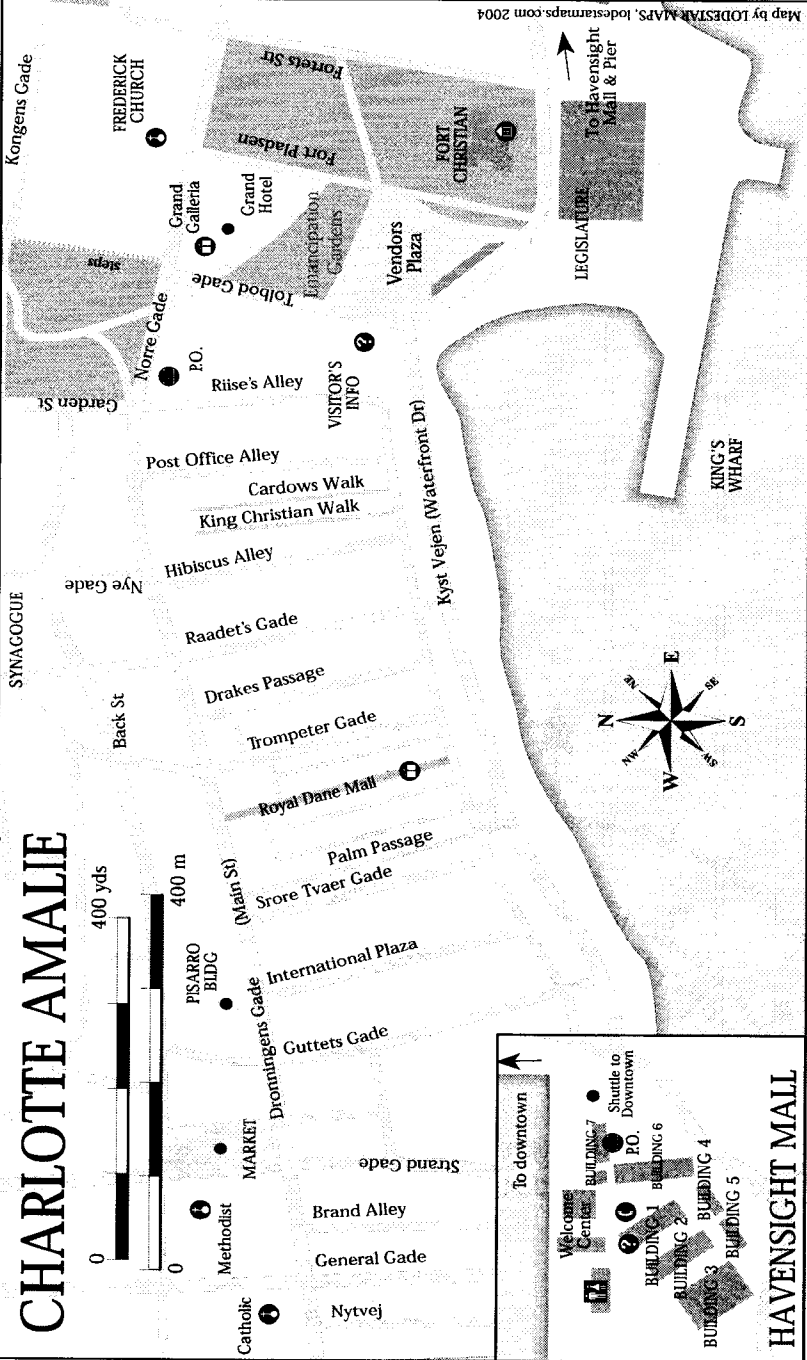


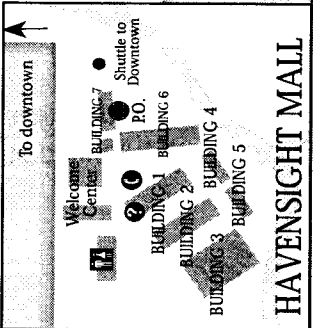
**SEADREAM
ITINERARY**

ITINERARY

CHARLOTTE AMALIE



Map by LODSTAR MAPS, lodstarmaps.com 2004



SEADREAM YACHT CLUB

ST. THOMAS

LEGISLATURE BUILDING

The USVI government is similar to the 50 United States. The Senate meets in an old Danish police barracks dating from 1874. The distinctive green building is just off King's Wharf near the waterfront. If the Territorial Assembly is in session, debates can be entertaining and educational. Nearby Emancipation Garden recalls the 1848 Danish liberation of slaves, nearly 20 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. The Danes had already abolished slave trade five decades earlier.

FORT CHRISTIAN

Across the garden from the Legislature, stands one of the oldest intact structures in the Virgin Islands. Fort Christian was dedicated in 1678. The stronghold walls once formed the colonial boundaries. Visit the dungeons, where a museum contains relics from earlier times. The Fort was begun in 1671 when King Christian V offered official sponsorship to the lucrative St. Thomas colony.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Government House mansion was built in the mid-1860s, and serves as administrative headquarters for the USVI territory. The gates are guarded, but with permission, you

might be able to visit. Nearby Hotel 1829 and Crown House are examples of 18th century colonial architecture.

SEVEN ARCHES MUSEUM

The seven arches are adornments to an 18th-century West Indian style Danish great house. The kitchen, slave quarters, and furnishings provide insight into lifestyles of the past. Still a private residence, the owners live on the first floor, leaving the second floor open as a museum.

SYNAGOGUE

St. Thomas has the second oldest synagogue in the western hemisphere. Jewish people have lived in St. Thomas for more than three centuries. As the Caribbean region grew financially and socially, members of the Jewish community have remained active partners in both political and philanthropic activities.

FREDERICK'S CHURCH

Fredrick's is the second oldest Lutheran church in the New World. The Gothic revival style church, dedicated in 1793, opens from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Saturday.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Currency: US *dollar*

Business Hours: Daily, 8:30am to 5:00pm,

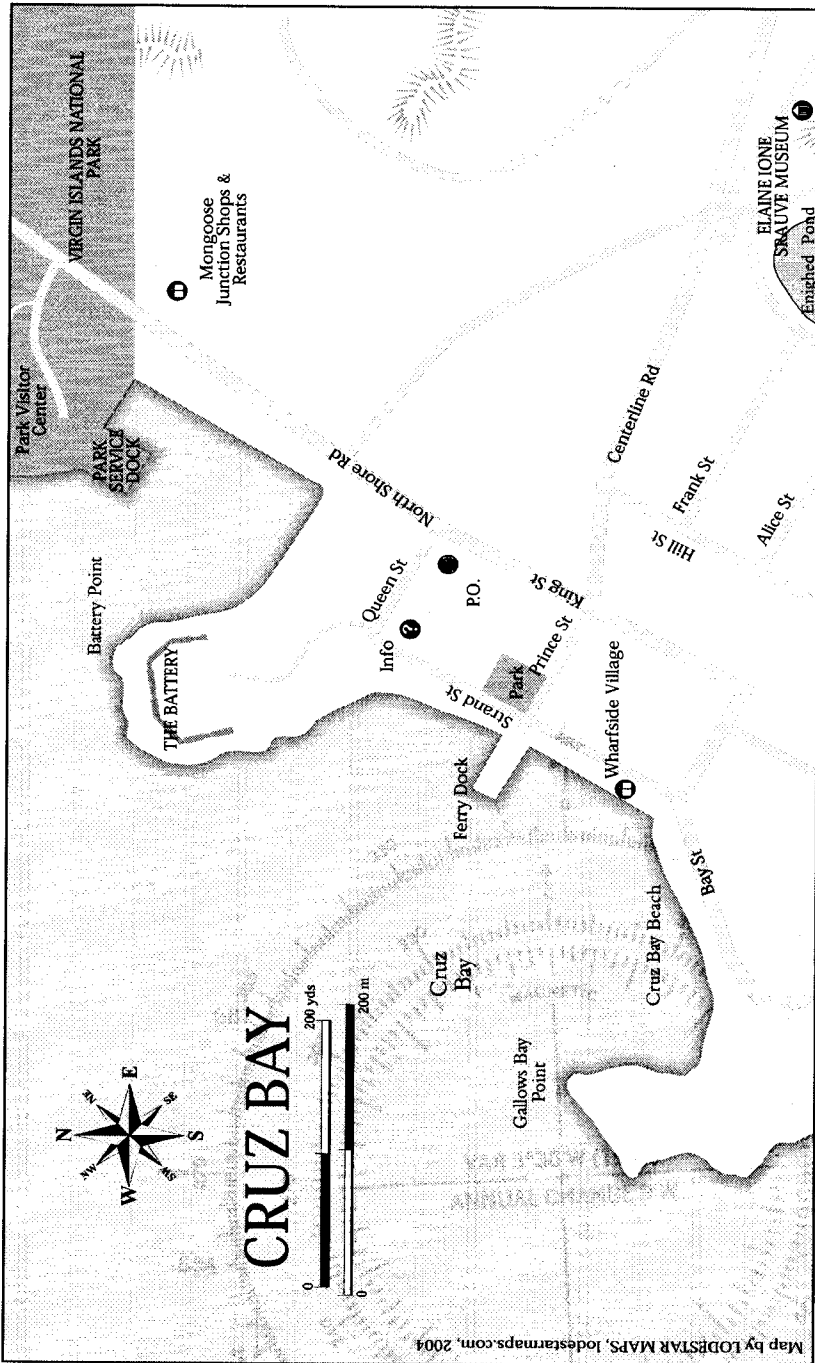
Seadreams of ISLAND HERITAGE

Because of the sharp changes in altitude from the shores to the island's interior, staircases were built to accommodate foot traffic as the colony expanded. Completed in the mid-1700s by Danish builders, the **99 Steps** provided relatively easy access to navigate the steep hill. The bricks were once ballast for ships carrying immigrants to the port. Passengers are advised that there really are more than 100 steps. At the top of the staircase is Blackbeard's Castle.

Originally known as Skjutsborg,

Blackbeard's Castle tower, dating from 1679, is considered by some to be the oldest extant structure in the Virgin Islands. The castle was reputedly headquarters for the notorious Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, and is designated as a National landmark. The current tenant runs a popular restaurant and hotel. The view and the atmosphere are both excellent.

Some historians have suggested that Francis Drake was a pirate. From his Drake's Seat observation point he guarded his fleet. Nearby, **St. Peter Greathouse**, now a gallery for local artists, is set in the midst of a lush Botanical Garden.



ST. JOHN

USVI culture is a broad multi-ethnic cloth. People often wonder why the official language is not Danish when, until 1917, the islands were Danish territory. Even so, British settlers occupied the islands throughout colonial history. Two-thirds of St. John was set aside as the Virgin Islands National Park in 1956. The island presents a relatively untamed contrast to neighboring St. Thomas. Charming **Cruz Bay**, nestled snugly into the hollow of some coastal hills, is the administrative center. The atmosphere is relaxed, and there are small shops for souvenirs and duty free goods. **Elaine Ione Sprauve Museum (Fort Christian** during the Danish colonial period) has a collection of interesting old photos and highlights island history. Government offices are also housed at the site. Danish missionaries founded nearby **Nazareth Lutheran Church** in 1720. **Ivan Jadan Museum** is on **Battery Hill**. The island's main attractions are its beautiful beaches. Most are within the park boundaries and offer equipment rental. Among the most popular, **Trunk Bay** has a snorkeling trail with markers that explain various species and formations. Other popular beaches include sugary **Cinnamon Bay**, **Coral Bay**, and

SEADREAM YACHT CLUB ST. JOHN

dozens of other poetically named shores that await discovery. Some of the beaches have no facilities, but offer secluded shore time.

The island has several interesting historic sites. The **Tainos Indian Archeological Site** at Cinnamon Bay, for example, is estimated to be 1,000 years old, and the ruined **Annaberg Plantation House**, near **Trunk Bay**, dates from 1718. **Reef Bay Trail** leads onward to some ancient petroglyphs.

The park service maintains trails, ranging from easy to strenuous. Park rangers at the Cruz Bay visitor center offer maps and advice to hikers. They also lead a series of guided walks and activities. *Never swim alone.*

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Currency: US dollar

Business Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am to noon

Visitor Info: Cruz Bay Visitor Center (near the pier)

Post: Adjacent to Visitor Centre

Internet: Connections (Mongoose Junction)

Shop at: Mongoose Junction, Wharfside

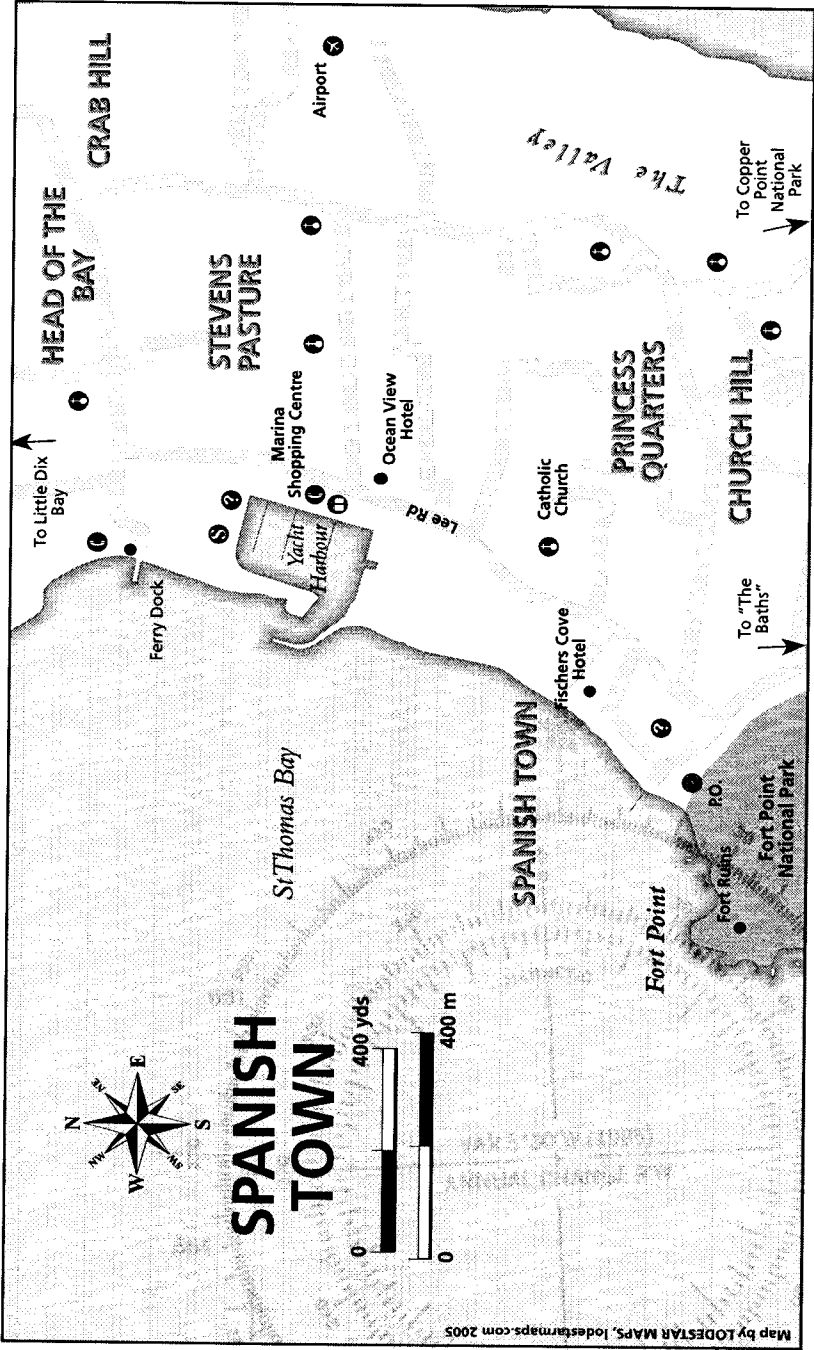
Complex, or the Marketplace (on South Shore Road outside Cruz Bay)

Buys: Resort wear, duty-free imports, local handicrafts

Seadream's of St. JOHN BEACHES

Laurence Rockefeller fell in love with St. John's beauty and became the territory's strongest advocate. In 1956, because of his efforts, two-thirds of St. John was set aside as the **Virgin Islands National Park**. Rockefeller funded much of the preservation effort, and opened his **Cancel Bay Resort** the same year.

Among the many gems that attracted him were the island's incredible beaches and largely because of the philanthropist's efforts, the National Park Service now protects the shores. It is not difficult to decide you are going to the beach once you get a glimpse of the island, but many people have trouble choosing just one of the many gems. The allure is in the clarity of the water – since St. John has very little natural fresh water to run into the sea, the water offshore retains fairly deep blue. St. John's soft sand is also a draw. Fromed millions of years ago from crushed coral that forms the island's base, it is composed of particularly fine grains. The shallow waters near St. John are also blanketed with sand, so waders can go into the water without stepping on sharp rocks or coral.



SEADREAM YACHT CLUB VIRGIN GORDA

VIRGIN GORDA

Sir Francis Drake Passage leads right past Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda's main commercial center. The surrounding community is known as **the Valley**. The ferry landing and airport are both nearby, and although it is a relatively recent innovation, all roads are paved. The rest of Virgin Gorda is rather hilly. **Gorda Peak**, the highest point, towers above 1,380 feet. Two interesting crags off the southern end, **Fallen Jerusalem** and **Broken Jerusalem**, are local landmarks. **Tiny Necker Island**, off the northeastern shore, was British airline magnate Richard Branson's private domain.

One of the most popular attractions is the natural stretch of coast that is romantically known as **the Baths**. Huge boulders that rest haphazardly on the beach were probably hurled from the festering mouth of a prehistoric volcano. Pools and grottoes formed by these great rocks offer swimming and snorkeling.

In the 17th century, not only British colonists, but also Dutch and French settlers took great interest in the archipelago. Remnants of the period include the preserved ruins at Little Fort National Park. The fort is not only a historic site, but also an important wildlife

sanctuary. **Prickly Pear National Park**, on the North Sound, is also a wildlife refuge. The natural areas have become popular among eco-tourists in recent years.

THE BATHS

Most people have heard about *the Baths*. Administered by the National Parks Trust, its house-sized boulders, gently sculpted by centuries of relentless surf, are nothing short of heavenly. Snorkel right off the beach! Delicate tidal pool-ecosystems are interspersed among the rock formations. **Mad Dog Restaurant** at the trailhead is a long-standing Baths tradition. Nearby, **Top of the Baths** is a second (larger) restaurant with several boutiques and a swimming pool.

There is a refreshment and souvenir stand on the beach. *Ropes and wooden steps assist climbers over boulders. A winding dirt trail leads to the cave – walk with care.*

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Currency: US dollar

Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Info: Spanish Town

PO: Spanish Town

Net: Spanish Town

Shop: Baths (souvenirs), or Spanish Town

Buy: Resort wear, souvenirs

Sandbars of OTHER BEACHES

Spring Bay and **Crawl National Park**, the Baths' next-door neighbors, reveal more of the island's attractive shores. Somewhat smaller than its famous cousin, the beach is covered with sugary white sand and is also strewn with gigantic boulders. If the sea is calm, the water is clear, and snorkelers are well rewarded. A rough hiking trail (ear non-skid shoes) trail leads to adjacent and even more secluded **Trunk Bay**, favored among local surfers. High waves create strong undertow.

The inlets north of **Little Dix Bay** feature wide sandy beaches and offer attractive protected anchorages for small private yachts. **Pond Bay**, **Savannah Bay**, and

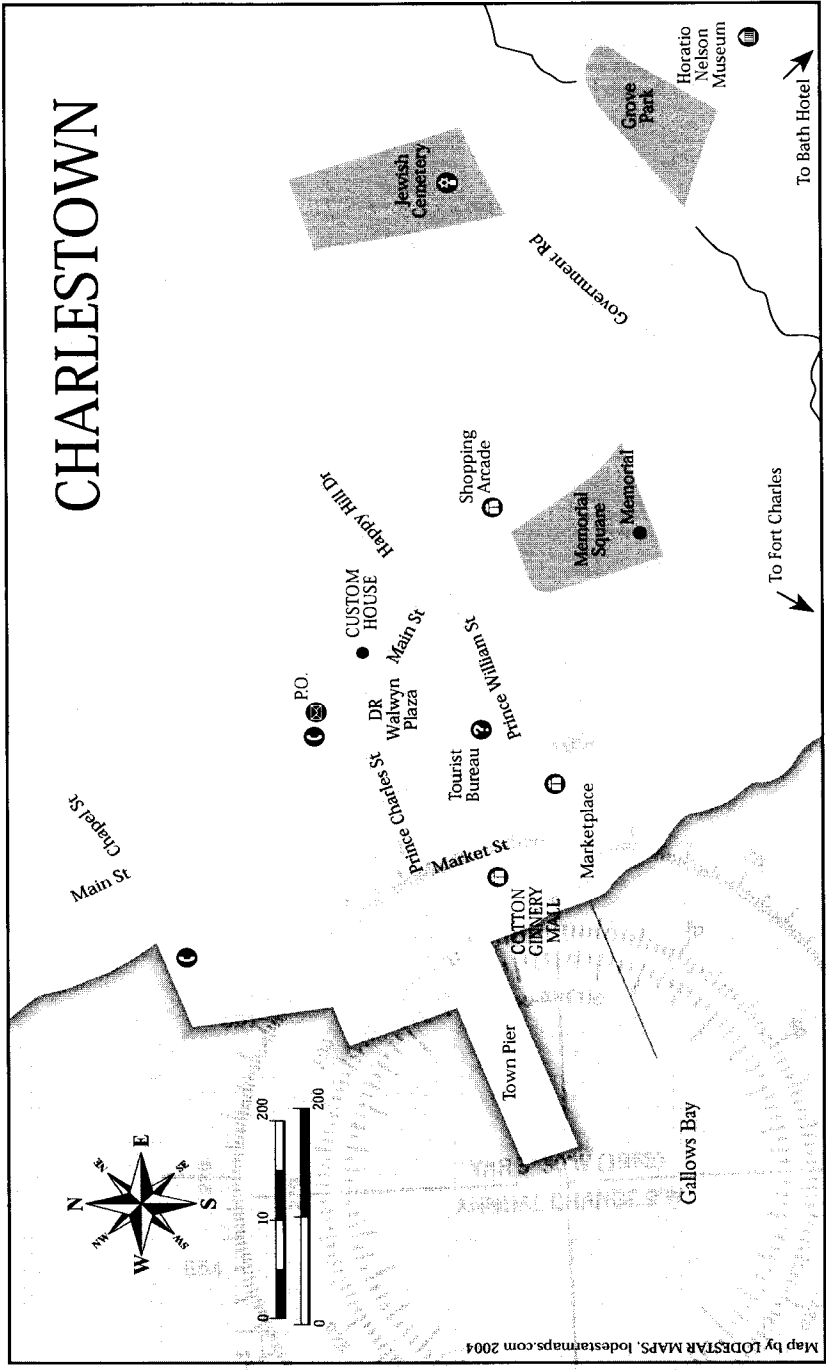
Long Bay, east of Little Dix, are great places to "drift snorkel." Excursion boats drop equipped participants and guides into the warm water. They then head off down current where they later meet their groups. Sir Francis Drake Channel flows along the northern shores and supplies a gentle coastal current. Do not venture too far from the

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CHARLESTOWN



Map by LODSTAR MAPS, lodestarmaps.com 2004



CHARLESTOWN

Fort Charles and **Fort Black Rocks**, built for protection are now in ruins. Charlestown the noted birthplace of Alexander Hamilton, first American Secretary of State, Hamilton might have been president had he not been killed by arch foe Aaron Burr in an 1804 duel (Weehawken Heights, New Jersey). Born January 11, 1757, Hamilton was the son of Scottish colonist James Hamilton and Nevisian Rachel Lawcett LeVine (not married). The bright young man left his Caribbean homeland at 17 to continue his education at King's College in New York (now **Columbia University**). His re-built family home (the original 1680 Georgian manor was lost to an 1840 earthquake) operates as the **Museum of Nevis History**. The museum features a number of locally found relics and explains island history. A display is dedicated to the statesman who helped write America's Declaration of Independence. The museum opens daily, except Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Charlestown's ruined **synagogue** is the oldest in the Caribbean. Thought to date from the mid-17th century, the structure suffered the fate of many Nevis buildings in an earthquake. It is not even certain that the ruined

SEADREAM YACHT CLUB CHARLESTOWN

structure, still an active archaeological site, is the temple. It is only known that there was a synagogue somewhere on the island from European records of the period. **Jews Walk**, a newly installed trail lined with a stone wall, links the synagogue with the restored cemetery. Dating from the late 17th century, the antique burial markers are inscribed in Hebrew, English, and Portuguese.

EDEN BROWN ESTATE

Built in 1741, the Eden Brown Estate is known as the "haunted house of Nevis." The ghost is Julia Huggins, daughter of the first Nevis colonist. Young Julia learned of her fiancé's death on her wedding day – he was killed in a duel with his best friend. The tragic bride-not-to-be went into depressed seclusion, and the estate fell to ruin. After she died, nature reclaimed the grounds. You can visit the evocative site, but not after dark.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Currency: Fast Caribbean *dollar*

Hours: Daily, except Sunday, 8am to 5pm

Visitor Info: Market St. near Walwyn Plaza

Post: DR Walwyn Plaza

Net: Cybercafé (Alexandra Hamilton House)

Shop: Main St. or Cotton Ginney Complex

Buy: Resort wear, imports

Beach: Pinney's, Quail beaches

Seadreams of BATH

The earliest European explorers knew Nevis for its healthful natural mineral springs. Sailors welcomed the chance to soak in the curative waters – especially after a long ocean voyage. In 1778, John Huggins, an enterprising Englishman, built a hotel at Bath, one of the most popular springs. His property was reputedly the Caribbean's first hotel, although its rather shady reputation as a brothel and casino may have been even a bigger draw than the springs! Although the once luxurious property lasted more than two centuries, it was damaged in severe storms in the 1990s, and was closed. Still, local guides enjoy telling atmospheric legends about the hotel.

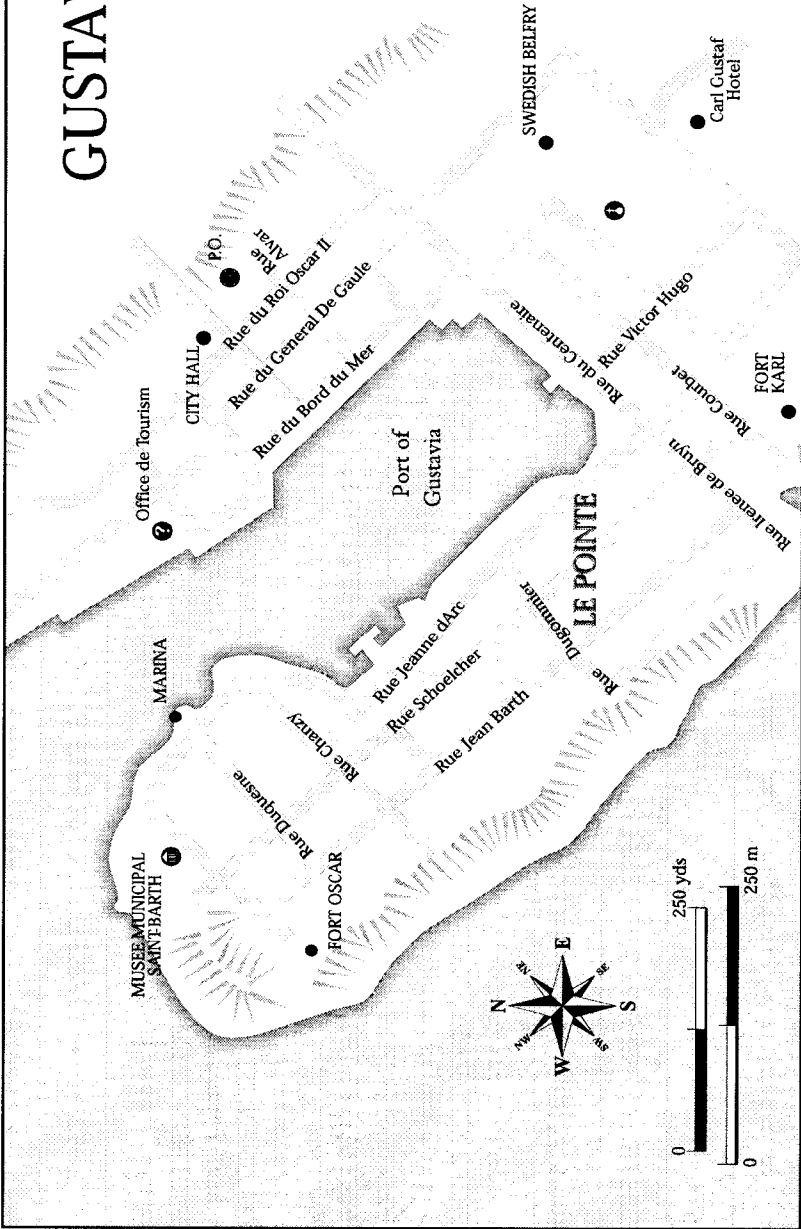
Just east of Bath, the **Horatio Nelson Museum**

is a tribute to Lord Admiral Nelson, who often visited Nevis at the end of the 18th century. The formidable commander was one of the most powerful military men in the British colonies. During one of his stays, he met his beloved wife, Fanny Nisbet, and eventually married her at **Montpelier House** (now in ruin). The island governor was her uncle. The collection includes antique maps, photos, and a few articles that belonged to Nelson.



GUSTAVIA

Map by IODESTAR MAPS, iodestar.com 2004



SEADREAM YACHT CLUB GUSTAVIA

GUSTAVIA

St. Barts' capital can easily be toured on foot. The streets are clean and shops stock a variety of imported French goods – extra enticing displayed in Swedish and French colonial buildings. The town scrambles up the hillsides from the 3-sided harbor. The port is usually busy with luxury yachts.

The community itself is no less pretty than the yachts that visit. Everything seems to be a miniature copy of itself, and all buildings are in perfect condition, adding that kind of charm that is uniquely French. Perhaps the first structure you will notice is the imposing **Carl Gustaf Hotel**. Bungalows hug the hillside above town. Each has a private pool. Visit **City Hall** and the **Clock Tower**, both fine examples of Swedish style architecture, and many of the French warehouses along **La Pointe** (far side of the harbor), have been converted into shops and restaurants. Also near La Pointe, the tiny, but interesting **Musée Municipal** has a number of old photographs and a nice collection of watercolors by local artists. Gustavia was rebuilt after an 1850s fire.

ST. JEAN

Not only is the shopping good, but the racy and elegant atmosphere at St. Jean is

reminiscent of southern France. Its beach is the island's most popular – an odd circumstance since the airport is nearby. Outgoing flight paths lead directly across St. Jean Bay.

LORIENT

Lorient was St. Barts' first French colony. Its cemetery, usually full of brightly colored flowers, is noted for its historic grave markers. There is a popular beach and several shops.

COROSSOL

A tiny fishing village known for straw goods, the quintessential St. Barts souvenir, the *quibenneite* is made and sold in Corossol. Quichenotte is a corruption of the English phrase “kiss-me-not” and refers to possible difficulty in kissing the boat. Older citizens still speak old Norman dialect. The **Inner Oceans Museum**, has a collection of more than 7,000 seashells from various sources.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Currency: *none*

Business Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:00am to noon and 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Info: 80 Rue Larvaud

Post: Rue du Centre-arc

Internet: Le Centre Alizé

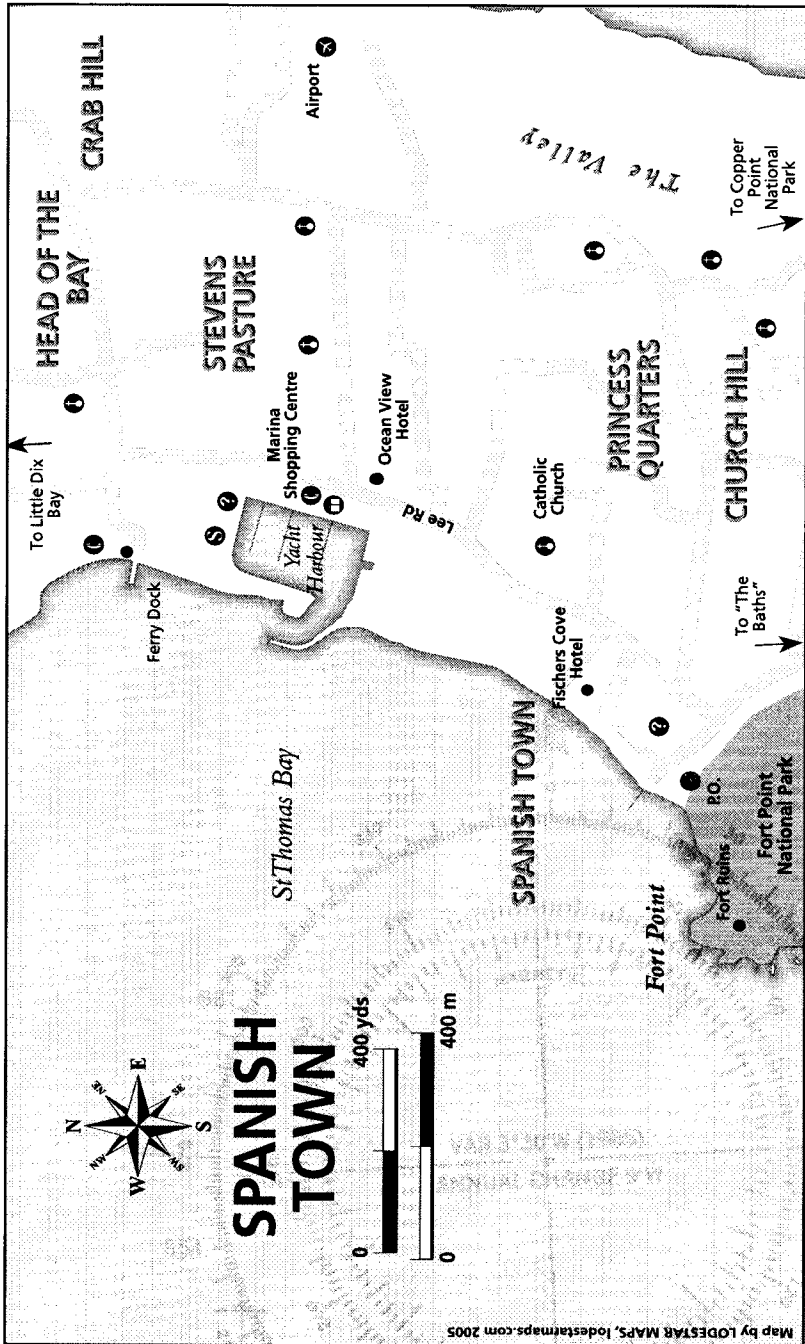
Shop at: Waterfront, St. Jean
Buy: Woolens, local wine

Seadreams of St. BARTHELEMY BEACHES

St. Barts enjoys a deserved reputation for a chic and refined European atmosphere, although visitors are advised that changing facilities and public restrooms may be unisex (not a big deal among French people, but perhaps a bit of a surprise for the uninitiated). French expats especially cherish the soft shores – French beaches are expensive and scarce – St. Barts has more than 20. Most are playgrounds for elegant resorts, but some are undeveloped, accessible only by private boat or at the end of a rough dirt road. **Anse des Flamands**, on the northwest coast, has several small hotels and rental villas. The volcano just inland, is thought to be the island's birthplace. A little further, at the point, **Anse de Colombier** is probably the island's most remote beach. There are no facilities, and access is gained via a small dirt trail. For facilities head over to St. Jean where “they have everything.”

The south coast beaches at **Anse du Gouverneur** and **Anse de Grande Saline** are perfect – it is hard to imagine anything prettier. Bring refreshments. Neither have facilities. Nearer Gustavia, just south of town, is small **Petit Anse de Galet**.





SEADREAM YACHT CLUB VIRGIN GORDA

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PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

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Info: Spanish Town

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Net: Spanish Town

Shop: Baths (souvenirs), or Spanish Town

Buy: Resort wear, souvenirs

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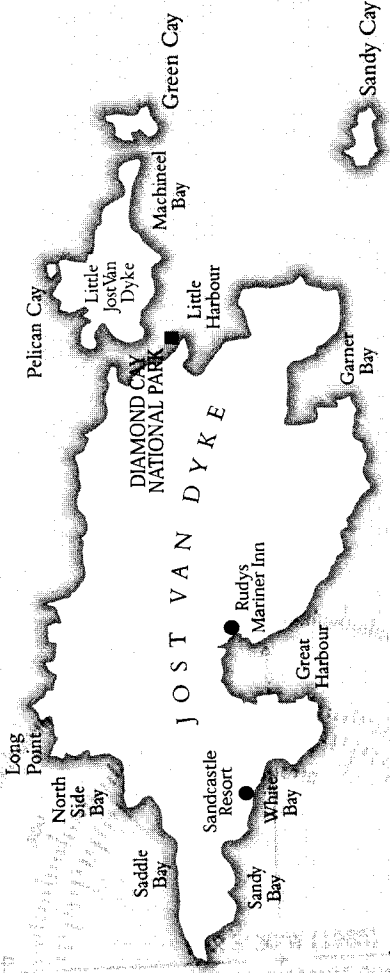
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JOST VAN DYKE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



ATLANTIC OCEAN



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JOST VAN DYKE

JOST VAN DYKE

Jost Van Dyke is the fourth largest of the British Virgin Islands. Named for a colonial-era Dutch pirate, the mountainous island is home to some 180 residents. The harbor is a magnet for private yachts, however, so the island can sometimes feel “full” (but *never* crowded!). *Foxy’s Tamarind*, one of the most popular gathering places in the BVI, is famous throughout the region—especially on New Year’s Eve when the establishment hosts an all night party to greet the calendar change.

Of Jost Van Dyke’s 3 settlements, **Great**

Harbour is the largest. Ferries arrive from Tortola several times daily, so the ferry landing is especially busy. A series of tiny shops and bars line the shore adjacent to the dock. Landmark **Foxy’s Tamarind**, the creation of local entertainer Foxy Callwood more than three decades ago, is one of the most popular. Foxy himself often visits his club. Other local restaurants like **Rudy’s Marina Inn**, **Club Paradise**, **Ali Baba**, and **Happy Laurys** are just a few steps away.

Everything is locally owned, and everyone knows everyone else. A single road rings the island’s scant four square-miles. Visitors are

welcomed with friendly smiles, but people will be sizing you up from the moment you meet them. Islanders are naturally friendly, but they understand that some people are hurry too much to be able to appreciate their little slice of paradise. In response, they only shake their heads.

Tiny **Diamond Cay National Park** off the southeastern coast is protected nesting site and rookery for marine birds. Administered by the National Parks Trust, the site is one of many delicate ecosystems that have been preserved by the forward-thinking BVI government.

There are few sandy beaches on the island. **Great Harbor Beach** is a rather busy place with ferry traffic and commercial ventures.

White Bay, west of the ferry pier commands the adjacent cove. The sandy shore favors sunbathing, and a coral reef protects the cove.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

Currency: US *dollar*

Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm

Info: Pierside on arrival

PO: Great Harbour

Net: Great Harbour

Shop: Great Harbour (along the shore)

Buy: Resort wear, souvenirs

Seadreams of Island History

After the pirate age, things were quiet until the end of the 17th century when Dutch, British, and French homesteaders once again took interest in the islands. Spaniards had moved on by then, so a British presence appeared and remained in control for nearly 300 years. African

slaves powered sugar plantations, but when slavery was outlawed in 1834, the plantation economy failed, and many European settlers returned home. The other Virgin Islands did not go unnoticed. British forces occupied what is now American territory several times, but never managed to retain control.

Life was idyllic and agrarian until the 1960s, when investors noticed the region. American Charles Carey, whose **Moorings** yacht charter company is the Caribbean’s largest bareboat charterer, developed a marina on Tortola, and tourist traffic increased. Fortunately, the 1960s rush to commercialization bypassed BVI – and the circumstance was not accidental. Among other restraints, strict building codes were established specifying a 2-story limit.

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