

## British Virgin Islands Country Guide

### Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to the British Virgin Islands Current Travel Advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) does not issue a travel advice for the British Virgin Islands (BVI) at this time.

Australians travelling to the BVI are advised to read the "[Guide for all travellers](#)" which provides general information.

Travellers are encouraged to subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in the BVI with DFAT at [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au).

### Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian ordinary passport holders do not usually require a visa to enter the British Virgin Islands (BVI) as a tourist. The period of entry granted is generally one month, which may be extended. It is recommended that passports be valid for six months beyond the intended stay. Travellers should also be able to show documentation confirming their pre booked accommodation, means of financial support as well as tickets and entry documents for their next destination.

A departure tax of US\$20 is payable by non residents when leaving the islands.

Travellers are recommended to contact a BVI representative on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to enter the BVI without a visa. Persons travelling via the US are reminded of their obligation to comply with US entry and transit visa requirements.

### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to the British Virgin Islands (BVI). Frequent or long stay travellers to the BVI should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to the BVI. As dengue fever and the zika virus can occur, insect avoidance measures are recommended. BVI is listed as a zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see [www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/). Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual Influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to the BVI should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit [www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips).

### British Virgin Islands Representation

Immigration Department, BVI

PO Box 2299  
Road Town  
TORTOLA VG1110

Tel: (+1 284) 468 4700  
Fax: (+1 284) 468 4729

Web: [www.bvi.gov.vg](http://www.bvi.gov.vg)

British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, BVI

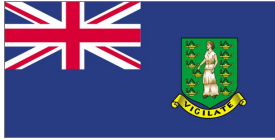
Akara Building, 2nd Floor  
De Castro Street  
Road Town  
TORTOLA

Tel: (+1 284) 494 3134  
Fax: (+1 284) 494 3866

Web: [www.bvitouristboard.com](http://www.bvitouristboard.com)

The British Virgin Islands are a dependant territory of the United Kingdom, which has responsibility for all foreign relations, thus the British Virgin Islands do not maintain any embassies or consulates worldwide.

The British Virgin Islands do however administer their own immigration controls. Persons seeking additional information to that presented here should contact one of the organisations listed adjacent.



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### Page 2 of 5 Important Information while Travelling in the British Virgin Islands Time Differences between the British Virgin Islands and Australia

The British Virgin Islands are Greenwich Mean Time -4 hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called Atlantic Standard Time (AST). The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in the BVI, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in the BVI, it's Monday morning in Australia.

BVI, 12 noon, June = Perth midnight; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2am.  
 BVI, 12 noon, December = Perth midnight; Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane 2am; Adelaide 2:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 3am.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for the British Virgin Islands:  
+1 284

To Dial Australia Call:  
011 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:  
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:  
(1) 800 847 2911

MasterCard:  
(1) 800 307 7309

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
(1) 800 452 0546

Local Tourist Information:  
(1) 800 835 8530

Emergency Services:  
999 or 911

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

#### Passports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credit Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Travel Insurance

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency #: \_\_\_\_\_

### Australian Representation in the British Virgin Islands

Australian High Commission, Trinidad and Tobago

18 Herbert Street  
 St Clair  
 PORT OF SPAIN

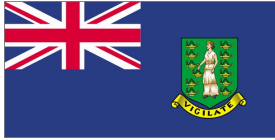
Tel: (+1 868) 822 5450  
 Fax: (+1 868) 822 5490

Web: [www.trinidadandtobago.highcommission.gov.au](http://www.trinidadandtobago.highcommission.gov.au)

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in The British Virgin Islands. The Australian High Commission in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago is accredited to this country.

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians are able to register their presence in The British Virgin Islands with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at this high commission or via the on-line registration service, accessible at [www.orao.dfat.gov.au](http://www.orao.dfat.gov.au).



## British Virgin Islands Country Guide

Page 3 of 5 General Destination Information for the British Virgin Islands

### Duty Free Allowances for the British Virgin Islands and Australia

Allowances when entering the BVI:

Alcohol: 1L of spirits or 2L of fortified wine.  
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars.  
 Perfume: Up to 60ml of perfume.

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

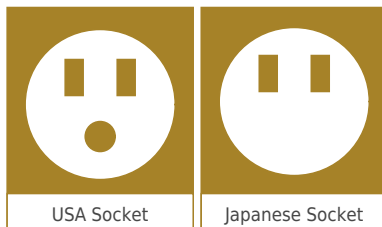
Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting the BVI & Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further details on BVI customs please go to [www.hmcustoms.gov.vg](http://www.hmcustoms.gov.vg), or for information on Australian customs visit [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).

### Electrical Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA (type B) and Japanese (type A).

Supply: 110-120 V, 60 Hz (different to Australia). A voltage converter will usually be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

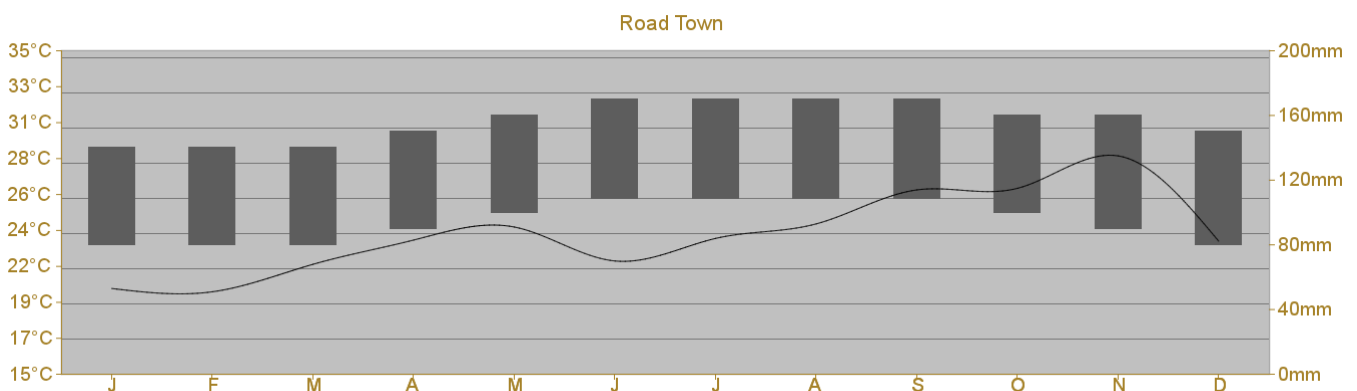
Travellers are urged to check the electrical info panel on their device. If it says "Input: 100-240V, 50-60 Hz" then a voltage converter should not be required.



### BVI Public Holidays 2018

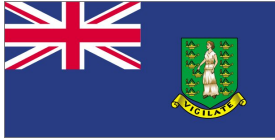
01 Jan: New Years Day	09 Jun: Queens Birthday
05/07 Mar: HL Stouatts Birthday	01/02 Jul: Territory Day
12 Mar: Commonwealth Day	06-08 Aug: Festival
30 Mar: Good Friday	21/22 Oct: St Ursula's Day
02 Apr: Easter Monday	25 Dec: Christmas Day
21 May: Whit Monday	26 Dec: Boxing Day

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in the British Virgin Islands



For local forecasts please go to [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).

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## British Virgin Islands Country Guide

### Page 4 of 5 British Virgin Islands Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 US Dollars  
 1 US Dollar (USD) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin  
 1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 0.69 US Dollars  
 1 US Dollar (USD) will cost 1.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

\$0.50 USD = \$0.72 AUD

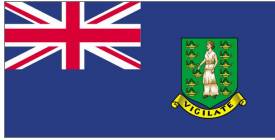
This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

\$1 USD = \$1.45 AUD	\$10 USD = \$14.46 AUD	\$100 USD = \$144.61 AUD
\$2 USD = \$2.89 AUD	\$20 USD = \$28.92 AUD	\$200 USD = \$289.22 AUD
\$3 USD = \$4.34 AUD	\$30 USD = \$43.38 AUD	\$300 USD = \$433.83 AUD
\$4 USD = \$5.78 AUD	\$40 USD = \$57.84 AUD	\$400 USD = \$578.44 AUD
\$5 USD = \$7.23 AUD	\$50 USD = \$72.31 AUD	\$500 USD = \$723.05 AUD
\$6 USD = \$8.68 AUD	\$60 USD = \$86.77 AUD	\$600 USD = \$867.67 AUD
\$7 USD = \$10.12 AUD	\$70 USD = \$101.23 AUD	\$700 USD = \$1,012.28 AUD
\$8 USD = \$11.57 AUD	\$80 USD = \$115.69 AUD	\$800 USD = \$1,156.89 AUD
\$9 USD = \$13.01 AUD	\$90 USD = \$130.15 AUD	\$900 USD = \$1,301.50 AUD
		\$1,000 USD = \$1,446.11 AUD

### British Virgin Islands Currency

The official currency of the British Virgin Islands is the US Dollar. The following units of currency are the most common but other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





# British Virgin Islands Country Guide

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## About the British Virgin Islands

Full Name:	Virgin Islands ("British" added to avoid confusion).	Significant Dates:	
National Status:	Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.	1400's AD	- Arawak peoples are displaced by the Caribs.
Size:	151 sq km (6.5% the size of the ACT, one of the smallest nations in the world).	1493	- Columbus sights the islands and names them "Saint Ursula and her 11,000 Virgins".
Population:	32,700. Road Town (capital) 10,000.	1595	- Francis Drake attacks the Spanish from the islands.
Language:	English is the official language.	1600's	- Joost van Dyk establishes Dutch settlements.
Religion:	Protestant 84%, Catholic 10%.	1672	- The British annex the islands from the Dutch.
Ethnicity:	Black 82%, white 7%, other 11%.	1834	- Slavery is abolished.
GDP Per Capita:	\$42,300 (Australia US\$40,800).	1853	- Rural labourers riot over taxes, the entire government and most of the white population flees.
		1872-1956	- The islands are part of the Leeward Islands colony.
		1967	- Self government is introduced.
		1970's	- The islands become an offshore financial centre, greatly improving the economy.

