

Understanding the Port

Tortola is the gateway to the British Virgin Islands, the sailing playground of the Caribbean. The ship docks at Road Town's Pier Park, a mountain-backed beach waits over the ridge, and the islands next door hold boulders and beach bars worth a boat ride.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

Ships dock at the Tortola cruise pier at Pier Park: shops, restaurants, and Pusser's famous Painkillers, with downtown Road Town a short walk beyond.

Cash & Currency

The US dollar is the official currency of this British territory — no exchange, no math. Cards widely accepted; small bills help for taxis.

Getting Around

Open-air safari taxis run set rates from the pier. Cane Garden Bay is about 20 minutes over the mountain. Virgin Gorda goes by boat.

GOOD

Road Town & Pier Park

Best for: Short stops, easy days, minimal logistics

- ✓ Shops and local color at the gangway
- ✓ A Painkiller at Pusser's, where they pour it right
- ✓ Back at the ship whenever you want

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

Cane Garden Bay Day

Best for: Couples, families, beach lovers

- ✓ Tortola's classic beach curve, calm and green-backed
- ✓ Beach bars and chair rentals along the sand
- ✓ The mountain drive is half the show

Arrange your return taxi before you settle in.

BEST

The Baths, Virgin Gorda

Best for: First timers, adventurers, photographers

- ✓ Giant granite boulders and hidden grottoes
- ✓ Wade the caves to Devil's Bay
- ✓ One of the Caribbean's natural wonders

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

Pier Park & Road Town

Browse Pier Park, wander Main Street's old wooden storefronts, and toast the day with the rum the Royal Navy used to ration. Zero logistics required.

BETTER

Cane Garden Bay

Over the ridge and down to the postcard: a sheltered crescent with beach bars, calm water, and the Callwood rum distillery pouring history nearby.

BEST

The Baths

Virgin Gorda's sea-smoothed granite boulders stack into grottoes you wade, climb, and squeeze through to reach Devil's Bay. Go by ship excursion; the timing is theirs to manage.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

The Baths

The consensus bucket-list pick in the BVI. Book the excursion early and wear shoes that can swim.

Cane Garden Bay

The easy, beautiful choice: one taxi, one beach, one perfect afternoon.



The Baths, Virgin Gorda



Docked at Road Town, Tortola

Key Considerations

The Baths are the prize, and the safest way to claim them is the ship's excursion: boats, park timing, and the return trip are all managed for you. The public ferry works on a long call — plan a return that lands at least 90 minutes before all aboard — but the ship will not wait for a missed boat.

Tortola's roads are steep, winding, and scenic in equal measure — the safari-taxi ride over the ridge to Cane Garden Bay is an attraction in itself. Agree fares before you ride, and build cushion into your afternoon.



Cane Garden Bay from the ridge, Tortola



White Bay, Jost Van Dyke



Moored in Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke

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Port Orientation

FROM THE PORT (ROAD TOWN)

● Pier Park & Main Street	At the gangway
~ 20 min by safari taxi	
● Cane Garden Bay	The classic beach
● Callwood Rum Distillery	Two centuries of pot-still rum
~ 25–30 min by taxi	
● Smuggler's Cove / West End	Quieter sand
● Sage Mountain National Park	The Virgin Islands' high point
By boat	
● The Baths, Virgin Gorda	Excursion recommended
● Jost Van Dyke / White Bay	Home of the Painkiller

DON'T FORGET

Confirm your all aboard time before you leave the ship.
Set a phone alarm. The ship will not wait for you.

Key Takeaway

Tortola is the calm one: no hustle, no sprawl, just green mountains, honest beaches, and boats to everywhere.

Boulders by boat or beach by ridge — either one sends you home bragging.

ETA will help you choose the right experience based on your travel style.

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Did You Know?

British Islands, American Dollars. The British Virgin Islands have used the US dollar as their official currency since 1959.

Sailing Capital. With some 60 islands and cays wrapped around sheltered channels, the BVI has gone ahead and trademarked its title: Sailing Capital of the World.

The Painkiller. The BVI's signature cocktail was born at Jost Van Dyke's Soggy Dollar Bar — itself named for the wet bills swimmers hand over, since White Bay has no dock.

Rum With Roots. The Callwood Distillery at Cane Garden Bay has poured pot-still rum for over 200 years from a 400-year-old stone estate — the last of the hundred-plus distilleries that once dotted the BVI.

Treasure Island. Norman Island, just across the channel, is said to have inspired Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island.