

A woman in a red top and yellow skirt is standing on dark volcanic rocks on a beach. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, and the sky is a deep blue with scattered white clouds. The scene is framed by a white border.

ST. JOHN

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The Baths of Virgin Gorda

Jost Van Dyke & The Soggy Dollar Bar

Picnic Snorkel Sail

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Turtle Tour

Dinner Sail to St. John







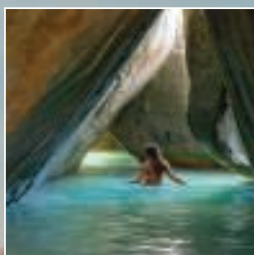
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**WELCOME**  
ST. JOHN



Cinnamon Bay





# WELCOME TO **ST. JOHN**

*By Andrea Milam*

## **ST. JOHN MIGHT BE THE SMALLEST OF THE THREE**

main U.S. Virgin Islands, but with a majority of its nearly 20 square miles protected by Virgin Islands National Park (VINP), it offers the biggest dose of natural beauty. You'll arrive by ferry to the charming, walkable town of Cruz Bay, where quaint shops and unique restaurants abound. Coral Bay, on the island's eastern side, is an even smaller town where the pace is set by the slow-moving goats and donkeys that meander freely along the road. With hiking trails that ascend to sweeping vistas, 18th-century plantation ruins that inspire wonder and reverie, along with gorgeously unspoiled north shore beaches, St. John offers a simplistic, nature-centric and utterly exquisite getaway.



ANNABERG SUGAR PLANTATION RUINS  
VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK



REEF BAY PETROGLYPHS  
& REEF BAY WATERFALL (RIGHT)

## Time Traveling

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**ST. JOHN OFFERS LAYERS OF HISTORY FOR** visitors to discover. Learn about the Tainos, peaceful people who inhabited the island during the pre-Columbian era, and walk among the ruins of 18th and 19th century Danish plantations, where sugarcane was grown and rum was produced. Experience the one-of-a-kind culture that's evolved from the island's storied past.

**ANNABERG PLANTATION:** Formerly one of the island's most productive sugar plantations, this protected historic site gives a true glimpse into the 18th and 19th century Danish plantation era. Visitors can tour the windmill tower, the factory where sugarcane was processed into molasses and rum, slave quarters and cook house.  
[www.nps.gov/viis](http://www.nps.gov/viis)

**CINNAMON BAY HERITAGE CENTER & ARCHAEOLOGY LAB:** This recently renovated building on the water's edge at Cinnamon Bay is a working laboratory

where researchers and interns endeavor to tell the story of the island's human heritage. Schoolchildren come here to trace their heritage, while visitors learn local history via displays of artifacts that are up to 3,000 years old.  
[www.friendsvinip.org](http://www.friendsvinip.org)

**ELAINE I. SPRAUVE LIBRARY:** This charming present-day library has a story to tell. A former 18th-century plantation great house, the building was refurbished in 1980 in traditional Danish style to serve as the island's library. The great house's original owner, William Wood, was laid to rest in a small cemetery on the library property that's open to visitors.  
[www.virginislandspubliclibraries.org](http://www.virginislandspubliclibraries.org)

**CINNAMON BAY PLANTATION RUINS:** After meandering through the sugar factory ruins on the accessible boardwalk, take a walk through the cool forest on the half-mile Cinnamon Bay Nature Loop. On this

trail, easy enough for even the youngest members of your family, you'll see and smell bay rum trees and encounter the crypts of a Danish family.  
[www.nps.gov/viis](http://www.nps.gov/viis)

**L'ESPERANCE TRAIL:** Descending 1,000 feet over two and a half miles, this trail takes hikers past two sets of plantation ruins. Join the guided VINP hike, and not only will you benefit from the ranger's in-depth knowledge, you'll also skip the ascent back up in favor of a boat ride back to Cruz Bay.  
[www.nps.gov/viis](http://www.nps.gov/viis)

**TAXI TOUR:** Relax in the Caribbean breeze as you tour the island on one of St. John's colorful and unique open-air safari taxis. Your driver will stop along the way to point out local plants, wildlife, and historical and cultural sites. Ask for a tour at the taxi stand in Cruz Bay.  
<http://vitaxiassociation.com>



# Earthy Expeditions

IN ONE SPOT AND IN ONE SHOT, YOU CAN DELVE INTO THE MANY BLESSINGS THAT MOTHER NATURE BESTOWED ON ST. JOHN.

Immersing yourself in nature is not hard on St. John thanks to the plethora of natural wonders found in the Virgin Islands National Park (VINP). Here are some of the best ways to experience the island's natural bounty in different parts of the park.

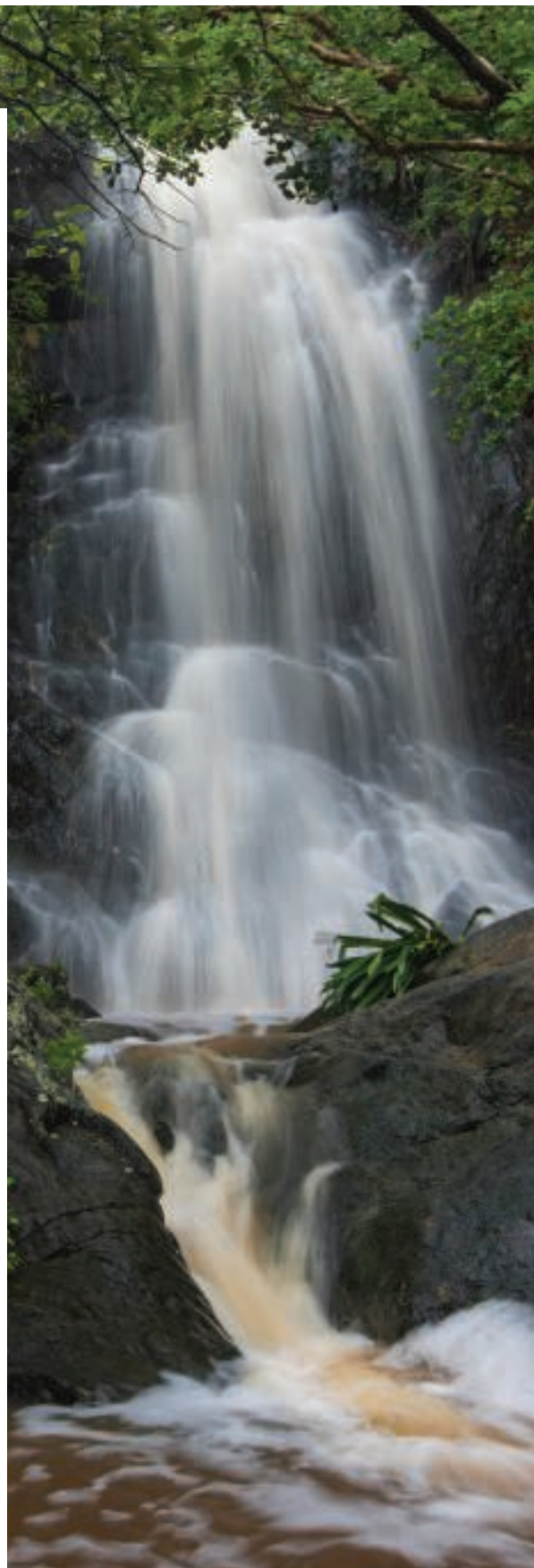
**GO TO THE GLYPHS:** Descend the island's popular Reef Bay trail to see the beguiling petroglyphs, likely carved into rocks by the Tainos who inhabited St. John around 1,000 years ago. Join one of the regularly scheduled VINP guided hikes of this trail, and not only will you pick up plenty of interesting facts from the ranger leading the way, you'll also travel back to Cruz Bay in style — by boat via the island's south shore.  
[www.friendsvinp.org](http://www.friendsvinp.org)

**FOR THE BIRDS:** Explore three unique bird habitats on the guided Francis Bay bird walk, scheduled for Fridays at 7:30 a.m. Self-proclaimed bird nerd/VINP supervisory ranger Laurel Brannick leads the weekly walk, which goes through a forest, by the ocean and around a salt pond.  
[www.nps.gov/viis/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/viis/index.htm)

**SPICE IT UP:** If you're lucky enough to be on St. John during a dry period, make Salt Pond one of your first stops. The salt pond for which this beautiful beach is named lies just behind the sandy shoreline, and when it's dry enough, the pond's water evaporates, leaving countless pounds of salt at its edges. Nothing beats seasoning your dishes with all natural, self-harvested pure island sea salt. [www.nps.gov/viis/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/viis/index.htm)

**LEARN SOMETHING NEW:** Every year from January through April, the Friends of the VINP hosts a series of seminars that introduce visitors to some of the island's most special resources — its knowledgeable residents. Learn about piracy with the VINP's archaeologist, discover medicinal uses for island plants or sample rums from across the Caribbean. Sign up early, as these popular seminars fill up fast.  
[www.friendsvinp.org](http://www.friendsvinp.org)

**GET TRASHED:** If you find yourself enamored by the island's pristine beauty and you want to help keep it that way, join the volunteer group Get Trashed for their next cleanup. About once a month, the group gathers at a beach or shoreline to clean up litter, and they generally reward themselves with an after-party or happy hour gathering. Help beautify St. John while mingling with residents who care about the environment's well-being — it's a winning idea all around.  
[www.facebook.com/gettrashedstj/](https://www.facebook.com/gettrashedstj/)







Cinnamon Bay Ruins



# Fresh-Air FUN

GO BEYOND SUN AND SAND TO  
EXPLORE THE ISLAND'S INLAND CHARMS.

*By Andrea Milam*

**THE STUNNING SEA THAT SURROUNDS ST. JOHN IS AN OBVIOUS DRAW FOR VISITORS,** but there's just as much to do and see on land. Whether you want to get your heart rate up with a competitive tennis match or bring it down a notch with some tranquil beachfront yoga, check out these active outdoor pursuits, island-style.

**HIKING:** Numerous trails crisscross the island. Some lead to sweeping views, others lead to beaches, and many take hikers past historic Danish plantation ruins. Opt for an easy stroll at the accessible Francis Bay trail or challenge yourself with something more strenuous like the Caneel Hill trail, where a viewing platform offers incredible 360-degree island and ocean views. Exploring by foot is one of the best ways to experience St. John's beauty.

**HORSEBACK RIDING:** There's something so peaceful about meandering slowly over island trails by horseback. Carolina Corral offers guided rides on rescue horses that are lovingly and painstakingly cared for by owner Dana Bartlett, whose gentle communication

with the horses — and donkeys, goats, sheep and countless other animals that call the Corral home — will be a highlight of your day. [www.horsesstjohn.com](http://www.horsesstjohn.com)

**TENNIS:** Fire up your competitive spirit with an island tennis match. The Westin St. John, set to reopen in 2019, offers six artificial grass courts, while two public courts in town are a great spot to pick up a match with a local. The Westin offers lessons and the chance to match you up against players at your skill level. [www.westinresortstjohn.com](http://www.westinresortstjohn.com)

**GEOCACHING:** You can hunt for treasure on St. John, but it's not pirate's gold that you'll find. Small trinkets, known as "caches," are hidden in various places across the

island, just waiting to be discovered by newbie and novice geocachers alike. Take a found trinket for yourself and leave a new one behind in its place, or simply add your name and date to the log that accompanies most caches. [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

**YOGA:** St. John has a way of inspiring relaxation. Why not take it further with some soul-centering yoga? This is a popular activity on St. John among both residents and visitors, and the varied classes and venues ensure you'll find your perfect match. From beachfront meditations to the challenging yet calming stand-up paddle board yoga, St. John offers unique yoga experiences. [www.facebook.com/doyogastjohnvi](https://www.facebook.com/doyogastjohnvi)



Kayaking off St. John

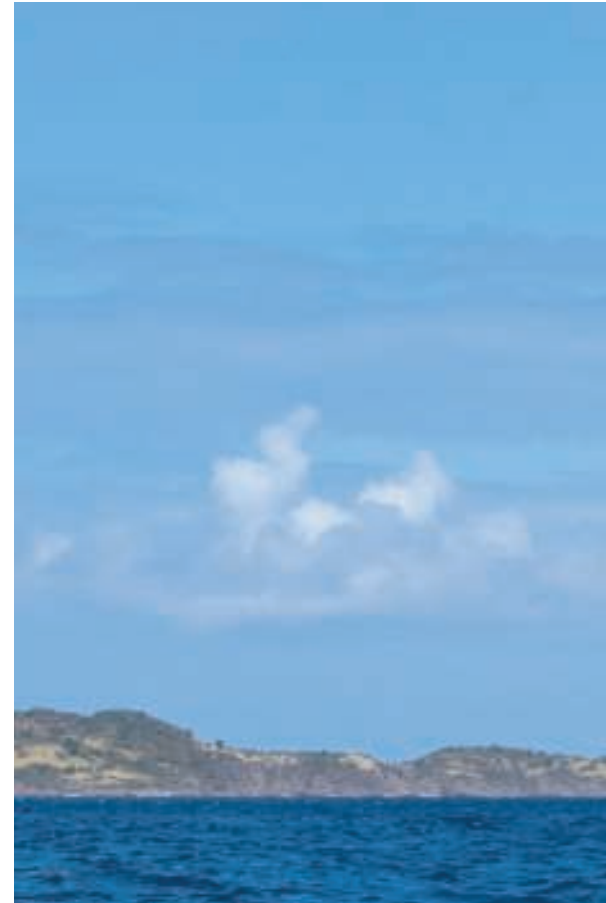




# Waves OF FUN

IF YOU'RE SPLASHING AROUND IN  
ST. JOHN, YOU KNOW YOU'RE  
HAVING A BLAST.

*By Andrea Milam*



## IT'S NO SECRET THAT ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT ST. JOHN IS THE WATERS

surrounding the island. Whether you want to paddle through the silky blue sea under your own power or you prefer to motor through at top speed, the island offers countless ways for you to experience and interact with all the ocean has to offer.

**KAYAKING AND SUP:** There's something so satisfying about paddling through the sea, taking in the coral, turtles, and fish from above. If you're a do-it-yourself kind of person, try out a paddle board rental. Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) is a relatively easy, peaceful activity that doesn't require a lot of strength or skill. Just remember to stand in the middle of the board, plant your feet about shoulder width apart, keep your knees slightly bent and paddle! You may fall off once or twice while you get the hang of it, and that's okay. It happens to the best of us. Arawak Expeditions, conveniently located in Mongoose Junction, will help you load your board onto the soft rack they provide for the top of your rental car, and you'll get

a brief free introduction to the sport. Arawak will also deliver a board to you at your rental home or at the beach, and weekly rentals are available. Virgin Islands Ecotours also offers SUP rentals as part of their day pass packages at Honeymoon Beach or Hansen Bay, and they offer weekly rentals as well.

Another option for exploring on your own is a kayak rental, which Arawak and Virgin Islands Ecotours both offer. If you'd prefer a guided experience, both businesses offer tours. Try out Arawak's half-day trip, which takes you to Honeymoon Beach and Henley Cay, or their full-day trip, which includes a picnic lunch and several routes to choose from. Virgin Islands Ecotours combines their kayak tours with snorkel and hiking stops,

with destinations including the waters off Caneel Bay Resort and Henley Cay. For a truly unforgettable excursion, check out Arawak's multi-day kayak and camping trip. Kayaking between the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and camping on the beach under the stars as part of this five-day trip is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**SNORKELING AND DIVING:** If you're more interested in what's going on below the surface, try your hand at snorkeling or scuba diving. St. John is one of those islands where visitors are lucky enough to be able to snorkel right from the shore, transitioning from pristine white sands to the tranquil underwater world with ease. If it's turtles you seek, head to Maho Bay, where the turtle





population continues to thrive in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Salt Pond Bay, on the island's south shore, is known to be home to a spotted eagle ray who makes appearances from time to time, and you're sure to see an octopus or two when you snorkel the underwater trail at Trunk Bay. If you're really lucky, you might get a visit from the wild dolphins that are known to frequent the waters around St. John. Both Arawak and Virgin Islands Ecotours offer rentals of high-quality snorkel equipment.

And if you're in the mood to plunge in even deeper, try a scuba diving excursion with Cruz Bay Watersports. They've been in the diving business for decades, so whether you're a beginner or you're looking to earn a certification, you know you'll be in good hands. On a good day, visibility goes up to 100 feet, and life on the sea floor is nearly as lush as the island's hills. Sea fans, sponges, hard and soft corals, and all the fish and other marine life that call them home are enchanting to witness firsthand.

#### **SAILING AND PRIVATE CHARTERS:**

Boat days are the best days in the Virgin Islands. Stay local and zip over to Pizza Pi, a sailboat that serves up some of the most delicious pizza around, or head over to the British Virgin Islands for some world-class snorkeling and a day of fun and revelry at White Bay, where the Painkillers flow and the party vibes don't stop. Custom charters, offered by both Cruz Bay Watersports and Calypso Charters, are the best way to plan your perfect day on the water.

Or you can let the experts do the planning for you with a boating tour. Cruz Bay Watersports will take you to White Bay for the day, to Pizza Pi for lunch and a snorkel, or on an enchanting champagne sunset sail. Calypso Charters' 49-foot power cat, *Bad Kitty*, takes visitors on a "Best of the BVI" tour to The Baths in Virgin Gorda, then to a snorkel stop before ending the day at Soggy Dollar Bar on Jost Van Dyke. You can also skip the customs fees and stay local with

their USVI trip, with stops to beaches and reefs only accessible by boat.

**FISHING:** As you might imagine, the Virgin Islands offers a thrilling fishing experience. Treat yourself to a fishing charter and your captain will likely steer you directly to the North Drop, about 20 miles north of St. Thomas, or the South Drop, about eight miles south of the island. In these steep underwater drop-offs, migrating schools of fish congregate, attracting predators like tuna, wahoo and billfish. Game fish like marlin will give you the fight of your life, so bring your stamina and determination. Fishing from shore is a rarity here, and with much of the island protected by the Virgin Islands National Park, you'll want to read up on the park's regulations before attempting to do so.

No matter which option you choose, you can't go wrong with a day on the water in St. John, and it's sure to be the highlight of your vacation.



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ST. JOHN, USVI

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Experience an unforgettable adventure. Whether you choose a half-day kayak tour, stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), fly-fishing, snorkeling or an extended kayaking and camping tour, you'll leave with a better appreciation of the natural wonders of these islands. An easy walk from the Ferry Dock in downtown Cruz Bay. **Mongoose Junction, Cruz Bay; 340-693-8312; www.arawakexp.com**

### BAD KITTY, TROPICAT AND CALYPSO CHARTERS

Discover the "Best of the BVI" tour on *Bad Kitty*. Customize your own trip for up to 8 people on *Tropicat*. Full-day sailing and snorkeling on *Calypso* catamaran to Jost Van Dyke or around St John. Customize a private trip in the USVI or BVI. Explore 12 St. John beaches on your own with full- or half-day dinghy rentals.

**St. John & Red Hook, St. Thomas;**  
**340-777-7245; www.calypsovi.com**

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### VIRGIN ISLANDS ECOTOURS

Kayak & Snorkle Sea Turtle Tours! Join the Virgin Island Ecotours' professional guides for adventures with sea turtles. Or choose a guided snorkle tour to discover the underwater beauty surrounding St. John. Kayak and SUP rentals are also available to explore the beautiful waters of St. John on your own. Daily and weekly rentals. Book online and **SAVE 10%** using Promo Code: **VISIT**. **340-779-2155; www.vi ecotours.com**

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On St. John, where each beach is more beautiful than the last, deciding where to sink your toes into the sand for the day can be an overwhelming task. From glowing white sands to lush undersea reefs to unique cobblestone shorelines, each beach entices with its own special charm.

**BEACH BABIES:** Maho Bay's constant calmness paired with its sandy, gradual entry and crystal-clear waters make it the perfect place to introduce your little ones to the beauty of a day at the beach, St. John-style. Sea grape and maho trees line the shoreline to offer up gorgeously dappled shade, while the turtles that graze on seagrass just off the shore will surely delight the whole family.

**ALL YOURS:** Stretch out on beautiful Denis Bay, and listen: no rowdy beachgoers. It's just you, the sun, the sand and the sea gently rolling to shore. There's a short hike to get to this secluded north shore beach, but your reward for the effort is a day of beachy bliss.

**CLASSIC BEAUTY:** Trunk Bay is popular for a reason. If you can deal with the crowds, spend the day feeling the island's softest sand between your toes and marveling at the impossibly brilliant turquoise waters at the island's most beautiful beach. Check the cruise ship schedule ahead of time and head to Trunk Bay on a day when no ships are in for a slightly less crowded experience.

<https://cinnamonbayresort.com>

**TAKING THE PLUNGE:** Most St. John beaches offer something to see below the surface, but Salt Pond on the island's south shore wins this category hands down. Stingrays, turtles, a variety of corals and sponges, eels and too many species of fish to count can be seen here. When you're finished snorkeling, the beautiful, shaded, white-sand beach awaits for some well-earned relaxation.

HAWKSNEST BEACH (ABOVE)  
TRUNK BAY (BELOW)





## Steve Simonsen

HIS UNERRING EYE HAS ALLOWED HIM TO CAPTURE THE VIBRANCY OF ST. JOHN BOTH ON LAND AND DEEP UNDER ITS WARM WATERS.

*By Andrea Milam*

Since he arrived on St. John in 1991, Steve Simonsen has spent nearly as much time below the surface as he has on land. His appreciation and gratitude for the sea is evident in his magical underwater photos, which have graced countless magazine covers. Steve's images of the island's above-the-surface beauty are just as alluring, and his stunning coffee table book, *Living Art*, remains popular among *Love City* fans more than a decade after it was first published. Though Steve is the longest-standing professional photographer on island, he's not ready to slow down just yet. In fact, he continues to evolve while chasing his ultimate dream of becoming an accomplished cinematographer — even after Hurricane Irma, a particularly harrowing experience for Steve. He was caught outside during the height of the storm, wearing his son's football helmet to protect his head as the home he and his wife, Janet, had bought in 1991 and paid off in full six months prior, blew apart and was completely destroyed. Despite what he went through that terrifying day, Steve and Janet remain ever committed to their island home, and they're working to rebuild.

"Simply put, we love our history here and we love our friends and community," Steve says. "We can't imagine living anywhere more wonderful, even after the hurricanes. The natural beauty of the island and people are still hard to beat."

### **How did you decide on photography as a career?**

When I was at school in Boulder, I got into diving and began underwater photography there. I had plenty of people tell me that they were working 40-hour weeks, so they could go on vacation and dive. They said, "If this is what you love to do, you should make it a career." You don't have to hear that many times before realizing it's true, and it was the right move for me. I began my career in earnest doing underwater photography in Cozumel, and I was just blown away by the crazy color patterns of things like the sponges and the fish. I thought, "The only way to share this is to take pictures and show people." I'm also fascinated by the water itself. It's in constant motion, wobbling, wiggling and creating weird reflections. I've spent a large part of my underwater career specializing in pictures that show the

underside of the surface of the water and reflect objects like coral or turtles.

### **What is your greatest accomplishment?**

Self-publishing my coffee table book, *Living Art*. I went to big publishers with the idea and they all said the same thing: "St. John is too small of a topic for a book to be successful, so we'd be interested if you did all three islands." But that wasn't the idea. I live on St. John, and I know that the kind of people who really love St. John have a special feeling about it. That's the audience I was creating the book for. The Friends of the Park ended up funding the first print run, and as a result, they shared in the profits, which brought in a substantial amount of money for them. That felt good.

### **What is a hidden gem on St. John that visitors should check out?**

Many people don't know this, but there's a Spanish anchor in plain sight underwater at Denis Bay. Right off the dock you can see something black sticking out of the sand in the perfect shape of a spade. It's just the top of a 2,000-pound, 200- to 300-year-old anchor covered with sun anemones.



# *Steve Simonsen Photography*



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Wharfside Village, St. John





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*By Andrea Milam*





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Mongoose Junction has dining options from morning to evening. Enjoy a casual breakfast, pick up sandwiches to take to the beach, visit the island's only brewery, or unwind over a relaxing lunch or dinner in one of our breezy courtyards.

Whether you're a seasoned visitor to St John or this is your first visit, make sure you experience the vital community that is Mongoose Junction. The one of a kind shopping complex incorporates local stone, mahogany, brick, and coral, and is thoughtfully landscaped with tropical plants. For information about live music, gallery openings, and parties, visit our website or Facebook page. We hope to see you soon!



**SHOPPING ON ST. JOHN IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE.** Here, you'll find shops run by small business owners selling the carefully curated wares they've sourced locally and from across the globe. There are no chain stores on this island. The main town of Cruz Bay is easily walkable, anchored on either end by two shopping destinations, each offering up their own kind of island charm.

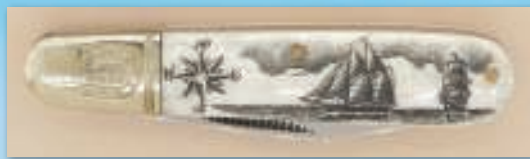
Lining the Cruz Bay beachfront is Wharfside Village, where you'll find charming little shops like Bamboo Studio, just steps from the ferry dock. Many of their designs give a nod to the island — like petroglyph-themed earrings, rings and bracelets — as well as their take on the well-known hook bracelet, whose hook is shaped like a "J" for St. John. Bamboo Studio's charms and pendants display the outline of St. John or feature a compass rose with the island's latitude and longitude coordinates. You can also customize your own charm or bracelet with a loved one's name or initials. There's even a dedicated hurricane collection, featuring an iconic hurricane-themed swirl incorporated into pendants, earrings and bracelets, showcasing the island's strength and resilience following Irma.

Also in Wharfside Village is Freebird Creations, an island institution that's sold an eclectic collection of jewelry and duty-free watches for nearly three decades. The store features the popular petroglyph

design in earrings, rings and pendants, as well as money clips, belt buckles, brooches, cufflinks and key rings. Other themed collections include Larimar, pearl, sea life and mermaid, pirates and certified ancient and shipwreck coins, sure to serve as conversation starters. Freebird also offers its own hurricane-themed collection, featuring a Larimar IrMaria bracelet, with 4mm of Larimar serving as the eye of the storm, and five wraps of 14k gold on either side of the hurricane symbol, representing the two Category 5 hurricanes the Virgin Islands survived in 2017.

Located on the other side of Cruz Bay near the ferry dock, Mongoose Junction is a lush, inviting complex featuring native stone designs and tranquil water features. Shopping has never been a more calming experience. Stop here to pick up lunch from the North Shore Deli on your way to one of the island's beautiful beaches, or enjoy a relaxing breezeway lunch at Sun Dog Cafe. Browse creations by local artists

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St. John, VI

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www.bamboovi.com

at the Bajo el Sol art gallery, or pick up some adorably island-themed souvenirs at Island Fancy. Stunning island photographs are incorporated into works of art at the St. John Experience Gallery, and Just BEach has everything you need for a fabulous day on island, including sunscreen, snorkel gear rentals, hats, swimsuit cover-ups and much more.

Perhaps one of the most unique stores at Mongoose Junction is Caravan Gallery. Jewelry, gifts and ancient artifacts from around the world come together in one captivating space at this boutique, adjacent to the Tap Room. Taking in all that Caravan Gallery has to offer is like perusing a treasure chest. African masks, Buddha statues and artwork featuring ancient fossils evoke a different time and place, while keepsake boxes and wood inlaid cribbage boards make for whimsical gifts. Among Caravan's

jewelry collection, you'll find the traditional St. John petroglyphs and hook bracelets, along with their take on the hurricane theme — a Bad Sisters bracelet that features iconic representations of Irma and Maria.

The Marketplace, also located in Cruz Bay, has an ATM, pharmacy, deli and mail center. Eight miles away, Coral Bay offers a small collection of shops that are as charming and eclectic as the town itself.

In both Cruz Bay and Coral Bay, you'll find a decent selection of supermarkets with a surprising range of products. Starfish Market, conveniently located at The Marketplace in Cruz Bay, is perhaps the most similar to the grocery stores you shop at home. Their weekly sales offer competitive pricing, and you can find everything you'll need for meals and snacks during your time on the island — from fresh produce to gluten-free items.

Starfish's full-service deli serves up freshly sliced meats and cheeses along with pizzas made in-house, ideal beach picnic foods like coleslaw and chicken salad, hearty meals like fried chicken and french fries, made-to-order sandwiches, and traditional West Indian foods like curry chicken. Specialty cheeses and a wide variety of beer, wine and spirits round out the offerings here, and there's plenty of on-site parking, making shopping a breeze. You can also arrange to have your food waiting at your villa for you with Starfish's easy online ordering and provisioning services.

No matter what shopping needs you have or what kind of goodies you decide to bring home — whether a souvenir T-shirt or hook bracelet — you're sure to find just what you're looking for at St. John's shopping establishments. These treasures will bring a smile to your face long after you've departed, as you remember your happy time on St. John.



Starfish  
MARKET  
SINCE 1995

## The most complete food store on St. John... the quality leader.

We carry thousands of food items including a full deli and meat department, fresh produce and an in-store bakery.

**Starfish Gourmet & Wines**, housed within our market, stocks an unparalleled assortment of fine wines, spirits and beers and specialty cheeses and hors d'oeuvres.

### Store Hours:

**Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

**Saturday – Sunday 7:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.**



Visit our website:  
[www.StarfishMarket.com](http://www.StarfishMarket.com)  
for all of your Starfish Information

**The Marketplace, Cruz Bay**  
Phone: 340-779-4949 | Email: [info@starfishmarket.com](mailto:info@starfishmarket.com)



### BAMBOO STUDIO

Want to show your love for St. John? Take home a handmade charm necklace in sterling silver, 14k gold or a combination of both, or create a charm that is uniquely yours. They also carry a wide selection of hook bracelets, petroglyph jewelry. "All handcrafted by our artisans... inspired by our island." **Wharfside Village; 340-776-0669; [www.bamboovi.com](http://www.bamboovi.com)**

### CARAVAN GALLERY

Caravan Gallery is the place for affordable and fine jewelry, unique gifts and authentic artifacts from around the world. In their Mongoose Junction location, you will find the original St. John Hook bracelet, locally made jewelry and the best selection of Larimar, the "Gemstone of the Caribbean." **Mongoose Junction; 340-779-4566; [www.caravangallery.com](http://www.caravangallery.com)**

### FREEBIRD CREATIONS

For over 30 years, this family-owned and operated store has been widely recognized for the most eclectic and unique, locally crafted and traditional island jewelry on St. John. The original "Caribbean Hook" with lifetime warranty is just one example of their "Highest

Quality Guaranteed." There's something for everyone and friendly customer service. **St. John Ferry Dock, Cruz Bay; 340-693-8625; [www.freebirdcreations.com](http://www.freebirdcreations.com)**

### MONGOOSE JUNCTION

Discover St. John's premier shopping, dining and entertainment destination. Mongoose Junction hosts 30 unique businesses amid tropical landscaping and beautiful stone architecture. Explore boutique shops and galleries, courtyard cafés and restaurants, including the island's only brewery. Just a five minute stroll from the Cruz Bay ferry dock. **North Shore Road, Cruz Bay; 340-774-8175; [www.MongooseJunctionStJohn.com](http://www.MongooseJunctionStJohn.com)**

### STARFISH MARKET

Starfish Market is the largest supermarket on St. John. They stand for quality and service, carrying a wide selection of foods in all departments, produce, meat, in-store bakery, deli, hot foods, beer, wine and liquor. Starfish Market delivers to villas and hotels. **Marketplace, St. John; 340-779-4949; [www.starfishmarket.com](http://www.starfishmarket.com)**

*Treasure Island*  
24K gold island on turquoise ocean  
Denny Wong

*Freebird*  
CREATIONS  
Eclectic Jewelry & Watches  
[WWW.FREEBIRDCREATIONS.COM](http://WWW.FREEBIRDCREATIONS.COM)

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# Shopping FINDS

FROM LOCAL CRAFTS TO ONE-OF-A-KIND GIFTS,  
YOU WILL FIND TREASURES AT DUTY-FREE PRICES.



1



2



3



4

1. **CUSTOM STERLING SILVER PETROGLYPH & LARIMAR PENDANT.** Caravan Gallery; [www.caravangallery.com](http://www.caravangallery.com)
2. **CUSTOMIZABLE CHARM NECKLACE.** Bamboo Studio; [www.bamboovi.com](http://www.bamboovi.com)
3. **ISLAND BAUBLE BANGLE BRACELET & BEADS.** Freebird Creations; [www.freebirdcreations.com](http://www.freebirdcreations.com)
4. **LIVING ART, ST. JOHN PHOTO BOOK.** Steve Simonsen Photography; [www.stevesimonsen.net/Home/Books](http://www.stevesimonsen.net/Home/Books)



## KENNY'S LOVE FOR **LOVE CITY**

Country music singer Kenny Chesney's love of St. John is no secret, and when Hurricane Irma devastated the island, he was among the first to step up to help. From sending in supplies like generators, rakes, shovels and other tools needed for the initial cleanup to food, water, medicine and other necessities, Kenny's efforts started as soon as the skies cleared. The Love for Love City foundation was formed "from the heart of Kenny Chesney's No Shoes Nation," the organization says, and that group helped evacuate more than 1,000 people from St. John. As the island's recovery progressed, it was announced in June that Kenny would continue to help the island by donating all the proceeds from his new album, *Songs for the Saints*, to the Love for Love City fund. He also personally delivered new instruments to the St. John School of the Arts, where he visited with faculty and students.

**For more information on the foundation, go to <https://loveforlovecity.org>.**

Trunk Bay



# Fare with FLAIR

SCALE UP, DIAL IT BACK OR KEEP IT SIMPLE: ST. JOHN SATISFIES ALL KINDS OF CULINARY APPETITES.

*By Andrea Milam*

**ST. JOHN MIGHT BE SMALL, BUT THE ISLAND'S DINING** options are surprisingly numerous and varied. Whether you're looking for quick and easy sandwiches to take to the beach, a casual beachfront happy hour or a fine-dining experience, the island delivers.

**CASUAL AND FUN:** There's plenty of fresh, easy and delicious fare to be had for breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with countless happy hour options. Cruz Bay is where you'll find the biggest concentration of dining venues. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served at various restaurants here, most of which are open-air, allowing you to enjoy the cool island breezes. Coral Bay serves up an impressive array of dining options considering its small size, and most restaurants on this side of the island lean towards the casual. Sunday brunch is available at restaurants in both Cruz Bay and Coral Bay, and many restaurants have happy hour drink specials; some offer food specials during happy hour as well.

**UPSCALE AND INCREDIBLE:** If you want to go all out for a show-stopping meal, St. John offers a surprising array of fine-dining establishments. French and Spanish cuisines feature prominently on the high-end dining scene, and of course you'll find fresh seafood on most upscale restaurant menus. The level of service matches the quality of food at the island's fine-dining options, which are all located on the Cruz Bay side. Go all out for an elegant evening, and you'll surely be talking about your incredible meal for years to come.

**DINE IN:** Perhaps you prefer to spend time in the kitchen yourself when you're on vacation. Most of the island's accommodations, consisting largely of private condos, homes and villas, offer their own fully equipped kitchens, making cooking in easy and a pleasure. The island's grocery stores are well stocked, and sale pricing is surprisingly competitive. Alternatively, treat yourself with a catered night in. Skilled St. John caterers will cook you a meal in-house, allowing you to enjoy





your beautiful vacation accommodations paired with a delightful, custom meal.

**LOCAL FOODS:** You'd be remiss to visit the Caribbean and not try the local food. There are a handful of options in Cruz Bay, and the local food called pate — a pastry stuffed with spiced chicken, beef, saltfish or vegetables then deep fried — makes for an excellent handheld snack. If you're on island in June, don't miss the annual Food Fair, when local vendors line the Cruz Bay waterfront and sell up delicious local goodies like tarts, jams and jellies, tamarind balls, local juices, curry chicken and more.

**PICNIC AT THE BEACH:** There are no food options at St. John beaches, so if you're planning to stay awhile, you'll want to bring your own. Grabbing a sandwich from one of Cruz Bay's delis or picking up a plate of food at an island grocery store, where you'll find surprisingly delicious fried chicken and other picnic foods like pasta salad and coleslaw, is a convenient way to ensure you and your crew stay sated during your time at the beach.

#### DINING DRESS CODE

Whether you're eating at the most upscale restaurant or enjoying happy hour at the beach, the dress code on St. John is decidedly casual. Even at the most high-end establishments, men are welcomed in shorts and a short-sleeve collared shirt, and women can wear sundresses. Leave the high heels, hair products and makeup at home. Flip-flops are acceptable footwear in all dining venues. Do note, however, that shirt and shoes must be worn at all establishments and when you're anywhere other than the beach. Local culture tends to be conservative, and it's best to respect the locals and cover up when you leave the beach.

Dine in, enjoy a casual beachfront breakfast, or treat yourself to an evening of fine dining — or do a little bit of each. With the island's numerous restaurants, bars and supermarkets, you'll never run out of options and you're sure to find several that leave you feeling pleasantly full and happy.

## THE TERRACE RESTAURANT

French inspired fine dining  
on the waterfront in Cruz Bay



Serving dinner nightly at 5:30

Happy Hour at the bar 4:30 - 6:30  
wine & drink specials raw & baked oysters  
baked clams & steamed mussels

Waterfront sunset and  
air conditioned dining available

340.779.8550

[www.theterracestjohn.com](http://www.theterracestjohn.com)

accepts visa and mc • reservations recommended



Just steps off the Ferry Dock in Cruz Bay, St. John sits  
**High Tide Bar & Seafood Grill.**

Offering LIVE entertainment, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner along with ice cold beer, wine and frozen drinks.

Whether you're looking for a great place to watch the sunset, throw a private party or catch a game,  
**we're here... where are you?**



**LIVIN' THE DREAM.**

**Open: 8:00am - 9:30pm**

**Happy Hours:**

8am to 12pm for Bloody Marys and Mimosas  
 and 3pm to 7pm

**340-714-6169 • www.hightidevi.com**

#### **HIGH TIDE BAR & SEAFOOD GRILL**

**Cruz Bay, St. John**

**340-714-6169**

**www.hightidevi.com**

You'll be transported to relaxation by the powdery sand beach, azure seas, shady canopy and the friendliest down-to-earth staff on island. High Tide serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a diverse menu sure to please any appetite. Ice cold drinks and live music. A great spot to watch the sunset or catch the game.

#### **MENU SAMPLER**

**Entrees: \$22 to \$38**

**Entree:** Sesame seed encrusted tuna in a roasted red pepper coulis topped with crispy wontons and served with wasabi mashed potatoes and sauteed asparagus and carrots

**Drink:** The High Tide: Blue Chair Bay Banana Rum, Sprite and pineapple juice

#### **OCEAN 362**

**Five-minute stroll from Cruz Bay**

**340-776-0001**

**www.ocean362.com**

OCEAN 362 brings you modern "island-to-table" style cuisine located in the heart of Cruz Bay. The concept celebrates every aspect of what it means to eat local with a modern take on traditional Caribbean dishes. The stunning views are perfect for a sunset dinner or for nighttime spectating of a twinkling St. Thomas.

#### **MENU SAMPLER**

**Entrees: \$26 to \$38**

**Entree:** Mahi Mahi served with butter poached green beans, parmesan polenta, and roasted tomato vinaigrette

**Wine:** 2015 Jordan Chardonnay Alexander Valley California

#### **THE TERRACE RESTAURANT**

**On the waterfront in Cruz Bay, St. John –**

**Five-minute walk from the ferry**

**340-779-8550**

**www.theterracestjohn.com**

A French-influenced, chef-driven restaurant that is redefining fine dining in the Virgin Islands with an elevated yet accessible menu featuring fresh local seafood, premium meats and an eclectic wine list. Offering refined, contemporary and classic cuisine, The Terrace boasts sunset waterfront views from its rustic, stone building in the heart of Cruz Bay, St. John.

#### **MENU SAMPLER**

**Entrees: \$32 to \$48**

**Entree:** Pan roasted local wahoo and steamed Littleneck Clams; leek and black truffle risotto, roasted baby carrots, applewood smoked bacon crumbles, fresh herb cream broth

**Wine:** Sequoia Grove Chardonnay, Napa Valley, California, 2012





Modern "island-to-table" cuisine.  
 Traditional Caribbean dishes  
 with a modern twist.  
 The freshest local ingredients available.  
 Stunning views for a sunset dinner.  
 Nighttime spectating at the  
 twinkling St. Thomas skyline.  
 Professional staff, refined service,  
 chef-driven dishes & craft cocktails.

## OCEAN *from island to table* three six two

**AT GALLOWS POINT RESORT**  
**5-minute stroll from Cruz Bay**  
**340-776-0001 | [www.ocean362.com](http://www.ocean362.com)**



Sweeping panoramic views. Stunning sunsets.  
 Lush 5-acre, private oceanfront peninsula.  
 Designed with your vacation experience in mind.  
**5-minute stroll from Cruz Bay, St. John**  
**340-776-6434 | [gallowspointresort.com](http://gallowspointresort.com)**

# The SUITE LIFE

LODGING OPTIONS TEND TO BE AS  
UNIQUELY APPEALING AS THE REST OF  
THE ISLAND'S CHARMS.



ECO SERENDIB VILLA

If you're looking for a place to stay on St. John, you'll want to skip those major hotel websites. With the exception of the Westin St. John, which is set to reopen following renovations in early 2019, there are no major hotels on the island. Most accommodations consist of small inns, private homes, villas and condos, and there's a wide range of price points — from cozy studios to incredible six-bedroom villas with sweeping ocean views.

Because much of the island is protected by the Virgin Islands National Park, beachfront accommodations are few and far between. One of the few true oceanside options is Gallows Point Resort, located on a peninsula at the mouth of Cruz Bay. This collection of condos is known for its lush landscaping; entering the grounds is a true tropical escape, and the verdant palms and bright flowering plants that line the walkways add an air of privacy to each unit. The newly renovated pool deck is ideal for some early morning yoga, or relax poolside with an afternoon cocktail and watch the boat traffic move in and out of Cruz Bay. There's excellent snorkeling just off the point, and a swim platform for when you need a rest or want to adjust your mask and fins. Gallows offers on-site dining at their Ocean 362 restaurant, where you'll find arguably the best sunset views on the island, and the resort's convenient location means you can walk right into town for shopping, happy hour, or to catch some live music. Gallows Point's waterfront setting, convenient Cruz Bay location and gorgeous grounds make it stand out above the rest.

As mentioned, the Westin is set to reopen in 2019, and if you're looking for a true resort experience, look no further than this

conveniently located property. Just a two-minute drive outside Cruz Bay, the Westin is a vacation oasis, with beachfront restaurants, tennis courts, gym and spa, an incredible expansive pool and its own beach with watersports options.

If you'd prefer something more private, or maybe you want to stay high up on the island's hills for an unforgettable view, there are numerous villa management companies who can guide you towards the property that's perfect for you. Island Getaways has offered thorough updates on their properties following Hurricane Irma, and their website is easy to navigate, with simple descriptions of the accommodations at each of their vacation rentals, making it easy for you to choose accommodations based on your needs. Alternatively, save some money by seeking out accommodations on your own with [www.stjohn-villarentals.com](http://www.stjohn-villarentals.com), which does not charge a fee for booking.

## GALLOWS POINT RESORT

Discover the sweeping panoramic views and stunning sunsets from the Gallows Point Resort private oceanfront location on a lushly landscaped 5-acre peninsula. Offering newly renovated, one bedroom ocean-front villas, a gift & gourmet coffee shop, concierge service, and fine-dining at the highly-proclaimed on-site restaurant, Ocean 362, the resort was especially designed with your vacation experience in mind. **Five-minute stroll from Cruz Bay; 340-776-6434; [www.gallowspointresort.com](http://www.gallowspointresort.com)**