

JOST VAN DYKE, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

A fairly large, mountainous island northwest of Tortola, Jost Van Dyke is said to have taken its name from a Dutch pirate (the first part of the name is pronounced yost). Known as the "barefoot" island, Jost van Dyke has a casual lifestyle, protected anchorages, fine beaches and beachfront restaurants and bars. The island has a population of about 130 people who work as fishermen or in the slowly emerging tourist industry. The highest point of the island is 1 070 ft/326m, and while the land consists mostly of barren hills and scrub vegetation, there are some wonderful beaches and safe anchorages which makes it a favorite destination of 'yachties'. Spacious Great Harbor, sheltered by small mountains, is the islands main town. The town's Main Street is actually a beach, with the police and customs building right on the beach by the ferry dock.

One of the best known places on Jost van Dyke is Foxy's, the quintessent beach bar, open to the elements and personally attended to by the owner Foxy Callwood. What began as a little more than a lemonade-stand-sized bar which was supposed to be open for one day only, Foxy's has evolved into a major cultural force. Foxy's New Year's Eve party is perhaps the most famous in the Caribbean and fills Great Harbour with rafted up boats.

WHITE BAY

White Bay was named for its long and lovely white sand beach, fringed with hibiscus and palm trees and protected by extensive reefs. In the waters there is an abundant of marine life, which makes it good for snorkeling. On the beach is Soggy Dollar Bat, which got its name from the soggy condition of the dollar bills from sailors who swam ashore. The bar is also the home for the 'Painkiller', a frozen delight made from dark rum. The recipe is a closely guarded secret, though... White Bay is also the location of the Sandcastle, a lovely and intimate resort, popular with honeymooners and famous for romantic candlelight dinners.



