

Media Kit: Fast Facts & Trivia

Unlocking The Mystery Of The B.V.I

The British Virgin Islands was the inspiration for several musicians including Jimmy Buffet and his famed "Cheeseburger in Paradise" written with Tortola's Cane Garden Bay in mind and Kenny Chesney's sunny music video "No Shoes, No Shirts, No Problems," actually filmed at Ivan's Stress Free Bar on Jost Van Dyke.

British pirate Edward Teach, also known as Blackbeard, sailed the British Virgin Islands and made his home in Soper's Hole between 1715 and 1718.

"Road," (as in Road Town the BVI capital), is the nautical name for a protected and safe place to drop anchor.

Although the islands are legally in the possession of the United Kingdom, the official currency is the U.S. Dollar.

Islands like Dead man's Chest, Thatch and Bellamy received their name from their pillaging past. Dead Chest Island reputedly got its name when the notorious Blackbeard, after a mutiny, put 15 men ashore on this island with only a bottle of rum, hence the song: "15 men on a dead man's chest, yo ho ho and a bottle of rum."

The British Virgin Islands were first settled in 600 B.C. when Amerindians/Pre-Columbians travelled from South America.

Tortola means "land of turtle doves" in Spanish.

The architect of the U.S. Capitol Building, William Thornton, was born on the island of Jost Van Dyke in 1759.

Feeding on microscopic aquatic creatures such as brine shrimp that contain carotene gives the Roseate Flamingos of Anegada their distinctive rosy tint.

The median age of a BVIlander is 30 years.

Painkillers are the favourite local concoction combining rum, pineapple and orange juices, and cream of coconut. The drink originated at the Soggy Dollar Bar on Jost van Dyke but was made famous by Pusser's Rum.

The British Virgin Islands received their first traffic lights in 2001. The government held a seminar to instruct BVI citizens on proper use of the lights.

Virgin Gorda means "Fat Virgin" in Spanish and received its name from the profile Columbus' sailors saw in 1493 as they sailed past the island.

Celebrities from Morgan Freeman and Giorgio Armani to Heidi Klum and Elizabeth Hurley flock to the British Virgin Islands year-round for extravagant, luxury-laden vacations.

Virgin Airline and Mega store mogul, Richard Branson, owns an entire island, the beautiful Necker.