



www.villasvirgingorda.com

Tel: (284) 540-8002

Welcome to Virgin Gorda!

Congratulations! You are among the chosen few who have stumbled upon Nature's Little Secret, 8 square miles of paradise!

Villas Virgin Gorda has been operating on Virgin Gorda for over 14 years. We specialize in the property management of the beautiful homes in our care and in vacation rentals of the properties. We are extremely honored that you have chosen us to provide you with a home during your holiday on Virgin Gorda and we are committed to making sure you are comfortable during your stay.

We love everything about Virgin Gorda! We love sailing up to the island and the vista of the mountains rising out of the sea. Of course, the beaches, sailing, and snorkeling are amazing and The Baths are a must visit, but we have also enjoyed exploring the old Copper Mine ruins, hiking the peaks, and lingering over a painkiller at Hog Heaven while enjoying the views of the boats in the North Sound. The local population is made up of amazingly generous and happy people, we challenge you not to make a friend for life on VG! Also take time to enjoy the natural beauty of the island: note the hummingbirds flitting from flower to flower, the lizards running up a wall or tree, the goats hopping on the boulders by the beach, and the chickens leading their chicks through the trees along the shore or just down the main road. Stargazing is another favorite pastime with skies dark enough to see thousands of celestial bodies, shooting stars, and the occasional passing satellite.

While you are on the island, Christi will be here to help you settle in and attend to any issues that may arise. During your stay, she is only a phone call or email away. We have a dedicated staff who you may meet as they come to take care of your housekeeping needs or address any concerns with maintenance of the property. Our goal is to make sure you have everything you need to have a wonderful stay on Virgin Gorda and then to get out of your way and let you have fun and relax!

Sincerely,

Christi, Michelle, Karl, and Loren

Villa Requests

Check-in time is 3:00pm and check-out is 10:00am Whenever possible, Villas Virgin Gorda will accommodate early arrivals and late departures. In the event the property you have rented has a same-day or next-day turnover, the checkout time will be enforced.

Electricity – This is a precious (read expensive) resource, produced in Tortola by diesel generators and subject at times to interruption. We would appreciate your help in conserving when you can, e.g., please turn off fans and AC when rooms are not occupied.

If the power does go out, please be patient as it is usually restored within a brief amount of time. Each villa is equipped with flashlights/lanterns/candles.

Water – Water is also a precious resource on the island. All water used comes from the sky and is stored in large cistern under the villas. Please conserve water when you can for subsequent guests, i.e., short showers are better than long ones. Condense laundry and reuse towels.

While the water is potable, we recommend you use bottled water for drinking & cooking.

Maid Service – Villas Virgin Gorda does not charge a service fee like most other property management companies. If you are happy with our housekeeping staff's service, please feel free to leave a gratuity.

Food/Trash – In order to discourage uninvited animals/insects from visiting, please do not leave edibles out overnight. Place any opened containers/food items in the refrigerator, freezer, or in a tightly sealed container. Place dirty dishes in the dishwasher or clean and put away in cabinets.

All trash is managed locally on the island. Please bag all trash (close bags tightly) and deposit in the dumpsters along the roadside. Housekeeping staff will also remove trash during their regular villa visits.

Towels – PLEASE RE-USE TOWELS - One person can make a difference. We invite you to help us conserve water and energy usage by using our towels more than once. To participate in this program, just hang your towels up. Towels left on the floor will be replenished. Thank you for your help!

Please notify Villas Virgin Gorda staff should you notice any maintenance issues that need attention.

Villas Virgin Gorda has crash pads for bouldering, cribs/pack-n-play and air mattresses available for rental. Contact for details & pricing.

Preferred Vendors

Mahogany Car Rentals – Our preferred car rental agency. They will happily greet you at the airport or ferry dock when you arrive or arrange a drop off to your villa. Tel: (284) 495-5469

www.mahoganycarrentalsbvi.com

Mahogany Taxi Services – Call for quick taxi services, ask for Shon Tel: (284) 540-4198 or (284) 341-5750

Bradley Boats/B & B Charters - Private Charters, Boat Rentals & Excursion Trips located in Leverick Bay
Tel: (284) 541-9341, (284) 495-7525 www.virgingordapowerboatrentals.com

BVI Snuba – Love to snorkel but do not want to wear all that dive equipment or are wondering if you would like it. Come see the underwater world with SNUBA first. You get to go to a depth of 20ft and see all the wonderful marine life. Ages 8 and up. Tel: (284) 341-0660 www.bvisnuba.com

Dive BVI – Scuba & Snorkeling trips and Day Trips & Excursions to other islands. Located at the Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbor & Leverick Bay. Locations rent snorkel gear and also sell merchandise in the boutique. Tel: 1-800-848-7078 or (284) 495- 5513 www.divebvi.com

Double D Charters - Day Sail & Power Boat Charters located at the Virgin Gorda Yacht Harbor. Tel: (284) 499-2479 www.doubledbvi.com

Gumption's Sea it Clear Tours – Private Necker Island Tours, Glass Bottom Boat excursions.

<http://www.seaitcleartours.com>

Photography – Whether it's a family vacation, engagement or your future Christmas card, **ishoot BVI** can help record your memories for years to come! www.ishootbvi.com

The Spa at Leverick Bay – Their qualified massage therapist can come right to your villa for your own private massage services or visit the Leverick Bay location for a full day of pampering. Tel: (284) 346-1235 www.thebvispa.com

A Touch of the Caribbean Day Spa - Experienced therapist to take care of all your spa needs in your villa or store location. Massage, waxing, manicures, pedicures, wraps and much more....

www.atochofthecaribbean.com

Bad Dog Charters – The ultimate in big game fishing. 50ft Custom Sport Fishing Boat available for ½ day or full day charters. Tel: (284) 346-9080 baddogfishingcharters@gmail.com

Chef Services

Chef Margaret: (284) 542-3295 margaretpaul78@yahoo.com

Local chef specializing in local cuisine and private villa catering services.

Chef Tucker (284) 346-0449 or (284) 344-0499 www.bvichef.com

Chef Shelford Tucker is the founder of "Outta Here" food and catering services. Providing the finest in event catering, from parties to weddings and even private home kitchens.

Chef Puck: (284) 545-0058 Local chef specializing in local cuisine and private villa catering

Grocery Stores & Restaurants

Groceries

Rosy's Supermarket – Rhymer Rd. Good selection of groceries, wine, beer and spirits. Open from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM except Saturday when they stay open until 8:30 PM and Sunday when they close at 6:00 PM.

Buck's Grocery and Wholesale – Tower Rd. Please note if you are a returning visitor, Buck's Supermarket in the Yacht Harbor is closed. It is now located in the same building as Buck's Wholesale (grocery downstairs, wholesale upstairs). Good selection of groceries, wine and spirits. Open Mon – Fri 7:30 AM to 7:00 PM and Sat – Sun 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Rite Way - Tower Rd. Newest of our stores and well stocked with a variety of groceries, wine, & spirits.

Supa Valu – Crabbe Hill Rd. Good selection of meats and some gourmet items. Closed Sunday.

Chef's Pantry -Leverick Bay - Good gourmet selections and fresh deli products

*****Grocery Services: Just send your list to Villas Virgin Gorda and have all you items stocked on arrival. A 20% Fee of the cost of groceries is applied for the service.**

Restaurants -Below is a list of recommended restaurants on the island.

Coco Maya – Tower Rd. – Specializes in tapas with an Asian and Latin flare. Upscale casual environment with a full service bar, beach access with sitting areas and weekend DJ. Closed on Sunday, reservations recommended. Tel: (284) 495-6344

Chez Bamboo/Bath & Turtle – Across from the Yacht Harbor – Eclectic mix of foods from the owner's travels. Elegant but casual atmosphere with full service bar. Lunch Tue – Fri 11:30 AM – 3 PM, Dinner 4 PM – 10 PM nightly. Dinner reservations recommended. Tel: (284) 495-5752

Pirates & Mermaids – From the people who brought you Mermaids Dockside. Delicious local food, burgers, wraps and more. Multiple TV's and AC inside. Open for lunch & dinner

Hog Heaven – Gorda Peak – BBQ with a view! Sitting high up on Gorda Peak above Leverick Bay, the views here of the North Sound are the best on the island. Full bar. Casual dining. Open daily at 9:30 AM.

Top of the Baths – At the entrance to The Baths park area – Asian/Island fusion in a relaxed atmosphere. Excellent views, good food and a public swimming pool. Open 8 AM – 10 PM Mon – Sat and 8 AM to 6 PM on Sun. Tel: (284) 495-5497

Dixie's – Across from the Yacht Harbor – Great lunch spot for local cuisine, fried chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. Breakfast & Lunch only

The Village Café – Located at Olde Yard Village/Virgin Gorda Village. Local specialties and standards. Pool and lounge seating. 11am -9pm (Closed Monday's)

The Restaurant at Leverick Bay - Two options at one location. Upscale on the second story and casual dishes under the covered verandah or pool side. Join the Jumbie party on Friday's for live music and dancing. Tel: (284) 495-7421

Rada's Restaurant & Bar – North Sound - Local food with Indian flair. Roti's, Curries and more. Open for lunch and dinner

Getting Around

To take full advantage of all the sites the island has to offer, we recommend getting a rental car. Our preferred vendor is Mahogany Car Rentals. Once you have a car, learning to drive on our roads is fairly easy but here are a few tips.

1. We're not in the states anymore Toto! Here we drive on the left side of the road.
2. There are no stop lights on Virgin Gorda, just one lonely round-about and plenty of stop signs & speed bumps in Spanish Town.
3. Buckle that seat belt! While the police presence is minimal, not wearing your seat belt will get you pulled over if you are spotted.
4. There are not many roads to worry about once you begin driving. Spanish Town is a series of blocks with roads running between Lee Road and Crabbe Hill Rd. The Baths are off Tower Road and the Copper Mine Ruins are off of Coppermine Rd. N. Sound Rd. runs north from Spanish Town and is the main road "over the hill". Points of Interest are well marked with blue and white signs. Your rental car agent should provide you with a map.
5. Take it easy going "over the hill" from Spanish Town to Gun Creek. These are mountain roads with steep drop offs. Also watch out for the wild life as you never know when you will see a chicken, goat, dog or cow in the road. Most accidents on Virgin Gorda are single car accidents so take it easy and enjoy the view.
6. Watch the locals. Often, the car ahead of you may stop to speak with someone walking along the road or to pick them up or drop them off. Sometimes they pull off, sometimes they just stop. When it is safe, you can pass. If someone wishes to pass you, most of the time they will give you a double honk.
7. Gas stations are located at both ends of Spanish Town on Tower Rd. and Little Rd.



About Virgin Gorda

Virgin Gorda is an island in the archipelago of the Virgin Islands which includes the British Virgin Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix), and the Spanish Virgin Islands (Puerto Rico, Culebra, and Vieques). The BVI consists of over 50 islands and cays, of which about 15 are inhabited. Virgin Gorda is the third largest of the British Virgin Islands (behind Tortola and Anegada) and the second most populous with around 4,000 residents.

The Virgin Islands were originally settled by the Arawak from South America sometime around 100 BC. Later came the Caribs from the Lesser Antilles and then the Europeans. Christopher Columbus was the first European to visit the islands in 1493 and popular lore says he named the island “The Fat Virgin” because the island’s profile on the horizon looks like a fat woman lying on her side. The Spanish initially claimed the islands, followed by Dutch settlement, and eventually they were captured by the British. In the colonial days, the islands were also a favorite haunt of pirates who used the islands close proximity to one another and numerous bays to hide out. Pay close attention to the names of the smaller cays and many bays and you may make connections to those scoundrels of the past!

From Virgin Gorda, looking east, the passage you see between Virgin Gorda and Tortola is called the Sir Francis Drake Channel. Sir Francis Drake, Britain’s best known “sea dog”, spent a large part of his life in the Caribbean plaguing the Spanish with numerous raids, resulting in the Spanish king placing a huge bounty on his head and the Spanish nickname “El Draque” or the dragon. His final voyage to the Caribbean in 1595 found him in the Virgin Islands where he anchored his fleet before sailing on to Puerto Rico and his doomed attack on the Puerto Rican fort of El Morro.

In 1837, the British built a Copper Mine on the SW point of the island. The mine was abandoned and closed in 1862 and never operated again. Today, the Copper Mine is a national park and we highly recommend taking a few hours to explore the area. There is a new visitor’s center opened in early 2017 along with fascinating remains of the old mine itself including the original stack, the engine house, and the main building. It also offers impressive views of Handsome Bay and Taylors Bay and the airport along with a view of most of the south side of the island and the Atlantic. Since it is a national park, you cannot remove anything from the site, but geology fans will be excited to see various rock specimens including carbonate of copper, malachite, quartz, and molybdenite. Be sure to wear sunscreen and take water.

Today, Virgin Gorda is our perfect little paradise with many different activities to pursue.

Points of Interest

Beaches

The Baths are the most popular tourist attraction on the island and they are bordered by **Devil's bay**, **Spring Bay**, and **Little Trunk Bay** which have excellent beaches. Devil's Bay is consistently ranked among the top beaches in the world! If you enter The Baths from the park entrance, there is a \$3.00 charge per person. From the welcome booth, you'll walk past a few shops, an art gallery and a restaurant, Top of the Baths. The path is fairly easy to traverse but can be slippery after the rain. It is a shaded walk and you will pass many boulders similar to the ones the Baths are famous for.



Once you reach the beach, the entrance to The Baths is to the left; lockers, restrooms and a beach bar are located to your right. Begin your journey through The Baths by squeezing through 2 boulders. The path is marked well and there are handrails and steps to help you along the way. Be sure to pause and take a dip at the Cathedral, the most photographed spots in The Baths (my picture of it is below). Your journey ends at Devil's Bay where you can either relax in the sand before returning the way you came through the Baths or you can snorkel back to the beach at the entrance. If you chose to snorkel, keep the boulders to your right after you make it to open water. Snorkeling here you will see traditional reef fish pecking at coral growing on the boulders along with some larger fish as well. Once you return to the beach at The Baths, walk north to get to Spring Bay. Spring Bay is ringed with boulders and is usually a calm and quiet bay, perfect for a dip or some more snorkeling. We recommend visiting The Baths in the afternoon after the cruise ship tourists have departed for the day. The park is open until 5:00 PM.



Savannah Bay may be the most perfect beach on the island! To get to Savannah Bay, take the N. Sound Rd. out of Spanish Town. You'll travel up and over one peak. After driving down from the peak, you will see a sandy road turning left off N. Sound Rd. across from the parking for Handsome Bay (if you reach the fork in the road to Nail Bay, you've gone too far). Drive down the access road to the parking area. Beware of the trees in the parking area and do not go in the rain as the trees are toxic and water dripping from them will cause burns. The offending trees are clearly marked and are only a concern if it is raining. You are now at Savannah Bay which has the longest stretch of uninterrupted beach on the island. The sand is powdery and white. The water is typically calm and brilliant blue. The snorkeling here is excellent when the water is calm. There are multiple reef patches right off shore so expect to see reef fish such as Parrot Fish, Blue Tang, Yellowtail Snapper, Stingrays and many more.



Nail Bay is another great snorkeling spot, but access here is a little more difficult as the water right off shore is rocky. Finding a good spot to enter the water and carefully crawling out past the rocks is well worth it though. Similar to Savannah Bay, there is a great reef right off shore and a booming population of fish. Take the road to the left at the N. Sound Rd. fork after Savannah Bay and follow the road around until you reach the Club House on the left. Park here and follow the path down to the beach.

Activities at sea

Sailing is one of the most popular activities in Virgin Gorda and there is no shortage of boats for hire to take you out for an exciting day on the water and a chance to visit some of the other islands like Cooper Island, Norman Island, Peter Island, and Anegada. Whether you are interested in fishing, snorkeling, diving, or just sailing/island hopping, there are many companies who offer charter services. Flip to the end of this guide to see a list of preferred vendors.

Hiking

The tallest peak on Virgin Gorda is Gorda Peak with an elevation of 1,370 ft. (higher than Mt. Vesuvius). Gorda Peak is in the Gorda Peak National Park and is accessed from the N. Sound Rd. The land for the park was donated by Laurance Rockefeller in 1974 and is one of the last remaining examples of Caribbean dry forest in the region. As you follow the trail, you will see examples of endangered plant species such as the Calptranthese thomasiana and Zanthonylum thomasiana. You may also see the world's smallest lizard if you pay close attention, the Virgin Gorda gecko. Upon reaching the viewing platform at the peak, you will have access to incredible views of the North Sound. On a clear day, Anegada is also visible to the NE. The hike is moderate and shaded.

The North Sound

The North Sound is one of the great harbors of the world! It is bordered by Virgin Gorda, Mosquito Island, Prickly Pear Island, and Eustatia Island with Necker Island just behind Eustatia to the North. It is the home of Bitter End Yacht Club and Saba Rock. This is also where Sir Francis Drake anchored his fleet in 1595 and used the hill behind Bitter End to practice his attack on El Morro. Since he died on the voyage off the coast of Panama after his failed attempt at El Morro, it may be the last place he stepped foot on land. With the protection of the islands ringing the sound, this is a world renowned spot for water sports such as sailing, paddle boarding, and wind surfing (did you see President Obama on YouTube windsurfing in the sound?). With over 130 moorings, the North Sound is a perfect spot for boat watching and has hosted nearly all the 200+ mega yachts in the world.

To reach the North Sound, follow the N. Sound Rd. north from Spanish Town until it dead ends at the Gun Creek ferry dock. Parking is limited and often this is a very crowded lot, you may have to park in the dirt lot further from the ferry dock or along the road.



Bouldering

Another sport getting a lot of attention on Virgin Gorda is bouldering. Bouldering is similar to rock climbing except athletes who boulder climb do not use ropes or a harness. The basic equipment is climbing shoes, chalk for your hands, and a bouldering mat or crash pad. Villas Virgin Gorda has several crash pads for rent, please contact Christi to inquire about renting them.

Virgin Gorda is covered in large boulders just begging to be climbed. The large boulders near the Baths are ideal for bouldering, but keep your eyes open because boulders are everywhere. We have found them on hikes and even the backyards of some of our properties. Please be aware of the environment as you make your way to boulders that are off the beaten path and try not to trample the vegetation and also be aware not to trespass in the pursuit of that perfect climb.



Banking

We recommend dealing in cash whenever possible to avoid International Banking fees and the potential of identity theft. Many smaller vendors also only take cash. If you did not notify your bank or place a travel alert on your account before arriving, please consider doing so as soon as you arrive to avoid any interruptions in your service. There is one ATM machine located near the VG Yacht Harbor. The ATM will charge withdrawal fees, but they are small and will not add up as much as repeated fees from your bank while using your cards. The local currency is the US dollar.

Emergencies

US Embassy, Consular Section: (246) 431-0225 (Barbados), (268) 463-6531 (Antigua)

British Governor's Office: (284) 494-2345 or (284) 494-2370 (Tortola)

Pharmacy

Medicure Ltd. near the police station in Spanish Town (284) 495-5479

Island Drug Centre across the street from the Yacht Harbor (284) 495-5449.

Iris O'Neil Virgin Gorda Clinic – The Valley, Hours: 7am – 10pm Tel: (284) 852-7700 or (284) 541-1662/3

There are several clinics on Virgin Gorda and the closest hospital is Peebles Hospital in Road Town on Tortola

For all emergencies dial 999 or 911

Airlines/Transportation

Cape Air: Flights from San Juan, PR, St. Thomas & Tortola to Virgin Gorda www.capeair.com

Air Sunshine: Flights from San Juan, PR, St. Thomas & Tortola to Virgin Gorda www.air sunshine.com

Speedy's Ferry

Service Between: Road Town, Tortola and Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda

Service Between: Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda

Website: www.bviferries.com

Smith's Ferry

Service Between: Road Town, Tortola and Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda

Service Between: Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda and Anegada

Website: www.bviferryservices.com

The following are boat charter companies that provide service in both the USVI and the British Virgin Islands:

Dolphin Water Taxi

Website: www.dolphinshuttle.com

Email: info@dolphinshuttle.com

Phone: 1-340 774-2628

Dohm's Water Taxi

Website: www.watertaxi-vi.com

Email: vitaxi@viaccess.net

Phone: 1-340-775-6501

Bradley Power Boats

Website: www.virgingordapowerboatrentals.com

Email: bradleypowerboats@hotmail.com

Phone: 1-284-345-3941