all your belongings.

- Board shorts/bathing suits
- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Lightweight long sleeve shirt for sun protection
- Lightweight pair long pants
- Jacket (for occasional rain showers and to use as a wind breaker)
- Fleece or sweatshirt and extra layers (as evenings on deck can be cool)
- Hat (large brimmed protects ears)
- Sandals/ flip flops
- Boat shoes (we usually go barefoot but it is nice to have shoes for cooler evenings and for passages)
- Boxers/underwear
- Toiletries
- Suntan lotion
- Aloe/after sun
- Bug spray
- Cameras (digital or video)
- Identification: As this is an international trip, please carry your passport.
- Airplane tickets and printed itinerary
- Headlamp with red LED bulb.. Something like [this](#).
- Ear plugs, if you are a light sleeper (there are lots of sounds on a boat!)
- Sailing gloves
- Water bottle
- Snacks: granola bars, trail mix, nuts, chocolate, candy, etc...
- Scopolamine patches if prone to seasickness.
- 2 towels per person are provided