

# Best Buds! Cruise Clues!

## TORTOLA, BVI


**Check out the maps on the last pages!**


This information is taken from many different sources and may not be accurate and is even contradictory at times. Be sure to double check any information vital to your trip before you make your final plans.




	
	
<b>Helpful Websites</b>	
<p> <a href="http://visittortola.com/">http://visittortola.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.bviwelcome.com/">http://www.bviwelcome.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.b-v-i.com/Tortola/default.htm">http://www.b-v-i.com/Tortola/default.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.normanisland.com/">http://www.normanisland.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.skyviews.com/bvi/tortola/map.html">http://www.skyviews.com/bvi/tortola/map.html</a>  <a href="http://www.caribbean.com/jsp/destination.jsp?currentDestination=39">http://www.caribbean.com/jsp/destination.jsp?currentDestination=39</a>  <a href="http://www.b-v-i.com/Tortola/tour.htm">http://www.b-v-i.com/Tortola/tour.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.eliteislandresorts.com/site/tortola/index.asp">http://www.eliteislandresorts.com/site/tortola/index.asp</a>  <a href="http://www.caribbeanedge.com/tortola/">http://www.caribbeanedge.com/tortola/</a>  <a href="http://www.yachtcharterguide.com/location/british_virgin_islands/tortola/">http://www.yachtcharterguide.com/location/british_virgin_islands/tortola/</a>  <a href="http://www.ultimatebvi.com/tortola/">http://www.ultimatebvi.com/tortola/</a>  <a href="http://www.ultimatebvi.com/tortola/restaurants/">http://www.ultimatebvi.com/tortola/restaurants/</a>  <a href="http://www.triptravelguide.com/british-virgin-islands/tortola/index.shtml">http://www.triptravelguide.com/british-virgin-islands/tortola/index.shtml</a>  <a href="http://www.here.vi/BVI/Tortola/tortola.html">http://www.here.vi/BVI/Tortola/tortola.html</a>  <a href="http://www.bareboatsbvi.com/tortola.html">http://www.bareboatsbvi.com/tortola.html</a>  <a href="http://www.vistandpoint.com/">http://www.vistandpoint.com/</a> (island online newspaper)  <a href="http://passengerdiscount.com/php/coupons.php3?id=39">http://passengerdiscount.com/php/coupons.php3?id=39</a> (discount coupons) </p>	
<p>The largest and most populated of the British Virgin Islands, Tortola is known for having some of the best beaches in the Caribbean because of their untouched and underdeveloped natural state. You won't experience the crowds of the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the overbearing resorts, on this laid back 24-square-mile island characterized by rugged mountain peaks on the Southern coast, and white sandy beaches and palm trees on the Northern coast. Road Town, on Tortola's southern shore, is the capital of the British Virgin Islands and the site of Government House. Financial and international business are almost as big as tourism in Tortola, making Road Town an important economic capitol of the Caribbean</p>	
<p>Tortola is 60 miles east of Puerto Rico and 22 miles east of St Thomas. The island is 10 miles long and 3 miles wide. The population of Tortola is 23,908. Even though the BVI are under the British flag, the US dollar is the official currency.</p>	
<p>Local belief is that the name was given to the island by Christopher Columbus meaning "land of the Turtle Dove".</p>	



	Tortola is one of the premier destinations for bareboat sailing charters. However, in the BVI, sailboats are not required to have holding tanks for sewage storage, as they are in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Instead, each boat pumps its raw sewage into the surrounding water. There are rules against flushing the head (toilet) in a marina, but it appears to be unenforceable. Road Town collects its sewage and pumps it without further treatment into the Sir Francis Drake Channel, several hundred yards offshore. Toilet paper is not allowed to be flushed, either on Tortola or from boats. Instead, used toilet paper must be disposed of in the trash can next to the toilet.
	The pier in Tortola holds two cruise ships; if more are in port, they will anchor and passengers will be tendered into port.
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
	Road Town is a 3 minute walk from the cruise pier (not recommended) or \$3 shuttle ride.
	Ferries sail to <a href="#">Virgin Gorda</a> , and to <a href="#">St. John</a> and <a href="#">Saint Thomas</a> in the US Virgin Islands many times daily. Also available is a once a week ferry to Anegada, the only coral island in the BVI. Several airlines operate daily flights to all the islands of the Caribbean between Trinidad and Puerto Rico.
	"Buses" in Tortola refers to full-sized passenger vans, or large modified open-air pickup trucks with bench seating and a canvas top: these are known locally as "safaris". Traveling by bus can be less expensive than having a taxi to oneself, and is often an option when traveling from the airport to Road Town, or from town to either end of the island.
	There are many small independent auto rental businesses, all with relatively comparable rates. Prices range from \$50 per day and up, as demand is usually high.
	Driving in the BVI can be very difficult, as many winding mountain roads and hair-pin turns on cliffs, washed-out roads, and roaming livestock compound the difficulty of driving on the left side of the road. The roads over the hills and mountains are VERY steep and make scary hairpin turns; when it rains, your car slides backwards on the steepest of these roads.
	Driving can be a good way to see the entire island of Tortola at your own pace, but so can a readily available taxi tour, and drivers know all the spots. Taxis are abundant on Tortola, and so long as you drive with a legitimate taxi association driver, prices will generally allow you to travel anywhere you'd like for less than the cost of renting a car.
	<a href="http://www.bvivacations.com/Taxi_Rates.html">http://www.bvivacations.com/Taxi_Rates.html</a> (taxi rates)
	Hitch-hiking is still fairly common in Tortola during the daytime, as crime is fairly uncommon. Rather than the American "thumb" technique, Tortolan hitch-hikers will point with the index finger from an arm extended in the direction they wish to travel. Pickup trucks will often stop to allow riders in the back, and many drivers on this still-personable and friendly island will stop to give a ride.
<b>ATTRACTIONS/EXCURSIONS</b>	
	<b><u>Callwood Rum Distillery:</u></b> at Cane Garden Bay; stone's throw from the beach; historic rum manufacturer; tour costs \$1 and includes a shot of their rum called Cane Juice;
	<b><u>Cockroach Hall:</u></b> on Main Street; built on a huge rock
	<b><u>Dolphin Discovery:</u></b> at Prospect Reef Resort; video instruction followed by encounter these friendly marine mammals; dolphins are enclosed in very small area and often swim up to the barrier to the open sea and remain there; 5 minute cab ride from cruise pier for \$3; <a href="http://www.dolphindiscovery.com/tortola/">http://www.dolphindiscovery.com/tortola/</a> <a href="http://www.bvistandpoint.net">www.bvistandpoint.net</a>
	<b><u>Fort Burt:</u></b> Waterfront Drive, western edge of Road Town; most intact historic ruin on island; built by Dutch in early 17 <sup>th</sup> century to safeguard Road Harbour; site of small hotel and restaurant; commanding view of harbor.
	<b><u>Fort Recovery:</u></b> Dutch fort built in 1648
	<b><u>Horseback Riding</u></b> <b><u>Shadow Stables:</u></b>
	<b><u>Joseph Reynold O'Neal Botanic Gardens:</u></b> 4 acre showcase of lush plant life; prickly cacti; ferns, orchids, medicinal herbs; Free, Monday to Saturday 9-4:30pm
	<b><u>Mount Healthy National Park:</u></b> park above Brewer's Bay; features intact remains of stone




	windmill once part of 18 <sup>th</sup> century sugar plantation;
	<b>North Shore Shell Museum:</b> informal exhibit of shells; driftwood; fish traps and traditional wooden boats; Free; daily dawn to dusk.
	<b>Parasail:</b> <b>Para Sail BVI:</b> Sopers Hole Marina, West End; fly up to 600 feet and never get wet 284-495-4967
	<b>Sage Mountain Park:</b> lots of hiking on the tallest mountain in both the US and British Virgin Islands at 1,170 feet; remnants of primary rainforest near the peak; 92 acres with trails through original Mahogany Forest, white cedars, mountain guavas, mamey trees and giant bullet woods; Free, daily dawn to dusk..
	<b>Scuba and Snorkel:</b> <a href="http://www.patouche.com/">http://www.patouche.com/</a> catamaran or luxury speedboat tours; 284-494-6300 fax 284-494-5757 or email at <a href="mailto:patouche@surfbvi.com">patouche@surfbvi.com</a> <b>White Squall II</b> <b>Kuralu:</b> 50 foot luxury cruising catamaran; two cruises; one to Green Cay for snorkeling and on to Jost Van Dyke with a stop at the famous Foxy's; the other sails to Benures Bay to swim with turtles. <b>Spellbound:</b> <b>New Waves:</b>
**	<b>Sky World</b> is located on one of the highest points of Tortola with an almost 360 degree view of Tortola, the Caribbean and the surrounding islands.
	<i>Sky World consists of a couple small buildings housing a restaurant, a bar and small gift shop and so-called observatory. Being able to climb onto the roof of one building I guess qualifies it as an observation deck. The views <u>are</u> magnificent and our guide did a great job of pointing out the surrounding islands and giving us interesting tidbits of information on every single one that we could see. We did not eat at the restaurant, but several people availed themselves of the liquid libations here and some did not. The bartender was terribly unfriendly, and tried to charge the men for using the restrooms! Some men who would have bought drinks at the bar promptly changed their minds when they heard this. It's a shame because that bartender not only lost revenue because of this, but also lost the goodwill of some visitors to his establishment! The gift shop owner also was unfriendly so I only bought a couple postcards from her. There was a man outside who owned a burro covered in an orchid blanket which you could have your picture taken with for a price of course, and he was the worst of all!! He stood in front of me like he was the subject of the picture--he wouldn't even let me touch the burro!! His manner was rude and I don't know why I didn't walk away. That poor burro, he looks so sad--I don't remember how much we paid the man, but I hope the burro got dinner that night! In short, the views were magnificent but other than that, Sky World can be completely skipped in my opinion!</i>
	<b>St Michael's Church:</b> remnants of 18 <sup>th</sup> century church reputedly headed by a pirate priest;
** 	<b>The Baths of Virgin Gorda:</b> one of the best snorkel sites in the Caribbean; amazing geological formations; walking may be strenuous; climbing through baths is an adventure; the climb to Devil's Bay over rocks and wooden platforms is a challenge; take a ferry or private cruise from Tortola; once there, a bus makes regular runs from the ferry dock to the top of the Baths (10 minute ride) and you can walk down from there; steep walk down to beach; no lifeguards; snorkel gear rentals available; <b>Top of the Baths</b> restaurant with freshwater swimming pool <a href="http://www.topofthebaths.com/">http://www.topofthebaths.com/</a> <b>Speedy's Ferry:</b> <a href="http://www.speedysbvi.com/">http://www.speedysbvi.com/</a> <b>Smith's Ferry:</b> <a href="http://www.smithsferry.com/">http://www.smithsferry.com/</a> <b>Tamarin Charters:</b>
	<i>Only Speedy's could get us back before our 3:00pm departure. So we caught the 9:00 am Speedy's Ferry over and the 12:30 pm ferry back. Cost was \$25 per person roundtrip, including roundtrip Speedy's Taxi service from the Virgin Gorda docks to The Baths. (You will</i>

	<i>not want to attempt to walk to The Baths from the dock). We brought our mask and snorkel with us. Rentals are available at The Baths. We sat upstairs in the open air seating atop the ferry. Cool winds and great views. 30-35 minute ride each way followed by a 10-minute taxi to The Baths. There is a \$3.00 (adults) and \$2.00 (children) entrance fee to The Baths which are part of the BVU National Parks Trust. The 5-minute walk down to The Baths was rocky and uneven. At the bottom, single-use-only lockers can be rented for \$2.50 each. They are large enough to hold a beach bag or backpack. The Baths are an incredibly fun experience. While not the greatest snorkeling site for fish, the coral formations were interesting. The water was nice and clear. You don't have to climb through caves if you don't want to. There is a great beach at the bottom of the main path, to the right</i>
	<b>Virgin Islands Folk Museum:</b> Main Street, Arawak and Carib pottery and stone tools; wreck of The Rhone and HMS Nymph artifacts; plantation items and reef conservation information; gift shop for t-shirts, paintings and maps.
	<b>Windsurf:</b> <b>Last Stop Sports:</b> Road Town; surfboard and bodyboard rentals; single and double kayaks; bicycle rentals; lesson available: 284-494-0564 <a href="http://www.laststopsports.com/">http://www.laststopsports.com/</a>
<b>TOUR/TAXI GUIDES</b>	
	<b>Elroy's Pleasure Tours:</b> Elroy Fahie, 284-495-2598 or email at <a href="mailto:elroy@surfbvi.com">elroy@surfbvi.com</a>
<b>Royal Caribbean Cruise Line Excursions on Tortola</b>	
	<b>Beach Escape RCCL \$21 Adult \$17 child: 4 hours</b> This simple beach break will allow you to enjoy swimming or relaxing on Cane Garden Bay or Brewers Bay during a 3 hour stay. Or experience the marine life by snorkeling (equipment is not included). Additional activities are available at an extra cost and are not part of the tour package. Your tour will bring you back to the ship or the down town area. Bring your towel, swimsuit, sunscreen, hat, etc. This simple beach break will allow you to enjoy your time at the beach or experience the beauty of the marine life with some great snorkeling (equipment is not included). However, if you prefer, you can simply swim in the crystal clear waters or relax as you have 3 hours leisure time to spend in Cane Garden Bay or Brewers Bay (depending on sea conditions). Your tour will bring you back to the ship or to the downtown area. Note: Don't forget to bring your towel, swimsuit, sunscreen and hat.
	<b>Best of Tortola with Lunch RCCL \$52 adult \$48 child 4 ½ hours</b> As you drive along the scenic Ridge Road, you will pass small villages while viewing the neighboring islands. You will be able to enjoy a BBQ prepared island-style as you sit in the restaurant. While on the beach, you can enjoy the sun and a swim in Cane Garden Bay. This picturesque excursion focuses on Tortola's mountainous terrain and its fabulous views. After a brief walk to the end of the pier, you will board an open sided bus. As you drive along the scenic Ridge Road you will pass small villages while viewing the neighboring islands such as St. Thomas, St. John's, Peter Island and Guana Island. This picturesque excursion focuses on Tortola's mountainous terrain and its fabulous views. After a brief walk to the end of the pier, you will board an open sided bus. As you drive along the scenic Ridge Road you will pass small villages while viewing the neighboring islands such as St. Thomas, St. John's, Peter Island and Guana Island.
	<b>Coast to Coast Scenic Drive: RCCL \$56 adult \$44 child 4 hours</b> Discover the natural beauty and history of Tortola as you explore this charming landscape. Witness Tortola's mountainous countryside, rich with history as you travel coast to coast through this splendid terrain. This tour is specifically geared to those guests who would like a brief overview of this destination with limited walking Discover the natural beauty and history of Tortola as you explore its charming landscape. Witness Tortola's mountainous countryside, rich with history as you travel coast to coast through this splendid terrain. This tour is specifically geared to

	those guests who would like a brief overview of this destination with limited walking. Guests will board an open-air safari bus and then proceed through Road Town en route to the eastern part of the island. Some points of interest along the way will be the Administration Complex and the Sunny Caribe Art Gallery. The drive continues to Capoon's Bay and then onto Cane Garden Bay along the coastal highway. Here you'll pass a number of villages and spectacular sites along the way. Enjoy a leisurely ride along the Ridge Road to view the stunning Long Bay Beach in Beef Island and then it's onto Terrence B. Lettsome International Airport where a comfort stop will be made. Your final stop will be at Port Purcell before returning to your vessel.
★	<b>Dolphin Encounter: RCCL \$123 2 hours</b> Guests arrive on a submerged platform in waist deep water and will have the opportunity to participate in various behaviors with the dolphin such as the Swim-Bye, a chance for the dolphin and guest to get to know one another, the kiss with the dolphin, the Fast-swim which allows the dolphin to demonstrate its incredible speed in power and several other behaviors designed to educate and fascinate our guests as they share 30 minutes with these beautiful marine mammals. Your adventure begins when your Dolphin Discovery cast member greets you on the dock and explains the plan for adventure. After check-in and a brief orientation you are off on a taxi for a short transfer to the Prospect Reef facility. Time for the Encounter! Guests will go down a set of stairs into the beautiful Caribbean Sea. You will be on a submerged platform in waist deep water. Then you will have the opportunity to participate in various behaviors with the dolphin such as the Swim-Bye, a chance for the dolphin and guest to get to know one another; the kiss with the dolphin, a wonderful photo opportunity; the fast-swim allows the dolphin to demonstrate its incredible speed in power and several other behaviors designed to educate and fascinate you as you share thirty minutes with these beautiful marine mammals. After the Encounter, you will be able to view the photos and video that were taken during the program. After the viewing you will be escorted back to their ship.
★	<b>Dolphin Swim: RCCL \$149 adult \$109 child 2 hours</b> The experience of a lifetime is available with a Swim Adventure with Dolphins. The Swim Adventure program gives a short orientation before guests stand on the underwater platform and in the lagoon where the dolphins will interact with guests. The Dolphins and guests participate in touching, kiss and singing as well as dorsal fin pull and one other activity. Note: This activity is not available for guests that are pregnant. The experience of a lifetime is available with a Swim Adventure with Dolphins in the dolphin lagoon at Prospect Reef in Tortola. The Swim Adventure program gives you a short orientation before you stand on the underwater platform and into the lagoon where the dolphins will interact with you. You and the dolphins participate in touching, singing and a dorsal fin pull. Note: This activity is not available for guests that are pregnant. Guests must be at least 4 feet tall to participate.
★	<b>Half Day Snorkeling: RCCL \$59 Adult \$49 child 3 hours</b> You will depart Road Town on a private vessel for a 30 minute boat ride across the Sir Francis Drake Channel to Cooper Island. Remain near the shore and explore the sea floor, or more experienced snorkelers may prefer a guided snorkel over to Cistern Point to explore the coastline. Following your snorkel expedition, you may relax on the beach or swim at your leisure. Guests must know how to swim to participate. You will depart Road Town on a private vessel for a 30 minutes boat ride across the Sir Francis Drake Channel to Cooper Island. En route, your experienced snorkel guides explain snorkeling techniques and how to don the equipment so you can take full advantage of the beautiful Caribbean waters. Upon arrival at Cooper Island your guides will assist you at the beach to be sure you are comfortable with the snorkeling equipment. Remain near the shore and explore the seafloor, or more experienced snorkelers may prefer a guided snorkel over to Cistern Point for an opportunity to explore the coastline. Following your snorkel expedition you may relax on the beach or swim at your leisure before boarding the boat to return to the ship. Please note: Guests must know how to swim to participate.
	<b>Historic and Cultural British Virgin Island RCCL \$34 adult \$24 child 4 hours</b> This insightful tour will give you a glimpse of the history and present culture of Tortola. Enjoy the island views and a video presentation will be given of the original inhabitants, the Aruwak-



	<p>Carib Indians making pottery and canoes. Along the way, you'll see the Sunday Morning Wall, the Quakers Grave Yard, the Belle Vue Look-out, Beef Island and the First Church of the African Slaves in Kingston. If you would like to experience the culture of the BVI Islands join your local guide on this tour that will take you from coast to coast. This insightful tour will give you a glimpse of the history and present culture of Tortola. Along the way, you'll take in the beautiful 360- degree island views that will take your breath away. A video presentation will be given of the original inhabitants, the Arawak-Carib Indians making pottery and canoes. Along the way, you'll see the Sunday Morning Wall, the Quakers Grave Yard, the Belle Vue Look-out, Beef Island and the First Church of the African Slaves in Kingston.</p>
★	<p><b>Island Sailaway: RCCL \$54 adult \$38 child 4 hours</b> Relax as your yacht sails across Sir Frances Drake Channel to one of the surrounding islands: Norman Island, Cooper Island, Salt Island or Peter Island. Enjoy swimming and snorkeling in the caves, off the beach or over beautiful coral reefs. Mask, fins, snorkel, snorkeling vests and instruction are included. A complimentary rum or fruit punch is available after snorkeling. Board open-air safari buses on the pier for a short ride to the marina, where your sailboat awaits. Relax as your yacht sails across Sir Frances Drake Channel to one of the surrounding islands; Norman Island, Cooper Island, Salt Island or Peter Island. Enjoy spectacular swimming and snorkeling in the caves, off the beach or over beautiful coral reefs. Mask, fins, snorkel, vest and instruction are included. Enjoy the history and geography of this historic waterway as you retrace the paths of Columbus, Drake, Kid, and other historical notables. A complimentary rum or fruit punch is available after snorkeling. Minimum age: 5 years old</p>
★	<p><b>Island Voyage to Virgin Gorda and the Baths: RCCL \$64 adult \$49 child 5 ½ hours</b> Your Virgin Gorda guide will show you the highlights, which include the famous Baths boulders, formed by volcanic activity, which in turn form a series of beaches, pools and grottoes flooded with seawater. Visit Savannah Bay to snorkel (snorkel equipment included), mountain look out, the breathtaking garden peek, and other island views. Wear a swimsuit and bring a towel and adequate sun protection. This tour is subject to cancellation due to adverse weather or sea conditions Come and join the Virgin Gorda BVI Express! After a 45 minute ferry ride you will be received by your native Virgin Gorda guide who will show you the highlights. These include the famous Baths boulders, where you will have a stop of approximately one hour. Formed by volcanic activity, nature has created a series of secluded beaches, spectacular pools, and grottoes flooded with seawater. Visit Savannah Bay where snorkeling is spectacular (snorkel equipment included), Mountain look out, the breathtaking garden peek, and numerous breathtaking island views. See where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Caribbean Sea upon arrival back in Road Town. Your drop-off is possible either at the harbor or in the downtown area. Note: An approximately 10-minute walk is required to reach the beach and the Baths. The trail is uneven with some protruding rocks. Wear a swimsuit and bring a towel and adequate sun protection. This tour is subject to cancellation due to adverse weather or sea conditions</p>
	<p><b>Mountain Sage National Park Hike &amp; Snorkel RCCL \$35 adult \$27 child 3 ½ hours</b> At Sage Mountain National Park, you'll have approx. 1 hour to hike along a mile of the nature trails with views of the neighboring islands. You will stop for a short visit to the Call wood distilleries to see the rum process from the past and present. You'll also have 1 ½ hours to swim, snorkel sunbathe or simply relax Board your open-air safari bus and drive along the island's scenic Ridge Road to Sage Mountain National Park. Sage Mountain towers 1,760 feet above sea level and is the highest peak on the Virgin Islands. A protected area of tropical forest, not classed as a rainforest, it includes a variety of tropical hardwoods and foliage. Mahogany trees with complex roots cling on to the rock face, and lianas, moss, and numerous orchids drain moisture from tree trunks and hollows. You'll have approximately one hour with your guide to hike along a mile of one of the nature trails with spectacular views of the neighboring islands You will stop for a short visit to the Call Wood distilleries where you can see the rum process from the past and present. Continue to a picturesque white-sand beach with sheltering palms. Here you have approximately one and half-hours to swim, snorkel, sunbathe or simply relax. Restroom facilities and several beach shops are available</p>

	for your convenience. Note: This is a strenuous activity, with some hills during the hike, and proper footwear is recommended. Don't forget to bring your swimsuit and towel.
	<b>Norman Island Snorkeling: RCCL \$56 adult \$48 child 3 hours</b> Enjoy a scenic ride across the Sir Frances Drake Channel to Norman Island. The reputed history of piracy on this island is immortalized in the famous book Treasure Island. Snorkel in pristine surroundings of colorful coral formations, exotic fish and abundant marine life. Explore the Caves at Treasure Point, where pirate treasure is known to have been hidden. Mask, fins snorkel, snorkeling vests and instruction are provided Board a twin-engine snorkel launch dockside and enjoy a scenic ride across the Sir Frances Drake Channel to one of the British Virgin Island's prime snorkel sites, Norman Island. The reputed history of piracy on this island is immortalized in Robert Louis Stevenson's famous book "Treasure Island." Snorkel in pristine surroundings in a wonderland of colorful coral formations, exotic fish and abundant marine life. Explore the Caves at Treasure Point, where pirate treasure is known to have been hidden. Mask, fins, snorkel, vests and instruction are provided. Minimum Age: 5 years old. <a href="http://www.normanisland.com/">http://www.normanisland.com/</a>
	<b>North Shore &amp; Pusser's Landing: RCCL \$36 adult \$32 child 3 hours</b> Explore Tortola's north shore on an excursion that travels along the picturesque roads, stops at Sky World, beautiful Cane Garden Bay, and the Bomba Shack and visits the quaint village of Pusser's Landing, where you have ample time to browse the quaint shops and boutiques. Explore Tortola's north shore on an excursion that travels along the picturesque roads with a stop at beautiful Cane Garden Bay and visits the quaint village of Pusser's Landing. Board your open-air safari bus or air-conditioned van and travel from Road Town along some of Tortola's most scenic roads to Sky World. Perched some 1,500 feet above sea level, the observation platform offers panoramic views of Tortola and the surrounding British and U.S. Virgin Islands. Head to Cane Garden Bay, a beautiful white-sand beach, where you can take a brief stroll or simply enjoy the tropical scenery. Continue along the coast, passing many fantastic bays. Make a photo stop at the Bomba Shack, a beach bar that has to be seen to be believed. Finally travel to Pusser's Landing, a seaside village where you have ample time to browse the quaint shops and boutiques before returning to the ship on the scenic coastal road
	<b>Scuba Dive the Wreck RMS Rhone: RCCL \$145 4 ½ hours</b> This is a guided 2-tank dive on the wreck of the RMS Rhone which was sunk in 1867 by a rogue hurricane. Her bow lies in 80 feet of water almost entirely in tact and her stern lies in 15-50 feet of water and has become home to fish and reef creatures. A resident turtle weighing about 800 lbs, a nurse shark and a 6 foot green moray eel are often encountered on the Rhone. Limited to certified divers who have dived within the last 2 years. Certified divers must present a valid "C" card. This is a guided 2-tank dive on the famous wreck of the RMS Rhone. Sunk in 1867 by a rogue hurricane, she has been a diver's dream for more than 50 years. Her bow lies in 80 feet of water almost entirely in tact. Her stern, which took the brunt of the explosion that sank her, lies in 15-50 feet of water and has become home to a multitude of fish and reef creatures. A resident turtle weighing about 800 lbs, a nurse shark, and a 6 foot, green moray eel are some of the friendly faces often encountered on the Rhone. The Rhone is a historical treasure and is protected by the National Parks Trust. Note: This is limited to certified divers who have been on a dive within the last two years. Certified divers must present a valid certification "C" card in order to participate. Minimum age of 15 years
	<b>Sea and See: RCCL \$62 4 hours</b> Enjoy an exciting cruise, listen to the narration by your tour guide and view the southern shoreline of Tortola and the surrounding islands made famous in legend as hideaways for pirates and buccaneers. At Sopher's Hole, enjoy a stroll through the boutiques and souvenirs shops. The tour continues in open-sided safari tour buses through small fishing villages and along the ridge of the island offering views of Tortola and the surrounding islands with photo stops. Your launch awaits at the nearby marina to take you on an exciting cruise among the beautiful islands of this unique archipelago. Listen to the narration by your tour guide and view the southern shoreline of Tortola and the surrounding islands of Salt, Peter, and Norman, made famous in legend as hideaways for pirates and buccaneers. Your journey takes you past uninhabited islands and the island of St. John,




	<p>preserved for posterity by Laurence Rockefeller as a nature reserve, before arriving at Sopher's Hole, the first landing place by European settlers in these islands. Enjoy a stroll through the interesting boutiques and souvenir shops before boarding an open-sided safari bus. The tour continues along the north shore of Tortola through small fishing villages before ascending to the ridge road, which twists its way along the ridge of the island offering spectacular views of Tortola and the surrounding islands. Photo stops will be made before descending to Road Town then, through the town to the ship</p>
	<p><b><u>Tortola 4x4 Escapade:</u> RCCL \$62 adult \$48 child 4 hours</b> Board your open-air 4X4 vehicle and explore Tortola's mountains and meadows. Descend down roads that snake and twist from high mountain terrain into a jungle scenery. Enjoy a beverage/snack while snorkeling, swimming or relaxing on the beach. Don't forget to wear a bathing suit (no changing facilities), bring a towel and sun protection. Minimum age to drive is 25 years with a valid driver's license; driving is on the left hand side in caravan style; driver will receive a temporary BVI license. Board your open-air 4X4 vehicle and explore the mountains and meadows of Tortola in caravan style! Travel along the rugged roads and discover the panoramic history, sites and the islands surrounding Tortola from vantage points that are not easily accessed by conventional vehicles. You will be traveling along a ribbon of roads that snake, twist, and turn their way down the mountainside as you descend from a lush high mountain terrain into an almost jungle scenery. Your guides are extremely knowledgeable about the flora and fauna, geology and history of the town and surrounding backcountry. At Tortola's secluded beaches you will have time to enjoy a refreshing beverage, snack, and have ample time to wash off the trail dust during snorkeling, swimming or simply relaxing on the white-sand beach before returning to the ship Note: Don't forget to wear a bathing suit, bring a towel, and bring adequate sun protection. There are no facilities at the beach. Minimum age for the driver is 25 years old with a valid driver's license. Minimum age for participation is 4 years old. Driving is on the left hand side in caravan style. The driver will receive a temporary BVI license. Not suggested for guests with back, neck, kidney problems or pregnant women.</p>
	<p><b><u>Tortola Highlights:</u> RCCL \$34 adult \$25 child 3 hours</b> Board an open-air safari bus with a driver/guide for a drive through Tortola. Listen to commentary on the history and culture of the British Virgin Islands as you pass the local villages of Long Trench and Fahie Hill. You'll stop near Sky World, and at Cane Garden Bay for a walk on the beach or quick swim. Board an open-air safari bus with a driver/guide for a scenic drive through beautiful Tortola. Listen to interesting commentary on the history and culture of the British Virgin Islands as your bus climbs Ridge Road passing the local villages of Long Trench and Fahie Hill. You'll stop near Skyworld, the highest vantage point, for a view of the Virgin Islands and souvenir shopping The tour continues to Cane Garden Bay, where a brief stop will be made to enjoy a complimentary beverage. Enjoy a walk on the beach or a quick swim. (Changing facilities are available). The tour continues along the north shore, over Zion Hill for the scenic drive along the Sir Francis Drake Highway back to Road Town where your tour ends at the cruise ship pier.</p>
	<p><b><u>Tortola Historical Tour:</u> RCCL \$42 adult \$38 child 3 ¾ hours</b> Travel through Tortola's most historical sites by open-air safari bus or air-conditioned vans. Sights included are the "Sunday Morning Well", location of the emancipation of the slaves in B.V.I., the Kingston Church ruins, the Josiah's Bay Sugar Mill ruins overlook, Cane Garden Bay, the 400-year old Callwood Rum Distillery Mill and the Old Government House Museums, Gardens and Graveyard where you will have a self-guided tour. Experience some of the island's colorful heritage on a trip that visits the Kingston Church, colonial sugar mills, and the Old Government House Museum Board your open-air safari bus or air-conditioned van and drive to the "Sunday Morning Well," the sight of the emancipation of the slaves in B.V.I. Continue on to the Kingston Church, which served as the island's Anglican Church and school in 1807. You'll head East for a charming drive through the H. Laverty Stout College to the overlook of the Josiah's Bay Ruins, a former sugar mill. Next, descend to sea level for a brief visit at the 400-year-old Callwood Rum Distillery still in operation. Your final stop is the Old Government House Museum, Gardens and Graveyard for a self-guided tour before returning to downtown Road</p>

	Town for shopping or to your ship. If you remain in town, you are responsible for your return to the ship.
	<p><b><u>Tortola Kayak Snorkel &amp; Eco Tour</u> RCCL \$92 3 ½ hours</b> Tour is a fascinating excursion that gives you a diverse insight into the unique marine environment of the BVI (British Virgin Islands). Paddle through mangrove forests listening to the songs of the colorful Caribbean birds. Watch as hundreds of brightly darting fish swim beneath you, while passing by the ruins of the impressive Fort Hodge, built in 1625, and the Quaker Burial grounds. Relax and soak up the ambience on a private beach or snorkel over the nursery grounds of the coral reefs. Tortola Kayak, Snorkel and Eco Tour is an exciting excursion that is being offered in the calm, crystal clear waters of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. Tortola is home to some of the most pristine un-damaged coral reefs and mangrove forests in all of the Caribbean. Devoid of large-scale development and over population from both the local population and the tourist industry has left nature's little secrets still a hive of marine and bird life. The water is a balmy 78 degrees in February, while it gradually increases to a very pleasant 85 degrees in September. Guests therefore have no need of wet suits or any kind of thermal protection. Guests are provided with an easy kayak along a mangrove-fringed bay to an entrance where they can paddle into a channel right into the heart of a mangrove forest. Mangroves are the nursery grounds for almost all of the coral reef inhabitants. The shallow protected waters are fertile and teeming with life. Guests on the tour will have the marine life and eco-structure shown and explained to them, while being able to handle or witness a variety of plants, sea star fish and sea cucumbers. The ruins of an old Fort are built into the rocks that we paddle past. Fort Hodge was built in 1625 to protect the island of Tortola from the Dutch and Spanish raids. During our snorkel we are shaded by the massive old brickwork that has seen the passage of not only the wars of colonization, but the passage of time that brought the Quaker missionaries in the 1730's, followed by plantation farmers who brought with them a large number of African slaves. No maritime tour in the BVI would be complete without touching on the golden years of piracy, this was between 1680 and 1725, and cannon balls are still to be found under the ruins of Fort Hodge to this day. Just below the Fort is the old Quaker burial ground with the tombs still accessible just above the water line. Dr. William Thornton, the architect of the U.S. Capitol Building and the Pentagon (Washington D.C.) family is buried here. Following the mangrove tour we snorkel a shallow coral reef to follow the developmental progression of the marine creatures as they grow into maturity. The water is shallow and guests can choose the depth that is most comfortable to them or they can simply relax under the shaded tiki tables that we have built on the beach. After snorkeling the nursery reef we head back to the dive center where we have showers, changing rooms, a fresh water swimming pool, two gift shops and two on site restaurants.</p>
	<p><b><u>Town and Country Drive:</u> RCCL \$36 adult \$32 child 3 ½ hours</b> This excursion provides you with an overview of Tortola, visiting both the Atlantic and Caribbean sides. Your tour will commence from the pier en route to Nanny Cay where a shopping and photo opportunity will be given. Then it's onto Pussers Landing at Sopers Hole. Here, you'll have time to browse the shops and quaint boutiques of the area. A brief photo stop will be made at Belle Vue on your way back to the cruise ship pier. This excursion provides you with an overview of Tortola, visiting both the Atlantic and Caribbean sides. Your tour will commence from the pier en route to Nanny Cay where a shopping and photo opportunity will be given. Then it's onto Pusser's Landing at Sopers Hole. Here, you'll have time to browse the shops and quaint boutiques of the area. A brief photo stop will be made at Belle Vue on your way back to the cruise ship pier.</p>
<b>BEACHES</b>	
	<p><b><u>Apple Bay:</u></b> surf and party beach; there are several good restaurants: Sugar Mill, Apple, Sebastian's and Bomba Shack located here—a main party site for the island's full moon parties; partygoers fill the street and hallucinogenic mushrooms which are legal to possess and use in BVI are readily available. Friday night fish fry under the two huge banyan trees.</p>
	<p><b><u>Brandywine Beach:</u></b> recent man-made beach; one of the only on the south shore; the government of the British Virgin Islands brought in several thousand tons of sand dredged</p>

	from various harbors around the island and used it to rebuild the beach at Brandywine Bay. The beach had eroded substantially over the past several years. There's nothing here other than good swimming and pretty decent snorkeling; there's likely good shell collecting as well, as the sand has been dredged; bring a small shovel and sieve; tourists rarely visit, so if you'd like a stretch of sand all to yourselves and enjoy shell collecting ... come ahead!
★	<b>Brewer's Bay Beach:</b> only non-white sand beach on island—it is dark gold; bay offers snorkeling opportunities but the water is often murky after moderate rainfall; if weather cooperates, you will find tarpon, squid, octopus, box fish, trigger fish, loads of parrot fish, thousands of interesting little reef dwellers and various coral formations. Just follow the shoreline near Nicole's Bar and you will find a marvelous underwater world which still remains mostly undisturbed. The snorkeling is fabulous at Brewer's but getting here isn't for the faint of heart! Road access consists of several hair pin turns and steep ascents, which some BVI visitors find more than a wee bit scary. Four wheel drive or front wheel drive is a real bonus when travelling to any of the beaches on Tortola; snack bar with facilities; chair rentals; 20 minute car ride for \$6PP <a href="http://www.b-v-i.com/ocean.htm#Brewer's%20Bay">http://www.b-v-i.com/ocean.htm#Brewer's%20Bay</a>
★	<b>Cane Garden Bay:</b> most popular, populous and touristy beach; rent floating rafts \$5; floating chairs \$10; boats moor here and there are 5 restaurants, one bar and two vendors spill onto the ¾ mile beach; chairs are normally free if you buy a drink from any beach bar; live music is common; Jimmy Buffet immortalized Tortola in the lyrics of his song, "Manana""I hear it gets better, that's what they say, As soon as we sail on to Cane Garden Bay"; supposedly wrote Cheeseburger in Paradise at Stanley's. There is no question that this is one of the most popular beaches in the British Virgin Islands and the entire Caribbean; occasionally there has been some concern about the water quality here due to yachts permitted to dump tanks in the bay; not really good for snorkeling; 23 minute \$6PP cab ride from cruise pier. <a href="http://dpu.gov.vg/Plans/NIDS/water&amp;sewerage.htm">http://dpu.gov.vg/Plans/NIDS/water&amp;sewerage.htm</a>
★	<b>Elizabeth Beach:</b> Located in East End, opposite beautiful Guana Island, the Lambert Resort on Elizabeth Beach is a quiet and secluded hideaway providing spectacular views, a massive swimming pool with swim up bar, private villas and hotel suites. All of this, plus one of the largest and most beautiful beaches on Tortola! Elizabeth Beach is without doubt, the widest on Tortola, providing sun worshipers plenty of room to stretch out, get a great tan and enjoy the beautiful views of the British Virgin Islands. However, its girth also presents one rather daunting problem. Getting from the shade of the tree line to the water can be a somewhat "warm" experience! Sandals don't cut it in the heat of the day and doing the 100 yard dash can be challenging in the sand. Bring a pair of closed toe shoes with you unless you want to burn your feet!
	<b>Josiah's Bay Beach:</b> of all the beaches in the British Virgin Islands, Josiah's Bay Beach is a surfing paradise! As soon as a north swell begins to roll, surfers suit up and head out to the break line! Swimming is hit and miss for those who are not strong swimmers; strong undertow at the corners of the beach; beach extends gradually allowing swimmers to range far from shore; two bar/restaurants The Grape Tree and a larger bar with casual beach fare; access is easy by road, but this is not a suitable anchorage.
	<b>Lambert Bay:</b> very long beach with moderate surf; less clear water; two roads (one for beach and one for hotel which is welcoming of lunch and dinner guests.)
	<b>Long Bay. Beef Island:</b> just minutes from the airport; a long curved stretch of beach that is secluded and little-used; no facilities.
	<b>Long Bay Beach, West End:</b> Situated just east of Smuggler's Cove in Tortola's West End, Long Bay Beach offers several advantages for visitors. easily accessible by road and there's a lovely resort with restaurant and pool nearby with plenty of chairs provided free of charge; several bars and restaurants sit back from the mile long beach; lots of coral close into shore. walk west towards Smuggler's Cove, and you'll find a very nice, uncrowded patch of sand with excellent swimming.
	<b>Norman Island</b> (7 miles off the coast of Tortola; setting for "Treasure Island") <a href="http://www.normanisland.com/">http://www.normanisland.com/</a>



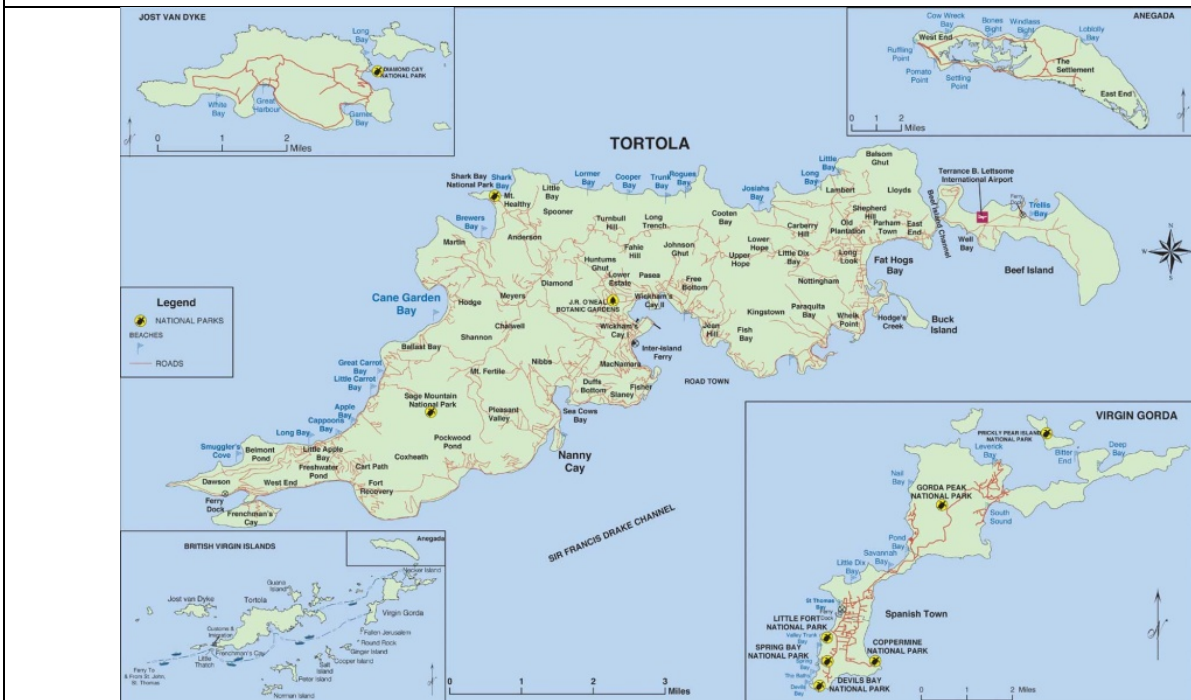
	<b>Smuggler's Cove:</b> at the extreme western tip of Tortola; difficult to access; the dirt road narrow and bumpy, many people prefer to walk in, leaving their cars at the Jolly Roger, West End Ferry Terminal or at Long Bay Resort, rather than drive. But of all the beaches in the British Virgin Islands, this one is definitely worth the trouble: peace, quiet, good snorkeling and uncrowded beaches; beach has a restaurant and bar plus several small vendor stands selling alcoholic beverages.
<b>SHOPPING</b>	
	<b>Pusser's General Store</b> within sight of the cruise pier; souvenirs
	<b>Caribee Spice Shop:</b> walk from cruise pier
	<b>Craft Market:</b> very little goods are made locally
	<b>Cruise Ship Vendors' Market:</b> very little goods are made locally
<b>FOOD/RESTAURANTS</b>	
	<a href="http://www.caribbeanedge.com/tortola/restaurants/">http://www.caribbeanedge.com/tortola/restaurants/</a>
	Restrictions on alcohol are very light. Bars usually stay open as long as business is booming, frequently about 3 a.m. on weekends. It is acceptable to leave a bar with your beer, and if you know the bar well, not too unusual to walk in with one, either. Smoking is absolutely taboo in every business and public area in the BVI and cigarettes, though sold in the supermarkets are kept in locked cabinets since a recent law in July 2007. Drinking and driving is strictly illegal and although police generally do not stop cars until they have crashed, if you are found to be drunk you will be prosecuted for it. However, out of a basic moral obligation to your fellow human beings, it would be wise to not abuse this lack of enforcement
	Marijuana is very frowned upon by authorities, so much so that immigration and visitation by Rastafarians was once regulated by legislation in the BVI. Being caught with even a small personal amount of marijuana will almost certainly lead to a stiff fine usually in the region of \$1,000 and instant deportation
	Mushrooms are legal in the British Virgin Islands. The native species grows in the hills and is available after rains, which occur throughout the year. Mushrooms are available at full moon parties, the right bars, and from casual purveyors. Although they are legal, many non-trippers frown on their use and it would be gauche to roam the town asking strangers for mushrooms. Rather, have a few drinks with a native or expatriate who seems to be of the right attitude and bearing before bringing up the topic.
	<b>18 Abbot Lane:</b> Road Town;
	<b>Beach Club Terrace:</b> on Road Harbour
	<b>Brandywine Bay Restaurant:</b> above the Bay with lofty view of Sir Francis Drake Channel; beautiful place in fabulous location \$200 for two
	<b>Capriccio di Mare:</b> Waterfront Drive, Road Town; Italian café; small, casual café; fresh pastas, pizza
	<b>Cafestito:</b> patio dining serving West Indian and international dishes including fresh Anegada lobster;
	<b>Dove:</b> Main Street, Road Town; haute cuisine; martinis in a luxurious jazz bar; fresh seafood, sushi, steak, homemade ice cream, sorbets and chocolate soufflé; champagne happy hour Tues to Saturday from 5-7pm and \$3 champagne cocktails.284-494-0313
	<b>Fish Trap:</b> Columbus Centre, Road Town; open air seafood restaurant; buffet lunch;
	<b>Garden Restaurant:</b> Long Bay Beach Resort; open air
	<b>Le Cabanon:</b> Waterfront Drive, Road Town; French cuisine on outdoor patio; snapper, sea bass, yellowfin tuna, chicken; heavenly desserts 284-494-8660
	<b>Maria's By the Sea:</b> elegant dining room and breezy covered terrace; lobster, conch, fish, steak;

	<b>Mooring: Mariner Inn:</b> at The Moorings; lunch and candlelit dinners;
	<b>Mrs. Scatliffe's:</b> island's best West Indian cooking served on upstairs terrace of her home;
	<b>Myett's:</b> bi-level restaurant right on the beach;
	<b>Nexus:</b> Road Town
	<b>Oscar's:</b> Frenchman's Cay;
	<b>Pirate's Bight</b> (Norman Island) <a href="http://www.normanisland.com/">http://www.normanisland.com/</a>
	<b>Pusser's Landing,</b> Frenchman's Cay, West End; fresh grilled fish of the day; chicken; hearty soup; end your day with their famous painkiller; happy hour daily from 5-7pm; open daily from 11am to 10pm
	<b>Pusser's Road Town Pub:</b> Waterfront Drive & Main Street, Road Town; across from the ferry dock; English pub grub and Caribbean fare; Thursday is nickel night beer night; try the famous Pusser's Rum (blend of 5 West Indian rums served for more than 300 years); <a href="http://www.pussers.com">www.pussers.com</a>
★	<b>Quito's Gazebo:</b> rustic beachside bar and restaurant; conch and pumpkin fritters; mahimahi; chicken roti; mutton; BVI recording artist Quito sings with his reggae band on Tuesday and Thursday nights; Wednesday night \$15 BBQ with ribs, roti, johnnycakes from 3:30-5pm.
★	<b>Sebastian's Seaside Grill:</b> West End; rustic pavilion with wooden tables; award winning seaside restaurant; homemade soup of the day, hamburgers; fresh fish of the day; Jamaican jerk chicken; live band at dinner on weekends.
★	<b>Skyworld:</b> Ridge Road, ¼ mile above Road Town; 360 degree views of US Virgin Islands and BVI at 1,312 feet; best of the best casually elegant dining room with separate bar; famous fresh fish chowder and pumpkin soup; filet mignon with cranberry and tequila sauce; duck; lamb; best Key Lime pie and cheesecake; lunch menu of hamburgers and sandwiches; crowded when cruise ships are in port. Open daily 10am-2:30pm and 5-11pm; 284-494-3567
	<b>Sugar Mill:</b> Little Apple Bay; part of the Sugar Mill Hotel; transformed sugar mill; open air bar on deck overlooks the sea; curried banana soup published in <i>Bon Appetit</i> ; duck, grilled fresh fish; closed August through September.
	<b>The Jolly Roger:</b> Jolly Roger Inn, West End; open-air bar and restaurant popular with sailors; stewed/cracked conch, pizza; great burgers; homemade Key Lime pie; weekend Caribbean BBQ and live entertainment. <a href="http://www.jollyrogerbvi.com">www.jollyrogerbvi.com</a>
	<b>The Pub:</b> Fort Burt Hotel, Harbour Road; sports patrons and yacht owners; 25 kinds of beer; barnlike interior and rambling veranda built on piers over the water between the coastal road and the southern edge of Road Town harbor; jerk chicken, spareribs, chicken, shrimp combo
	<b>Village Cay Marina:</b> Road Town;
★	<b>Willy T,</b> on Norman Island (private island off east side of Tortola; reputed setting for Robert Louis Stevenson's <i>Treasure Island</i> ); named after William Thornton of Jost Van Dyke and Tortola who designed the US Capitol Building; huge floating restaurant on a 100 foot schooner; lunch from noon to 3pm and dinner 5-9; bar open from 11:30am; accessed by water taxi??
<b>NIGHTLIFE</b>	
	<b>Bat Cave:</b> Baugher's Bay; hottest nightclub; 1,000 foot disco; Italian dining
★	<b>Bomba Surfside Shack;</b> Apple Bay; covered with day-glo graffiti, driftwood and abandoned rubber tires; great sound system; once a month they stage a full-moon party with free house tea spiked with hallucinogenic mushrooms; note that the drug is this tea could be dangerous to your body; 284-295-4148 <a href="http://www.bombasurfsideshack.com">www.bombasurfsideshack.com</a>
	<b>Jolly Roger:</b> West End; local music from reggae to blues; <a href="http://www.jollyrogerbvi.com">www.jollyrogerbvi.com</a>
	<b>Le Cabanon,</b> casually known as "The Cab." An excellent bar with a great crowd in the heart of Road Town; great, friendly bartenders, and a clientele composed mostly of ex-pat workers and tourists. Revelry here is par for the course from Thursday to Saturday night.
	<b>Pusser's</b> next door to Le Cabanon; wild happy hours

	<b><u>Quito's</u></b> ; Cane Garden Bay
	<b><u>Rhymer's</u></b> : Cane Garden Bay; cold beer; tropical rum punches; casual menu of ribs, conch fritters; open daily from 8am to 9pm
	<b><u>Sebastian's</u></b> : Apple Bay; Sunday night dance to live music under the stars;
	<b><u>Stanley's Welcome Bar</u></b> : Cane Garden Bay; rowdy frat boy atmosphere; 284-495-9424
	<b><u>The Last Resort</u></b> : east island: best dining on island; situated on a small islet off Trellis Bay; free water taxi on request.
	<b><u>The Moorings/Mariner Inn</u></b> : Wickhams' Cay; for upscale yacht owners
	<b><u>The Royal BVI Yacht Club</u></b> , just west of town; mostly frequented by English ex-pats and hosts races and the local rugby club
	<b><u>Virgin Queen, Road Town; sports bar serving pizza.</u></b>



# MAPS





# Tortola



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