



US Virgin Islands

POP 106,400 / 📶 340

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Best Places to Eat

- Balter (p838)
- Daylight Bakery & Diamond Barrel (p823)
- Harvey's (p838)
- Pie Whole (p824)

Best Places to Sleep

- Northside Valley (p844)
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- St John Inn (p830)
- Arawak Bay Inn at Salt River (p842)
- Green Iguana (p823)

Why Go?

Hmm, which of the US Virgin Islands (USVI) to choose for hammock-strewn beaches, conch fritters and preposterously blue water? Easy: any one, though each differs in personality. St Thomas has more resorts and water sports than you can shake a beach towel at. It's the most developed island, with dizzying cruise-ship traffic. St John cloaks two-thirds of its area in parkland and sublime shores, ripe for hiking and snorkeling. It leads the way in environmental preservation. The largest Virgin, St Croix, pleases divers and drinkers with extraordinary scuba sites and rum factories. It's the furthest island and offers the greatest immersion in local life. Wherever you go, get ready for reggae rhythms, curried meats and mango-sweetened microbrews. These are US territories, but they feel a world away, mon.

When to Go

Mid-Dec–Apr The dry and sunny high season, when everything is open and activities are going full tilt.

Mid-Apr–early May The islands' biggest bash is the whopping, party-hearty St Thomas Carnival.

May & Jun The water is at its calmest and prices are a bit lower.

Mid-Dec–early Jan St Croix throws the cheery Cruzan Christmas Fiesta.

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

0 10 km
0 5 miles

Caribbean
Sea

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (UK)



US VIRGIN ISLANDS (US)



US Virgin Islands Highlights

1 Virgin Islands

National Park

(p829) Hiking to sugar-mill ruins, petroglyphs and isolated beaches rich with marine life.

2 Christiansted

(p835) Sipping microbrews, exploring the cannon-covered fort and chowing traditional West Indian food.

3 St John's

North Shore (p832)

Choosing your favorite strand of sand, from Cinnamon Bay's water sports to Maho Bay's turtle-spotting to Leinster Bay's snorkeling with sharks.

4 Salt River Bay

(p841) Seeing where Columbus landed by day, then kayaking the bioluminescent water by night.

5 Cruzan Rum

Distillery (p844)

Drinking the Virgin Islands' favorite attitude adjuster at its source.

6 Cruz Bay

(p829) Raising a glass to happy-hour St John's fun-loving main town.

7 Cane Bay

(p841) Diving the wall and peering down into the deep.

8 Water Island

(p821) Slowing down on a jaunt to the wee 'fourth Virgin.'