

Understanding the Port

St. Croix is the biggest and quietest of the U.S. Virgin Islands — American soil with Danish bones, and a fraction of St. Thomas's ship traffic. You dock at Frederiksted on the west end and walk straight into town. The island's other Danish town, Christiansted, is forty minutes east, and worth the ride.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Port Area

You dock alongside — no tenders. The pier is a quarter mile long, so allow a few minutes' walk or ride the trolley. Fort Frederik and town sit at the pier head.

Cash & Currency

This is the United States: dollars, US postage, and most US phone plans work as at home. Cards are taken everywhere. No passport needed on a closed-loop cruise, but bring one anyway.

Getting Around

Taxis are not metered. Rates are set per person and posted inside the cab — agree the total before you ride. And note: they drive on the LEFT here.

GOOD

Frederiksted on Foot

Best for: Short stops, easy days, minimal logistics

- ✓ Fort Frederik at the head of the pier
- ✓ Five blocks of Victorian streets and galleries
- ✓ Calm sand a five-minute walk north

Low effort, high reward.

BETTER

Cross to Christiansted

Best for: History lovers, shoppers, walkers

- ✓ A yellow Danish fort on the harbor
- ✓ Arcaded streets built for shade
- ✓ The island's real shopping and lunch

Arrange your return ride before you go.

BEST

Buck Island

Best for: Snorkelers, families, first timers

- ✓ A reef protected since 1961
- ✓ A marked underwater snorkel trail
- ✓ Sand at the far end that ranks with the best

Timing management required. Plan around all aboard.

Top Experiences to Consider

GOOD

Frederiksted

Five blocks, a red fort, a handful of galleries and beach bars, and calm water a few minutes north of the gangway. Two or three good hours — but be honest with yourself, it will not fill a nine-hour call, so plan a second act.

BETTER

Christiansted

Forty minutes across the island, and the reason most people go. Fort Christiansvaern in Danish mustard yellow, arcaded sidewalks built for shade, a harbor boardwalk, and the island's best shopping and lunch.

BEST

Buck Island Reef

The island's signature. Boats run from Christiansted to the reef President Kennedy protected in 1961 for what his proclamation called one of the finest marine gardens in the Caribbean. Book it through the ship — the timing leaves no margin.

Where Staff & Travelers Recommend

The Island Tour

Taxis sell a regulated three-hour island tour priced by the car, not the head. The efficient way to see the sugar works at Estate Whim, the Cruzan distillery and the hills without solving the logistics yourself.

The Beach by the Pier

Frederiksted's own sand starts a five-minute walk north of the gangway. Calm, shallow, and the easiest good beach in any Virgin Islands port.



The pier into Frederiksted, Fort Frederik at its head



Christiansted's Danish colonial arcades

Key Considerations

The geography forces one choice, so make it before you walk off. Frederiksted sits at the far west end; Christiansted, Buck Island and Point Udall are all east, from forty minutes to two hours away. A town-and-beach day keeps everything within fifteen minutes of the ship. A Christiansted day spends an hour and a half in a car. Both are good days. Doing both properly is not possible.

Taxis here are regulated but not metered. The Taxicab Commission sets the rates per person, and the tariff is posted inside every cab — look at it, and agree the total before you ride. The three-hour island tour is the exception, priced by the car for up to four. Drivers are also your best guides, so it is worth booking one for the day rather than hailing twice.

One warning worth having early. The pilings under your ship are one of the Caribbean's celebrated shore dives — seahorses, frogfish and all — and diving, snorkeling and swimming around the pier are closed whenever a ship is docked. Which is your day, by definition. The dive boats still leave from that same pier for other sites, so book a boat dive and you lose nothing.



Fort Frederik's red walls, minutes from the gangway



The west-coast sand just north of Frederiksted



Salt River Bay, where a Columbus expedition came ashore in 1493

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Port Orientation

FROM THE PORT (FREDERIKSTED)

● Fort Frederik & the old town	At the pier head
● Frederiksted Beach	Five-minute walk north
~ 5–10 min by taxi	
● Rainbow Beach	The lively west-end sand
● Estate Whim Museum	Sugar works; opens on ship days
~ 15 min by taxi	
● Cruzan Rum Distillery	Tours must be booked ahead
~ 40 min by taxi	
● Christiansted & the fort	The Danish town
● Buck Island Reef	Boats leave from Christiansted
~ 25 min beyond Christiansted	
● Point Udall	The far eastern tip

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

St. Croix is the Virgin Island that never got crowded: two Danish towns, a national-monument reef, and room to breathe.

Walk Frederiksted, cross to Christiansted, or get out to Buck Island. Any one of the three makes a good day. All three does not.

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

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Did You Know?

Freedom City. On 3 July 1848 thousands of enslaved Crucians massed at the fort you can see from the pier and forced the Danish governor-general to declare emancipation on the spot — fifteen years before the Emancipation Proclamation. Frederiksted has been Freedom City ever since.

The Fireburn. Those Victorian storefronts are younger than they look. A labor uprising in October 1878, led by four women St. Croix still calls the Queens, burned much of the town. What you walk past off the pier is the rebuild.

Keep Left. The U.S. Virgin Islands is the only place under the American flag that drives on the left — in left-hand-drive American cars. It surprises everyone.

Hamilton's Boyhood Island. Alexander Hamilton clerked on the Christiansted waterfront as a teenager. He was born on Nevis, not here — a detail most tour patter gets wrong.

Shawshank. The beach where Andy and Red reunite at the end of the film is not in Mexico. It is Sandy Point, ten minutes south of the pier — now a wildlife refuge with tightly limited access.