

Dive



Explore The British Virgin Islands Below the Surface

Break the surface of the British Virgin Islands' surrounding seas to discover nature's secrets among countless reefs, towering coral pinnacles, underwater caves, canyons, massive boulders, and grottoes.

The BVI's more than 75 spectacular dive sites range from shallows for the novice snorkeler to dramatic sea caverns and shipwrecks for the experienced scuba enthusiast. Dive tour guides are always available to lead guests to the best sites for each skill level.



This extraordinary setting provides outstanding underwater visibility, healthy corals, and a wide variety of exotic dive sites, with air temperatures between 80 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit year-round. Countless reefs, towering coral pinnacles, underwater caves, lava tunnels, canyons, massive boulders and grottoes are strewn across this vast submerged shelf, creating a choice of dive sites that range from shallows for the novice snorkeler to dramatic sea caverns and extraordinary shipwrecks for the experienced scuba diver.

The 10 Dive Wonders of The BVI

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|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1- The Playground | 6- Sharkplaneo |
| 2- RMS Rhone | 7- Willy T |
| 3- The Indians | 8- Wreck Alley |
| 4- Santa Monica Rock | 9- Ginger Steps |
| 5- Kodiak Queen | 10- The Chimney |

Jost Van Dyke

Tortola

Anegada

Virgin Gorda

Pefer Island



TOP 10 DIVE SITES

1. RMS Rhone Marine Park
2. Wreck Alley
3. Coral Gardens aka Sharkplaneo
4. Willy-T Wreck
5. Ginger Steps
6. The Chimney
7. The Indians
8. The Playground
9. Santa Monica Rock
10. Kodiak Queen

RMS RHONE MARINE PARK ISLAND: SALT ISLAND DIVE LEVEL: EXPERIENCED

The Wreck of the Rhone is the first and only Marine National Park in the British Virgin Islands. It is the most celebrated dive site in the BVI, and a major recreational attraction. The park includes examples of fringing reef habitat and sea grass beds. The wreck is that of a Royal Mail Steamer which sunk during the hurricane of 1867 with 125 persons on board. At 310 feet long and 40 feet wide, the wreck of the Royal Mail Steamer lies in two main parts in waters between 25 and 90 feet deep. Much of it is still intact and visible, including decking, parts of the rigging, the steam engine, and propeller. The Marine Park stretches from Lee Bay on Salt Island westward to include Dead Chest Island. The ship's anchor broke away outside Great Harbour, Peter Island, and this site forms the second portion of the Park.

Depth Range: 25 to 85 feet

WRECK ALLEY (Marie L, Pat, Beata and Joey D) ISLAND: COOPER ISLAND DIVE LEVEL: EXPERIENCED

This multiple wreck dive site consists of the Marie L, a cargo boat intentionally sunk in the early 1990s; the Pat, a tugboat sunk a few years later that now lies up against the Marie L; the Beata, sunk in 2001 and the Joey D, a local freighter. Many fish use the wrecks for shelter including large barracuda and moray eels. Southern rays often hide in the sand and reef sharks have been seen. Usually, calm.

Depth Range: 60 to 85 feet



CORAL GARDENS AKA SHARKPLANEO
ISLAND: GREAT DOG ISLAND
DIVE LEVEL: NOVICE

This site consists of three derelict airplanes transformed into underwater half-airplane/half-sharks as part of the ongoing Beyond the Reef work to generate positive awareness for the necessity of sharks in our beautiful waters. The site features an airplane bull shark, nurse shark and hammerhead shark – all native to the BVI's waters. This spot also hosts a unique BVI mini-Cathedral installation of repurposed mooring lines - continuing the theme of up-cycling and giving back to our oceans. The site has become home to lobsters, stingrays, barracuda and occasional turtles. \$5 donations to Beyond the Reef are recommended for those who dive this installation to go towards local children's swim programs.

Depth Range: 25 to 50 feet



WILLY T WRECK
ISLAND: KEY BAY, PETER ISLAND
DIVE LEVEL: NOVICE

This former floating restaurant/bar and the center of many fun BVI stories was washed ashore during Hurricane Irma in September 2017. The wreck was transformed into a pirate-themed underwater playground by a local non-profit, Beyond the Reef, which specializes in creating artificial reefs. They also have several conservation projects that run throughout the year in the BVI. The site includes pirates on the decks and lots of pirate paraphernalia for divers to explore. The Willy T is home to a wide variety of marine life including black coral trees, gobies, blennies, turtles, creole wrasse, eagle rays and bar soldier fish, just to name a few.

\$5 donations to Beyond the Reef are recommended for those who dive the wreck to go towards local children's swim programs.

Depth Range: 35 to 65 feet



THE INDIANS ISLAND: NEARBY NORMAN ISLAND
DIVE LEVEL: NOVICE

As an iconic BVI dive and snorkel site, The Indians offers a little of everything; from sponges and hard and soft corals to plenty of fish life, shrimp and crabs. The shallow water usually has good visibility which gives photographers plenty of great natural light opportunities and if you don't dive often, this one offers plenty of un-intimidating fun.

Depth Range: 15 to 75 feet

THE PLAYGROUND ISLAND: GREEN CAY
DIVE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Comprised of large rocks and coral heads in deep-water, often pelagic can be seen including manta rays, reef and nurse sharks, eagle rays and tarpon. Look out for parrot fish and the small red lip blenny. Occasional current and heavy swell.

Depth Range: 30 to 70 feet

GINGER STEPS ISLAND: GINGER ISLAND
DIVE LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

Ginger Steps is home to some of the healthiest corals in the BVI. The site is further east along Ginger Island, tucked up against the tip of South Bay providing better protection from ocean swells and making for a calmer dive. With many "steps" to explore, divers of all experience levels can enjoy this site.

Depth Range: 30 to 90 feet

THE CHIMNEY ISLAND: GREAT DOG
DIVE LEVEL: NOVICE

One of the most famous dives in the Dog islands, the Chimney, is a site with an unusual underwater structure. Bring a light to best appreciate the incredible colors! Divers are usually greeted by the colourful marine life such as eels and lobster, anemones and baby flame scallops to name a few.

Depth Range: 30 to 45 feet





**KODIAK QUEEN
ISLAND: MOUNTAIN POINT,
VIRGIN GORDA
DIVE LEVEL: NOVICE**

The Kodiak Queen, a former Navy fuel barge, survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. In April 2017, it became an underwater art installation and new dive site in the British Virgin Islands. Before she was submerged, artists created a kraken sculpture (a sea monster with 80-foot tentacles) out of mesh and rebar and attached it to the ship's deck. The project—a collaboration among Sir Richard Branson, nonprofits, and various groups of artists and entrepreneurs—was designed to rehabilitate marine life while acting as a lab for scientists to monitor the area's fish population.

The structure did not survive a particularly rough North Swell, but the wreck itself is still phenomenal.

\$5 donations to Beyond the Reef are recommended for those who dive this wreck to go towards local children's swim programs.

Depth Range: 40 to 60 feet



**SANTA MONICA ROCK
ISLAND: NORMAN ISLAND
DIVE LEVEL: EXPERIENCED**

A truly spectacular dive site and one of diver's favorites! This large underwater pinnacle usually has excellent visibility. The site ranges in depth from 20 to 80 feet. The underwater topography is made up of a series of rocky pinnacles, some rising to just 10 feet below the surface. At Santa Monica Rock, you may have the opportunity to see reef sharks, sea turtles and eagle rays among others. Strong currents and large swells often restrict diving.

Depth Range: 20 to 80 feet



Become an SSI or PADI Scuba Diver in the BVI!



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