



Flotilla 2018

Just a short ferry ride from St. Thomas in the USVI, or a puddle jump plane ride from San Juan, Puerto Rico, the stunning 55-plus islands and cays that comprise the British Virgin islands have two fantastic assets - accessibility and virgin beauty. Known for years as a "sailor's paradise," cruising sailors were among the first to realize this truly was one of "Nature's Little Secrets."

We are looking forward to our annual excursion to **British Virgin Islands** and we hope you can join us on a trip to remember. Our proven teams of NJSS Captains are scheduled to lead the trip. So get your Passport up to date and join us! (Passports are now mandatory).

As it stands now, our team of Captains will be flying out of Newark Airport on **April 21, 2018** returning on **April 29, 2018**. The cost is \$1,700 per person double occupancy, on the school 51 foot, four cabin, four head mono-hull. This cost covers the vessel's cruising taxes, captains, vessel insurance, and some pleasant surprises. You will be day chores along with the rest of the crew. Airfare is not included in this rate. Recent airfare searches were about \$550 from Newark airport round trip to St. Thomas. The short ferry ride to Tortola is approximately \$80. When booking flights be careful to get to St. Thomas in time to catch the last ferry around 4:30.

American Sailing Certifications are also available for the **103 Coastal Cruising** and the **104 Bareboat Chartering** for an additional cost of \$150 each per student. All necessary study material will be supplied. Lecture and course schedules will be blended into your vacation not to interfere with your full enjoyment of the islands and

the sailing.

In addition to the School Boats, individual boats are available for charter if you have the ASA 103 Coastal Cruising certification. The flotilla concept allows you to sail as a skipper in coordination with the lead boat, which will be captained by one of our ASA Instructor/Captains. This is a great way for a novice bare-boater to gain the experience with benefit of our captain's local knowledge. We are with you without being “with you.” The charter company requires a 30% deposit to reserve the boats. Ask for your own boat when booking this option. We will then work with you to select the right boat for the price that works for you. **(All Boats MUST be booked through us to join the Flotilla).**

Read through the rest of the material and quickly get to our web site and sign up. Make sure your Passport is up to date. Space is limited and we want to be sure you do not get left home. If it works out that you just cannot make it be sure to give the package to someone you know so that they can enjoy the trip and report back with pictures and stories.

See you in April

[Stephen](#)

Captain Stephen Dinklage



The NJ Sailing School, Inc.

SAMPLE ITINERARY (Tortola Trip)



The itinerary is open, our objective is to enjoy to the fullest and take it day-by-day. This is just a starting point for further discussion:

- DAY 1-** This is the arrival day. Once you get to the marina and locate your vessel, turn our watches to island time (i.e.: take them off. They leave tan lines anyway) Get oriented to the boats and each other and perhaps an evening cocktail at the marina watering hole?
- DAY 2-** Sunsail hosts a very informative “Skippers” meeting in which they highlight the hot spots and the danger areas. After the skipper’s meeting, its time to set sail. A nice sail to Marina Cay or Trellis Bay for some snorkeling and dingy orientation is a nice first day orientation.
- DAY 3-** A leisurely reach over to the “Baths” for some exploration of the natural rock formations and a lunch aboard. Then, a barbeque lunch sail to Cooper Island for a relaxing evening.
- DAY 4-** From Cooper, we are ready for an exciting sail up Drake Channel to one of

the nicest shore side locations “Bitter End Yacht Club.” AT the Bitter End there are shops and restaurants for some ashore festivities.

- DAY 5-** I like to keep this day for open ideas, some like to just take the day off at the beach some like to go diving etc. Some boats might make the long passage to Anegada, the sunken island. This trip challenges even seasoned navigators but the island and its huge lobsters are the reward.
- DAY 6-** The 25+ mile downwind passage towards Jost van Dyke is the perfect time for relaxation. Along the way we experience some great sailing and occasionally see dolphins and sea turtles. Jost has a few quality anchorages but we prefer Little Harbor for lobster dinner at Sydney’s Love Shack.
- DAY 7-** Now that we are officially on island time, starting your day at the Soggy Dollar down on White Beach is a must. After a morning at the beach, a run over to Norman Island is in order. After picking up a mooring for the night, it is a short dingy ride to some excellent cave snorkeling. As night comes, it is time to head over to the infamous “Willy-T” floating bar and restaurant or up the cove for some more appropriate drinks and dining.
- DAY 8-** After a night at Willy’s it will most likely be a late start and a leisure sail up the channel. A stop at the Indians for snorkeling is a good way to clear the head before heading to Peter Island for shore side lunch and a swim or one last snorkeling adventure before heading back to base. What a nice way to say good-bye. After arriving back at the Sunsail marina it is time for a final dinner and cocktails. We have gone full circle.
- Day 9-** It’s an early rise to catch the ferry or cab to the airport. Don’t forget to find your watch and put it back on. It’s back to the real world and a new sailing season with NJ Sailing School & Charter.

Virgin Island Flotilla 2018

Miscellaneous Information

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES: You are responsible for the cost of getting to and from the Sun Sail Marina in the BVI's. Individually you will be responsible for all activities you might select such as scuba diving, sight seeing, dinners or lunch on land, etc. Provisions while onboard will be purchased as a group (we have found the provisioning provided by Sun Sail is overkill). **Note:** You will be responsible for the day to day chores. **There will not be crew available to serve you and all are expected to pitch in as is expected on any "bareboat" cruise.** **There is no smoking allowed on board these boats.** Each boat, as a group, will be responsible for any cost incurred by that boat such as MOORINGS, ICE, DRINKS, and OTHER EXPENSES.

CURRENCY:

The U.S. Dollar is the local currency in both the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. Since you will be spending a lot of time on small islands, it is a good idea to bring about \$500 in cash. Major credit cards are honored at most USVI stores and hotels and at the larger establishments in the BVI. However, do not expect to be able to use them at small restaurants during your cruise. Personal checks are not accepted anywhere.

CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION:

U.S. citizens are REQUIRED to have a Passport. All passengers must clear both customs and immigration. The Passport requirement was new beginning in 2007.

PACKING FOR THE CRUISE: DO NOT USE HARD SUITCASES, AS THEY DO NOT STOW SUCCESSFULLY ON A BOAT. Use only **carry on** soft luggage. The ideal amount of luggage to go on a sailing holiday with should fit in a duffel bag underneath your airline seat. Lay out all clothes you had intended to bring and ask yourself if you really need that item. During the days aboard the boat, you will need only bathing suits, towels, perhaps a cover-up, shorts, T- shirts and few casual shirts or blouses. In most island restaurants, casual slacks and shirts are acceptable. You will need sneakers or boat shoes for wading in shallow water because of the coral and sea urchins. Try not to come to the airport with heavy coats; you will only have to carry them around for the

duration of your stay.

PROTECTION FROM THE SUN:

The tropical sun is hot, especially on pale bodies that have been kept undercover throughout the winter. The constant trade breezes keep the temperature ideal but you should be careful not to spend too long out in the sun as the combined effect of overhead tropical sun and reflection from both sails and water can cause severe sunburns. If you are fair, then perhaps you should think about a wide brimmed hat. Please bring a good sun block to be used for the first few days. It is a good idea to bring long pants and a long sleeve shirt as a cover up.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

Scuba Gear. If you have your own regulator & facemask, that is fine. Do not bring weight belts and tanks or fins. They are available for rent.

WATER SAFETY:

The waters of the Virgin Islands are essentially a benign area. When people think of tropical waters, man-eating sharks, barracuda and giant moray eels come to mind. The truth of the matter is that more injuries are sustained by cuts from coral or by stepping on a sea urchin spine, than by encounters with underwater predators. Notwithstanding this, **NEVER SWIM ALONE**. This is a simple but proven precaution and a standard water safety tip.

SHARKS:

There are, of course many large sharks around the waters of the Virgins, however, they remain largely in deep water. It is highly unlikely that you will ever see a shark during your cruise and remember that there has never been a shark attack in the Virgin Islands.

BARRACUDA:

You will, without a doubt, see numerous barracuda of various sizes while snorkeling the

reefs. They are curious fish and are likely to stay almost motionless in the water watching your movements. They will not bother you and it is best to show them the same courtesy.

MORAY EELS:

These creatures are shy by nature and make their homes in rocks and crevices formed by the reef. DO NOT reach into caves and crevices unless you can see inside.

CORAL:

Extreme caution should be exercised around all coral as cuts and scratches can become infected quickly.

Familiarize yourself with the various types and remember to stay well clear of the fire coral.

Wear good foot protection when wading on shallow reefs.

SEA URCHINS:

These black spiny creatures are found in abundance throughout the islands. They can be seen on sandy bottoms and on reefs and rocks. If you stand on one or inadvertently place your hand on one, it is likely that one or more of the spines will pierce the skin and break off. Do not try to dig the spines out.

DON'TS

Do not swim at night. Do not swim alone. Do not swim in heavy surf. Do not wear jewelry when swimming or diving. Do not reach into crevices or caves. Do not spear fish and leave it bleeding in the water or in a bag at your waist. Do not dump refuse in the water. It is illegal and attracts sharks. Do not smoke on our boats.

PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE ISLANDS:

The Caribbean is a veritable feast of color, or scenery and people, whether you wish to regard the hues as you see them or wish to manipulate light sources and angles to make your personal statement, you will find that the colors are as transient as light itself.

TRIP INSURANCE:

We are also offering "Trip Cancellation" insurance as an option to protect your investment in this adventure. The cost is about \$100 per person and will cover the flotilla trip and for an additional \$25.00 airfare can be included in the event you have to cancel due to a health or family problem. Ask for the full brochure that lists the incidents that are covered by this policy.