

MORE TID BITS FROM CYOA

WHERE IS CYOA?

We are conveniently located at the new Frenchtown Marina in a quaint fishing and sailing community. We're less than a 10-minute drive from the St. Thomas airport, which means this is one of the easiest arrival and departure spots around. Historic Frenchtown has a special charm of its own, as it is home to many local fishermen and long-time island families.

For the shoppers in your group, we're only a safe 15-minute walk to the world-famous downtown Charlotte Amalie. For those that love great food Frenchtown eateries offer everything from fine gourmet delights to dockside pub simplicity.

TRANSPORTATION

TAXI SERVICE - Our close proximity to the airport does not necessitate reserved taxi pickups. Cabs are always waiting for passengers at the terminal. Rates are approximately \$5.00 per person and 50 cents/bag. Be sure to tell the driver you'd like to go to Frenchtown Marina ("the docks with sailboats", near Hook Line and Sinkers Restaurant). Be sure all members of your crew know they are sailing with CYOA just in case there are travel delays, or events that cause your group to be separated.

AIRLINE RESERVATIONS - If you or a member of your crew are in need of air travel assistance, call Caribbean Travel Net at 800-825-9648. Give them our ref. #2300 for great charter discounts.

CAR RENTALS - There are many companies to choose from. Some of our guests have used: BUDGET, located at the airport - 800-527-0700 or 340-776-5774

PROVISIONING

If you are 'self-provisioning, PUEBLO Supermarket in Sub Base is close by. It is a large store that has everything (opens early and closes late). Most of our guests walk there, and taxi back with their purchases. There are several small stores in Frenchtown for 'last minute' items.

HOTELS

If you are in need of land accommodations for one night or several, here are a few suggestions, each place offering something different. Best to call for current rates, as they vary with season. Also, check the cancellation policy when making reservations.

HOTEL 1829 -

800-524-2002, 340-776-1829

Small, classy, downtown, close by. approx. \$80 - \$200

ADMIRAL'S INN -

800-544-0493, 340-774-1376

Small, simple, in Frenchtown (walking distance), inexpensive, approx. \$89-\$129

`HOLIDAY INN -

800-524-7389, 340-774-5200

Downtown on the waterfront (walking distance). approx \$120

`EMERALD BEACH -

800-233-4936 340-777-8800

Beach side resort, across from airport convenient, approx. \$129-145

`CARIBE BEACH -

800-792-2742 340-774-2525

Near beach, across from airport, inexpensive, approx. \$89- \$129

`SAPPHIRE BEACH RESORT -

800-524-2090 340-775-6100

Nice beach side resort, great for a few days, across from St. John, approx. \$199-\$500.

SHOPPING

Downtown Charlotte Amalie is a hop, skip and a jump from our office. If you arrive early, or have time before your departing flight, spend a few hours wandering through the many shops and picturesque alleys. There are more shops across the harbor at Havensight Mall. A great spot for souvenirs, food and photos is Mongoose Junction, Cruz Bay, St. John.

RESTAURANTS

They come in all shapes and sizes and a wide variety of menus! The many tourist guides will preview the offerings throughout the cruising area. Right here, within walking distance of our base, you'll find; the famous 'CRAIG & SALLY'S', 'HOOK, LINE & SINKER', 'BETSY'S', 'BELLA BLUE', 'EPERNAY', 'McDONALDS', 'OCEANA', and a little further on the waterfront, downtown, you'll find: 'GREEN OUSE', and several others.

BANKS

St. Thomas and Tortola have several banks including: Chase, Citibank, Banco Popular, and Scotia. You will find access to money machines. There is an AMERICAN EXPRESS office on St. Thomas. It is best to plan ahead and bring money with you.

HOLIDAYS

The islands celebrate many traditional holidays and many that are unique to the region. You will find many businesses and services closed during major celebrations. Best to check what's happening! Some closings on SUNDAYS also.

WATERSPORTS

SCUBA DIVING -

Bringing gear aboard is the preferred choice of avid divers. Remember, the gear is with you your entire trip, and does take up space! Be sure to rent a Pelican rack for your tanks. This is the only way tanks may be stored aboard our boats. Gear generally runs \$150/week for a set (BC, Regulator, tank, weight belt). Other combinations of equipment may be arranged. When you

make reservations with the dive shop, ask about pick up and delivery, and their deposit policy (usually a credit card). CYOA requires an additional security deposit of \$500 if you bring dive gear aboard. This deposit is paid upon arrival in cash or travelers checks, and will be refunded to you after the inspection of the vessel at the end of your trip. This deposit is independent of what the dive shop may require for security of their gear. For Gear Rental call Admiralty Dive Center, Windward Passage Hotel - 340-777-9802. If you are planning to do just a few dives, consider 'Rendezvous Diving'. Place a reservation with a professional dive shop in the sailing area. They will meet your boat, bring all gear, take you to a great place and bring you back to your boat. The cost of a 2-tank dive is approximately \$80 - \$85. This is a great way to enjoy the sport and let the rest of the non-divers enjoy another activity. Also keeps bulky gear off the boat when you are not using it. LOCAL DIVE OPERATORS: LOW KEY, St. John - 800-835-7718, BASKIN IN THE SUN, Tortola 284-494-2858, UNDERWATER SAFARIS, Tortola 284-494-3235

SNORKELING - CYOA has a supply of masks, fins, and snorkels available at no charge to our charter guests. Some guests prefer bringing along their own gear, for comfort, or if you're a weird size (very BIG or very SMALL).

SAILBOARDS - For a great selection of windsurfers and kayaks call West Indies Windsurfing at 340-775-6530. They will deliver the boards to your yacht!

FISHING - For rod and tackle equipment, contact: Neptune Fishing Supplies in American Yacht Harbor, 340-775-0115 or Admiralty Dive Center in the Holiday Inn 340-777-9802

THE BITTER END - If you wish to try your hand at several watersports, and not bother with rentals, spend a day or two up in North Sound, Virgin Gorda. Moorings are available for \$15/day. You can rent kayaks, sunfish, sailboards, waterskis, scuba equipment, or use the pool. Contact: THE BITTER END YACHT CLUB, Virgin Gorda - 800-872-2392, 284-494-2746

WEATHER

Ahhhhh the tropics! We are blessed with perfect sailing weather mostly year round. The prevailing winds from November to January are NE 15-20 knots. In February the winds start to move to the east and by June they are SE 10-15 knots. September and October the trade winds are the weakest. Other than that, the skies are blue, the windshield factor is about 85 degrees, and the occasional cloud is fleecy white. We do not have a rainy season, just the occasional passing showers to water the plants.

NAVIGATION

The Virgin Islands is the easiest place in the world to Navigate. Tides and currents are too minor to notice. We do not have fog and commercial traffic is minimal. Navigation is done by charts, compass, and line of sight. Electronic navigation is unnecessary however some people bring their own hand held G.P.S for practice or for fun.

CRUISING GUIDE

It is fun to plan your cruise with Virgin Islands Cruising Guide published by Cruising Guide Publications, Inc. This guide is well organized and updated annually. It gives hints for charter planning, local rules and regulations. It provides landfall and anchorage sketches and photos and

comes with a full size fold-old chart of the Virgin Islands. Ask us for the CYOA coupon for this publication.

CURRENCY/LANGUAGE

The currency in the U.S. and British Islands are U.S. dollars. Many places still do not accept credit cards so be prepared. The language is English with the locals adding their own dialect. So welcome to da islands mon!

MOORING BALLS

Located throughout the Virgin Islands at most popular anchorages are well-maintained moorings available for overnight use. The fee of usually \$20 per night is well worth not having to hassle with anchoring and worry about dragging anchor.

CUSTOMS / IMMIGRATION

Visitors entering the British Virgin Islands must clear in and out of customs. Proof of citizenship is required. The fees to clear in change daily. To be safe budget \$40 per person per week for this. You will need to clear back into the U.S. at Cruz Bay, St. John.

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

To find out which cellular companies will be in roaming mode while in the BVI's you can call CCT Boatphone 284-494-3825. You will also have an opportunity to register your cellular phone for a personal pin and phone number, once you enter the BVI Boatphone zone.

CYOA STAFF

The CYOA staff are all professional boaters who have chosen to live and work in the Virgin Islands. We are all dedicated to making your sailing vacation wonderful and as hassle free as possible. Please let us know how we can help make your sailing dreams come true. We look forward to having you hear in paradise!

Happy Sailing, CYOA Crew!

