



The Baths on Virgin Gorda

## AISLE TO ISLE

What's more romantic than honeymooning on a Caribbean island? Honeymooning on several of them. That's easy to do in the British Virgin Islands, a volcanic archipelago of more than 60 sandy spots that are renowned for their beaches, snorkeling, and sailing.

Here's our guide to the best of the batch.

### STAY

Eight-square-mile Virgin Gorda is home to the **Bitter End Yacht Club**, a laid-back, old-school-style resort where treehouse-like cabins overlook the beach. It is reachable only by water or air, and sailing is a prime draw—but so is canoodling in a hammock slung on your ocean-view veranda (from \$550, beyc.com). Five minutes away by boat, tiny **Saba Rock** offers a private-island experience you don't have to be Richard Branson to afford (his Necker Island retreat is next door). Nine stylish rooms and suites are clustered on the one-acre islet, famous for a happy hour that draws throngs of yachtsies to the bar and schools of tarpon to the dock for their daily feeding (from \$195, sabarock.com). If your style is luxurious

seclusion, not scene-making, decamp to nearby Guana Island's **North Beach Villa**, which has its own beach and plunge pool (because skinny-dipping). The island's only waterfront accommodation, the villa is surrounded by sea-grape trees and lush foliage that ensure you won't be seen by another soul (from \$1,650, all-inclusive, guana.com).

### EAT + DRINK

There's arguably no Caribbean isle more known for its beach bars than Jost Van Dyke. And White Bay is its epicenter, with a string of shacks along the water. One of the best is the **Soggy Dollar Bar**, where the rum drink called Pain-killer was born in the 1970s (soggydollar.com). On the southern end of the archipelago, Norman Island's hot spot is the lively **Willy-T**, a rusting

freighter-turned-floating bar and restaurant anchored just offshore. Between orders of conch fritters, diners dare one another to jump from the top deck into the blue below (willy-t.com). And to the north, the flat coral island of Anegada is famous for its delicious spiny lobsters, best savored beachside at **the Big Bamboo** on the north shore (bigbambooanegada.com).

### PLAY

Sailing is the classic way to see the BVIs, but you don't need to know your bow from your boom to do it. Leave the navigating to such pros as **Festiva Sailing Vacations** (festivasailingvacations.com) and **the Moorings** (moorings.com), which offer daylong crewed-yacht charters, as well as rentals for more experienced sailors. Swimming

and snorkeling run a close second, and the favored spot for both is **the Baths** on Virgin Gorda, where giant granite boulders form sheltered, crystal-clear sea pools on the beach's edge. If an endless strip of sand is your nirvana, head for Anegada's **Loblolly Bay**, a miles-long sweep you'll have virtually to yourself.

### SHOP

Put down that shot glass and memorialize your 'moon with something made in the islands. A couple of our faves: leather-and-pearl jewelry from **Deliberate Hues** on Virgin Gorda, and stylish swimwear in a spectrum of sizes from Tortola's **Trifle**. Just steps from the airport on Tortola, **Aragorn's Studio** is a one-stop shop for local art and handicrafts—including the owner's signature copper and steel sculptures.