

Media Kit: Islands of Luxury

Islands of Luxury and Islands of Mystery

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS - Complementing the stunning architecture built by Mother Nature, lush mountaintops and Technicolor tides, the British Virgin Islands is home to some of the most luxurious properties in the world – some encompassing entire islands. From Guana Island settled just off the north shore of Tortola and Necker Island dangling between the east end of Virgin Gorda and the southern edge of Anegada, to Peter Island along the southern rim of the Sir Frances Drake Channel, the luxury resorts are demurely tucked into the verdant hillsides that form the signature landscape of the BVI and are both quiet and unobtrusive.

Once a playground for pirates, Peter Island now welcomes visitors who wish for relaxed elegance and pure pampering with five crescent beaches and 20 coves for discovery on the 1,620 hectares resort. True to its plundering past, Deadman's Bay – one of the most romantic beaches in the world despite its name – offers white-sand beaches with solitary palms lining the shore and a stunning view of Deadman's Chest, the notorious island where the pirate Blackbeard abandoned 15 of his sailors. With an ominous dichotomy of lush interiors and barren cliffs, the tiny island seems to whisper the haunting lines, 15 men on a dead man's chest; Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum.

Moving from pirate ships to mega yachts, Peter Island is home to a 10-slip yacht harbour and is now considered a playground for the rich and famous, including regular visitor the Mystique, a blue and white beauty owned by Ellen Tracy clothing line founder Herb Gallen.

Peter Island Resort offers striking villas slipped into the hillsides under swaying palms and seagrasses. Each three-, four- and six-bedroom private unit has panoramic views of the necklace of islands below, personal hammock that sways in the ever-blowing breeze, wrap-around sundeck, secluded pool and impeccable service provided by valet, chef, maid and grounds man.

At The Spa, located just a mere 46-meters from the water on a secluded stretch of beach, coddling continues with treatment rooms offering outside patio and services that rely on natural curatives to provide the ultimate in rejuvenation. The West Indian Honey and Sesame Seed glow utilizes native honey to moisturize and encourage new cell growth while the Frangipani and Coconut Wrap takes advantage of the abundant cacti on the island using a cactus fiber cloth for exfoliation followed by a fragrant wrap of the island flower. Guests may also choose to forego treatment rooms in place of a private bohio, or treatment room, situated on a secluded patch of beach where skilled therapists deliver Signature Peter Island treatments, moving hands in rhythm with the lapping tides of the Caribbean.

Located to the northeast of Tortola, the provincial private island resort of Guana Island defines the dream of sharing a secret island with no more than 32 guests on the 340-hectare property at one time. Named for its iguana-like shaped cliffs, Guana Island is a natural wildlife sanctuary with more flora and fauna than any island its size in the Caribbean, including several endangered species.

Majestic views of lush green are only broken by vibrant flowers including the lavender-blue and pink-tinged blossoms of the tabebuia tree and the showy red and yellow blooms of the royal Poinciana. Through seven pristine beaches and 20 hiking trails, guests meet the only permanent residents on the island – red-faced Princeton caterpillars, colourful roseate flamingos, the plump Bridled Quail Dove, checkered Bahama ducks and at least 50 other species of birds, 14 breeds of reptiles, 125 varieties of fish and hundreds of plants and insects.

With only 17 rustic cottages occupying the entire island – each staggered upon a ridge overlooking both the Caribbean and Atlantic – the resort is embedded into nature, even boasting an orchard featuring papayas, mangos, key limes and bananas.

On the north side of the Guana Island lays a private beach cottage hidden amongst tropical woodland – the only fixture built on the North side. Equipped with a golf cart, guests manoeuvre down a half-mile trail through coconut, papaya and seagrape trees, a salt-water flamingo pond and Quaker ruins before arriving at the secluded abode. Designed with living quarters upstairs, the cottage is graced by expansive windows and patio doors showcasing majestic sunrises off North Beach. The natural palace is stocked with requested groceries prior to arrival and a chef visits daily to prepare breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Necker Island, just north of the eastern most appendages of Virgin Gorda, is the exclusive hideaway of magnate Sir Richard Branson. Known as an extrovert and daredevil, Branson designed his private island resort to be equally adventurous while also offering a serene juxtaposition of absolute relaxation in the form of Balinese houses and cottages.

With no more than 28 people on the island at a time, it is easy to find a quiet respite in the midst of helicopter excursions, windsurfing, water skiing, wakeboarding, sea kayaking and even taking tumbles on an aqua trampoline. For more subdued activities, island-renters kick back at one of two pools where Floating Sushi and Shooter Bars keep palates pleased, or find nourishment of the body and soul at the Bali Leha spa built into the side of a cliff and overlooking the sea.

The BVI, consistently recognized as one of the most breathtaking destinations in the world and the undisputed Sailing Capital of the World, presents 60 islands for exploring its secrets.

The BVI is rich with the storied islands of Norman (the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Treasure Island,”) Dead man’s Chest and Anegada, while sun worshippers find a haven on Jost van Dyke, Cooper Island and Virgin Gorda. Whether it is discovering the natural phenomena of The Baths or diving the Indians, Sandy Spit or fabled Wreck of the Rhone, the BVI is bountiful with Nature’s Little Secrets.

To discover these secrets and create new ones, call the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board toll free: 800.835.8530 or visit www.bvitourism.com.