



## 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 Secret*' 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's connects through another Caribbean Island, typically St. Thomas or San Juan, 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 they require tourists to be "Fully Vaccinated" and take a test before entry. The United States is also requiring a COVID-19 test for re-entry and the fee is \$70 (fee may change with test type). <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 via St. Thomas - USVI - Cyril E. King (airport code STT) and take Ferry to Tortola - BVI:

- On travel days we have a staff member in the St. Thomas airport. They will meet the students at the luggage carousel. Unaccompanied minors will be met at the designated airline desk.
- We then take a taxi together from the airport to the ferry terminal (10 minutes).
- We purchase tickets, check our bags, it is a scenic 55-minute ride up the island chain to Road Town Tortola.
- Depart the ferry, clear BVI Immigration and Customs.
- Together take taxi to the marina where the Odyssey vessels (5 minutes)

The ferry is scheduled to depart from St. Thomas at 4:15 to 5:00 pm.

On our return homeward the earliest a ferry arrives in St. Thomas is 9:00 am.

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

- 1. On arrival days, inbound flights MUST arrive in St. Thomas no earlier than 11:30 am and no later than 3:15 pm**
- 2. On departure days, flights MUST depart St. Thomas no earlier than 12:00 pm and no later than 4:00 pm (staff must be on return ferry)**

To calculate the entire cost of travel, parents need to consider an additional **\$190 in cash transfer costs** (approximate) Shipmates should expect to pay for the transfer costs with cash (have small bills.):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 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 (\$6 each way) |
| c. Departure tax from the USVI (\$10)   | f. Departure tax from the BVI (\$20)                                |

## 2. Fly to Tortola – BVI - Terrance B Lettsome International Airport (airport code EIS) on Beef Island

Flights can be book directly into Tortola, 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 codeshare 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.

- Shipmates will complete the BVI Immigration and Customs at the airport.
- Our trusted transportation agent will meet the shipmates as they exit the terminal, and the taxi ride is about 30 minutes to the marina.

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)     |

## Ferry Service Status: see page 3

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

- The ferry service between St. Thomas (STT) and Road Town, Tortola, is limited service due to COVID-19.
- Two (2) ferry per day operate and are limited to **65 persons**.
- The price of the ferry is \$60 each way plus taxes and fees.
- There is 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.
- If you are flying into St Thomas and taking the Ferry **purchase the ticket early** as they are limited.
- If the operator does not show availability on that date, it may be due to them not yet opening sales that far in advance. Call them for an answer.
- Times are from the current schedules and may change with the season.

#### Discover Adventure Voyages:

Fri 6/17	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 5:00pm	<a href="http://www.smithsferry.com">www.smithsferry.com</a>
Thr 6/30	Departs Road Town BVI at 7:30am	<a href="http://www.nativesonferry.com">www.nativesonferry.com</a>
Fri 7/01	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 5:00pm	<a href="http://www.smithsferry.com">www.smithsferry.com</a>
Thr 7/14	Departs Road Town BVI at 7:30am	<a href="http://www.nativesonferry.com">www.nativesonferry.com</a>
Fri 7/15	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 5:00pm	<a href="http://www.smithsferry.com">www.smithsferry.com</a>
Thr 7/28	Departs Road Town BVI at 7:30am	<a href="http://www.nativesonferry.com">www.nativesonferry.com</a>
Fri 7/29	Departs Charlotte Amalie STT at 5:00pm	<a href="http://www.smithsferry.com">www.smithsferry.com</a>
Thr 8/11	Departs Road Town BVI at 7:30am	<a href="http://www.nativesonferry.com">www.nativesonferry.com</a>

**There may be other ferries available earlier during the day, but it will not be supervised by Odyssey Expeditions.**

[www.roadtownfastferry.com](http://www.roadtownfastferry.com)