



Out Islands

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Best Places to Eat

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- » Pusser's Marina Cay Restaurant & Bar (p196)
- » Pirates Bight (p193)
- » Deadman's Bay Bar & Grill (p194)

Best Places to Stay

- » Cooper Island Beach Club (p195)
- » Pusser's Marina Cay Hotel (p196)
- » Peter Island Resort (p193)

Why Go?

The BVI's 'out islands' – a Creole expression for remote or undeveloped cays – are a wonderful mix of uninhabited wildlife sanctuaries, luxurious hideaways for the rich and famous, and provisioning stops for sailors. With more than 40 little landmasses to choose from, you're bound to find something to suit your taste. Cooper Island floats affordable cottages, while Peter, Scrub and Guana Islands kick it up a notch with luxury resorts. Norman Island holds buried treasure and a rowdy floating bar. Salt Island lures divers to the wreck of the RMS *Rhone*. Countless other isles – Ginger, the Dogs, Fallen Jerusalem – offer nothing but beaches and blue sea.

Most of the islands are reachable only by charter or private boat. If you don't have your own vessel, try making arrangements with a day-sail operator.

When to Go

Happy hour is always a jolly good time to visit islands such as Norman and Cooper Islands and Marina Cay thanks to their rollicking bars. Divers and snorkelers heading to sites such as the Dogs, Fallen Jerusalem and the Indians at Pelican Island will fare better earlier in the day when the winds are lighter and the crowds are fewer. As elsewhere in the BVI, mid-December through April is the Out Islands' high season, when tour operators and business are going full force. Several places close in September, the low season's peak.

Getting There & Around

While most of the Out Islands are reachable only by dive boat or charter boat, there are three islands you can get to by public ferry from Tortola: Peter Island (from Road Town), and Marina Cay and Scrub Island (both from the docks at Trellis Bay/Beef Island on the east end).

Norman Island

It's all about buried treasure on **Norman Island** (www.normanisland.com). Or so they say. The hype surrounding the BVI's largest uninhabited landmass is almost too much to bear.

Some chroniclers say Norman Island is the prototype for Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, and Stevenson based it on accounts his seafaring uncle told him while in the region.

Documented history does indeed show a rich past on Norman. After the crew of the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de*

Guadalupe mutinied in 1750, they buried several chests of silver coins on the island. Locals from Tortola dug it up. But did they find it all?

Another story centers on the French pirate Norman, who left Anegada and settled here (giving the island his name) with booty he'd ransacked from various ships. Rivals killed Norman, but never found the loot. And so rumors of silver and gold persist.

You'll feel the pirate spirit all over the island. It lingers at **the Caves** off Treasure Point, where Mr Fleming and the fictional Long John Silver allegedly hid their cache. These days the Caves is a mega-popular snorkeling site, with a mob of sailboats, dinghies and swimmers clustered around the entrance. The water inside the caverns is shallow (about 5ft deep) and brimming with silversides, glassy sweepers and little lobsters.

The Bight is adjacent, an anchorage with more than 100 moorings and two fantas-



Out Islands Highlights

- 1 Snorkel or dive at the RMS *Rhone* shipwreck by **Salt Island** (p195)
- 2 Party with scalawags at the pirate ship on **Norman Island** (p192)
- 3 Knock back a 'painkiller' and watch the sun set on **Marina Cay** (p196)
- 4 Kick off your shoes, snorkel the bay and fork into good food at **Cooper Island Beach Club** (p195)
- 5 Hike the trails and beaches of wild **Peter Island** (p193)
- 6 Explore the ancient toppled rocks at **Fallen Jerusalem** (p198)
- 7 Dive where Blackbeard ditched his men with nothing but a saber and a bottle of rum at **Dead Chest Island** (p198)