  
The Moorings  
Est. 1969



## Manchester Yacht Club

British Virgin Islands  
March 4 – 12, 2017

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## Welcome MYC Cruisers



Welcome from the Commodore!

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the Manchester Yacht Club's 125<sup>th</sup> Season with a cruise in the British Virgin Islands! Twenty-five years ago Leigh and I celebrated our First Anniversary during the MYC cruise in the BVIs that began the Club's centennial season. It was the first time either of us had been to that part of the world. We found paradise, for us a sailing nirvana and getting to share it with fellow members of MYC made for a memorable adventure. With this background it seemed like the perfect way to begin our 125<sup>th</sup> season.

Event Chair Alex Felton and Cruise Committee Chair Roy Mayne have spent the last year meeting, gathering information, and putting together the cruise program. Alex and Roy's focus was to create a program with flexibility so all can meet their individual requirements with the hopes of maximizing participation. General information on the areas we can visit is summarized on the following sheets.

Temperatures will be in the 80's with 15 knots of easterly breeze keeping you cool. Most likely that is what you will get for the entire week. Since that first trip Leigh and I have been back several times. The area we will be cruising is a sailor's dream - steady winds, crystal clear waters, simple sailing, all types of water sports, and great restaurants, if you don't want to cook aboard. All this with friendly faces in each harbor.

I want to thank both Alex and Roy for all the work they have put in so far and will continue to do so as to make sure this is a successful cruise. All of the Flag Officers are hoping you enjoy this great adventure with us. Let's see how much fun we can have launching our 125<sup>th</sup> Season!

Alan Scharfe  
Commodore  
Manchester Yacht Club



**Cruise Dates - Saturday, March 4 through Sunday, March 12, 2017**

**Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1900 - Cruise Kick-off at Mariner Hotel,  
Moorings Village**

**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1830 - Mid-cruise Rendezvous at the Bitter End Yacht Club, North Sound, Virgin Gorda**





## Winter Cruise - BVIs MYC 125<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Cruise Participants

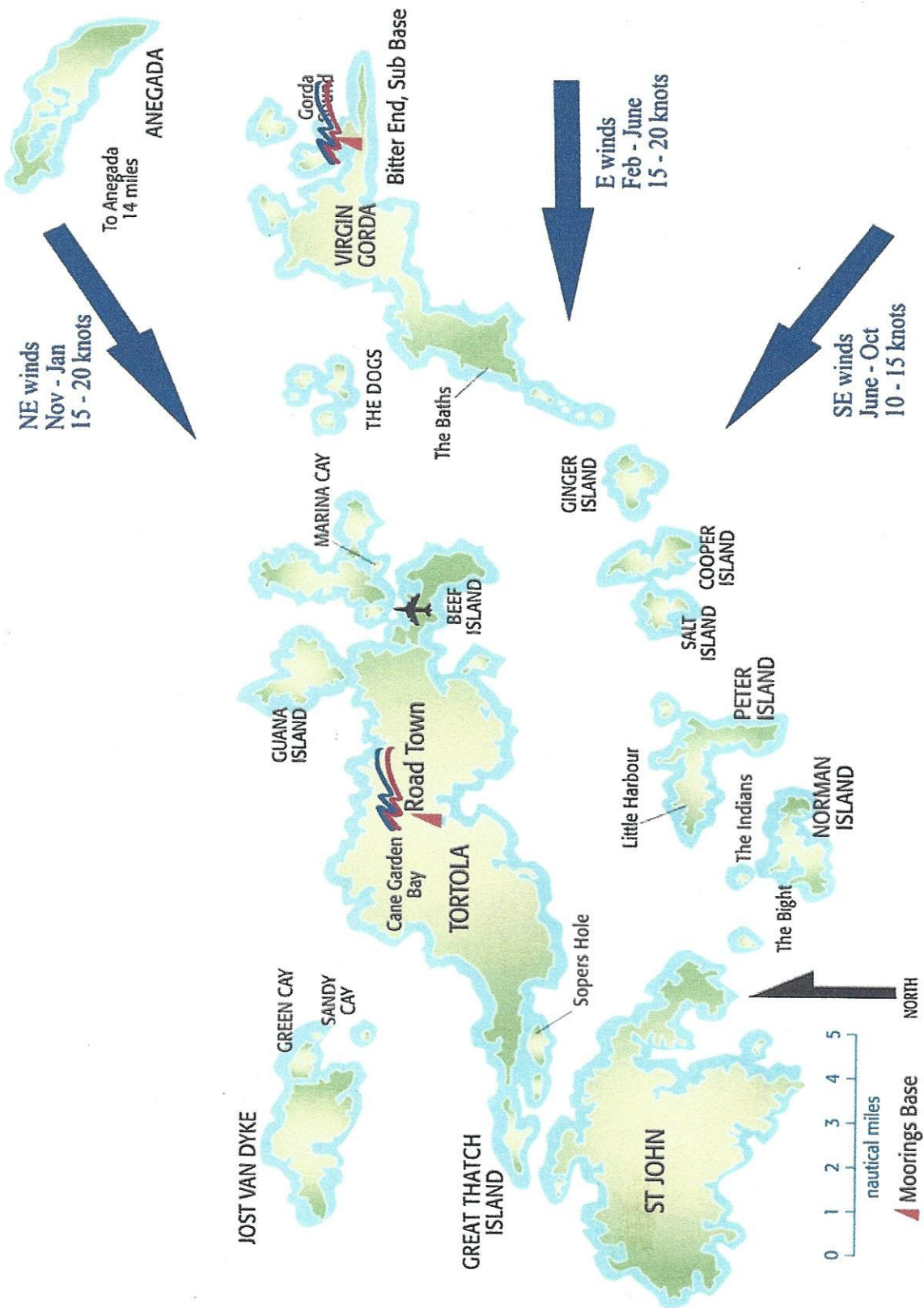
Number	Captain / Crew	Boat	Mobile Phone	Email
1	Roy Mayne	37.2	617-834-4230	cruise@manchesteryc.org
	Martha Mayne		978-239-9643	memayne12@gmail.com
2	Alan Scharfe	4000K	617-212-8883	alans@johnpenney.com
	Leigh Scharfe			leigh.scharfe@gmail.com
	Sam Philbrick		617-680-8014	samuel.philbrick@gmail.com
	Sue Philbrick			susan.philbrick86@gmail.com
3	Alex Felton	42.3	978-595-6365	afelton@comcast.net
	Cathy Felton		978-729-8990	afelton@comcast.net
	John Winder		978-852-3304	jswinder@gmail.com
	Tori Spaulding		508-654-8131	torspauldi@mac.com
4	Becky Jaques	4800K	978-884-9694	rscjaques22@gmail.com
	Jon Jaques			jgj@tiac.net
	Hank Frissora			hanf@comcast.net
	Audrey Frissora			
	Meg Erickson			meg@megerickson.com
	Bill O'Donnell			
	Lisa Walsh Hawkins			
	Andrew Hawkins			
5	Sandy McIntyre	38.2	978-758-3149	apmcintyre@comcast.net
	Jeannie McIntyre			jeannie.d.mcintyre@gmail.com
6	Peter Townsend	4800K		pramsayt@yahoo.com
	Christina Townsend			ckindertownsend@gmail.com
	Polly Townsend			polly.jt2@gmil.com
	Sayre Gerhart			
	Alexa Tiemann			
	Mckenzie Tiemann			
7	Gary Stirgwolt	38.2	617-719-0206	gstirgwolt@tcco.com
	Jane Stirgwolt		978-771-0512	stirgwolt@hotmail.com
	Hazel Stirgwolt			



## Winter Cruise - BVIs MYC 125<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Cruise Participants

Number	Captain / Crew	Boat	Mobile Phone	Email
8	Edward Cushing	38.2	617-216-9900	edwardb@shore.net
	Elizabeth Eaton		617-962-4952	elizabeth Eaton@comcast.net
	Paul Eaton			
	Shelby Stock			
9	Mory Creighton	3900K	978-270-8732	morycreighton@gmail.com
	Sarah Creighton			shcreighton@comcast.net
	Jennifer Bungert			
	Dan Bungert			
	John Rooks			
	Cathy Rooks			
10	Holly Fabyan	4800K	508-843-0678	hollyfabyan@gmail.com
	Mark McHugh			mark-mchugh@comcast.net
	Walter Beinecke			wbeinecke@gmail.com
	Gina Beinecke			gmbeinecke@gmail.com
	Barney Corning			barneyc@ccc Alliance.com
	Angela Corning			avcorning@comcast.net
	Beth Noyes			bethnoyes@comcast.net
	Geoff Noyes			gpnoyes@comcast.net
11	John Kiley	45.3		johnkileyus@yahoo.com
	Susan Kiley			slkiley@yahoo.com
	Chris Weld			cweld@toddweld.com
	Kathy Weld			
12	Nick White	38.2		nick.white@ieee.org
	Alison Anholt-White		978-618-6924	alison.anholt@albionbeams.com
13	Jim Starkey	Shearwater	978-578-7847	jim@jimstarkey.net
	Ann Harrison		978-491-7051	<a href="mailto:shearwater@qbeast.net">shearwater@qbeast.net</a>
			SAT 254-204-1632	
	Mike Maginn		508-932-2324	mike.maginn@gmail.com
	Arlene Maginn			aamaginn@gmail.com
14	Howie Hodgson	TRUE	978-500-5444	hhodgson@cabo tprop.com
	Wendy Hodgson			whodgson@comcast.net
	Laurie Belisle			











# **A Cruising Guide to the Virgin Islands**

***Including  
the Spanish Virgin Islands,  
the United States Virgin Islands,  
and the British Virgin Islands***

**SECOND EDITION**

***by***

**Stephen J. Pavlidis**



**Cocoa Beach, Florida**



## Tortola

Tortola, the principal island in the British Virgin Islands, is the commercial, cultural, and governmental center of the BVI. At almost 21 square miles in area Tortola is home to over 22,000 people, about 75-80% of the BVI's population. Columbus named the island *Tortola*, *turtle dove* in Spanish, in November of 1493. To the east of Tortola the *Sir Francis Drake Channel* separates the islands of Virgin Gorda and Anegada from their sister islands of Tortola and Jost Van Dyke, effectively splitting the British Virgin Islands in two.

### Road Town

#### Important Lights:

Scotch Bank: FI R 8s  
Lark Bank: FI G 3s  
Wickham's Breakwater: FI R 3s  
Cruise Ship Dock: FI W 3s  
Harbour Spit: FI R 2s  
Connell Shoal: FI R 6s

#### Waypoints:

Road Harbour - ¾ nm SSE of ent.  
18° 24.00' N, 64° 36.00' W

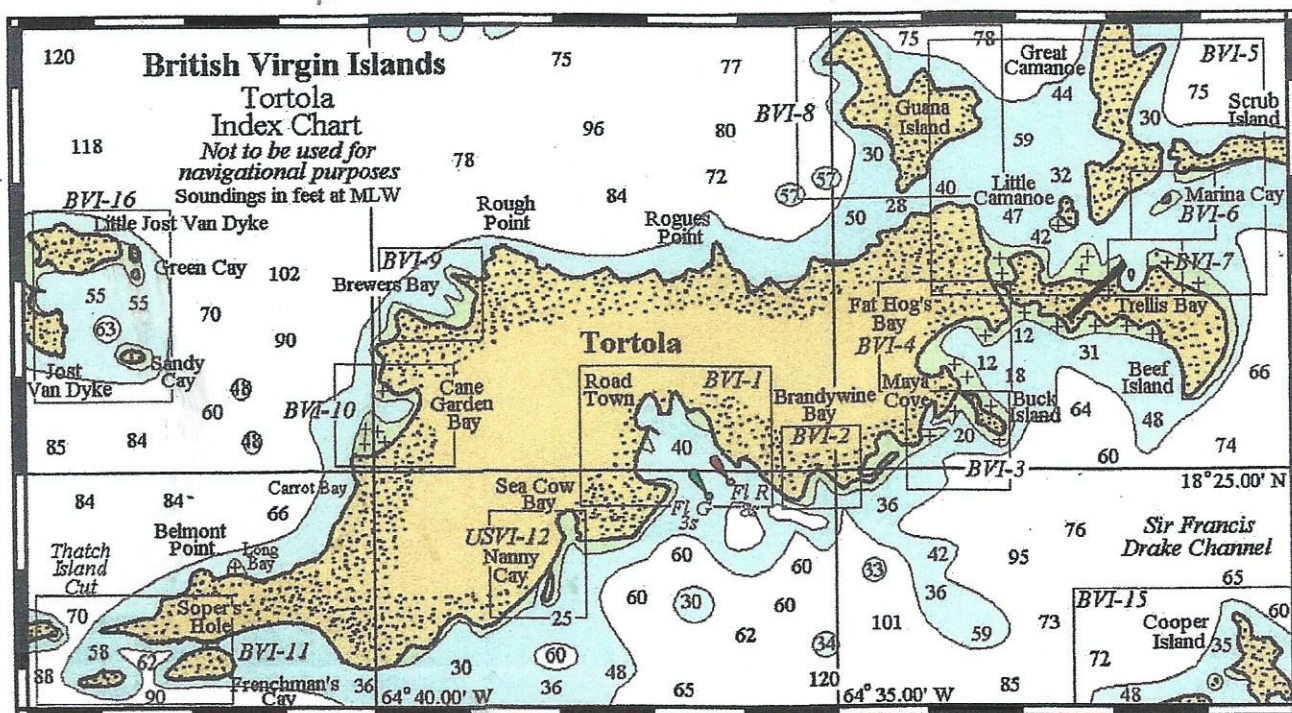
The British Virgin Island's only true city, Road Town is built almost entirely on land reclaimed from

the sea and most of the buildings that you see were reconstructed after the devastating hurricane of 1924. Road Town is a very protected harbour and several charter companies are based here. As far as marine services, there's nothing you can't find in Road Town. The tides in *Road Harbour* are chiefly diurnal, and the range is small, usually only about 1'. In normal trade wind conditions *Road Harbour* can be choppy and the holding isn't the best. In strong southerly winds the harbour is downright untenable.

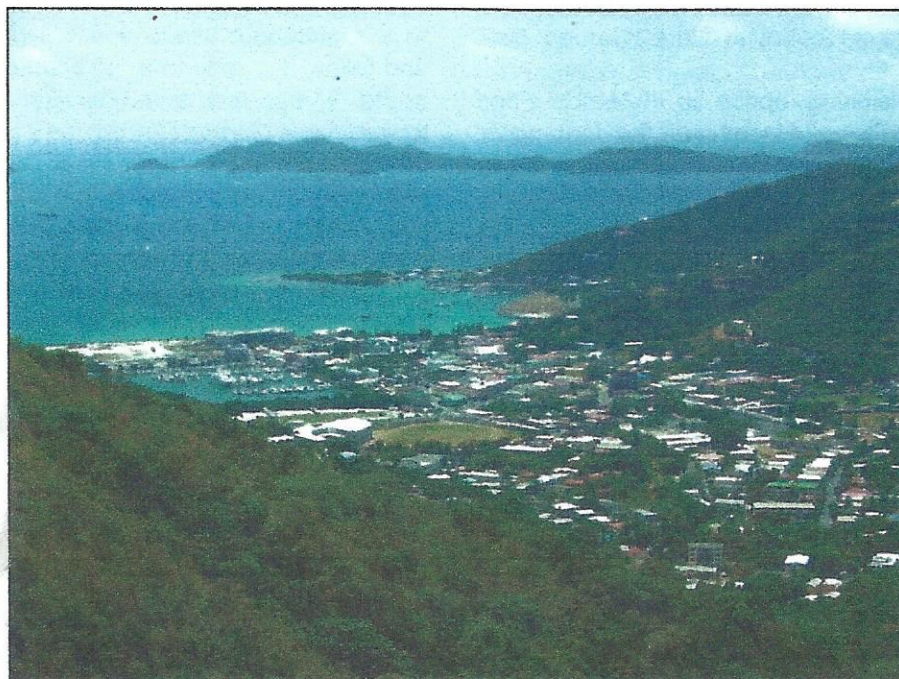
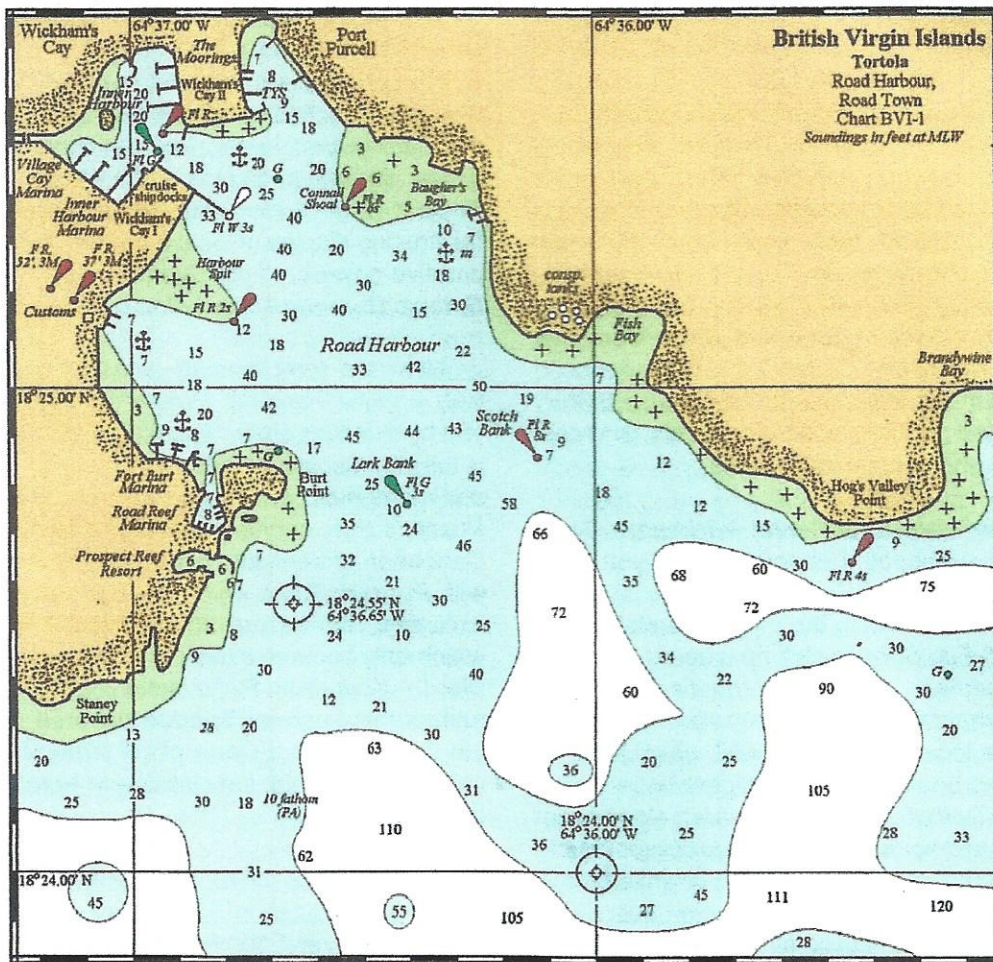
#### Navigational Information

A waypoint at 18° 24.00' N, 64° 36.00' W, will place you approximately ¾ mile south/southeast of the buoyed entrance channel leading into *Road Harbour* as shown on Chart BVI-1. If you're approaching from the west, from Nanny Cay or *Soper's Hole*, good landmarks are the fuel tanks located at Fish Bay (see Chart BVI-1).

From the waypoint you can head northwest (towards the cruise ship dock) passing between the markers that sit on *Lark Bank* to port and *Scotch Bank* to starboard. If you need to clear you must head for the *Customs* office at the ferry dock, southwest of the cruise ship dock as shown on Chart BVI-1. You must clear first before heading to a marina or another anchorage. Once clear of the marker at *Lark Bank*, head towards the red marker at the southeastern tip of *Harbour Spit* keeping it to starboard as you head





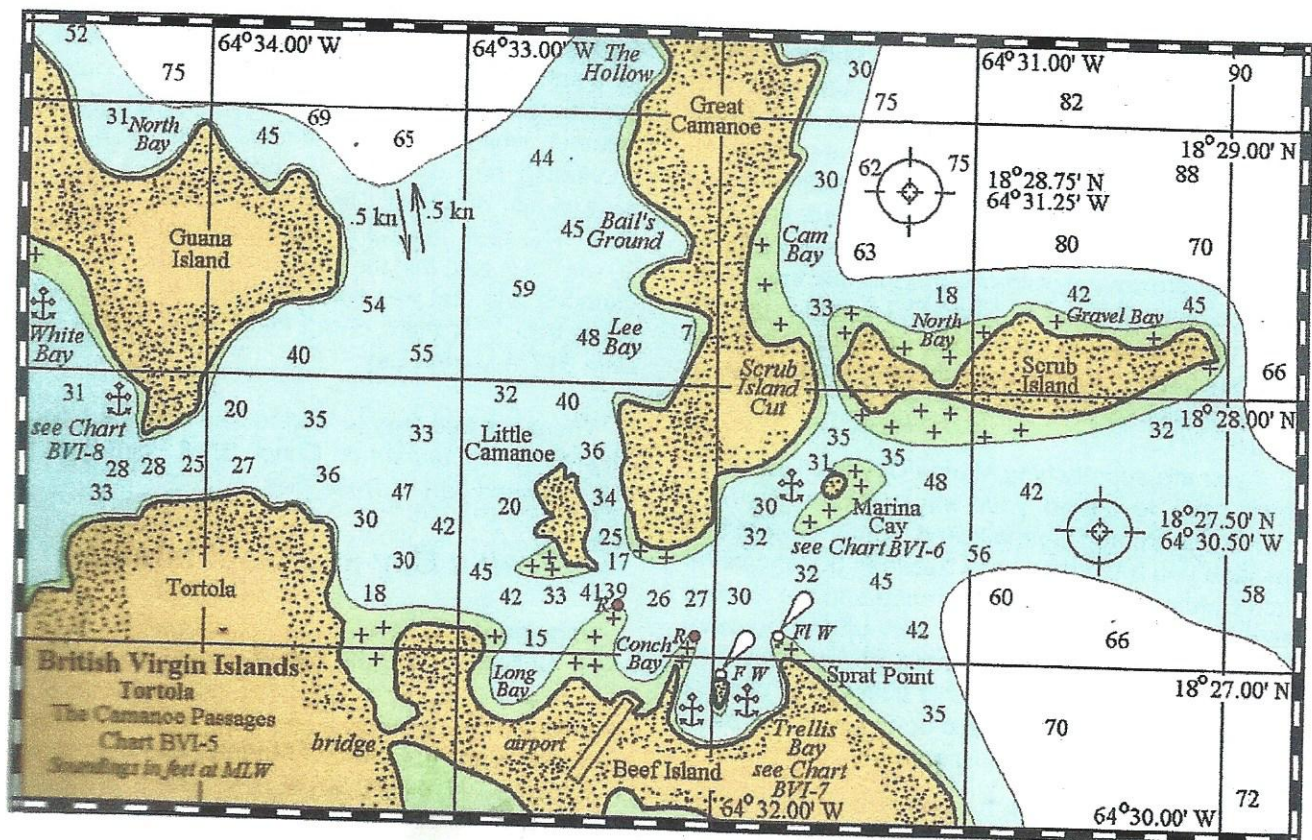
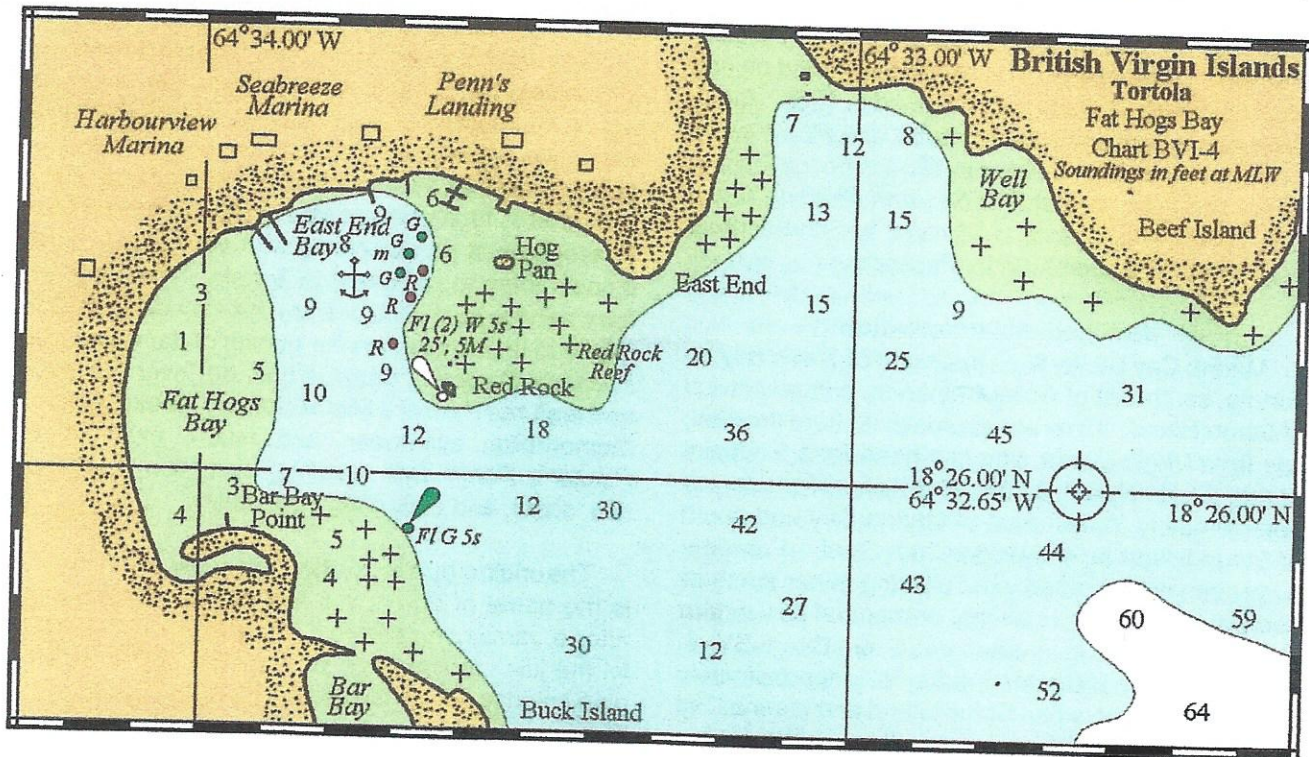


Road Town and Road Harbour

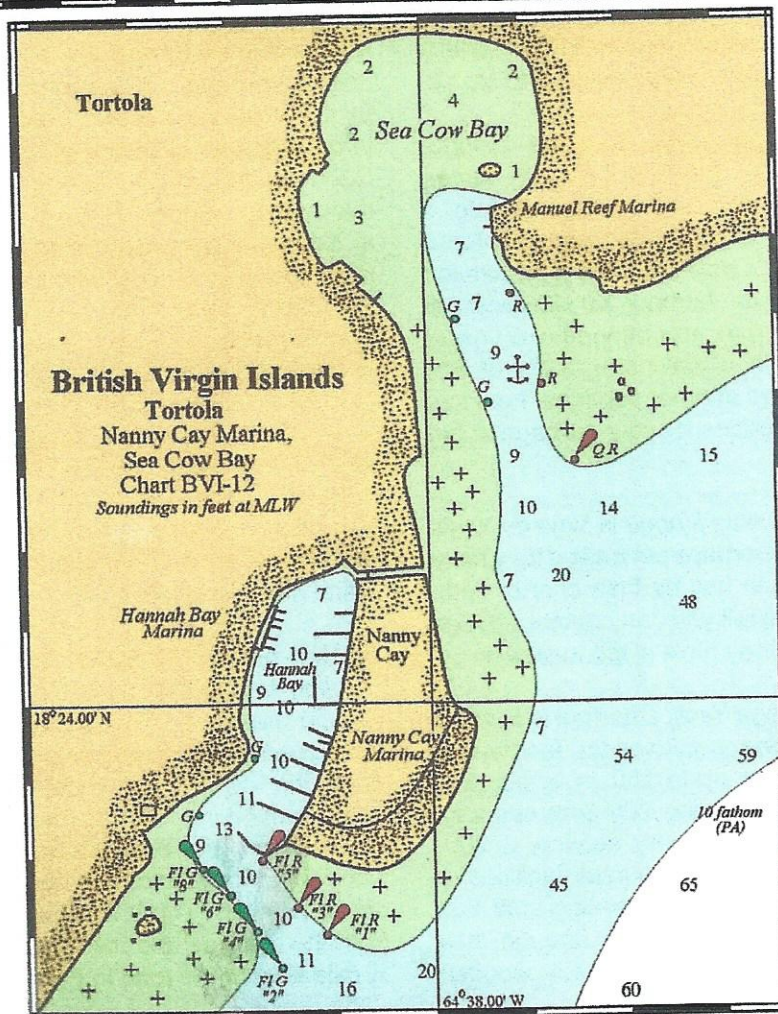
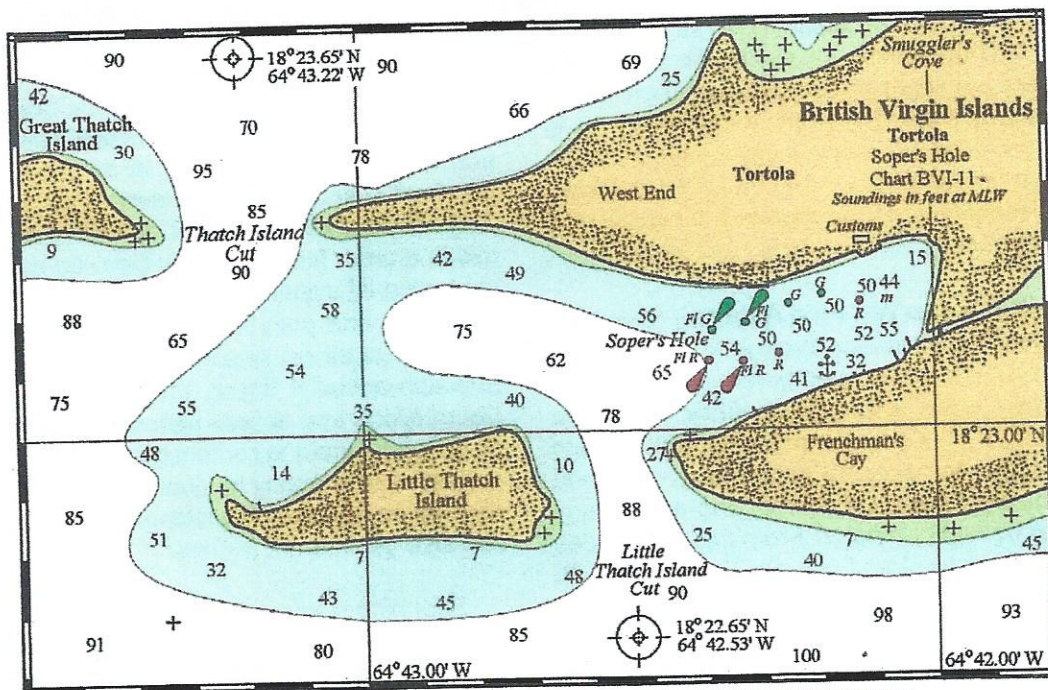
Photo by Todd Duff



# A Cruising Guide to the Virgin Islands









## Jost Van Dyke

Jost Van Dyke, the *Barefoot Island* as it's sometimes called, is said to be named after a Dutch pirate who haunted these waters centuries ago, but a stronger, and less romantic rumor, has it being named after a Dutch planter who inhabited the island long, long ago. Jost Van Dyke, pronounced "Yost" (the J is pronounced like a Y), is known as the birthplace of the Quaker John Lettsome, the famous physician who founded the *Medical Society of London* and the *Royal Humane Society*. But tiny 4 mile-long Jost Van Dyke is much better known for one thing, or actually for one man, Foxy Callwood, owner of the *Foxy's Tamarind Bar* in Great Harbour, an extraordinary entrepreneur and the founder and namesake of *Foxy's Wooden Boat Regatta* held annually in late May. It seems that the names Foxy and Jost Van Dyke are synonymous and wherever you go people who find out that you've been to Jost Van Dyke will often ask you "How is Foxy?"

Jost Van Dyke is home to approximately 175 people on a 3 square mile island with only one main

road. You can take a ferry to Jost Van Dyke from West End on Tortola if you wish to visit without bringing your boat over. The ferry ride takes about a half-hour on the *Nubian Princess* or *When*, so named because it leaves whenever it is ready, if its cargo is loaded (note that I said cargo and not passengers), its time to go, whether late or early.

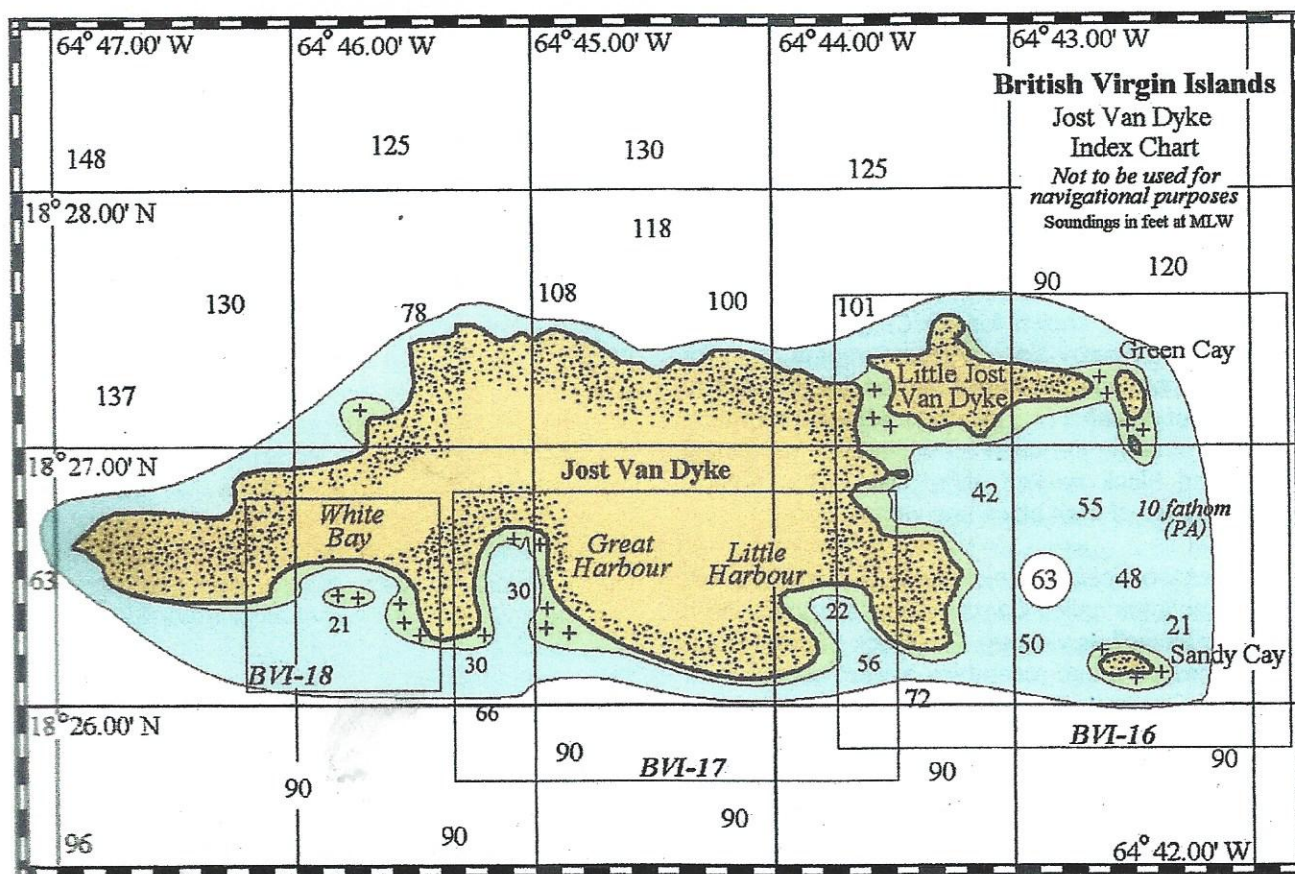
To the west of Jost Van Dyke is Great Tobago, a nesting site for the magnificent frigatebird, while just south is Little Tobago, another bird sanctuary. A settled weather anchorage can be found on the western shore of Great Tobago; only overnight here if the weather is expected to remain calm.

## Little Jost Van Dyke and Green Cay

### Waypoints:

Green Cay - 1 nm ESE of Green Cay  
18° 26.55' N, 64° 41.50' W

Sandy Cay - ½ nm SSW Sandy Cay  
18° 25.75' N, 64° 43.00' W





### Navigational Information

Cruisers arriving from the east often stop and anchor off the eastern end of Jost Van Dyke south of Little Jost Van Dyke and in the lee of Green Cay. If you are approaching Jost Van Dyke from the east a waypoint at 18° 26.55' N, 64° 41.50' W, will place you approximately 1 mile east/southeast of Green Cay as shown on Chart BVI-16. From the waypoint head west passing between Sandy Cay to the south and Green Cay to the north. Once clear of the shoals south of Green Cay you can turn to starboard to anchor in the lee of Green Cay or at the far western end of Little Jost Van Dyke.

If you are approaching from the west, from *Great Harbour* perhaps, or from the south, say Soper's Hole, a waypoint at 18° 25.75' N, 64° 43.00' W, will place you approximately ½ mile south/southwest of Sandy Cay. From the waypoint head north in the center of the passage between Sandy Cay and Jost Van Dyke as shown on Chart BVI-16.

The best anchorage here is in the lee of Green Cay just west of the conspicuous sandbar where the water is anywhere from 12'-30' deep. It's best to anchor as close to the sandbar as possible to avoid the steep dropoff. At the southwestern end of Little Jost Van Dyke is another anchorage area off the ruins of an old concrete dock. Here, close to the dock, you'll find a sandy bottom in which to set your hook. Another option is to anchor in the lee of Sandy Cay, close in on the southwestern shore, but this anchorage is recommended for daytime use only. All of the anchorages in this area can be uncomfortable to untenable when northerly swells are running.

### What You Will Find Ashore

The snorkeling is good around Sandy Cay, between Jost Van Dyke and Little Jost Van Dyke, and around Green Cay. Photographs of Green Cay are often used in advertising literature as a picture perfect "desert isle." Sandy Cay, owned by Laurance Rockefeller, is a lovely botanical garden with a path that encircles the island. Diamond Cay has become a hot attraction for cruisers these days and the hottest new spot on Diamond Cay is Foxy Callwood's *Taboo Bar and Restaurant*. Here you'll find 10 moorings at a cost of US\$25 per night (at the time of this writing) and if you follow the 1/4 mile long trail that leads north from the salt pond north of Diamond Cay you'll come to the *Bubbly Pool*, a natural rock outcropping that forms small pool perfect for bathing.

## Great Harbour

### Waypoints:

Great Harbour - ½ nm S of  
18° 25.90' N, 64° 45.05' W

Without a doubt, *Great Harbour* is the focus of boating activity on Jost Van Dyke. Not only because it has a ferry dock and a *Customs* office, but because of places such as *Foxy's Tamarind Bay*, an institution that is known worldwide, and soon you'll know all about *Great Harbour*, the *Tamarind Bar*, and its owner, Foxy Callwood.

### Navigational Information

A waypoint at 18° 25.90' N, 64° 45.05' W, will place you approximately ½ mile south of Great Harbour as shown on Chart BVI-17. By looking at the chart you'll notice a string of red buoys leading into the harbour, this is the marked entrance channel (12') that is frequented by the ferries. A private yacht can actually take the red buoys to port, but care must be exercised as there's a reef that works its way westward towards the outer red buoy. It's simple enough to use the marked channel, and it won't take you any longer. Anchor to the east of the line of buoys in 15'-35' of water taking care not to go too far in as there's a reef across the northern end of the bay, and make sure your anchor is set, the holding can be iffy at times.

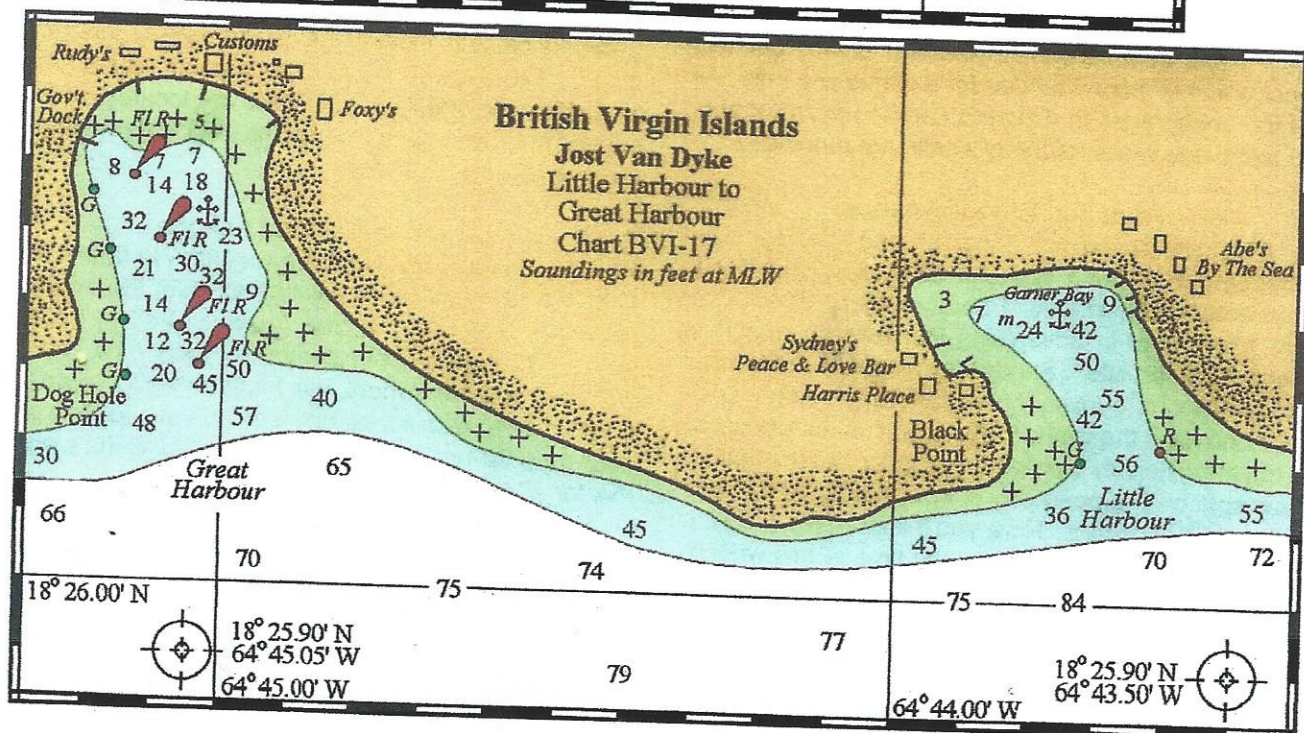
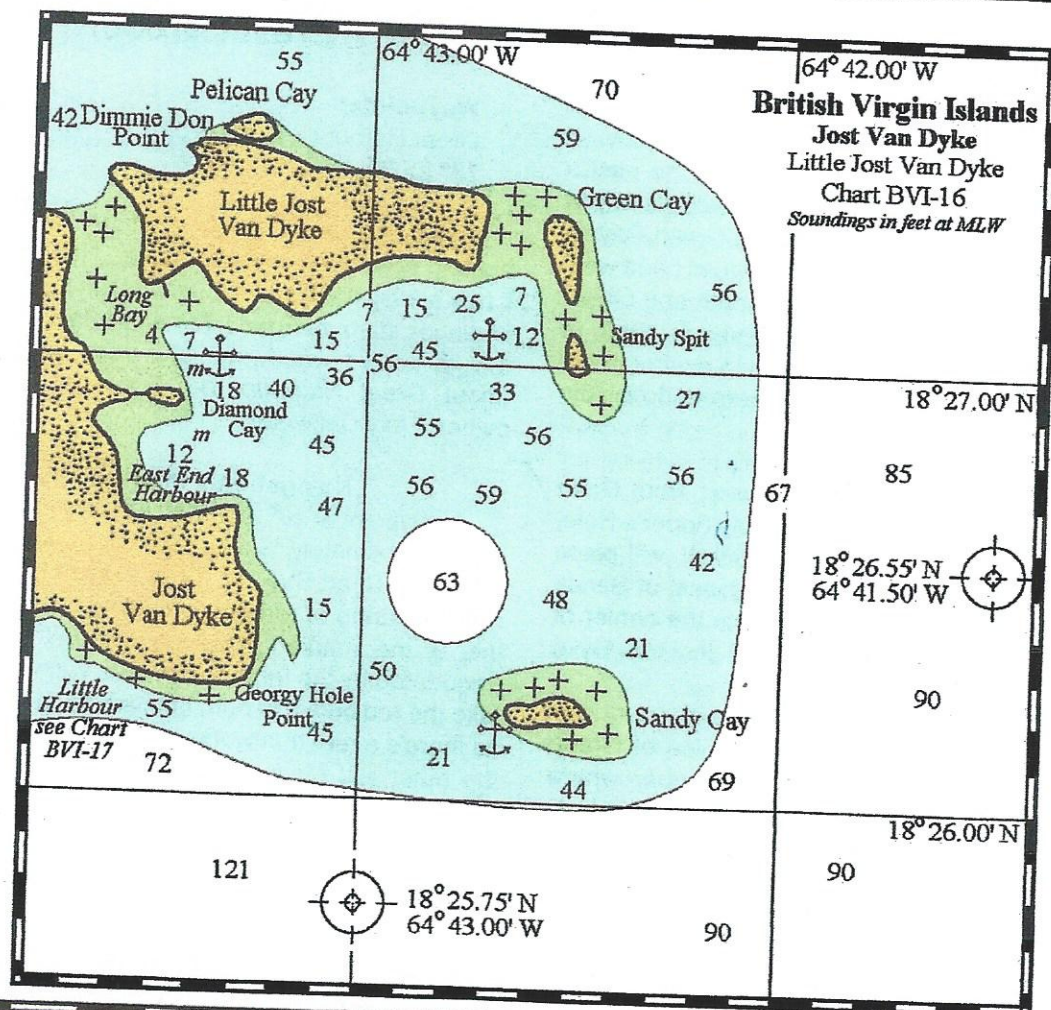
If you need to clear *Customs*, the white, two-story *Customs* office is located just to the west of the ferry dock. The *Customs* and *Immigration* offices are located on the first floor, the *Police* are located on the second floor, and public restrooms are located behind the building.

### What You Will Find Ashore

A good way to visit *White Bay* or *Little Harbour* from *Great Harbour* is to take a water taxi over from *Great Harbour*. *Bun's Tequila Sea Taxi* and *Gregory's Brat Water Taxi* costs \$5 per person for local trips and if you can't find the owners, ask for them in *Cocoloco's*. If you want to take a land taxi look up Vancito George near the *Custom's* office or stop in at *Ali Baba's* and ask for a taxi.

Okay, since everybody loves to hear about *Foxy's*, let me tell you a bit about the place. *Foxy's Tamarind Bar* sits at the eastern end of beach at *Great Harbour* and was originally about the size of a lemonade stand and was supposed to be open for only one day during







the *Harvest Festival* of 1967. Well, things snowballed and now *Foxy's* has evolved into the quintessential beach bar known the world over. *Foxy's* serves good food and *Painkillers* and features a live band on Sundays with Fridays and Saturdays being barbecue nights. But the real draw here is the man himself, *Foxy Callwood*. Friendly, convivial *Foxy* is the ultimate host, greeting visitors as old friends and often singing hilarious impromptu calypso ballads about them. *Foxy* usually sings during lunch and happy hour and just about anytime you can coerce him into it, and he has some CDs for sale in his boutique as well as T-shirts, hats, and clothing. *Foxy's New Years Eve Party* is infamous, in fact, it's been hailed as one of the top ten places to spend New Year's, and if you've ever experienced it you would agree. *Great Harbour* is usually crammed full of boats on New Year's, so thick are they that you can practically walk from your boat to shore on the decks of other vessels. *Foxy* also has an annual *Halloween Party*, his famous annual *Wooden Boat Regatta*, and *Foxy* is the founder of the *Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society*.

Now let's explore what other attractions lie in *Great Harbour*. One of the most popular hangouts in *Great Harbour* is the bright pink *Corsairs*, formerly *Club Paradise*. Owners Vinnie and Debbie Terranova have a great spot that offers first rate dining (they call it Mexican, but it's so much more than that) as well as libations on par with anybody's. Nearby *Rudy's Superette* is a good spot to pick up fresh local seafood, canned goods as well as sodas, beer, and whatever else is available from 0800-midnight, and *Rudy's Mariner Inn* is the home to a wonderful a restaurant featuring seafood and live entertainment.

*Ali Baba's* serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner featuring burgers, rotis, and conch fritters with a Monday night all you can eat pig roast. *Ali Baba's* special rum punch and *Bushwacker's* are excellent libations that should be sampled in great amounts. *Cocoloco's* is a colorful boutique owned by Lorrin who designs jewelry, clothes and handicrafts and gift items such as sundresses, painted mugs, and T-shirts. *Christine's Bakery* is the spot for breakfast, she makes some of the Caribbean's best cinnamon rolls. Upstairs is *Christine's Guest House*, a small bed and breakfast with rooms for rent. If you need to access the Internet visit *Wendell's World Watersports*.

At the end of the little road past *Christine's* is the *Ice House*, the place to go for block or cubed ice.

Nearby is *Nature's Basket* where you can pick up fresh produce as well as cheese, canned goods, and sodas. Ivan Chinnery, the owner of the *White Bay Campground* in *White Bay*, grows his own bananas, papayas, mangoes, and pineapples and sells them here. Ivan is also a good guide to the nature trails on Jost Van Dyke and you can reach him by phone at 495-9312. *Happy Laury's Snack Bar* is east of *Custom's* towards *Foxy's* and serves food from 0800-2300 and is known for their pig roasts, cold beer and even colder ice cream.

## Little Harbour

### Waypoints:

Little Harbour - ¼ nm SE of  
18° 25.90' N, 64° 43.50' W

### Navigational Information

A waypoint at 18° 25.90' N, 64° 43.50' W, will place you approximately ¼ mile southeast of the entrance to *Little Harbour*, sometimes called *Garner Bay*, as shown on Chart BVI-17. From the waypoint head generally north/northwest passing in the center between the red and green markers as shown on the chart. If the markers should be missing for any reason, and they often are, don't panic, the entrance is wide and deep. Simply pass in the center between the two points of land, this will keep you mid-channel and out of trouble from the reefs that work their way out from each point. The best anchorage is in the shallower northwest corner of the harbour and there are some moorings available on a first-come first-served basis. Pick up a mooring and dinghy in to pay at the appropriate restaurant, either *Abe's by the Sea* or *Harris' Place*. On the western shore of the bay, *Little Harbour Marina* sells fuel and ice.

### What You Will Find Ashore

A good way to visit *Little Harbour* from *Great Harbour* is to take a water taxi over from *Great Harbour*. *Bun's Tequila Sea Taxi* and *Gregory's Brat Water Taxi* costs \$5 per person for local trips and if you can't find the owners, ask for them in *Cocoloco's*. If you want to take a land taxi look up Vancito George near the *Custom's* office or stop in at *Ali Baba's* and ask for a taxi.

*Little Harbour* refuses to take second seat to *Great Harbour* in anything, especially in attracting visitors, and *Little Harbour* boasts a fine selection of choices if you want to go out and have a good time. To begin



with there's *Sydney's Peace and Love Bar*, what a great place! In his 28<sup>th</sup> year of operation, Sydney serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner from 0900, has live music several nights a week, and pig roasts on Mondays and Saturdays with Sydney's own special barbecue on Sundays. Sydney has been known to catch the lobster he serves and he cooks it according to an old family recipe on an open fire. Sydney's daughter Rena, the *hostess with the mostess*, describes her dad's lobster as "finger lickin good."

Not to be outdone, *Harris' Place* serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a Monday night all-you-can-eat lobster feast featuring Ruben Chinnery who plays guitar and sings. *Harris' Place*, near the western side of the harbour, also has mooring for rent in the

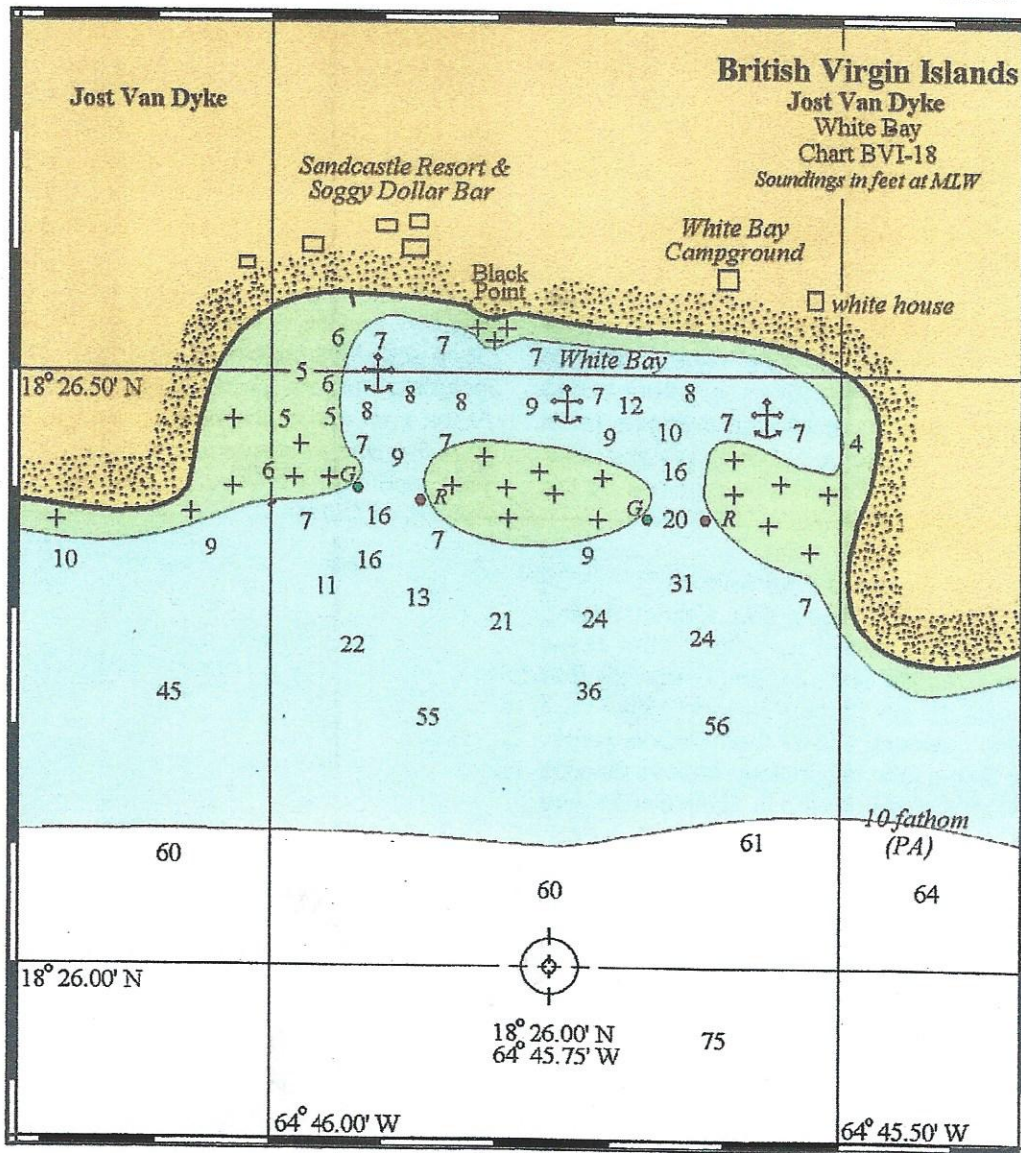
harbour as well as some grocery items for sale in his store. *Abe's by the Sea* (Abe also drives a taxi) has a pig roast every Wednesday night, a pool table, and moorings for rent on the eastern side of the harbour. *Tee's and Tings* sells T-shirts and several kinds of jewelry in their shop as well as boat to boat as *Nippy's Traveling Salesman*.

## White Bay

### Waypoints:

White Bay - ½ nm S of  
18° 26.00' N, 64° 45.75' W

White Bay is probably named after the long white beach on the north side of the harbour and in most





# Norman Island to Virgin Gorda

## Norman Island

Norman Island has quite a rep going for it. Said to be named after a pirate who is believed to have buried Spanish gold on the island (in the Caves at the northwestern point), Norman Island is also alleged to be the island upon which Robert Louis Stevenson based his masterpiece *Treasure Island*. However, at the risk of bursting somebody's bubble, if you read *Treasure Island* in some depth you will see that *Treasure Island* could not have been Norman Island, *Treasure Island* had two rivers and was not part of an archipelago as is Norman Island. But who knows what lurked in the mind of Stevenson when he wrote that epic of all pirate stories?

Norman Island is the traditional first day easy sail for charters as it lies just across the *Sir Francis Drake Channel* from Tortola. About 700 acres and mostly undeveloped, Norman Island was purchased by its new owner in 1999 and it was estimated that the island had a population of one goat per acre. Local authorities aided the owner by putting radio transmitters on certain goats to assist in locating the herd. Today, the loss of the herd has brought back a lot of greenery to Norman Island, something that has

been missing since the goats had been eating it all for some time.

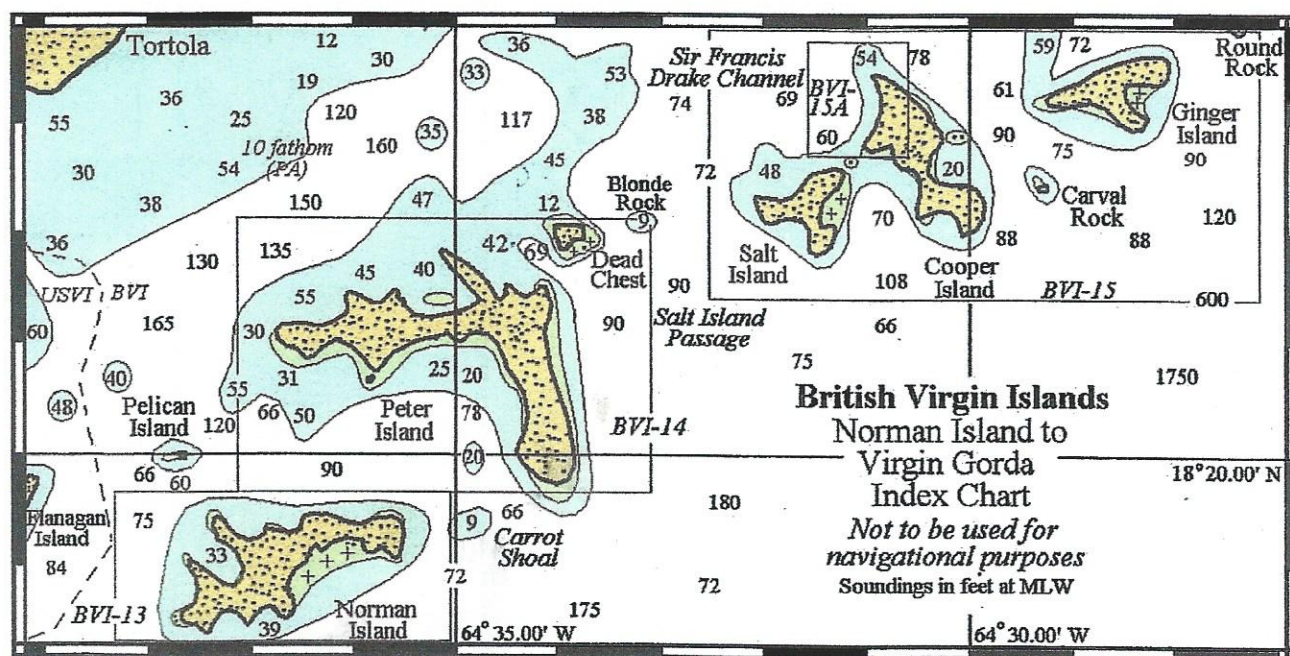
A few years ago, the BVI approved a plan for a new resort and marina to be built at Norman Island. Plans include a small marina with guesthouses, an RO plant, and condos scattered about the island at scenic points with roads kept to a minimum. The owner intends to create a BVI museum that will also trace the history of piracy throughout the Caribbean.

Although no significant construction has begun as of the spring of 2011, narrow access roads have been created that now allow access to most of the island and a new jetty was built, unfortunately, right smack dab in the middle of the nice little beach that used to be so special in *Money Bay*. On the bright side however, the roads make great trails and the hiking on Norman Island is arguably the best of any island in the BVI. Be sure to hike up the road which begins right behind *Pirates Restaurant* in the Bight for the short ten minute walk up to the helipad for fantastic views of The Bight and the windward side.

Also, be sure to hike the trail down to the bay behind the helipad for some of the best and most unspoiled snorkeling you will find anywhere short in the BVI.

## Navigational Information

If approaching from Peter Island, pass to the east of Pelican Island and The Indians (and do not pass





between the Indians and Pelican Island). If approaching from the southern shore of St. John be sure to pass south of Flanagan Island as you work your way eastward to The Bight. If approaching from St. Croix beware of the Santa Monica Rocks lying southwest of Norman Island, they have less than 6' of water over them. Santa Monica Rocks has a mooring available if you care to dive here, the rock itself is a pinnacle that rises from about 90' to within a few feet of the surface.

## Benures Bay

### Waypoints:

Benures Bay - ½ nm N of  
18° 19.80' N, 64° 36.55' W

### Navigational Information

If you are approaching from the north a waypoint at 18° 19.80' N, 64° 36.55' W, will place you approximately ½ mile north of the anchorage area in Benures Bay. Benures Bay is a good anchorage, an alternative to the usually crowded Bight, especially when the wind is southerly. The best spot to anchor is off the beach in the northeastern portion of the bay in about 20' of water.

## What You Will Find Ashore

Nearby *Spy Glass Hill* offers a 360° panoramic view of the *Sir Francis Drake Channel* and the surrounding islands. It was once used by pirates and privateers as a lookout for Spanish ships back in the days when the *Sir Francis Drake Channel* was known as the *Freebooters Gangway*. *Spyglass Wall* is a nice dive just NNE of Benures Bay; here a vertical face over 1/3 of a mile long drops down from 20'-60'.

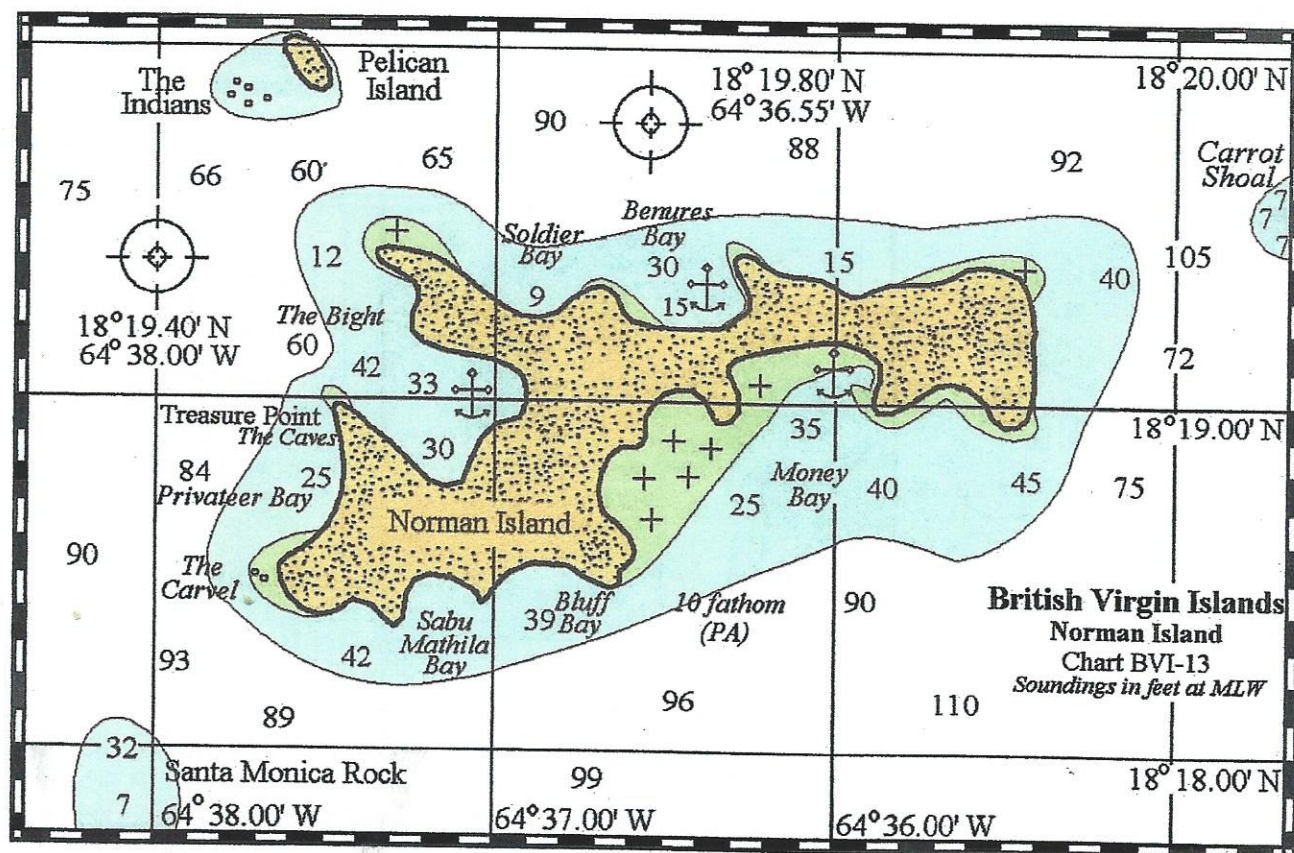
## The Bight

### Waypoints:

The Bight - ¾ nm NW of  
18° 19.40' N, 64° 38.00' W

### Navigational Information

The most popular anchorage at Norman Island is located on the northwestern shore of the island and is known as The Bight. A waypoint at 18° 19.40' N, 64° 38.00' W, will place you approximately ¾ mile northwest of The Bight as shown on Chart BVI-13. From the waypoint head southeast into the harbor and anchor in the northeast corner in 15'-30' of water on a shelf by *Billy Bones Bar & Grill*, there are also





moorings for rent in The Bight (\$5 per night-somebody will be by to collect before sundown). The wind here tends to funnel so bear that in mind when you are planning to leave as it may give you the mistaken impression that the waters outside The Bight are far rougher than they may truly be.

### What You Will Find Ashore

*Pirates Beach Bar & Grill* is open for lunch and dinner from 1000-midnight and serves grilled dishes with an emphasis on seafood and ribs. Their daily happy hour is from 1700-1800 and their supply boat brings patrons from Nanny Cay leaving at 1100 and at 1630 and returning to Nanny Cay somewhere between 1530-1600 and 2030-2230. *Pirates* also has a gift shop, a family museum, and an online picture gallery where you might see photos of yourself having a good time in the BVI.

If you need to get rid of your garbage while here, *Deliverance* can handle that task for you. *Deliverance* is a small supply boat that comes around about dusk and offers its wares and takes your garbage. *Deliverance* can be reached on VHF ch. 16 and can deliver ice, block or cubed, fresh baked breads and pastries, fresh produce, all manner of beverages, and can even handle special orders "From birthday cakes to Cuban cigars" as their ad boasts.

Now for the big draw in The Bight, the infamous *Willie T*. The *Willie T* is a replica of a 93' topsail schooner that has been converted into a bar/restaurant and is permanently anchored in The Bight. Actually named the *William Thornton II*, it was named for a native of the BVI. During the plantation era several notable planters were Quakers, a pacifist religious group known as the *Society of Friends*, members of whom were also abolitionists in an area dependent upon slave labor. The first Quaker to settle in the BVI was John Pickering who arrived in 1741 and eventually became Governor. But the best known of the Quakers was William Thornton who was born on Tortola in 1761. Thornton learned medicine in England and eventually returned to Tortola to practice and run the family plantation. Thornton sailed to America to enter a design competition for the capital building in Washington D.C., and won. Although Thornton's design was submitted after the 1792 competition had closed, President Washington approved it and Thornton won a \$500 prize and a city lot in the District of Columbia. Thornton remained in the U.S. and became the head of the first *U. S. Patent Office*.

The *Willie T* is now a BVI tradition and the original *Willie T*, the *William Thornton*, is now a dive site located off nearby Peter Island. Unlike anything closely resembling its Quaker namesake of 2½ centuries ago, the *Willie T* is wild-and woolly place where a *body shot*, a shot slurped out of a young lady's naval, a run around the deck, and a leap off the boat is normal behavior. This is not a place to come if you have any inhibitions, but it is certainly the place to come if you want to have fun. The annual *William Thornton Virgins Cup Race* is a regatta that must not be missed. Usually held in October, one rule is that a woman must be at the helm of all competing vessels, although she does not have to be a virgin.

Just south of the northwestern tip of Norman Island, Treasure Point, are *The Caves*, an excellent snorkeling adventure that is not to be missed. You can anchor in The Bight and dinghy over and tie up to one of the *National Park* moorings, or bring the big boat over to tie up or anchor in 30'-40' of water (please anchor in the sand, not in coral). *The Caves* are allegedly where pirate treasure was buried and many stories still surface of treasure finds inside. Only 4' deep, *The Caves* drop off to 40' near the entrance and the northernmost cave stretches back 70' into the island at the end of which is a small room. The next cave is deeply indented into the rock face while still another cave lies just above the waterline.

The southernmost cave, the one that has been rumored to be a treasure cave, has a rounded rock bottom on which you can stand underneath a natural skylight. This is a good photo op so don't forget your camera, and also watch out for the surge when diving here, be careful.

To the east of The Bight, is a small anchorage that's suitable only for a lunch stop. Just to the west of Water Point, the northernmost point of Norman Island, and north of The Bight, is a small cove called *Water Bay* where you can tuck into the northwestern corner in 25'-35' of water. You'll be backwinded here so bear that in mind. There is good snorkeling along the northern section of this bay.

On the southern shore of Norman Island is *Money Bay*, a day anchorage sometimes shown as *Soldier Bay*. To the west are two unnamed coves where a very tricky reef entrance offers a bit of protection inside the reef (not recommended for inexperienced reef navigators and off limits for charter boats-see photo).



## Pelican Island and The Indians

Although this area is only for daytime use in settled weather, the snorkeling here is great. Approach from the north and pick up a *National Park* mooring or anchor between The Indians and Pelican Island, but don't try to pass south between the two. One of the best shallow dives in the BVI, The Indians, said to be named because they resemble Indian teepees, are rock pinnacles that rise from a sandy bottom at 50' to a height of about 50' above sea level and offer walls, coral gardens, and some nice shallow pools for exploration. Pelican Island offers a combination of coral gardens and terraces with a maximum depth of about 60'-75'.

## Peter Island

Peter Island's 1,800 acres lie about 5 miles south of Tortola, directly across the *Sir Francis Drake Channel*, and about 1½ miles north/northeast of Norman Island. If you are approaching Peter Island from Tortola there are no dangers, but if you are approaching from the east, from Salt Island, it's best to pass north of Dead Chest Island as you approach

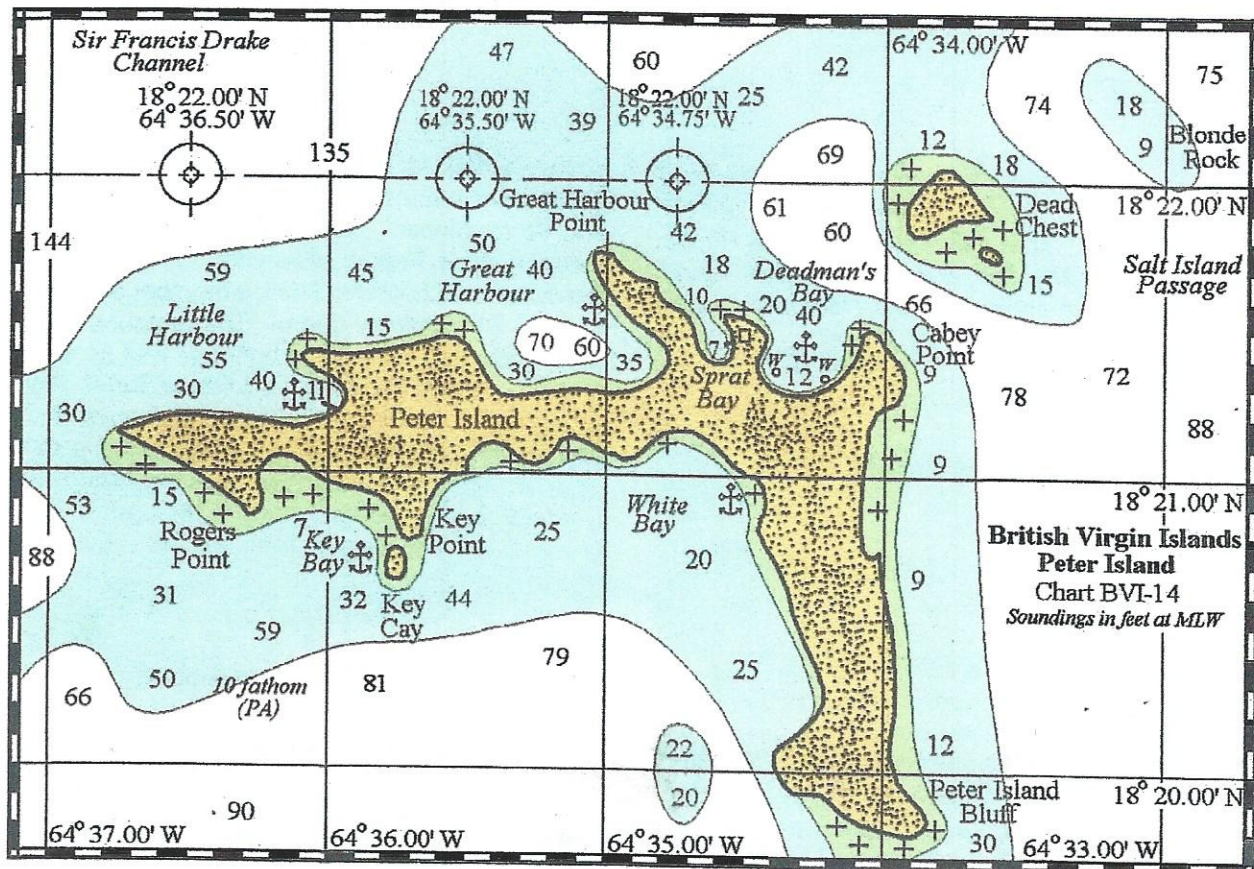
the northern shore of Peter Island. If approaching from Norman Island you must avoid Pelican Island and The Indians just north of the Bight, and Carrot Rock and Carrot Shoal east of Norman Island and just off the southeastern tip of Peter Island. Carrot Shoal lies almost ½ mile west of Carrot Rock. Here a shallow ridge rises from 70' to within a few feet of the surface. Carrot Shoal is named after Carrot Rock, which is so named because it looks like a carrot.

If you need to get rid of your garbage while here at Peter Island, *Deliverance* can handle that task for you. *Deliverance* is a small supply boat that comes around in the late afternoon and offers its wares and takes your garbage. *Deliverance* can be reached on VHF ch. 16 and can deliver ice, block or cubed, fresh baked breads and pastries, fresh produce, all manner of beverages, and can even handle special orders "From birthday cakes to Cuban cigars" as their ad boasts.

## Little Harbour

### Waypoints:

Little Harbour - ¾ nm NNW of  
18° 22.00' N, 64° 36.50' W





## A Cruising Guide to the Virgin Islands

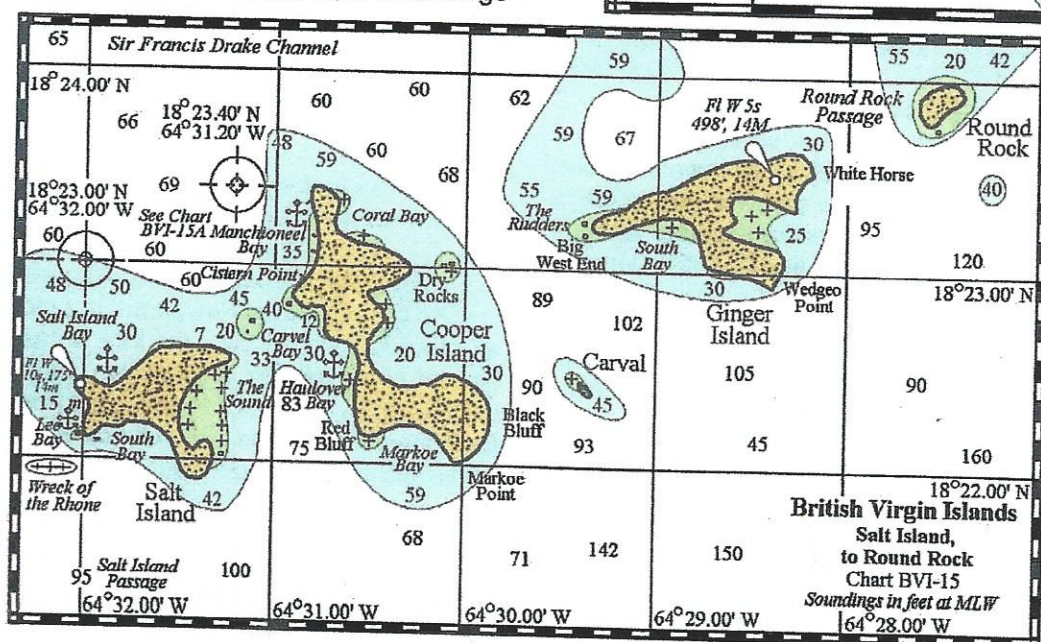
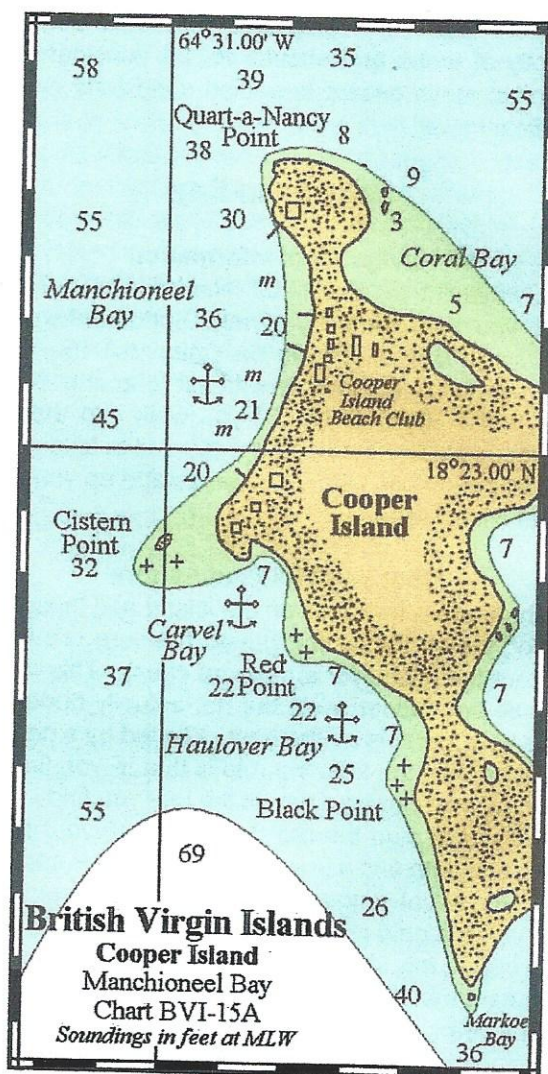
There is a free ferry service for guests of the *Cooper Island Beach Club* to and from *Prospect Reef Marina* in Road Town, if you're not a guest the ferry trip costs \$10 per person one way. The ferry leaves Road Town on Monday at 1400 and Wednesday and Friday at 1100, and leaves Cooper Island for Road Town at 0700 on the same days.

*Manchioneel Bay* received its name from the Manchioneel tree with its poisonous fruit resembling small, green apples. If you see any on the island, do not touch them, and don't even stand under a Manchioneel tree seeking shelter from the rain.

For great snorkeling try the reef off Cistern Point at the south end of the bay where there's a dinghy mooring. Watch out for current coming around the point.

If you need to get rid of your garbage while here, *Deliverance* can handle that task for you for \$2.50 per bag. *Deliverance* is a small supply boat that comes around about dusk and offers its wares and takes your garbage. *Deliverance* can be reached on VHF ch. 16 and can deliver ice, block or cubed, fresh baked breads and pastries, fresh produce, all manner of beverages, and can even handle special orders "From birthday cakes to Cuban cigars" as their ad boasts.

An interesting dive site lies off *Manchioneel Bay* and is marked by a *National Park* mooring. Here you can dive on the wreck of the *Marie L*, a local cargo





# Virgin Gorda

## Important Lights:

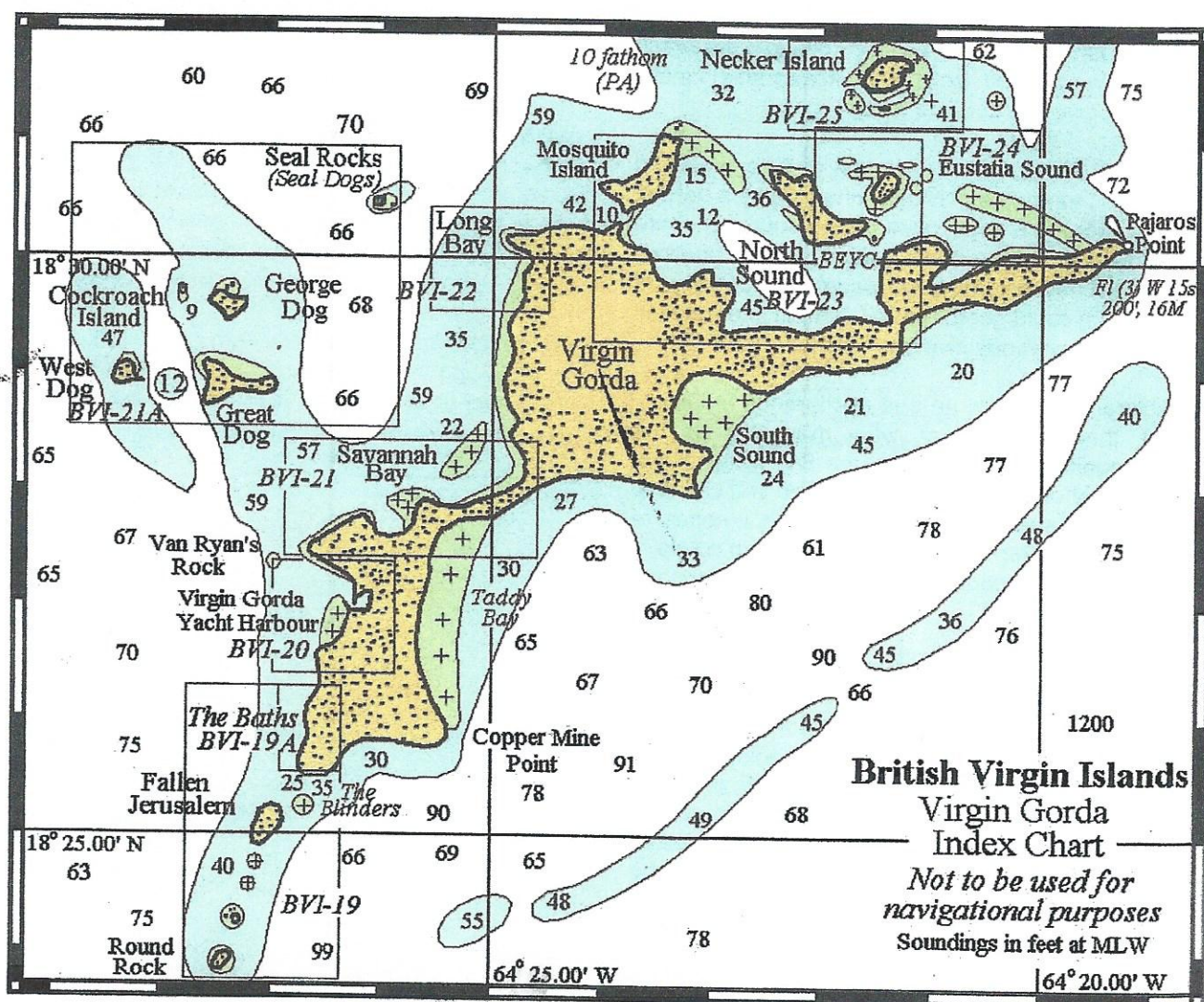
Pajaros Point Light: Fl (3) W 15s

Cow's Mouth Light: Fl (2) Y 10s

Virgin Gorda, the *Fat Virgin*, was named by Columbus because her profile appeared to the Admiral to be that of a Reubenesque figure reclining on her back. The 10-mile long island is a flurry of boat activity concentrated in North Sound and at the *Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour*, and The Baths is one of the most popular cruising destinations in all of the Virgin Islands. British settlers flocked to Virgin Gorda between 1680 and 1743, when Road Town took over as the capital of the British Virgin Islands. Today, Virgin Gorda is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous island in the BVI with a population of about 3,000. Virgin Gorda

has been described as "unpretentious" and I agree. Although the island is geared for the boating visitor, especially *North Sound*, the people are as open, warm, and friendly as anybody anywhere. Virgin Gorda is usually one of the high points of everybody's Virgin Islands cruise.

Approaching from St. Martin across the *Anegada Passage*, many cruisers leave Sint Maarten's *Simpson Baai* at the afternoon bridge opening, cross the *Anegada Passage*, and arrive at *North Sound* early the next day where they find a wonderful anchorage in which to rest and recuperate. Virgin Gorda is also the staging grounds for voyages across the *Anegada Passage* to St. Martin/Sint Maarten as well. Speaking only for myself, depending on the wind I'll either stage at *North Sound* or The Baths and head to Sint Maarten's *Simpson Baai* in the mid-afternoon hours to





arrive at Sint Maarten for the morning bridge opening. If I leave from The Baths I'll pass south of Virgin Gorda, between Virgin Gorda and Fallen Jerusalem keeping a sharp eye out for *The Blinders*, the rocky shoal in the middle of that passage (see Chart BVI-19).

## The Baths

### Waypoints:

The Baths -  $\frac{3}{4}$  nm WNW of  
18° 26.00' N, 64° 27.50' W

Ask anybody to tell you about Virgin Gorda and usually the first words spoken will describe to you The Baths. Jost Van Dyke has Foxy, Virgin Gorda has The Baths, a truly magical place that once visited will never be forgotten.

### Navigational Information

Access to The Baths could not be easier. A waypoint at 18° 26.00' N, 64° 27.50' W, will place you approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile W of The Baths as shown on Chart BVI-19. From the waypoint head in towards shore and pick up a mooring or anchor in sand in 20'-40' of water as shown on Chart BVI-19A. From the west you'll see the boulder strewn coast of Virgin Gorda, the boulders are arranged in three large groups with beaches in between each one, The Baths are located at the second beach from the south. A hint, the best time to visit is in the morning before the rush of charterboats arrives. Don't anchor too close to shore and do not infringe upon the buoyed swimming areas.

### What You Will Find Ashore

The boulders at The Baths form delightful hidden rooms lit by shafts of light, magnificent coral ledges and caves, with intricate passageways leading throughout. The area is not safe for landing by dinghy when northerly swells are running, that's the time to visit by car from *Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour* or *North Sound*. The crashing of the seas on the boulders heard from the safety of the roomy caverns that The Baths offer is not to be missed. Wear good shoes here as the rocks can be very slippery.

To the north of The Baths, amid the seagrape trees, is the *Mad Dog Bar and Grill* serving munchies, cold beer, and killer Pina Coladas from 1000-1900. At the parking lot (about 350 yards from the Baths) is the *Top of the Baths Restaurant* (with its own swimming pool) and various other snack bars and gift

shops such as the *Caribbean Flavor Gift Shop*, *Easy Bargains*, *Tropical Gift Collections*, and *Nauti Virgin Beachwear*.

Just south of The Baths is the *Devil's Bay National Park* where you'll find the *Poor Man's Bar* selling burgers, dogs, sandwiches, and cold drinks. The powdery sand beach at *Devil's Bay* is one of the BVI's finest. *Devil's Bay* is usually less crowded than The Baths and can be reached by an interesting trail from The Baths. To the north of The Baths are the lovely beaches of *Spring Bay* and *The Crawl*.

To the south/southwest of The Baths is Fallen Jerusalem where small beaches hide amid huge boulders similar to those found at The Baths and in the Virgin Gorda Valley. The island is also a seabird nesting ground. It is said to have received its name because the boulder-strewn island resembles the fallen walls of Jerusalem.

There is one mooring available here for a short visit, but this is only recommended in flat calm conditions as landing on the tiny beach ashore can be quite hazardous in a swell. For those lucky enough to visit when the time is right, Fallen Jerusalem offers rock scrambling at it's best and in many ways surpasses The Baths, but watch out and BE CAREFUL because there is no one around to help you if you fall or get lost!

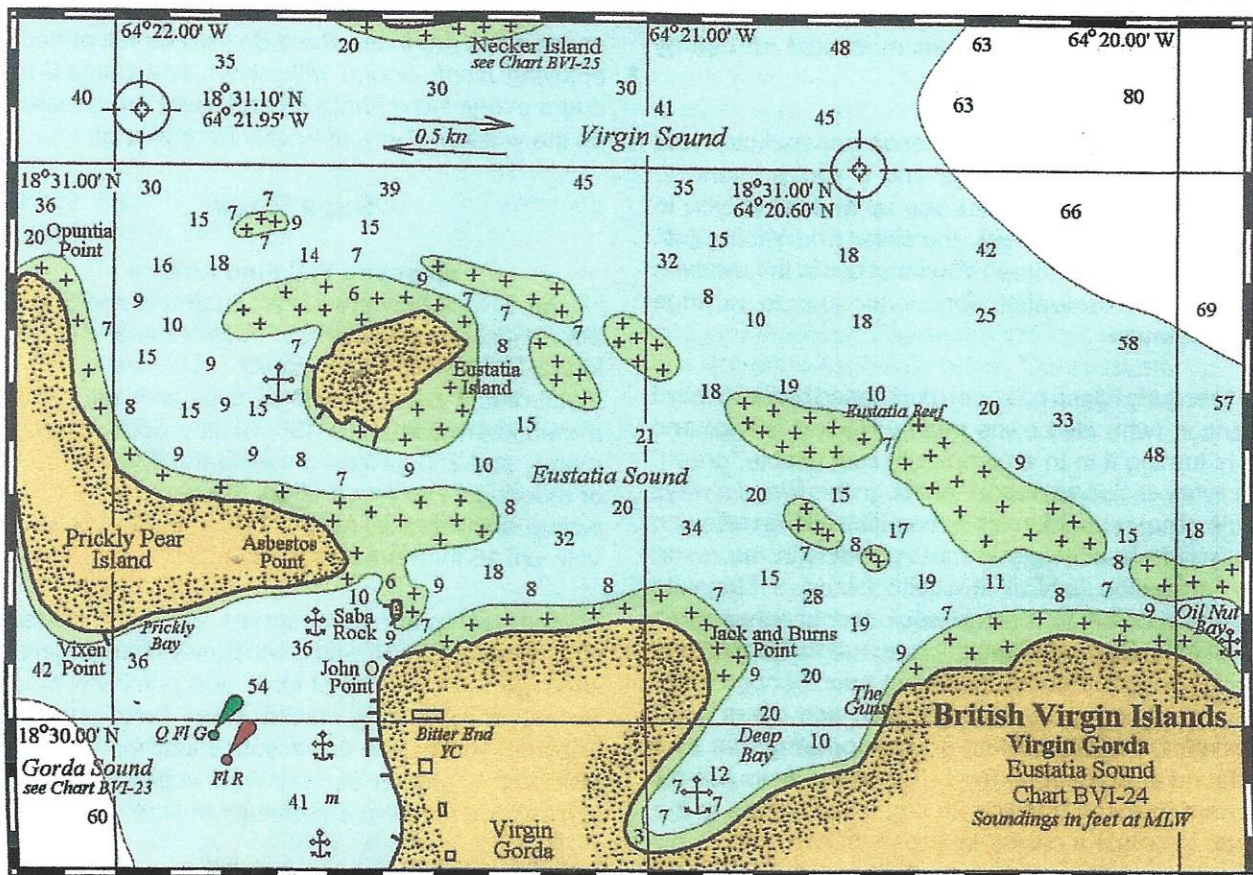
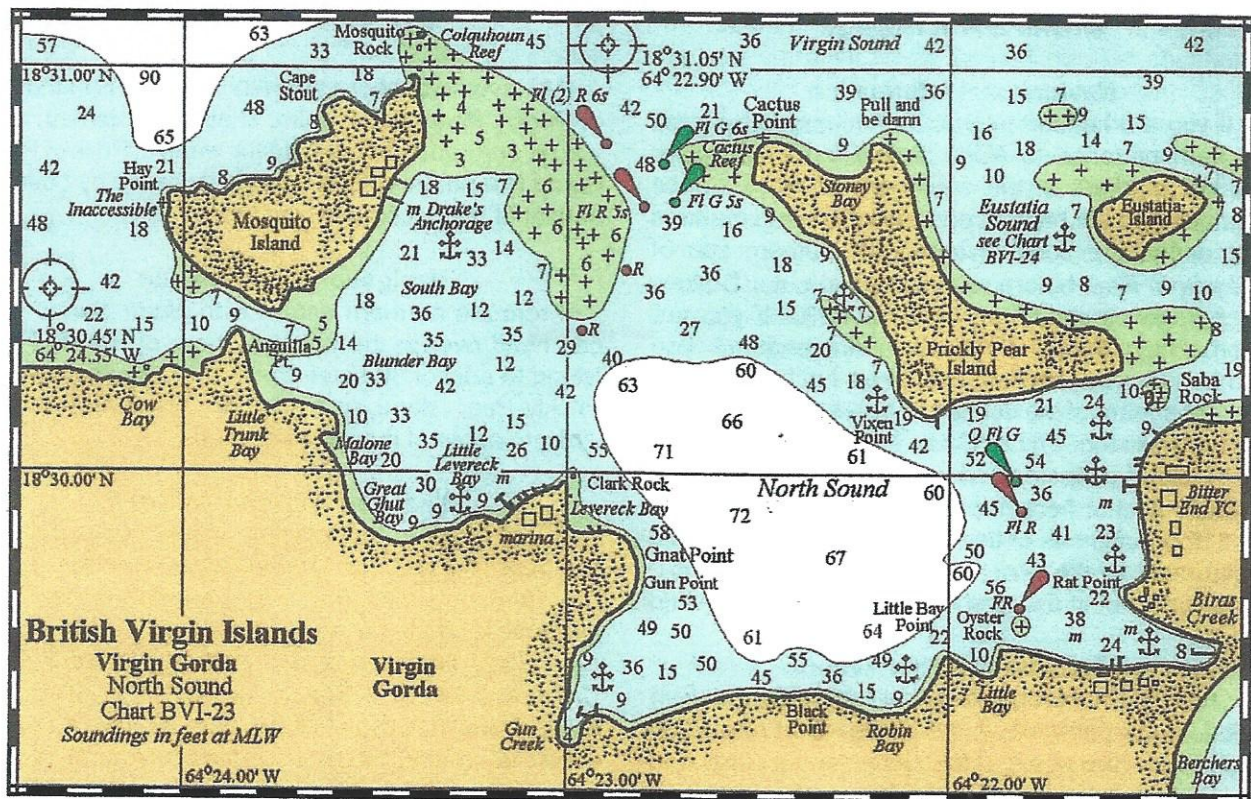
## Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour and Spanish Town

### Waypoints:

Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour -  $\frac{1}{2}$  nm W of ent.  
18° 27.25' N, 64° 26.00' W

The *Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour*, VGYH, which opened in 1971, is the heart of Virgin Gorda as well as the focus of marine activity and the hub of The Valley, the name given to the southern part of Virgin Gorda which encompasses Spanish Town and The Baths as well as the yacht basin. *Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour* is located in The Valley near Spanish Town, which was once the capital of Virgin Gorda and still remains the principal settlement. The Valley is the center and capital of Virgin Gorda and consists of little more than a couple of roads and a grouping of houses and shops near *Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour*. The road leading south from *Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbour* leads to Spanish Town.







One of the most popular attractions in *North Sound* is the maritime museum on Saba Rock. Owners John McManus and Bert Kilbride, the patriarch of all Virgin Island divers, have collaborated to bring you a wealth of nautical history including exhibits of the second anchor and one of two cannons from the *Rhone* as well as a selection of other smaller relics such as porcelain plates, jugs, and bottles.

### **The Bitter End Yacht Club**

#### **What You Will Find Ashore**

If you're a sailor you probably know that the term *bitter end* means the last part or free end of a line. In *North Sound* it means the last place in the Caribbean before facing a long and perilous journey across the Atlantic towards England, and today it might mean the last stop before heading across the *Anegada Passage* or the first stop for cruisers headed south from the eastern shore of the United States. Without a doubt, the *Bitter End Yacht Club* is the center of boating activity in *North Sound*. If you plan to anchor here, the yacht club asks that you do not infringe upon their mooring field. There is a free ferry that travels from the *Bitter End Yacht Club* and *Gun Creek* leaving *Gun Creek* on the ½ hour and the *Bitter End Yacht Club* on the hour.

The *Bitter End Yacht Club* and the *Quarterdeck Marina* (the set of docks in the middle of the seafront) has 70 moorings (with a free launch service at night), slips that can accommodate vessels to 100' in length with full electric and water, fuel, showers (\$3 for non-guests), ice, provisioning, garbage pickup (for moored vessels as well-\$1.50 per bag), telephone service, and shoreside accommodations. A marina rep will stop by daily to collect the mooring fee. The *BEYC* accepts credit cards for mooring fees but only when paying ashore.

Ashore you can dine at *The Clubhouse* in a casual atmosphere where the breakfast and lunch buffets are impressive to say the least, although the restaurant is truly famous for their nightly dinners with buffet style salad, pasta, and appetizer bars with a main entrée chosen from a list of 14 entrees. The *English Carvey* has excellent steaks and chicken, and the *Almond Walk* is the spot for a late night dance under the stars to live music. The *English Carvey* is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of an elegant building with traditional old English Colonial décor with an open-air terrace overlooking the water as well as a dinghy dock with a

gazebo at the end. The restaurant is open during the season and for special events. Nearby is the *BEYC Conference Center*.

The *Emporium* is the place to go for provisions, gourmet takeout food, fresh baked goods, fresh produce, spirits, ice cream, rotis, barbecue chicken, spirits, and frozen meats. The *English Pub* at *The Emporium* offers English beers such as *John Courage* and *Newcastle Brown* on draft and they'll stay open as long as somebody's awake. They also feature traditional English menu as well with shepherd's pie, and steak and kidney pie cooked with Irish stout. *Captain B's Trading Post* is a mini-drug store of sorts and sells sundries, film, charts, books, prints, maps, postcards, suntan lotion, bug spray, and all those little OTC goodies that make you feel better. *Kilbride's Scuba* offers personalized videotapes of your diving adventures. The *Sand Palace* is located right on the sand and offers free nightly videos and sporting events on their big-screen TV. Near *The Clubhouse* is *Reeftique* offering hats and T-shirts with the *BEYC* logo, toe rings, beach bags, print wraps, jewelry, and children's clothing. The *Poolside Bar* will allow you to use their pool for only \$5, they have a dinghy dock and offer cocktails and lunch. Nearby *South Beach* has a swim platform in a roped off area with dual chair cabanas and an umbrella for shade.

### **Biras Creek**

#### **Navigational Information**

*Biras Creek* is located in the extreme southeastern tip of *North Sound*. As you approach *Biras Creek* keep a sharp eye out for Oyster Rock as shown on Chart BVI-23, it only has 2' of water over it at low tide.

You can anchor or pick up a mooring in *Biras Creek* (sometimes shown as *Deep Bay*), or if you prefer, get a slip at *Biras Creek Marina*, a full service marina that can accommodate vessels to 100' in length with drafts to 13' with full electric and water, showers (\$3 for non-guests), fuel, garbage disposal, and ice.

#### **What You Will Find Ashore**

The dinghy dock is located at the *Fat Virgin's Café*, a small terraced dockside dining area that is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner with an espresso bar serving gourmet coffees.

The *Biras Creek Resort* is a unique complex that is totally unreachable by land and offers 125 acres



with 15 lovely cottages. The central building houses a bar and restaurant while the beach has its own bar, a pool, two tennis courts, windsurfing and live music on Saturday nights. *The Castle* serves elegant candlelit dinners in a stone structure atop the hill with a stunning view of both *North Sound* and the *Caribbean Sea*. The dress code could be described as "casual elegance" with long trousers and collars for men.

The trail from the *Bitter End Yacht Club* to *Biras Creek* is not difficult. It begins not far from the main dock at the *Biras Creek Resort's* plant nursery, taking about 45 minutes to an hour of easy, mostly level walking.

### Gun Creek

*Gun Creek* lies at the extreme southwestern tip of *North Sound*, west of *Biras Creek*, almost due south of the northern entrance to *North Sound*, and just "around the corner" from *Leverick Bay*. You can anchor here and enjoy the shoreside delights here and in *Creek Village*, the local community.

The *Gun Creek* dock usually has small local powerboats tied up there. There is a free ferry that travels from the *Bitter End Yacht Club* to *Gun Creek* and back leaving *Gun Creek* on the ½ hour and the *Bitter End Yacht Club* on the hour. A short walk from the *Gun Creek* dock is *Captain Poncho's*, a popular local eatery with your typical West Indian fare as well as burgers and such (dinner by reservation only); here too is the *Last Stop Bar*, a good spot for a cold one right by the ferry dock.

Up the hill, at the *Leverick Bay* turnoff, at the area called the *Top of Gun Creek*, there is an interesting assortment of snack and other bars. *The Butterfly* is pink with a white porch and is a popular spot for those that love to play dominos, *The Twin House* is open for lunch and dinner, while *Gunny's Cool Corner* features island style fast food and *Angie's* caters and has a nice barbecue on Fridays. The *Gun Creek Convenience Center* is the place to go for provisions, ice cream, spirits, fresh produce, and sandwiches. They're open Monday through Friday from 0700-2100, Saturday from 0800-2000, and on Sunday from 0900-1900. The *North Sound Superette* has groceries and pharmaceuticals, but no alcohol or tobacco.

### Leverick Bay

#### Navigational Information

*Leverick Bay* lies a bit east of south from *Drake's Anchorage* just across *South Bay* and *Blunder Bay* as shown on Chart BVI-23. *Pusser's Leverick Bay Marina* is your host here and they offer 36 moorings, 10 slips with full electric and water, free showers, laundry facilities, a dive shop (*Dive BVI*), market, a fresh-water swimming pool, craft shops, car rentals, Internet access, and villa rentals.

*Buck's Supermarket* carries fresh groceries, fresh produce, and spirits. The *Pusser's Company Store* features *Pusser's Beach Bar* for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and *Pusser's Terrace Restaurant* located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor serving dinner only (check out the observation tower for great views). *Pusser's* offers a Wednesday night barbecue with live music and Saturday's are *Mexican Night*.

The *Lighthouse Restaurant and Beach Bar* at *Leverick Bay* is open daily for lunch and dinner with a daily happy hour from 1700-1900 with 2 for 1 *Painkillers* and delicious chicken wings. You can even use their fresh water pool, two beaches, showers, and TV before or after dining. If you need to rent a car, *Leverick Bay* is reachable by road, *Speedy's Car and Jeep Rental* is located here, and if you need to access the Internet visit *Digital Jamming*. *SPA* is a woman's body salon and the *Palm Tree Gallery* carries 14k gold jewelry featuring nautical and marine life themes, Caribbean made handicrafts, and even Africa *raku* pottery.

### Eustatia Sound

**Waypoints:** Eustatia Sound - ¼ nm N of  
18° 31.10' N, 64° 21.95' W

Eustatia Sound - ½ nm NE of pass through reef  
18° 31.00' N, 64° 20.60' W

Before I begin this section let me say that yes, you can enter *North Sound* from *Eustatia Sound*. Why then did I not mention that fact when I discussed the two routes into *North Sound*? For the simple fact that I believe it is far easier and safer for the average cruiser and charter to enter *North Sound* by the aforementioned routes. *Eustatia Sound* is full of reefs and coral heads that pose a true threat to you and your vessels safety and that must be negotiated



## Anegada

### Important Lights:

Anegada Light: Fl W 10s

### Anegada Passage

Sombrero Light: Fl W 10s

### Waypoints:

Anchorage - 1 nm SW of entrance channel

18° 42.50' N, 64° 25.00' W

Columbus named this most northern island of the British Virgins, *Anegada*, meaning place of drowning, which is why it's often called the *drowned island*. Anegada, unlike her sister islands of the BVI, is coral in formation and quite flat, its highest point being only about 28' above sea level. Anegada is some 11 miles long and lies about 15 miles north of the northern tip of Virgin Gorda at *Gorda Sound* and about 20 miles northeast of Tortola. Vessels wishing to go to Anegada should consider sailing for the island from Gorda Sound on the northern tip of Virgin Gorda unless you like beating to windward from Tortola or Jost Van Dyke. Anegada is off limits for several bareboats so check with your charter company if you wish to head to Anegada, they might suggest that you take along one of their experienced captains.

### Navigational Information

Leaving *Gorda Sound* you can head for a waypoint at 18° 42.50' N, 64° 25.00' W, which will place you approximately 1 mile southwest of the marked entrance channel leading to the anchorage at Anegada as shown on Chart BVI-26. The marks here make entering the anchorage at Anegada very easy in good light and if you can read the water you should not have a problem, except if you're trying to enter the anchorage at the same time as a half-dozen other boats. Never attempt to enter here at night or in periods of poor visibility such as a squall.

From the waypoint you can turn to the east/northeast past the outer red and green markers and continue on past the next red marker when you will be approximately south of the entrance channel that leads northwest of Setting Point. If you draw more than 7' you should anchor off the town dock south of Setting Point. If you draw less than 7' you can continue northward into the first of two anchorage/mooring areas west of Setting Point (see photo). Heading west from Setting Point the channel is well marked and the reef south of *Neptune's Treasure* can be easily avoided.

You can anchor wherever your draft allows or pick up a mooring off *Neptune's Treasure* or the *Anegada Reef Hotel*. If you have any trouble entering, or if the markers are not there and you're confused, call the *Anegada Reef Hotel* or *Neptune's Treasure* on VHF ch. 16 and they'll do what they can to talk you in.

If you don't wish to enter the anchorage area west of Setting Point, you can continue north past the waypoint given to anchor in the small cove north of Pomato Point as shown on Chart BVI-26.

### What You Will Find Ashore

Just up from the anchorage the *Pomato Point Restaurant* has a small museum with many items recovered from *Horseshoe Reef* wrecks. Here you'll find a map showing the location of over 200 wrecks as well as exhibits of cannon and musket balls, copper rivets, jars, bottles, inkpots, a silver teapot, and coins of many nations. The restaurant serves local dishes with a great view of the waters in the lee of Anegada.

For touring the island you can rent a car, jeep, or ATV from places like *ABC Car Rentals*, *DW Jeep Rentals*, *Egbert Wheatley Car Rentals*, and *Lil Bit Cash and Carry*.

There are many good places to dine on Anegada, in fact, there are over 20 beach bars and they all monitor VHF ch. 16. The *Anegada Reef Hotel*, owned by Lowell and Sue Wheatley, has taxis, car rentals, bike rentals, bait and tackle, deep-sea and bonefishing guides, air fills, and a self-service honor bar for guests. The hotel's restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner and they ask that cruisers make their dinner reservations by 1600. For a good read, pick up a copy of *Tales of Billygoat Charlie of Anegada* (by Sue Wheatley) at the hotel. Sue also owns *Sea Tour*, a sea kayaking business and when you finish your trip you can help yourself to a delicious cold rum smoothie back at the hotel. Just outside the hotel by the town dock is *Kenneth's Gas Station* if you need to jerry-jug some gasoline to your boat. Next door to the hotel is *Lowell's Soap Factory* if you want to pick up some locally made soaps and lotions.

A bit west of the hotel is *Neptune's Treasure* where you can get breakfast, lunch, and dinner featuring seafood caught by the owners, the Soares family who cook their lobster using an old family recipe. If you want the scoop on local fishing talk to Mark Soares, he's the largest supplier of deep-sea fish to the BVI's



