

Tortola, BVI

Tortola is 12 miles long by 3 miles wide, and quite mountainous. The highest elevation is Mt Sage at 1740'. It lies on a faultline; minor earthquakes are common.

History

Settled in the late 16th century by the English, despite being claimed by the Dutch several times, it remains under British rule. Settlers developed the islands for the sugarcane industry.

Unique Foods

- Roti - with Indian flair, it's a flatbread sandwich filled with meat, spices, and curry.
- Fish and Fungi - cornmeal and okra combined and boiled together in butter. Served with fish.
- Callaloo Soup - leaves of Callaloo plants, but at times substituted with dasheen or spinach, boiled, mixing coconut milk, meats, okra, seasonings, onions, potatoes, and/or eggplant.
- Conch Creole - combining conch, spices, salt pork, hot peppers, garlic, and onions.
- Johnny Cake - a flatbread, made from cornmeal, baking powder, salt, sugar, milk, and butter; then fried.



Unique Animals

The yellow-breasted bananaquit is BVI's national bird.

Animals unique to the British Virgin Islands are the Anegada Ground Iguana (critically endangered), the Virgin Gorda Least Gecko, the Carrot Rock Anole (lizard), the Carrot Rock Skink, the Anegada Skink, and two worm snakes.

The only frog, the Virgin Islands Coqui, is only found on Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, and Virgin Gorda.



Business

Financial Services (offshore companies incorporating) and tourism are the pillars of the economy.

Currency

Due to frequent trade with the USVI, the US Dollar is the currency. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Cell Service

Widespread, fairly reliable cell service.

Internet Service

Wifi is available throughout the port area free. Also often found with a purchase at most restaurants, pubs, and coffee houses.

Driving

On the left side of the road. Seat belts are mandatory for front seat passengers. Temporary drivers licenses are required for all visitors renting cars without a valid BVI license and cost \$10 USD; issued at the car rental company.

What to see and do?

Popular attractions within walking distance of the port:

- The cruise port is located in Road Town, which offers a free shuttle service around town. More info here: [Free Shuttle TORTOLA Flyer](#)
- The O'Neal Botanic Gardens are located in Road Town and are home to tropical plants, a unique pond and Japanese garden. Visitors are welcome. (1 miles west of the port)
- Old Government House Museum and Queen Elizabeth II National Park, are an 18 minute walk south of the port.



Excursion or transportation needed attractions:..

- Fort Burt is a historic 16th century fortress overlooking the capital. Visitors are welcome to explore the ruins, and enjoy the panoramic views.
- Callwood Rum Distillery is one of the oldest continuously operating distilleries in the Caribbean, established in the late 1800s and located in Cane Garden Bay. They offer tours and samplings.
- Mount Healthy Windmill, built in the 18th century and located near Brewers Bay, is a well-preserved relic of Tortola's sugar cane industry. Hiking trails are also located here.

Tortola Cruise Port area map

