

The British Virgin Islands

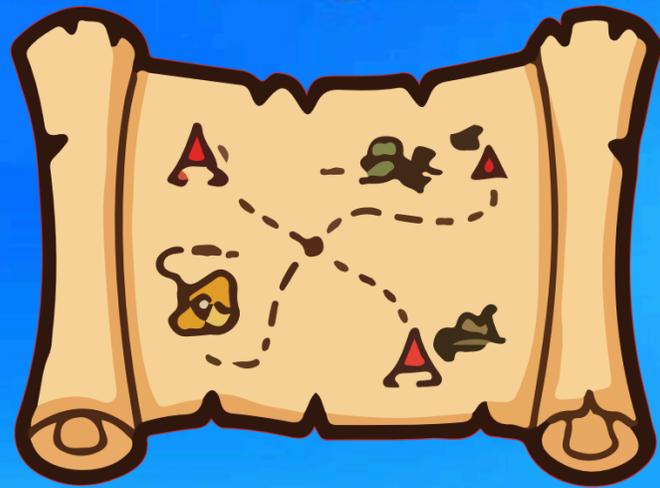
Explore the Pirate Adventure. Your sample itinerary awaits.



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British Virgin Islands



Norman Island

Peter Island

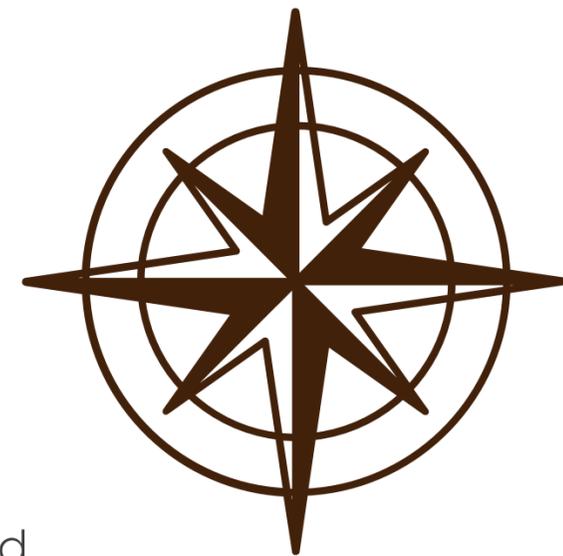
Dead Chest Island

Virgin Gorda

Anegada Island

Jost Van Dyke

Bellamy Cay



As your journey begins, a visit to Norman Island, the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island," is a perfect destination.

Norman Island is the most famous site in the British Virgin Islands when it comes to pirate lore. It is widely believed to have inspired Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel *Treasure Island*. While the story is fictional, the legends tied to this island are rooted in real events and local folklore.

The Legend

In the mid-eighteenth century, a Spanish galleon was either wrecked or attacked. According to local accounts, members of the crew smuggled gold and silver ashore and hid it in the caves of Norman Island. Islanders eventually discovered some of the treasure, and although British authorities demanded its return, not all of it ever resurfaced. Stories have persisted for centuries that more treasure remains hidden in the island's caves and caverns.

Today

Visitors can snorkel through the Treasure Caves, where shafts of sunlight illuminate the water and tropical fish dart through the shadows. It is one of the most popular stops for adventure seekers, not only for the beauty of the caves but also for the chance to imagine what may still lie beneath the surface. The Bight and Pirate's Bight offer calm bays for kayaking and exploring the shoreline. Children can pretend they are pirates searching for gold, while adults can appreciate the blend of history and myth that makes the island so legendary.

Shore Adventure:

Guests wishing to go ashore can hike to Treasure Point, rising above the island with panoramic views of the surrounding cays. The trail evokes the thrill of a pirate's lookout, making the journey as exciting as the destination.

Norman Island



Peter Island



Today

The island offers hidden coves, crystal-clear waters, calm bays, and snorkeling spots like Deadman's Bay. Children can play treasure hunting along the shore, while adults can enjoy the story as part of the island's historical and mysterious allure. Cultural interest can be found in the old plantation ruins scattered across the island, adding historical depth to the adventure.

Shore Adventure:

Guests who wish to stretch their legs can follow the Great Harbour Ridge Trail, which winds through lush hills and coastal landscapes. The trail leads to sweeping views of the harbor, giving the feeling of a pirate scout keeping watch for passing ships.

Ghost Pirate's Gold

Peter Island holds one of the classic "lost treasure" stories of the British Virgin Islands.

The Legend

An old tale tells of a French pirate ship that sank near Peter Island during a storm. Survivors are said to have hidden their treasure on the island, but none ever returned to claim it. In the 1800s, a fisherman reportedly found a gold necklace in a cave, only to be unable to locate it again. Some divers claim to see phantom lights under the water near the area on calm nights, adding a spectral twist to the story.



Dead Chest Island: Blackbeard's Ghost

Dead Chest Island lies just off Peter Island and carries one of the most chilling legends of the British Virgin Islands.

The Legend

Infamous pirate Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard, is said to have marooned fifteen of his mutinous men on this barren island with only a sword and a bottle of rum each. The men either perished or attempted to swim to nearby Peter Island and drowned. This story inspired the line immortalized in *Treasure Island* "Fifteen men on a dead man's chest, yo ho ho and a bottle of rum,"

Today

The island is uninhabited and rugged, offering dramatic scenery for sailing and photography. Some locals and sailors report hearing strange singing or voices around the island at night, keeping the legend alive. Nearby reefs make for excellent snorkeling, and calm waters around Peter Island are perfect for kayaking excursions. Children can imagine themselves as pirates escaping a dangerous fate, while adults can appreciate the story as a glimpse into pirate justice and maritime folklore.

Shore Adventure:

Guests wishing to go ashore can explore Dead Chest Island on a short hike, winding across the rocky terrain to the island's higher points. Along the trail, the story of Blackbeard marooning his men comes to life, making every step feel like a journey into pirate legend. Panoramic views from the island's crest reward hikers with sweeping vistas of the surrounding sea and nearby islands, completing a small but memorable adventure.



Virgin Gorda

The Woman Pirate

Virgin Gorda is famed for its stunning rock formations and tidal pools known as the Baths, but it also holds one of the few female pirate legends of the British Virgin Islands.



The Legend

A pirate woman, sometimes called Lady Ysabel, is said to have led a band of pirates who stashed treasure among the hidden caves and tidal pools of the Baths. She was reputed to be both ruthless and cunning, luring British ships with false beacons before launching attacks. According to legend, her treasure remains hidden deep within the rocks, and some claim her ghost appears as a glowing figure guarding it.

Today

Visitors to the Baths can climb among the boulders and explore tidal pools, imagining themselves on a daring pirate quest. Children enjoy playing among the rocks as treasure hunters, while adults can enjoy the historical significance and natural beauty of the area. Additional cultural sites nearby include the historic Copper Mine ruins and the climbing trails at Gorda Peak National Park.

Shore Adventure:

For those seeking an extra adventure, the Gorda Peak trails offer moderate hiking with breathtaking views of the island and surrounding waters. Along the way, guests can imagine being a pirate lookout surveying the sea for approaching ships.

AHOY!



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Anegada-Buried Treasure

Anegada is unique among the British Virgin Islands, with its flat terrain, salt ponds, and treacherous coral reefs. Its geography made it notorious for shipwrecks carrying gold, rum, and supplies.

The Legend

Pirates are said to have used Anegada's secluded beaches to hide treasure. Local tales tell of a farmer who once discovered old gold coins and jewelry in a dug-out pit but suffered a streak of bad luck soon after. Others claim that strange lights sometimes appear over the island at night, believed to be the spirits of pirates guarding their hidden loot.

Today

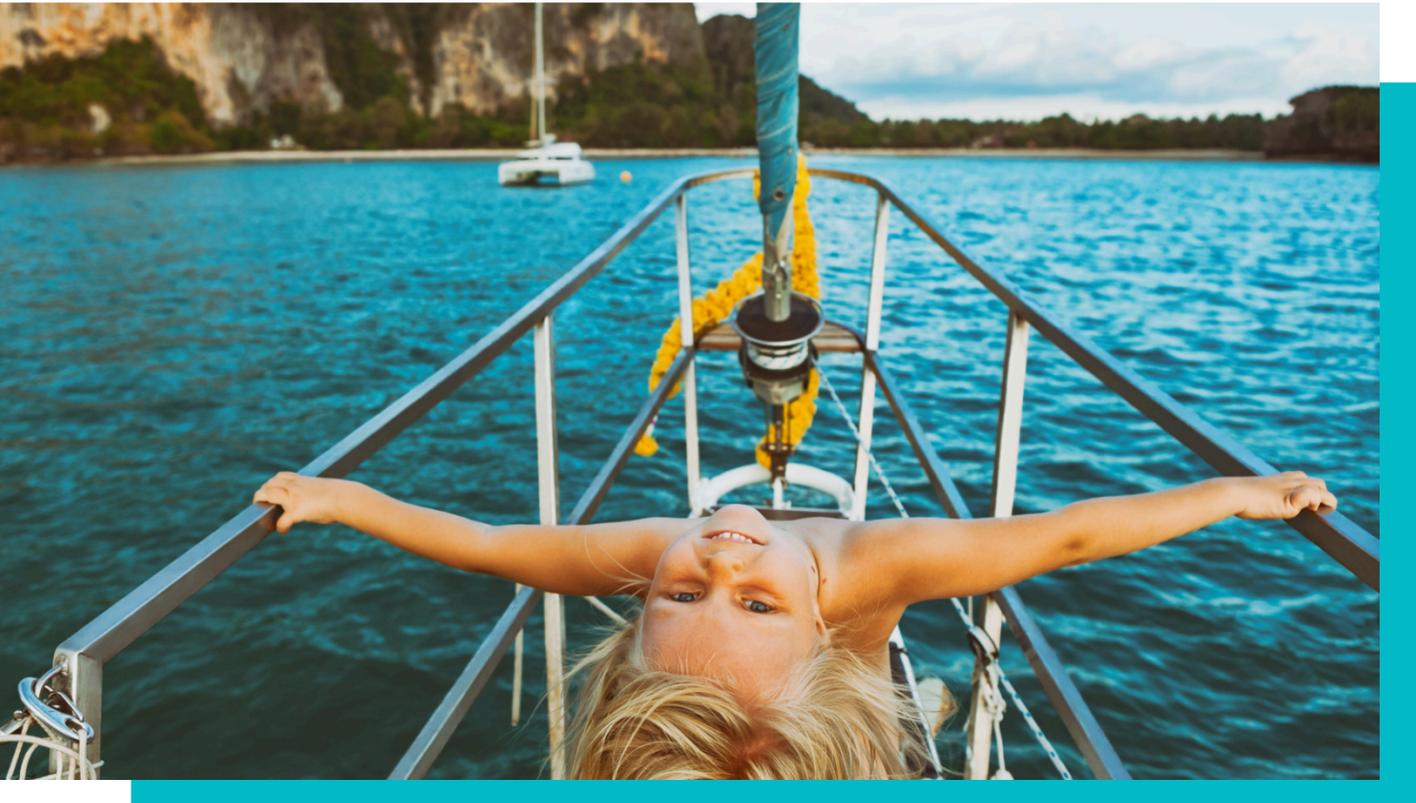
Visitors can explore Anegada's quiet beaches and some of the best snorkeling in the BVI along Loblolly Bay and Cow Wreck Beach, where shallow reefs teem with tropical fish. Flamingo Pond and the salt flats provide cultural and wildlife exploration. Children can pretend they are treasure hunters on the sandy shores, while adults can enjoy the combination of natural beauty, shipwreck hazards, and ghostly lore that gives the island its mysterious charm.

Shore Adventure:

Guests can take a gentle trek along the Loblolly Bay to Cow Wreck Beach trail, walking across salt flats and coastal habitats while spotting flamingos. The flat, scenic trail allows guests to enjoy wildlife and imagine shipwrecked treasure hidden along the way.



Jost Van Dyke: The Privateer's Haven



Jost Van Dyke is named after the Dutch privateer Joost van Dyk, who used the island's secluded bays as a base in the 1600s. Its hidden coves made it ideal for privateers and pirates to stage raids and take refuge.

The Legend

An old tale tells of a French pirate ship that sank near Peter Island during a storm. Stories tell of van Dyk and his crew navigating the narrow channels and shallow bays to evade capture, establishing early settlements while maintaining ties to piracy. The island's geography allowed them to remain hidden from larger naval ships, creating an enduring reputation as a privateer's stronghold.

Today

Visitors can explore quiet beaches, anchor in protected bays like Great Harbour, and snorkel in nearby reefs. Children and adults can enjoy the island's rich history and scenic beauty, connecting legend with real maritime history. Cultural stops include the historic Great Harbour settlement and local art galleries that celebrate BVI traditions.

Shore Adventure:

Guests looking for land-based adventure can hike to Bubbly Pool; a natural tidal pool formed in volcanic rocks. The trail provides sweeping coastal views and the feeling of discovering a hidden pirate hideaway.



Bellamy Cay: Black Sam's Outpost

Bellamy Cay recalls the feared pirate Samuel "Black Sam" Bellamy, remembered as the "Robin Hood of the Seas." He is said to have anchored near this small cay while navigating the Caribbean in the early 1700s.

The Legend

According to local lore, Bellamy's crew hid treasure on or near the cay after storms or raids. Stories tell of sunken chests and mysterious lights in the water, keeping the memory of lost pirate gold alive.



Today

Sailors and charter guests passing Bellamy Cay can imagine pirates slipping in and out of the coves under cover of darkness. Children can turn the small cay into a pretend pirate hideout, while adults can enjoy the sense of history and adventure woven into the calm, sparkling waters.

Shore Adventure:

A short loop around Bellamy Cay allows guests to explore the shoreline, take in panoramic coastal views, and discover hidden nooks that feel like a pirate's secret hideaway. The gentle walk is perfect for families or anyone looking to stretch their legs while keeping the adventure light and fun.



Pirates Treasures and Legnds

The British Virgin Islands offer more than breathtaking scenery. They are alive with stories of pirates, treasure, and legends that captivate both children and adults. Exploring these islands by yacht allows every traveler to step into a living adventure, where imagination meets history and the thrill of the sea is never far away.

