

British Virgin Islands "BVI" Global Sailing Destinations January 6-16, 2018



Michael Severson Trip Leader

# **British Virgin Islands "BVI" Global Sailing Destinations**

Join Modern Sailing School and Club as we offer a flotilla to the BVI from January 6 to 16, 2018. Escape the doldrums of the post holiday season, pack your swim suit, shorts and tropical outfits in your duffel. Climb aboard a club boat with a professional Captain, or skipper a charter boat with family and friends, supported by the experts at Modern Sailing Club. We have selected a variety of boats to meet your every need.

# WHY THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS?

The British Virgin Islands are located in the Northern Caribbean and offer the best cruising the region has to offer; with warm temperatures, tropical trade winds and crystal clear warm water year-round. The ideal time to go is during the winter months. The BVI is famous for gorgeous beaches but also offers an abundance of sea and shore experiences, enjoy snorkeling off remote cays, kayaking, unique cuisine, dive on a ship wreck, search for pirate's treasure and enjoy the "island life" laid back with a relaxed pace. The sailing is steady and easy with the exception of occasional rain or random squall. Join Modern Sailing as we escape the dreariness of January to enjoy a warm vacation with friends, family and fellow sailors.



# WHY A MODERN SAILING FLOTILLA?



Modern Sailing offers expertise in all aspects of the trip, with two ways to participate. Whether you are a first-time adventurer or seasoned traveler, Modern Sailing provides you with all of the benefits of a well planned Global Destination Trip with friendly, expert Captains who have sailed these waters many times before. Or, you can Skipper a bare boat with the assistance of a mentor instructor to help you from beginning to end. We will be there to help plan your trip, learn the routes and anchorages, show you the ropes on which mooring ball to select, and answer questions about sailing or on-shore activities. Take your sailing to the next level as we cast off the lines and explore the BVI.

# TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS



You are responsible for booking your own airfare. Airfare will likely be about \$800 to \$1200 per person. There are no non-stop flights from the Bay area to Tortola (EIS), but you have a couple of options. From San Francisco, you can change planes in the US on the East Coast or Texas, then fly to San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU) to catch a puddle jumper on Sea Borne Air. Or you can fly to in St. Thomas in the USVI (STT). From St. Thomas you will catch a ferry to Tortola. It's nice to break up the trip with a one or two-day layover on St Thomas before catching the ferry to Tortola. The ferry costs about \$30 per person. A new airline is opening up routes to BVI and we will keep you posted on that. If you would like to use a travel agent to book your flights, we suggest Sandra Marron at Millennium travel at (415) 898-7974.

# WHAT TO BRING

**Passport:** The BVI are a territory of Great Britain, and a foreign country. Please ensure your passport is current and will not expire for at least six months after the conclusion of trip (eg: Valid until at least June 16, 2018).

**Luggage:** We suggest traveling light. Your gear should fit in a medium duffel bag and small carry-on bag. Your carry-on should be less than 15 pounds – we recommend using a dry bag or backpack. Both bags should be collapsible for easy storage on the boat in small space. Do not bring bags with hard frames as they are difficult to stow.

**Gear:** We have found that people often only use about half of what they bring. A great way to bring only what you use is to lay all your items out and reduce it by 50%. Lay them out again and then reduce again. Gear weight depends on weather conditions of course, but light weight clothing that is layered and wicks well to dry fast is essential. Your total gear weight should be less than 55lbs including carry-on.

Sun conditions can be very different than in San Francisco bay. You should consider lightweight clothes that cover exposed areas without adding bulk or weight. There are a variety of lightweight pants/slacks, shirts/blouses that are UV protected. Sunscreen and hats are essential.

What not to bring: Different states and countries have different travel rules, regulations and considerations. If you have specific questions about an item, ask us. Some general items you should *not* bring are illegal drugs, weapons, hair dryers, expensive jewelry, pets, rigid suitcases, surf boards, golf clubs (it has happened), fireworks and dive tanks. Linens, towels AND pillows are provided on each boat and not necessary to bring.

**Considerations:** The charter base will have a variety of snorkel gear and equipment to choose from. These items are included in the cost of the trip. Again, you are more than welcome to bring your own. Keep in mind that these items tend to be bulkier and heavier. A reasonable compromise may be to bringing your own mask and snorkel and use the fins provided on board.

**PFD's** (lifejackets) are on board the boat. However, you are more than welcome to bring your own. [THIS IS REALLY NOT WORTH THE HASSLE OF GETTING CO2 CANISTERS THROUGH TSA]

# **Suggested Packing List:**

## Clothing

- Quick-Dri T-shirts, sun shirt
- Shorts w/ zipper pocket
- Swim Suits & covers
- Sweater or fleece jacket
- Deck shoes, water shoes, Reef shoes, or sandals (they will get wet)
- Hiking shoes for exploring beyond the shore
- Long sleeve shirt for snorkeling
- Lightweight Rain jacket/pants
- Extra Towel (Microfiber Quick dry)
- Long & Short Pants
- Casual evening attire

# **Non-Clothing**

- Passport (copies)
- Cash
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Polarized Sunglasses (2 pairs)
- Camera
- Personal hygiene items
- Medications with prescriptions
- Special Dietary Items
- Flashlight/Batteries
- Dry Bag & Backpack
- ZipLock bags
- Bio-degradable soap/shampoo
- Electronics with chargers
- Sailing gloves

# WEATHER

The weather in the BVI is beautiful year round. The month of January is characterized by an average high temperature of 84°F or above. Daily low temperatures average 73°F although there can be a chill in the air when it rains.

The most common forms of precipitation are brief squalls or thunderstorms. Rain averages approximately 2.7" in January with an average of 13 days of some precipitation.

Relative humidity typically ranges from 52% (mildly humid) to 87% (very humid) over the course of this time period, rarely dropping below 38% (comfortable).



# WIND CONDITIONS, CURRENTS and TIDES

In January, trade winds are out of the North East at 10-15 knots and occasionally the BVI get stronger building to 25-30 knots called the "Christmas Winds." Should the Christmas Winds blow we may shift some of the anchorages. Sea swell is minimal and current flow in Sir Francis Drake channel averages 3 knots with tidal range of 12 to 18".

# **GALLEY AND PROVISIONING**

Provisioning will be discussed at the crew meeting and initial menus will be made for staples. Provisioning for breakfast, lunch and snacks will be done in advance through the charter company and are included in the cost of the trip for the Skippered boats. We will assist Skippers in planning for the bare boat charters. Additional provisioning will depend on crew's desires and final provisioning will be completed once we arrive in Tortola.

Road Town has three full service markets and there are a variety of small shops for provisioning needs. Each Skipper will work with the participants to select items for individual tastes on board. It is a real experience to wander through a grocery store and see what fresh specialty items they have. Recognize all commercial goods must be transported to the islands and we are following the high Christmas season which may decreases availability and increases costs of specialty items.



☐ Each boat is fully Equipped

Three-burner gas stove and oven with outdoor charcoal grill

Fridge with separate freezer drawer

☐ Comfortable salon seating area

Storage cabinets for provisions

Cooking pots and pans

The crew will decide on how many meals they plan on eating ashore and provision accordingly. Food and beverage costs vary based on individual crews' desires. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and one dinner will be provisioned through SunSail on Club boats and additional meals will be decided and purchased as a collective by the crew depending on tastes.

Global Destinations recognizes that people have different experiences and tastes in personal beverages (alcohol) and provisioning time will be provided for members to make their own purchases. One or two crew members are assigned to stowing the provisioning items.

While galley duty is a shared responsibility, those who inventory the provisions can help others to find stored items. Each boat will set up their own cooking and cleaning schedules based on crew expectations and experience.

# **Special Dietary Needs**

Skippers will be consulting with participants at crew meeting regarding advanced provisioning. This is your opportunity to let them know if you have specific dietary needs or restrictions. We can plan ahead to accommodate you. If there are unique items you desire you will have time to purchase them during the provisioning trip.

### **Breakfast**

Breakfast will be between 7:00AM to 9:00AM each day on Club Boats and a certain amount of flexibility based on the itinerary, group and individual desires. We have enjoyed full course breakfasts, complete with bacon, eggs, etc. We have also enjoyed granola bars and fruit, depending on the crew.

The goal is to meet your needs so you can enjoy the rest of your day.

### Lunches

Lunches are very casual with no set schedule. They can be soup and sandwiches, salads, veggie sticks, or local fare. Lunch is often served under way and conditions may dictate what we have on a particular day. If the crew is in agreement, and a nice lunch spot is found, we can dingy ashore to eat at a local restaurant or picnic on the beach.

### **Snacks**

Snacks are always a very personal thing and whatever the crew desires.

Sometimes they can be chips and salsa, or cheese and crackers. Fresh fruit and nuts are always good (and delicious) as they are easy snacks and help maintain energy.



# **Dinners**

Dinners provide the most flexibility. We can choose to relax on board, cook and watch the sunset, or go ashore and sample the local culture and cuisine. When we make provisioning plans, one dinner meal on board needs to be included in case we find a secluded anchorage and decide not to move, but enjoy the peace and serenity. Part of the charm of the Caribbean is the local watering holes and restaurants and eating lobster on the beach in Anegada is a must do activity.

### **Dinner Ashore**

If we choose to go ashore in the evening, meal costs will be the responsibility of each person. Usually most establishments will be willing to split checks. Be sure to carry some cash with you as small "mom & pop places" are sometimes on a cash only basis.

### **Perishables**

Over the years, we have discovered that some items do not particularly like a marine environment and seem to have a very short shelf life. We will try and anticipate and get the fewest possible perishables and restock in route. Often times we come across fresh fish on the docks or at open markets. There is something special and nothing as delicious as fresh seafood caught that very day.

# SKIPPERED CLUB AND BAREBOATS

# 2 SKIPPERED CLUB BOATS SunSail 444 Catamaran (1 Available Bareboat)



Double Berths in each Cabin
Four Cabins with fans, lights, and AC
Each with its own Head and Shower
Stern Shower with Hot/Cold water
Engine: Two Yanmar 39hp
Length Overall 42.5 ft.
Beam 23.75ft
Draft 1.27m

Sail Area 117m<sup>2</sup>



# **Sleeping Accommodations**

- ☐ Wall mounted fans and AC in every cabin
- ☐ Hanging locker in each cabin
- ☐ Storage with shelving
- ☐ LED Reading Lamps and LED Overhead Lights
- ☐ 6'1 to 6'5 Maximum Head Room
- ☐ Bed linens and pillows included
- ☐ Private ensuite shower and electric head (no pumping required)

# BARE BOATS – SS41' Monohull (Two Available)

The SunSail 41 is a superbly balanced boat, offering a spacious cockpit with twin wheels, a generous sail plan and sleek lines which combines to give her an outstanding performance under sail and makes this boat a charterers dream. Built by Jenneau she was selected the European Yacht of the Year in 2011.



Three Double Berth Cabins with fans, lights and A/C 6'3" headroom throughout
Two heads with hot and cold showers
Stern shower on fold down swim step
Double helms with large spacious cockpit

**Engine: 40 HP Yanmar** 

Length: 39'3" Beam: 13.1" Draft: 5'1"

Sail Area: 848sq ft.

# **Sleeping Accommodations**

- ☐ Wall mounted fans and AC in every cabin
- ☐ Hanging locker in each cabin
- ☐ Storage with shelving
- □ LED Reading Lamps and LED Overhead Lights
- ☐ 6'1 to 6'5 Maximum Head Room
- ☐ Bed linens and pillows included
- Private ensuite shower and electric head (no pumping required)



# BARE BOATS - SS38' Monohull (Two Available)

The SunSail 38 is a spacious 2-cabin / 1-head cruiser built by Jeanneau. This model is the perfect cruising platform for a small family or two couples seeking a one of a kind on-the-water vacation. The SunSail 38 represents the perfect balance of performance and ease of handling.

She features a full suite of navigational electronics, twin wheel steering and all lines are led to the spacious cockpit, making her easy to sail. Enjoy water sports activities like swimming, snorkeling and kayaking with ease from the fold-down transom platform; then spend the evening entertaining alfresco style around the large cockpit table.

Below deck, the SunSail 38 is well-appointed with two double cabins, plus a spacious head with separate shower stall and ample storage throughout. The fully equipped galley to starboard features a refrigerator/freezer, propane stove/oven and double sink, while the neighboring U-shaped saloon offers comfortable seating for up to six and also converts into a double berth.

Two Double Berth Cabins with fans, lights and A/C

6'-6'3" headroom throughout
One head with electric pump toilet
Stern shower on fold down swim step
Double helms with open cockpit

**Engine: 29 HP Yanmar** 

Length: 37'2"
Beam: 12.4"
Draft: 5'1"

Sail Area: 754sq ft. Water: 87 gallons Fuel: 34 gallons





# **Sleeping Accommodations**

- Wall mounted fans and AC in every cabin
- $\hfill \square$  Hanging locker in each cabin
- Storage with shelving
- LED Reading Lamps and LED Overhead Lights
- ☐ 6'1 Head Room throughout
  - Bed linens and pillows included
  - Shower and electric head separate from sleeping quarters

# Modern Sailing School and Club PROPOSED BVI ITINERARY\* January 6 to January 16, 2018



The itinerary is designed around typical weather conditions in the BVI for January, but may be adjusted based on local conditions and weather patterns. The trip Leader will make prudent decisions based on wind, weather and sea state to insure a safe and enjoyable trip. Typically, sailing in the BVI is relatively easy and straightforward and MSC's captains are experienced in these waters.

We will be visiting a host of islands each with unique characteristics. The BVI is designed around the Cruising/Charter lifestyle. The islands offer a variety of dining, snorkeling, diving, island touring, hiking and shopping activities. The primary economy in the islands is charter tourism. The islands are in close proximity and for the most part it is visual navigation.

This is a flotilla and the goal is to have all boats follow a similar route and plan. Part of the adventure is connecting to other boats and members. We have often had a rotating happy hour in the evenings where each boat hosts one night and we all dinghy over to enjoy snacks and drinks after anchoring up. There may be need and/or opportunities to anchor up in different locations or visit different sites based on conditions or interests, but will be coordinated through the trip leader on a case by case basis.

DAY 1 Saturday January 6: Arrive at Sunsail Base, Wickham Cay



Check in at base in the afternoon and meet your other crew mates. We will have a Modern Sailing Welcome reception in the afternoon and check on to the boats at 6:00 pm. We will settle in for the evening and the following morning complete final inventory. Crew will split duties: some will inventory and store the provisions, while others visit the local markets for items that were not pre-ordered, while the skippers attend chart briefings.

# DAY 2 Sunday January 7: Wickham Cay to Norman Island ~6 nm

We will check the fit of the snorkel gear provided by Sunsail. Once the boat is loaded and the skipper's have done their briefing we will head South across Sir Francis Drake Channel to Norman Island.

This is a good shakedown cruise for the crew to get used to the boat under sail.

In the afternoon we will stop and spend time snorkeling at the caves.

After grabbing our first mooring ball we will swim, dinghy out to the Caves to snorkel, visit Willie T's for a refreshing rum drink, then dinghy ashore to Pirate's Bight to enjoy the sunset and dinner in a beach side restaurant.



# DAY 3 Monday January 8: Norman to Cooper Island ~ 10 nm



We will then proceed up to Cooper Island and pick up a mooring ball in Manchineel Bay.

We can then explore and relax on the beach, go for a hike, or sample the rum selections at the local rum bar.

Not quite your typical Monday.

On our second day after breakfast we will slip off our moorings and sail up to the Indians where we will stop for lunch and then explore the underwater world and snorkel in deeper water seeing a different variety of fish and sea life.



# DAY 4 Tuesday January 9:Cooper Island to Virgin Gorda, North Sound ~ 14nm

Start with an early morning for a quick sail up to the Bath's where we will pick up a mooring ball and swim to shore to explore the large granite outcropping and pools where the light shimmers down through the rocks into still sand bottomed pools.

Climb up to the top and have a a view, cold drink and lunch, then back to the boat for the afternoon sail. We will sail along the coast and up to North Sound, Virgin Gorda, and pick up a mooring ball at Leverick Bay or Saba Rock or the Bitter End. We can visit to the Bitter End Yacht Club and explore the shops along the quay, then late in the day dinghy over to Saba Rock to enjoy the sunset as the tarpon circle the edge of the rock.



# DAY 5 Wednesday January 10: Virgin Gorda to Anegada ~14nm



A full sailing day out to the edge of the Caribbean as we lose sight of land and sail to the low lying island of Anegada.

The island is very different than the rest of the BVI and is formed of coral and limestone and off the beaten path.

We will pick up a mooring ball and relax at the end of the day, or exploring the small stores and restaurants along the shore.

That evening we will sit in beach chairs on the sand and enjoy fresh Anegada lobster.

# DAY 6 Thursday January 11: Anegada Lay Over Day

Anegada is an island worth exploring. Sink into island life as the pace of the world drops away. Grab a scooter or a taxi and explore the salt ponds with a host of avian life, or cross the island to find a quiet beach where you may be the only one for as far as you can see.

You can spend the day at cow wreck beach and wade out on the white sand bottom as the gentle swell laps against you and you marvel at the beauty of the surroundings. This is one of the truly magical places in the BVI.



# DAY 7 Friday January 12: Anegada to Marina Cay ~ 28nm



We will make our Friday commute by setting sail to head back toward the central group of islands. As we drift beyond the horizon and bid adieu to Anegada we will settle in to an easy beam reach of approximately 18 miles.

We will grab a mooring ball and explore the Pusser store where we can re-provision and if need be get fuel and water. Climb to the top of the hill and look over toward Beef Island, or dinghy over and snorkel off the reef. If you are in the mood to reconnect to civilization dinghy over to the new yacht facilities and grab a hot shower and sit by the pool and enjoy a pain killer or two.

# DAY 8 Saturday January 13: Marina Cay to Garden Cane Bay 12nm

We will then sail out and around Little Camanoe Island and through the pass by Guana Island pulling in to one of the bays near Monkey Point and moor to enjoy lunch and a relaxing snorkel.

In the afternoon, we will sail in to enjoy the beauty of Garden Cane Bay and pick up a mooring ball. We will then explore the shops and/or Callwood Rum Distillery, one of the oldest operating distilleries, then settle in for a Caribbean dinner and festive evening of Caribbean music in one of the many shoreline cafes that line the bay.



# DAY 9 Sunday January 14: Cane Garden to Jost Van Dyke ~ 6nm



A leisurely day we will sail out and up to Sandy Cay where we can drop hook and snorkel in the morning and enjoy lunch as the boats drift on their anchors. We will relax as we enjoy the gentle sway of the Caribbean Ocean lulling your senses as the sweet songs drift back to from the night before.

In the afternoon, we will pull up hook and sail into White Bay on Jost Van Dyke, or one of the nearby bays based on space available on moorings. Once we grab a mooring ball we can relax on board or dingy ashore and explore Foxy's or the Soggy Dollar Bar, infamous watering holes in the BVI.





# DAY 10 Monday January 15: Jost Van Dyke to Peter Island ~ 18nm

Another Monday, but we are not done yet. We will have another great day of sailing as we leave Jost Van Dyke and prepare for our last full day of sailing. As we round the West end of Tortola with Great Thatch Island to starboard we will sail up Sir Francis Drake Channel to Peter Island.

Peter Island is an overlooked gem, but it offers an easy mooring in Great Harbor and very good snorkeling along the island's cliffs. There is a nice laid back restaurant/beach bar called Oceans 7 where can have dinner. Our last night out we will PPP, Potluck Provisioning Party (AKA Pain Killers in Paradise Party) Dinghy between boats and enjoy one last evening afloat with new found friends enjoying the flotilla lifestyle.



Day 11 Tuesday January 16 Return to Base ~ 4nm



After a light breakfast we make the short sail back to the base and disembark from our yachts. We reflect on our adventure among some of the most beautiful islands in the World.

Having created a lifetime of memories of sailing adventures, tropical sunsets, and new friends, we will each make our own arrangements for a few days layover or return to the states.





\*Itineraries are subject to change based on sea state, weather conditions and anchorages

The itinerary may be adjusted based upon Trip Leaders judgment.