

VI St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands Cruise Port Guide

Your Complete Guide to Beaches, Shopping, Island Views & Unforgettable Adventures



St. Thomas is one of the Caribbean's most popular cruise destinations, and it's easy to see why. As part of the U.S. Virgin Islands, this tropical paradise offers stunning beaches, crystal-clear waters, breathtaking mountaintop views, world-class duty-free shopping, and easy transportation around the island.

Whether you're spending the day relaxing at Magens Bay, snorkeling with sea turtles, riding the Skyride to Paradise Point, or shopping in historic Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas offers something for every traveler.

For many cruisers, it's a destination they return to again and again—and each visit offers something new to discover.

Where Do Cruise Ships Dock?



Cruise ships typically dock at one of two locations.

Havensight Cruise Port

The busiest cruise terminal on the island.

Features include:

- Duty-free shopping
- Restaurants
- Jewelry stores
- Souvenir shops
- Taxi stand
- Excursion meeting areas

Downtown Charlotte Amalie is approximately a 5-minute taxi ride or a 20–25 minute walk.

Crown Bay Cruise Port

Located west of downtown.

Offers:

- Shopping
- Restaurants
- Taxi services
- Rental cars
- Easy transportation to beaches and attractions

Both ports provide quick access to the island's top attractions.

Explore Charlotte Amalie



One of the oldest towns in the Caribbean, Charlotte Amalie blends Danish colonial history with Caribbean charm.

Highlights include:

- Historic streets
- Fort Christian
- Government House
- Local cafés
- Boutique shopping
- Waterfront restaurants
- Art galleries

It's one of the Caribbean's best cities for simply wandering and exploring.



Ride the Skyride to Paradise Point



One of the island's most popular attractions.

The Skyride carries visitors more than 700 feet above the harbor for spectacular panoramic views.

At the top you'll find:

- Restaurants
- Bars
- Shopping
- Scenic overlooks
- The famous Bushwacker cocktail

This is one of the best photo opportunities in the Caribbean.

Best Beaches

Magens Bay



Frequently ranked among the world's most beautiful beaches.

Features include:

- Calm turquoise water
- Soft white sand
- Chair rentals
- Paddleboards
- Kayaks
- Food concessions

Perfect for families and first-time visitors.



Sapphire Beach

Known for:

- Excellent snorkeling
- Crystal-clear water
- Water sports
- Beach bars
- Beautiful island views

A favorite among repeat cruisers.



Coki Beach

Popular for:

- Vibrant coral reefs
- Snorkeling
- Tropical fish
- Local food vendors

One of the island's best beaches for marine life.



Lindquist Beach

A quieter beach with soft sand and fewer crowds.

Ideal for travelers looking to relax.



Top Shore Excursions



Snorkel with Sea Turtles



One of the island's most popular excursions.

You'll often encounter:

- Green sea turtles
- Tropical fish
- Coral reefs
- Stingrays

Suitable for beginners and experienced snorkelers.

Sail to St. John

Many excursions visit neighboring **St. John**, home to **Virgin Islands National Park**.

Highlights include:

- Trunk Bay
- Cinnamon Bay
- Virgin Islands National Park
- Scenic sailing

A favorite excursion for nature lovers.

Snorkeling Catamaran

Enjoy:

- Sailing
 - Snorkeling
 - Lunch
 - Tropical drinks
 - Beautiful coastal scenery
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Island Sightseeing Tour

Visit:

- Mountain Top
- Drake's Seat
- Historic downtown
- Scenic overlooks
- Local villages

Perfect for first-time visitors.



Coral World Ocean Park

Great for families.

Experience:

- Marine exhibits
 - Sea lions
 - Sharks
 - Touch pools
 - Sea Trek underwater helmet walk
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Scenic Viewpoints

Mountain Top



One of the highest points on St. Thomas.

Enjoy panoramic views overlooking Magens Bay and neighboring islands.

It's also famous as the birthplace of the **Banana Daiquiri**.

Drake's Seat

A historic overlook offering spectacular views of Magens Bay and the surrounding islands.

A popular stop on island tours.



Shopping

St. Thomas is famous for duty-free shopping.

Popular purchases include:

- Jewelry
- Watches
- Perfume
- Electronics
- Caribbean art
- Local rum
- Designer goods

Charlotte Amalie is considered one of the best shopping destinations in the Caribbean.



What to Eat

Be sure to try:

- Fresh seafood
- Conch fritters
- Johnny Cakes
- Caribbean barbecue
- Callaloo
- Lobster (seasonal)
- Rum cake
- Mango desserts

Popular restaurants include:

- Gladys' Café
 - Greengos Caribbean Cantina
 - Oceana Restaurant
 - The Twisted Cork
 - Mountain Top Café
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Hidden Gems

If you've visited before, consider exploring:

- Secret Harbour Beach
- Hull Bay
- Brewer's Bay

- Blackbeard's Castle
- 99 Steps
- Phantasea Tropical Botanical Garden

These quieter locations offer a more relaxed experience away from the busiest cruise crowds.

Weather Throughout the Year

St. Thomas enjoys warm tropical temperatures year-round.

Winter (December – February)

- Highs: **80–84°F (27–29°C)**
- Comfortable humidity
- Ideal beach weather

Spring (March – May)

- Highs: **82–86°F (28–30°C)**
- Sunny and warm

Summer (June – August)

- Highs: **87–91°F (31–33°C)**
- Hot and humid
- Brief afternoon showers possible

Fall (September – November)

- Highs: **84–89°F (29–32°C)**
- Warm water
- Fewer crowds

Trade winds help keep temperatures comfortable throughout the year.

Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from:

June 1 – November 30

Peak activity typically occurs:

- August
- September
- October

Cruise lines monitor weather closely and may adjust itineraries when necessary.



Getting Around

Transportation options include:

- Taxi (shared and private)
- Safari buses (open-air local transportation)
- Rental cars (remember they drive on the **left**, even though most vehicles have left-hand drive)
- Shore excursions

Taxi rates are generally fixed between popular destinations.



What to Pack

Bring:

- ✓ Swimsuit
 - ✓ Reef-safe sunscreen
 - ✓ Sunglasses
 - ✓ Hat
 - ✓ Comfortable walking shoes
 - ✓ Water shoes
 - ✓ Snorkeling gear (optional)
 - ✓ Waterproof phone pouch
 - ✓ Reusable water bottle
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Premium Travel Group Tip

If this is your first visit, it's hard to beat a combination of **Magens Bay** and **Paradise Point**. Spend the morning relaxing at one of the Caribbean's most beautiful beaches, then ride the Skyride for unforgettable panoramic views before heading back to the ship.

If you're returning to St. Thomas, consider taking the ferry or a catamaran excursion to **St. John**. With over 60% of the island protected as a national park, it offers some of the most pristine beaches and natural scenery in the entire Caribbean.



Continue Exploring the Eastern Caribbean

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Why Visit St. Thomas?

St. Thomas combines everything travelers love about the Caribbean—spectacular beaches, unforgettable views, outstanding snorkeling, duty-free shopping, and rich history. Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning after many cruises, this beautiful island continues to be one of the most rewarding and memorable ports in the Caribbean.