

with those charming chiming objects. It currently houses the Athalie Petersen Public Library.

**OLD DANISH SCHOOL:** This is about 1½ blocks away on Prince St. Designed in 1835 by Hingelberg, a famous Danish architect in his time and renovated during 2008, it now houses government agencies.

**ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL:** On Prince and Market Sts., this building is a mid-19th C reconstruction of the original 18th C cathedral. Built with locally-cut coral stone, it was completed in 1848 by Father Timothy O'Ryan, an Irishman from Galway. The monument inside the gate to the right memorializes sailors killed when a tidal wave tossed the USS *Monongahela* into Strand St. in 1867.

**OTHERS:** The small **Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts** (☎ 772-2622) is on Strand St. and open Mon. to Fri., noon–6, PM, Sat. 10–4 PM  
<http://www.cmcarts.org>

Largely deserted, the **open air marketplace** dates from 1751.

The cemetery of the **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** (on the hill between Hospital and New Sts.) exudes a simple charm amidst panoramic surroundings. There are wooden grave markers and tombs topped with artificial flowers. The church itself dates from 1792.

**Frederiksted pier** is a great place for diving. With its plume worms, octopi, sponges, giant puffer fish, and large numbers of miniscule red, yellow, and orange sea horses, this dock is frequently called the most interesting “pier dive” in the Caribbean.

**The Vincent F. Mason, Sr. Coral Resort** is S of town off of Rte. 63 (Veteran's Parkway, about 1.5 mi. from town). The

white sand beach here has mild surf, and you can both snorkel and dive here. The Old Frederiksted pool has been renovated, and the new park has tables, grills, parking and restrooms.

### Frederiksted Accommodations

Located at 442 Strand St. near the cruise ship dock and facing the waterfront, the **Frederiksted Hotel** (☎ 772-0500, ☎ 719-1272) is a modest local hotel. It has a small pool and a local courtyard restaurant which serves breakfast.

Room amenities include a/c, phone (with voicemail and dataport), cable TV, and radio. Rooms are basic but comfortable and are popular with expat workers and tourists alike. There's good snorkeling offshore. Rates start at \$110 s and d. Special rates are offered for long term rental.

<http://www.frederikstedhotel.com>  
[info@frederikstedhotel.com](mailto:info@frederikstedhotel.com)

Set a half-mi. from Frederiksted, the 21-rm. **Sand Castle on the Beach** (☎ 772-1205, ☎ 772-1757, 800-524-2018; 127 Estate Smithfield, Frederiksted 00840) faces directly onto a perfect beach. Renovated in 2003, it now has a fitness center with personal trainers, spa, massage service, as well as its gourmet **Beach Side Café** (see mention below). There are two pools; the smaller and more secluded is clothing optional. Suites have full kitchens, and all of the simple rooms have kitchenettes. Overhead fans, TV and VCR, hairdryer, and iron with ironing board number among the amenities. Rates run around \$140 d CP (for a studio with kitchenette) to \$300 CP (to house four in a two- bedroom courtyard villa). It caters to a largely gay clientele, but anyone would feel welcome here.

<http://www.sandcastleonthebeach.com>  
[info@sandcastleonthebeach.com](mailto:info@sandcastleonthebeach.com)

Set quite near Sand Castle and also on the beach, **Cottages by the Sea** (☎/☎ 772-0495, ☎ 772-1753; 800-323-7252; Box 1697, Frederiksted 00841-1697) has 20 spread-out 16 simple cottages with cable TV, fans and a/c, private patios, and kitchens. Paneled rooms have rattan furniture and colorful spreads. Rates start at \$125/unit. They also rent kayaks, bicycles, and scooters. Be warned that the place is quite dog friendly, and many guests bring their dogs here.

<http://www.caribbeancottages.com>  
[vacations@caribbeancottages.com](mailto:vacations@caribbeancottages.com)

**The Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute** (473-3115; P.O. Box 1007, Frederiksted) at Mt. Victory Remainder on Creque Dam Rd. has the goal of providing “a model of a working educational farm enterprise that integrates sustainability in education, environment, and community through quality instruction in agroecology, natural resource management, and farm tourism.” It offers tours such as the Organic Farm Taste Tour (\$35), which takes place on Sundays, as well as “slow food” and “bush skills naturalist” workshops. They have hardwood cabanas, treehouse, and a yurt. Rates range from \$60-\$150 d (with a two-night minimum). A luxurious and private hillside villa (\$500 pn, 2-4 person.). Management says that “We specialize in nourishing, tasty foods: home-grown bananas, mangoes, pineapple, tomatoes, coconut, hot peppers, eggplant, salad greens, papaya, and passionfruit, which you can enjoy three times a day served (daily meal plan \$35) at our open air community center kitchen. Wi-fi is offered.” It has a university-accredited study abroad program.

<http://www.visfi.org>  
[info@visfi.org](mailto:info@visfi.org)

**Mt Victory Camp** (☎ 772-1651, 866-772-1651) is a great place to stay. It’s run by

Bruce Wilson (a local whose family moved to St. Croix when he was a teenager) along with his wife Mathile, a Haitian-born agronomist. A stay here is a unique experience. Screened-in platform tents and bungalows have electricity, two beds (or more) with linens, mosquito nets, a kitchen with sink, two cooking burners, ice chest, pots and pans, and utensils. Solar heated showers and toilets round out the features. Unlike other campgrounds, the units are habitable all through the day because the breeze wafts through. All construction here has been done with local timber (which are not arsenic treated). Bruce breeds the red-footed tortoise, and one camping bungalow, constructed with West Indian almond, even has a few in residence. So far, there are three tent platforms which rent for \$85 pn and will hold two adults and two children. Two larger bungalows rent for \$95 each. You may also pitch your own tent here for \$30 pn for two persons. Evening campfires are fun. The grounds have gardens, and WiFi coverage is extensive. and there are hiking trails as well as ruins.

☞ Mt. Victory has the remains of one of eight schools built around 1840 in accordance with von Scholten’s edict proclaiming compulsory education for all children. It is now a historical site.

<http://www.mtvictorycamp.com>  
[mtvictory@unitedstates.vi](http://mtvictory@unitedstates.vi)

### Frederiksted Dining and Food

**LOCAL FOOD:** The inexpensive **Motown Bar & Restaurant**, 19 AB Strand St., serves West Indian food.

**The Lost Dog Pub**, 14 King St., is a watering hole in Frederiksted famous for winning the best of show at the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade. The bar in the front serves pizza, and an attractive restaurant sits behind. It is one of those places where everybody knows everyone else.