



Getting to Tortola:

An important read for all parents of students headed to the British Virgin Islands

BVI has kept its nickname of '*Nature's Little Secrets*' by being hard to get to as there are no direct flights from the USA, Canada, Europe or South America to the main BVI airport.

All travel to the BVI connects through another Caribbean island, typically St. Thomas or Puerto Rico for flights originating in the USA; and Antigua, Barbados or St. Martin for those traveling from Europe.

Students joining us in the BVI may select from one of these two travel options:

1. Fly via St. Thomas Cyril E. King (airport code STT): most of students select this route. It is the best option and is the method that we recommend. Flights direct to St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands are typically less expensive, and once arrived, students make their way to Tortola under staff supervision, which is about 25 miles away by ferry from Charlotte Amalie (10 minutes in a taxi from the St. Thomas airport to the ferry port). The ferry ride is about an hour long and it's a beautiful ride. On scheduled travel days we have a staff member in the St. Thomas airport to meet and greet the students. The cost of transfers to and from the airports is not included, but transfers will be arranged for you by our staff members to minimize the cost of the transfer. Student should expect to pay for the travel cost with cash. We take taxi from the airport to the ferry terminal and the ferry takes us to and from St. Thomas to where our yachts are located in Road Town, Tortola.

On arrival days this ferry will depart from St. Thomas no later than 4:00pm.

On departure days the earliest this ferry is able to arrive in St. Thomas is 9:00am.

For this reason, flights to St. Thomas will only be possible if they meet the following criteria:

- **On arrival days, inbound flights MUST arrive in St. Thomas no later than 2:45pm**
- **On departure days, flights MUST depart St. Thomas no earlier than 12:00pm**

In order to calculate the entire cost of travel, parents need to consider an additional **\$140 in travel costs** (approximate):

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| a. Round trip taxi from the STT airport to the ferry (\$25) | d. BVI Environmental Tax at entry (\$10) |
| b. Round trip ferry from St. Thomas to Tortola (\$70) | e. Round trip Taxi from BVI ferry port to our yachts (\$12) |
| c. Departure tax from the USVI (\$10) | f. Departure tax from the BVI (\$20) |

2. Fly to Tortola (via Puerto Rico for US students, Antigua or St. Martin for European students)

Typically a more expensive route from the USA, an alternative way to arrive in the BVI is to fly directly to the island of Tortola (airport code EIS). Please note: **WE DO NOT have staff support in Puerto Rico or Antigua or St. Martin.** For this reason these routes are not usually appropriate for younger students designated as Unaccompanied Minors by the airlines.

Please call us for more information.

In order to calculate the entire cost of travel, parents need to consider an additional **\$80 in travel costs** (approximate):

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| a. Round trip taxi from airport to the base in Road Town, Tortola (\$25-\$50 depending upon the number of students traveling together) | b. BVI Environmental Tax at entry (\$10) |
| | c. Departure tax from the BVI (\$20) |

We suggest the Moorings Travel Service (from North America) but you are not required to use them. They may be reached at 1-800-535-7289, (choose 1 for English), then choose "2" for Existing Reservation, then ask for the Air Agent, and inform them you are with charterer Odyssey Expeditions. The Moorings Travel service works exclusively with charter boat guests and they are happy to give you a quote.

PLEASE send or e-mail us a complete itinerary as soon as your reservations are made. Shortly before your departure, we will let you know if any participant will be sharing a plane with you.