

# BASE GUIDE

DREAM YACHT  CHARTER

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO ENJOY YOUR NEXT DREAM DESTINATION!



THE CARIBBEAN | US VIRGIN ISLANDS

# DREAM YACHT CHARTER



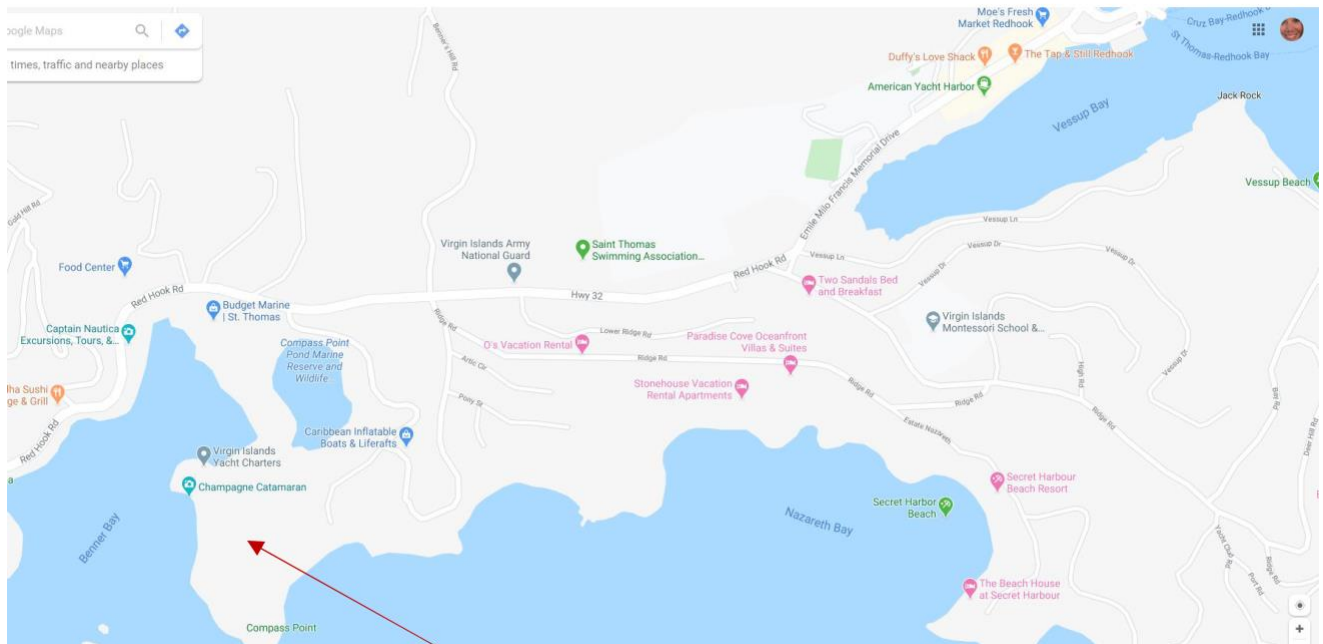
## BASE ADDRESS

Compass Point Marina  
6300 Est Frydenhoj, St. Thomas, USVI

**GPS POSITION:** 8.3187° N, 64.8667° W

**OPENING HOURS:** 8:30am-4:30pm (Monday-Saturday) and 9am-noon (Sunday)

## BASE MAP



COMPASS POINT MARINA

## BASE CONTACTS

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If you need support while on your charter, contact the base immediately using the contact details in this guide. Please contact your booking agent for all requests prior to your charter.

### BASE MANAGER:

Elizabeth White

### CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Kim Caley

## BASE FACILITIES

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electricity | <input type="checkbox"/> Luggage storage                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restaurant                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toilets     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bar                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Showers                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supermarket / Grocery store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry                | <input type="checkbox"/> ATM                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post Office                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wi-Fi                  |   |

## BASE INFORMATION

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### LICENSE

Sailing licence required:  Yes  No

### PAYMENT

We can accept:  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Cash

### EMBARKATION TIME

Embarkation time is 5pm and briefings are held the next morning. You will find your scheduled briefing time in your welcome pack, provided when you arrive at our base. Our office is located down the way on the left from Dive Bar and is a tangerine colored building.

### YACHT BRIEFING

Yacht briefings are conducted on the chartered vessel after check-in and chart briefing. The team will give a detailed walk-through of your yacht's technical equipment, information about safe and accurate navigation, including the yacht's navigational instruments, as well as mooring, anchorage

and itinerary help. The safety briefing introduces the safety equipment and your yacht's general inventory.

## **STOP OVERS**

For all DYC charters starting and/or ending in the USVIs, the first and last night at the marina is free of charge.

## **DISEMBARKATION TIME**

Disembarkation is at 10am. The team will inspect your yacht's equipment and a general visual check of its interior and exterior. The boat's hull, keel, rudder(s) propeller(s) and /or bow thruster will be inspected by ROV or diver. General inspection will take approximately one hour, depending on size of vessel.

## **BAGGAGE**

Please only take soft bags and not suitcases, as they would be too cumbersome onboard.

## **BASE AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

- Base emergency telephone number: +1 340-725-8813
- US Coast Guard: From any cell phone \*24 (\*CG) or hail channel 16
- Police, Fire or land ambulance: 911 or 999
- Schneider Regional Hospital, St Thomas: 340-776-8311
- Peebles Hospital, Tortola: 284-494-3497
- VHF emergency channel: 16



## HOW TO GET THERE?

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### ACCESS BY PLANE

Cyril E. King Airport (STT): All major airlines fly into St. Thomas, USVI, daily. There are direct flights from many US cities, but some are only on weekends. Most flights connect through Miami, Ft Lauderdale or Atlanta.

You can also connect through Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU), San Juan, Puerto Rico, which is the nearest international airport. Several airlines operate flights from SJU to STT, including Seaborne and Cape Air.

### TRANSFERS FROM THE AIRPORT TO OUR BASE

The cab fare is \$15-\$20 per person from the airport to Compass Point Marina and some cab companies charge a fee for your luggage. We recommend arranging your transfer a few days before arrival. This will prevent you sharing an open-air cab or large van with other travellers where the marina is the last stop.

### PRIVATE TAXI SERVICES

We recommend the following taxi companies:

- Rachel Brown Taxi & Tours: (340)-771-2986
- A&P Taxi Service: (340)-642-4966
- Big Love's Taxi: (340) 201-7299
- Mr. Nice Guy Taxi: (786) 296-8767
- Prestige Taxi: (340) 643-7002

### CAR RENTAL

You might want to consider renting a car instead of hiring a taxi if you want to provision your boat – remember we drive on the left. You can leave the car at the marina and the car rental company will pick it up. These are the car rental companies we recommend:

- Paradise Rental Car<sup>TM</sup>: 340-643-2692
- Discount Car Rental: 340-776-4858

Information subject to change without notice.



## PROVISIONING & RECOMMENDATIONS

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### BASE PROVISIONING SERVICE

This base provides a provisioning service:  Yes  No

Provisioning services on St. Thomas are reliable and affordable but you must be onboard to accept delivery. Please do not arrange delivery before your arrival at Compass Point Marina.

**Moe's Fresh Market, Red Hook:** Free provisioning service for yachts, offering fresh and high quality natural and organic products. You can also shop there instead of using their service.

- Tel: 340-693-0254
- Fax: 340-693-0256
- Email: [provisions@moesvi.com](mailto:provisions@moesvi.com)

**Fine Food Afloat:** Specializes in boat provisioning with user-friendly online shopping. They offer high quality products, including premium meats and seafood air-shipped weekly and vacuum sealed for freshness. Choose provisioning packages for breakfast, lunch, snacks and even complete meal packages. They have an excellent reputation:

- Tel: 340-626-7762
- [annasmarketvi.com](http://annasmarketvi.com)

### LOCAL GROCERY STORES

You can also do your provisioning at **Food Center**, close to Compass Point Marina (but not walking distance). To save on cab fares, just send one or two crew members to provision.

### FUEL AND WATER

- Saga Haven (across the channel from Compass Point Marina)
- American Yacht Harbor (Red Hook)
- Cruz Bay (St. John)
- For the BVI, check out [BVI Traveller's](#) sailing charter section

### HOTEL SUGGESTIONS:

East End of St. Thomas, near our charter base

- [Secret Harbor](#)
- [Kathie's Condo Rentals](#) at Sapphire Beach
- [Two Sandals](#) by the Sea Inn
- [Ritz Carlton](#)

Downtown Charlotte Amalie Area

- [The Green Iguana Hotel](#)
- [Mafolie Hotel and Restaurant](#)

By the airport

- [Emerald Beach Resort](#)

## RESTAURANT SUGGESTIONS:

Compass Point Marina Area

- [Dive Bar](#) – Opposite our office and open daily 3pm-11pm

East End (nearby)

- [Caribbean Fish Market](#) – At the Elysian Resort (near Ritz Carlton)
- [Sunset Grill](#) – Secret Harbor

Red Hook (5 minutes from our marina)

- [Pesce Italian](#)
- [Raw Sushi](#) and Saki Bar
- [Agave Mexican Restaurant](#)
- [Island Time Pub](#)
- [Duffy's Love Shack](#)

## AREA GUIDE

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### LOCAL AREA INTRODUCTION

Sailing the Virgin Islands archipelago from our base in St. Thomas offers you the chance to experience one of the world's most wonderful cruising grounds and explore the US Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

The tropical weather with year-round warm temperatures between 75°F and 82°F is perfect for a boat charter. While many will plan for sailing the British Virgin Islands, don't miss out on exploring the beautiful USVIs. The region is known for its beaches with expanses of powdery white sand, as well as its seven national parks.

The USVIs consist of St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John, Water Island and many smaller islets and cays. This group of Caribbean islands was discovered by Columbus in 1493 and settled by Spain, England, France and Denmark. In 1917, the islands became a United States territory and while the islanders speak English, the culture is a unique blend of European, American and Caribbean influences.

When it comes to things to do in the US Virgin Islands, you are in luck if you love snorkelling or diving. Sail to the nearby island of St. John which has some of the most beautiful and well-protected beaches in the world. The island is a favourite destination thanks to its lush surroundings, national park and clear waters brimming with sea turtles and rays.

If you want to relax and swim, you will be spoilt for choice for beaches while on your Virgin Islands yacht charter. Popular choices for those exploring by boat include Honeymoon Beach and the beaches along Caneel Bay (formerly Caneel Bay Resort), Oppenheimer Beach (Hawksnest area), Maho Beach in Francis Bay, Salt Pond and Lameshur.

For seafood, try the Mahi Mahi and fresh tuna when dining out.



## US VIRGIN ISLANDS THINGS TO DO:

1. **Explore the National Park, St. John:** Take your pick of some of the finest beaches in the USVIs and quiet overnight anchorages.
2. **Discover Magen's Bay, St. Thomas:** Head to this immense mile-long, white sand beach, one of the island's most popular. Make sure you get there early, it's one of our favorite US Virgin Islands things to do.
3. **Dine at [Zozo's](#), Lovango Cay, St. John:** Find peace and quiet here, enjoy great food and watch the awesome sunset.
4. **Snorkel Watermelon Cay:** Enjoy the warm waters or, if you feel energetic, hike to Annaberg ruins, a sugar plantation.
5. **Experience pizza with a difference:** On Great St. James, at Christmas Cove, which is only accessible by boat, you will find floating restaurant [Pizza Pi](#). Don't miss it while on your Virgin Islands yacht charter.

**CURRENCY:** US Dollar (USD)

**VOLTAGE:** 110V

**DIALING CODE:** +1 340

### INTERNET

There isn't Wi-Fi access at Compass Point Marina and while some yachts have Wi-Fi onboard, it will not work until within range of a cell tower in the BVIs. Add an international package to your cell phone account with your provider so you can hotspot. There is internet access in some cafes and Wi-Fi hotspots, but you may need to pay.

### CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

US citizens do not need a passport to enter the US Virgin Islands but will need one for the BVIs (it must be valid for another six months from date of entry). Visas may be required for citizens from other countries of origin - check with the tourist board.

It is easy to travel to the BVIs from the USVIs and the customs process is simple, although keep in mind that high season will be busier. During your briefing, the base team will give you all the paperwork needed to clear in and out of customs. You must clear BVI Customs immediately upon entrance, but in the USVI you have 24 hours to clear in.

You can clear BVI customs in Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke, or West End in Soper's Hole on Tortola. Tell the customs officer that you are clearing in and out. Download the CBP ROAM app on your smart phone for clearing back into the USVI. A free login.gov account is required to use the CBP ROAM app. After opening the CBP ROAM app, tap "Sign In". Guests with foreign passports are usually required to clear customs in person at the Customs and Immigration Office in Cruz Bay, St. John.





## **CUSTOMS & PERMIT FEES FOR BVI**

In the BVIs you will need to pay for:

- A Cruising Permit - \$16 per person/per day
- BVI Environmental Fees - \$10 per person
- BVI Departure Tax – \$20 per person
- National Marine Park Permit - The cost of a permit depends on the number of guests in your party and will vary from \$50 per week for 4 guests up to \$110 per week for 10 guests
- Port Fee - \$1 per foot for the length of your charter vessel

Occasionally, the customs agent will include a Vessel License Fee which is an additional \$35.

A National Marine Park Permit allows you to pick up day mooring balls in any of the BVI's fabulous marine parks, including the famous Baths, the Caves, the Indians, Monkey Point and the Dogs. Anchoring is prohibited at all times in these areas in order to protect the territory's vulnerable reefs. Mooring buoys from the National Park are for daily use only.

Fishing permits are required to fish in the BVI, visit the [government website](#) for details.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

- Respect your surroundings and leave only footprints in the sand
- Only use the engine or genset when needed (fill up your tanks for the water maker at the docks when you can)
- Respect regulations around marine reserves and private islands where disembarking is not permitted

## **REGULATIONS**

The USVIs banned the import, sale and distribution of all sunscreens containing "Toxic Os" (oxybenzone, octinoxate and octocrylene), as they cause harmful bleaching to coral reefs. From January 1, 2020, anyone found using a non-approved sunscreen will be fined \$1,000.

Please note, spray sunscreens are strictly forbidden onboard due to discoloration to the boat over time. Avoid Coppertone products of those with self-tanners or bronzers in as they will damage the boat.

In the USVIs and BVIs, night sailing is not allowed. We ask you to be settled at a mooring by 5pm. If you are sailing the St. John National Park, please visit the park's [website](#) for information and regulations on mooring, anchoring and fishing. For overnight anchoring or mooring between the hours of 5pm and 7am, there is a self-registration fee. Overnight fees must be paid prior to spending the night at one of the many payment station rafts.

Information subject to change without notice.

## **SAILING CONDITIONS**

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### **SAILING AREA**

Sailing the Virgin Islands is the best way to discover the specific individuality of each island in the USVIs and BVIs. It puts you in control of your own itinerary so you can make the most of new discoveries, from charming coves, beach parties or bountiful marine life.

The Virgin Islands sailing conditions include easy passages that suit all experience levels, particularly novice sailors. You'll find gentle and near constant winds most of the year, calm seas at 3 to 4 feet and line of sight navigation.

While the USVIs have much to offer as a sailing destination, the islands are also the gateway to the BVIs and this is where most of our customers choose to spend their sailing time. The BVI clearance process is easy and simple to do.

Flying directly into St. Thomas is a convenient, less stressful and economical way to sail the BVIs. You can choose from 60 world-class islands, from Tortola, Scrub Island (where our BVI base is), Jost van Dyke, Cooper Island, Norman Island, Peter Island and Anegada, plus many more. It is the Caribbean's most popular sailing destination for good reason, offering an amazing atmosphere at beach bars and restaurants.

We can help you make the most of your time in the area and during your charter briefing we can show you the natural loop for itinerary planning. Our team are experts and we can make recommendations on what to see and where to dine.

### **WEATHER**

The best time to visit the US Virgin Islands is between December and May when the temperatures are cooler and the winds are steady.

Temperatures in the USVIs range from a normal low of 75°F and high of 82°F. August, September and October are the warmest months with hardly any wind, which makes it feel even hotter. This is the low season when it is less crowded.

The hurricane season is between June and October.

### **TEMPERATURE**

Climate in the USVIs:

- Summer high: The August, September and October highs are around 82°F
- Winter low: The December, January and February low is 75°F

### **WIND SYSTEMS**

The US Virgin Islands wind systems include the trade winds season in mid-late December and into early-mid January. The Christmas Winds can make sailing quite the adventure and occasionally shift causing a north swell. We will go through the winds with you during your chart and boat briefing.

### **LOCAL FORECAST**

You can find USVI weather forecasts on the [Windguru website](#) ahead of your sailing vacation.