

AMERICAN SAILING

Join us for a sailing adventure on the British Virgin Islands Flotilla

November 30 - Dec. 10, 2023

Discover why the “Christmas Winds” make December in the British Virgin Islands a sailing mecca! There is no better opportunity than our annual winter flotilla to expand your sailing skills, navigate to idyllic shores, and of course, experience the epitome of vacation perfection. The charm of the BVI’s lies in discovering the unique character of each pristine island in this volcanic archipelago.



The stunning 55+ islands and cays that comprise the British Virgin Islands have two fantastic assets – accessibility and virgin beauty. Known for years as a “sailor’s paradise,” cruising sailors were among the first to realize this truly was one of “nature’s little secrets.”

Tortola is the largest island and seat of government in this mountainous archipelago of gem-like isles. Virgin Gorda, Ginger, Cooper, Salt, Peter, and Norman Islands lie to Tortola’s south, with Jost Van Dyke lying to its north. Dozens of smaller islands, some with resorts and some unpopulated, lie in between. Anegada, the only coral atoll in this chain of islands, is to the northwest. The BVIs are a picture of contrasts. Some anchorages are sandy coves with swaying palms, while others are tucked in between spiraling sheer rock faces that plunge to the ocean.

The vegetation can be dramatically different from island to island due to rainfall, soil, and sun. Lusher areas support palms and tropical fruit trees like banana, mango and key lime, along with flowering hibiscus and bougainvillea. A short hike up a hill may reveal varieties of cactus, wild tamarind and fragrant frangipani. The surrounding waters of many islands are deep shades of liquid blue, but on Anegada, the waters take on an ethereal aquamarine color.



Tentative Itinerary*

Thursday – Arrive in Tortola and taxi to the boat. Breathe deeply, smell the salty air, and feel the sun. Acclimate yourself to your new tropical environment, help provision the boat, complete the vessel check out, and attend the chart briefing. Overnight on the boat.

Friday – Depart the dock and sail to Soper’s Hole on Frenchman’s Cay, Tortola. Frenchman’s Cay is connected to Tortola by a small bridge under which clear water flows constantly, creating a fantastic marina environment. Lined with quaint shops, a eclectic restaurants and a kaleidoscope of colors, Soper’s Hole is the Caribbean dream.

Saturday - Sail to Jost Van Dyke where the famous Foxy’s Tamarind Bar is located and has been serving food and strong rum drinks to sailors and visitors since 1966. Take a taxi or dinghy to the Soggy Dollar Bar at White Bay for an infamous pain killer.

Sunday - Depart early for Cooper Island. Kayak, SUP, swim, snorkel, scuba, or relax.

Monday - Depart for The Baths, known for its maze of gigantic boulders that create otherworldly pools and grottoes for exploring. Continue on to the North Sound of Virgin Gorda for an overnight at Leverick Bay.

Tuesday - Sail to Anegada for a group lobster dinner and overnight stay.

Wednesday - Rent scooters or cars to explore the island and its stunning north side beaches keeping an eye out for pink flamingos and the iguana sanctuary along the way.

Thursday - Sail to Trellis Bay for the infamous Full Moon Beach Party!

Friday - Sail to Norman Island. Explore the caves, hike to the summit of the island for 360o views, visit the famous Willy-T’s floating bar & restaurant, snorkel or enjoy the beach.

Saturday – Sail back to the charter base in Road Town, Tortola.

Sunday - Return home

*Itinerary is subject to change

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This diverse and fascinating environment makes this group of islands appealing to divers, swimmers, boaters, hikers and those that just want to relax in a soft rope hammock overlooking a white sand beach.



The Boats: We have already reserved several boats for this island-hopping odyssey. Both mono-hulls and catamarans are available. Reservations are available for singles or couples. If you are a qualified skipper you may put your own group together and run your own boat.

The Price: The price per person will range from \$2,195 to \$3,395 depending on which vessel you choose, and based on double occupancy on the boat. For singles that prefer not to share a cabin, special pricing will be available. Contact the flotilla leader, Captain Lucy Newman, for more information. (see Contact Information below). ASA certifications will be available (ASA 103, 104, & 114). The cost is \$250 per certification plus the cost of the textbook and shipping.



What's included? Charter 10 nights aboard and flotilla fees, goodie bag, group dinner, "Easy on the Cook" provisioning (7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and snacks aboard), water, fuel, mooring fees, dinghy with motor, linens, National Parks fees, cruising permits, VISAR fees, gratuity for the charter base staff, and tons of fun!

What's not included? Airfare, optional hotel nights before or after the flotilla, dining ashore (except group dinner), alcoholic beverages, airport / charter base taxi transfers, BVI departure tax, souvenirs, and personal incidentals.

Pricing: A \$500 non-refundable deposit per person is due immediately for priority boat and cabin preference. Then, 50% of the balance is due by August 1, 2023. The remaining balance is due no later than October 1, 2023. Credit cards, checks and cash are all acceptable forms of payment. There is a 5 % additional charge for credit card payments.



Contact Information: The ASA BVI Flotilla leader is Capt. Lucy Newman. For more information, she can be contacted by phone at 281-334-4606 or by email lucy@southcoastsailing.com.

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