

- - SAILING ROUTE EXAMPLE – BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS - -

The BVI have been dubbed, "**Nature's Little Secret**" as they are simply breathtaking and arguably, the most popular of all Caribbean destinations. All yachts in Tortola have a British Virgin Islands sailing guide on board. Below example is one that you can follow on your trip and that you can use in advance for your preparations for a dream holiday !!

DAY 1

After completing boat & chart briefing, making sure you have everything on board necessary for your cruise you can set off on your first trip. Sail across the Sir Francis Drake Channel to arrive at The Bight, Norman Island, rumoured to be the site of Robert Louis Stevenson's famous novel, "Treasure Island". There's time for a swim or snorkel at the Indians before watching a spectacular Caribbean sunset while enjoying a sun downer. Visit either the Billy Bones ashore, or the floating bar/restaurant the William Thornton – each serving great food and offering the utmost in casual dining. The "Willy - T" serves lunch from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm. Dinner is served from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. and the bar is open from 11:30 am, until the last man standing gives up or the bartender gets him out! Call on VHF channel 16 for reservations if you wish !!



DAY 2



After breakfast, take your dinghy over (or the yacht) to The Caves. Pick up a National Park buoy and enjoy the wonders of the coral reef and its colourful inhabitants (don't forget to look for treasure!). Sail to Cooper Island and arrive early enough to pick up an overnight mooring buoy (**no anchoring here please**). Many bareboat sailors who've attempted to anchor in Manchioneel Bay have found themselves adrift in the middle of the night due to hinky wind shifts and poor holding. If there are no moorings available, sailing to **Trellis Bay** or any safe anchorage is your best option. The **Cooper Island Beach Club** has a very nice restaurant and bar too! Time for more snorkelling off Cistern Point, or the afternoon lounging on the beach. Visit the Beach Bar and sample their liquid refreshment!

DAY 3

Sail to The Baths (get there early) and pick up a buoy – plan to spend the morning here and have lunch. This is one of the most awesome sights to behold when sailing the British Virgin Islands. Dinghy ashore and explore the magnificent boulders and rock pools created by Mother Nature millions of years ago. This has got to be one of the most beautiful places on Earth. There are marvellous Elkhorn coral formations and plenty of nooks and crannies to explore for snorkelling lovers. After lunch, sail to Marina Cay or Trellis Bay to spend the night – there are many places to go ashore or plan to BBQ on board your yacht.



DAY 4

Off to North Sound, Virgin Gorda (great snorkelling at the Dogs or Mountain Point en route) – the hard part being which anchorage to choose for your overnight stay. For quiet and tranquillity choose Drake's Anchorage – go ashore in the evening and walk over the hill to watch the sunset from Honeymoon Beach. For those more active amongst your crew, you can rent a Hobbie Cat at the Bitter End Yacht Club and have fun playing like a child and acting as a menace to your neighbours. You may want to enjoy lunch on your boat or visit any of the nearby restaurants. (They are all very nice). In the afternoon, set sail for either Trellis Bay, Beef Island or Marina Cay, south east of Great Camanoe and west of Virgin Gorda. If you want entertainment, Bitter End Yacht Club offers music most nights – here you can re-provision your boat, visit the shops, rent a Hobbie Cat, learn to windsurf, look at the sharks in their tank... there is lots to do. Leverick Bay has a marina facility also, a good restaurant & Pussers' Company Store. Biras Creek is for those seeking elegance and first-class service – the resort has one of the best restaurants and wine cellars in the BVI (there is a dress code after 7pm).

DAY 5



Spend the morning exploring by dinghy – there are many beautiful, deserted beaches and Eustatia Reef is a wonderful snorkelling site, or set sail for Monkey Point on Guana Island in time for lunch and some snorkelling. Cruise down the rugged and unspoilt North shore of Tortola and overnight in Little Harbour or Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke. Jost Van Dyke offers several places to enjoy fresh seafood and the lobster is highly recommendable. Of course, there is also a choice between Quito Rymer (pronounced Keytoe) and Foxy Callwood of Foxy's Bar & Restaurant in regards to entertainment.

DAY 6

Sail or motor over to Sandy Cay – the perfect desert island! Snorkel, swim and beach comb then enjoy lunch before you sail to Cane Garden Bay for your overnight stop. Enjoy a great BBQ chicken and ribs dinner at Quito's and then dance to Quito and The Edge 'till the early hours! Sailing into Soper's Hole, you will find Pusser's Landing and the Jolly Roger Restaurant. Both are interesting places with good food. If you choose the Jolly Roger, tell Lou (the owner) that "Liane sent you". It *may* be worth a free drink ... at least *its worth a try!* Now you are faced with yet another decision. Do you want to stay at Soper's Hole for the evening or do you want to keep sailing to Norman or Peter Island and spend the night in the Bight or Little Harbour? You can also go to The Bight, sheltered bay which provides an idyllic setting for your first or last night in the BVI. This anchorage is close to Tortola and just a short distance from most yacht charter bases. and either dine on the boat, visit Pirate's Bight Restaurant on shore or return to the Willy-T for another blast.



DAY 7

Start thinking about home again (but not too much!). After playing on the beach at Cane Garden Bay, set sail for Soper's Hole, West End or enjoy a longer sail to Little Harbour, Peter Island. As you watch the sunset, promise yourself you will be back to visit the many other wonderful places in the BVI that you didn't get to see this time Sailing into Soper's Hole, you will find Pusser's Landing and the Jolly Roger Restaurant. Both are interesting places with good food! From here you can decide if you want to stay at Soper's Hole for the evening or keep sailing to Norman or Peter Island and spend the night in the Bight or Little Harbour.

DAY 8

Time for one more swim then back to Nanny Cay Marina making sure you have enough time to complete the check-in procedure. Your flights will be reconfirmed, your taxi already booked and soon you'll be on your way home, already planning your return or next years holiday in yet another wonderful cruising destination !!!



DIVING THE BVI

Some of the best diving in the world is in the British Virgin Islands. One of the highlights is the Wreck of the RMS Rhone, rated as one of the top ten wreck dives in the world. If you mention that you will be diving before your chart briefing and you can then get additional briefing about other dive sites as well. In the marina, you can find Blue Water Divers where you can rent Scuba equipment or organise "rendezvous" dives, where the dive boat will meet your yacht at anchor and pick up those wishing to dive (a perfect solution if only some of the crew want to dive). They supply tank racks so you can safely store tanks on the yacht. There are many refill stations around the islands.