



Getting to Tortola:

An important read for all parents of students headed to the British Virgin Islands

Travel this summer is going to be a privilege, and we should be accepting and open during the end of this pandemic.

BVIs has kept its nickname of '*Nature's Little Secrets*' by being hard to get to as there are no direct flights from the USA, Canada, Europe or South America to the main BVI airport.

All travel to the BVI connects through another Caribbean island, typically St. Thomas or Puerto Rico for flights originating in the USA; and Antigua, Barbados or St. Martin for those traveling from Europe.

Travel to Tortola is a little more complicated due to the COVID-19 protocols. It is important that you become familiar with protocols and expectations that the British Virgin Islands has put into place. We cannot short cut to get special authorizations, so it is important that they be followed exactly. Currently the entry testing protocol fee is \$175 paid online. The United States is also requiring a PCR Covid-19 test for reentry and the fee is \$70.

<https://bvi.gov.vg/travel-protocols>

We suggest the Moorings Travel Service (from North America) but you are not required to use them. The Moorings and sister company, Sunsail, are part of Travelopia, a pioneer in the specialist travel sector. The Moorings Travel service works exclusively with charter boat guests, and they are happy to give you a quote and can help arrange for students to travel together.

They may be reached with our group air agent, **Soun Saysonvang**, her direct number is **866.649.2003**. Leave her a message if she is unavailable, and she will return your call.

PLEASE send or e-mail us a complete itinerary as soon as your reservations are made.

Shortly before your departure, we will let you know if any participant will be sharing a plane with you.

Shipmates joining us in the BVI may select from one of these two travel options:

1. Fly to Tortola - BVI

Flights can be booked directly into Tortola (airport code **EIS** - *Terrance B Lettsome International Airport* on Beef Island). While Tortola's airport does not support jet service, travelers generally fly into San Juan, Puerto Rico, and switch to the regional airlines to Tortola. The major airlines have a code-share with these regional airlines. These planes are small so space may fill up, book early.

American, Delta, and Jet Blue make frequent flights to San Juan from most major hubs in the USA. Please note: **WE DO NOT have staff support in Puerto Rico or Antigua or St. Martin**. For this reason, these routes are not usually appropriate for younger shipmates <15 designated as Unaccompanied Minors by the airlines.

In order to calculate the entire cost of travel, parents need to consider an additional **\$80 in cash transfer costs** (approximate):

- a. Round trip taxi from airport to the marina in Road Town, Tortola (\$32, 30 minutes)
- b. BVI Environmental Tax at entry (\$10)
- c. Departure Tax from the BVI (\$20)

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2. Fly via St. Thomas - USVI Cyril E. King (airport code STT) and take Ferry to Tortola - BVI:

Direct flights to St. Thomas (STT), USVI are typically less expensive, and shipmates make their way via ferry to Tortola under staff supervision. A staff member meets the shipmates at the luggage carousel and together takes a 10 minute taxi ride from the airport to the ferry terminal. The ferry ride is about an hour long and is a beautiful introduction. When we arrive in Tortola, we clear immigration and customs and complete the Covid-19 protocols. We then take a short taxi ride together to the marina. The cost of transfers is not included, but transfers are arranged by our staff. Shipmates should expect to pay for the transfer costs with cash.

On arrival days, this ferry is scheduled to depart from St. Thomas at 4:00 pm.

On departure days the earliest this ferry is able to arrive in St. Thomas is 9:00 am.

For this reason, flights to St. Thomas will only be possible if they meet the following criteria:

- **On arrival days, inbound flights MUST arrive in St. Thomas no later than 2:15 pm**
- **On departure days, flights MUST depart St. Thomas no earlier than 12:00 pm**

In order to calculate the entire cost of travel, parents need to consider an additional **\$190 in cash transfer costs** (approximate):

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| a. Round trip taxi from the STT airport to the ferry (\$10 each way plus \$2 per bag) | d. BVI Environmental Tax at entry (\$10) |
| b. Round trip ferry from St. Thomas to Tortola (\$120) | e. Round trip Taxi from BVI ferry port to our yachts (\$12) |
| c. Departure tax from the USVI (\$10) | f. Departure tax from the BVI (\$20) |

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Charlotte Amalie, St Tomas USVI and Road Town, Tortola BVI

The ferry service between St. Thomas (STT) and Road Town, Tortola, has restarted. This initial service is limited. They currently run one (1) ferry per day and limited to **50 persons**. The current price of the ferry is \$60 each way plus taxes and fees. There is currently a different ferry operator for each day of the week. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The Odyssey arrival and departure are on different days of the week so do not purchase a roundtrip ticket as you need to purchase it from another operator.

I have spoken to several of the ferry operators and they are expecting the capacity to increase in June as per the BVI Premier statements, but, they can provide no details at this time. The price of the ferry will decrease to approx \$35 each way once it expands service. We always want to be on the first Departure ferry of the day for this will be the 7am

If you are flying into St Thomas and taking the Ferry **purchase the ticket now** as they are limited. If the operator does not show availability on that date it may be due to them not yet opening up sales that far in advance. Call them for an answer.

Discover Adventure Voyages:

Sat 6/19	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 4:00pm	www.roadtownfastferry.com
Fri 7/02	Departs Road Town BVI at 8:00am	www.nativesonferry.com
Sat 7/03	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 4:00pm	www.roadtownfastferry.com
Fri 7/16	Departs Road Town BVI at 8:00am	www.nativesonferry.com
Sun 7/18	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 4:00pm	www.roadtownfastferry.com
Sat 7/31	Departs Road Town BVI at 8:00am	www.roadtownfastferry.com
Sun 8/01	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 4:00pm	??
Sat 8/14	Departs Road Town BVI at 8:00am	www.roadtownfastferry.com

Advanced Adventure Voyages:

Fri 6/25	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 4:00pm	www.nativesonferry.com
Thu 7/15	Departs Road Town BVI at 8:00am	www.smithsferry.com
Fri 7/16	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 4:00pm	www.nativesonferry.com
Thu 8/05	Departs Road Town BVI at 8:00am	www.smithsferry.com