

2017 Virgin Islands Sailing Trip

1-13/14 arrived St. Thomas – met Suzanne and David at the airport and took taxi to Galleon House. Dinner at The Greenhouse then live music at bar just down the street, back to Galleon House, then back out for live reggae at Rum Shandy in Frenchtown. Breakfast on the patio next morning, then shopping/ferry to Tortola. Had fresh sugar cane/carrot/ginger juice at open market. Lunch at Pusser's (roti) then walk to RiteWay for shopping/taxi to Maya Cove. Dinner at Calamaya – Hodge's Creek Marina Hotel. Air-conditioned boat!

1-15 Sunny E 20-25 kts

9:30am Left Hodges Creek Marina, emergency procedures raining, engine off, sailing with genoa. Arrived at "The Indians" off of Norman Island at 11:45. Rough snorkeling, Suzanne practiced on a leash! 1:30 mooring ball at the Bight, Norman Island. Spent time on the beach drinking and people watching, took a short hike. Dinner at the Willy T (great ribs) but strange goings-on. White shorts girl with the amazing twerk, local selling pot, woman with squirt gun...

Bushwacker: Blend: 1 ounce Dark Rum, 1 ounce Kahlua, 1 ounce Dark Crème de Cacao, 2 ounces Cream of Coconut, 2 ounces Milk, 1 cup ice. Drizzle chocolate syrup around inside of cup, pour and drink!

1-16 Sunny NE 20 kts

Sailed to Cooper Island, windy - 2nd reefs for main and genoa. 1:30 on a mooring ball without float – tied up through the chain under the ball using dinghy. David and Suzanne took Kim to Cistern Point for snorkeling, dinner at Cooper Island Resort.

1-17 Sunny, E 20 kts

Sailed to Virgin Gorda, North Sound, Bitter End, on the mooring ball at 1:30. Had a look at the baths on the way over, yellow flag. Explored Bitter End Yacht Club and hiked Guy's Trail up, over, around and back, meeting Volker to go over to Saba Rock to see the feeding of the Tarpons at 5pm. Happy hour painkiller and lounged on the back couches. Pan fried chicken breasts, stir fry veggies and new potatoes on the boat.

Painkiller: 2-4 oz. of Pusser's Rum, 4 oz. pineapple juice, 1 oz. cream of coconut, 1 oz. orange juice, grated fresh nutmeg, mix serve over ice.

1-18 E 15 kts

Sailed to Jost Van Dyke, moored in Long Bay at 2pm (east end of Jost near Foxy's Taboo). Had a blast at the bubbly pool. Crossed police tape to get there, which we found out later was due to a death at the pool a couple days earlier – freak accident, boulder fell on someone. Dinner at Foxy's – great coconut shrimp, swordfish and lamb skewers.

1-19 E 2-3 kts

Under engine to Great Harbor on Jost to check out of BVI. Went to bakery for cookies, banana bread and cinnamon roll, had a look around at the original Foxy's. Motored to Cruz Bay, St. John for check in to US. Shopped a bit, got groceries at Dolphin Market. Motored to Great Lameshur bay on the south side of St. John. Suzanne and David dinghy dumped Kim at Yawzi Point for snorkeling. Had a look around on shore and hiked out to end of Yawzi Point. Grilled pork chops, stir fry veggies and rice on the boat.

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1-20 E 2-3 kts

Morning hike to the petroglyphs on Lameshur Bay Trail. Back for snorkeling off the beach at Little Lameshur Bay (coral and fish, grassy bed with conch). Dropped David off at Cruz Bay for an adventure (and Kim's first solo dinghy adventure), motored over to Caneel Bay. Had a look around ZoZo's/sugar mill ruins and watched the sunset. Drinks on the upper deck followed by dinner at Caneel Beach Bar & Grill sushi, caneel bay burger, roti, fish.

1-21 Still no wind

Motored over to Red Hook for crew change. Got gas/water at fuel dock (American Yacht Harbor). Deb and Kevin arrived while we were there. Said quick goodbye to Suzanne and David because we had to get off the dock. Motored over to Cruz Bay to get groceries because AYH was charging \$2 a foot to stay for 2 hours. Took empty luggage for groceries. Motored to Salt Pond Bay. Snorkeled the bay – turtles were there but didn't see any in the water.

1-22 no wind

Morning snorkel in Salt Pond Bay. After lunch motored over to Great Lameshur Bay. Snorkeled west side of Little Lameshur Bay around the point. Deb and Kevin saw a shark and were stalked by an eagle ray. Grilled steaks using self-lighting charcoal (1/2 bag). Left at midnight for crossing to St. Croix.

1-23

Anchored in Gallows Bay at 7:30am. Full day on St. Croix. Rented a car for island tour while Volker arranged for anchoring permit at Buck Island. Point Udall, lunch at Off the Wall in Cane Bay, beer drinking pigs at Mt. Pellier Hut Domino Club, drive through the rainforest, cruise ship action in Frederiksted, Cruzan Rum Distillery tour (rum punch to go), and back to Christiansted. Great dinner at 40 Strand (Wahoo sushi, smoked pork chop, crusted Wahoo, salad with Carambola/star fruit).

1-24 SE 10

Motor/Sailed to Buck Island. Anchored and took long dinghy ride into lagoon for snorkeling at Buck Island Reef National Monument (bit of a let-down). Lunch and lazy afternoon. Salmon on the grill for dinner (used cardboard to get the second half of bag of coals going). Left at midnight for crossing back over to St. John.

1-25

Stopped at Cruz Bay for checkout to go back to BVI (but didn't need to). Got groceries/ice. Went to Trunk Bay for snorkeling – beautiful beach. Moored in Caneel Bay for the night. Dinner at the Bar and Grill.

1-26 NE 7-10 kts

Sailed over to Soper's Hole for check-in and gas. Finally sailing – full main/genoa to Manchioneel Bay. Cistern Point OCTOPUS. Dinner at Cooper Island Resort.

1-27 ENE 10 kts

Last morning snorkel at Cistern point – finally saw turtles and huge spotted eagle ray. Sailed to The Baths (red flag) for lunch – pan fried mahi. Sailed back over to Maya Cove for happy hour. Conch fritters and snacks for dinner.