

At Soper's Hole, a deep anchorage sheltered on the SW by Frenchman's Cay, stands the small village of **West End** with its houses painted in pastel shades, along with immigration and customs offices. Boats leave here regularly for St. John (See "From Tortola"). See the small mahogany framed sailboats under construction at The Woodworks.

West End Accommodation and Dining

If you're arriving or leaving the West End by boat, you can eat at the **Jolly Roger**; the other choice is informal **Zelma's Courtesy**, one of the two small restaurants across from the ferry. It sells sweet cakes, johnny cakes, fried fish, patties, lottery tickets, and newspapers (including *The New York Times*).

The casual six-room **Jolly Roger Inn & Restaurant** (☎ 495-4559, ☎ 495-4184; Box 437, Road Town) charges from \$40 d (for a room with a shared bath in low season) on up; winter rates are from \$66 d on up; weekly rates are available. Its pub-like restaurant serves Asian and fresh-fish dishes. (Show your children the tarpon you can see from the dock). It also has live bands, Caribbean jerk prime rib on Saturdays, and a BBQ on most weekends.

<http://www.jollyrogerbvi.com>
info@jollyrogerbvi.com

A few minutes on foot from the pier at the West End, the **BVI Aquatic Apartments** (☎ 495-4541, 494-2114; Box 605, West End) is a two-storey set of 14 units with kitchenettes. Prices start at around \$25 s, 40 d; weekly rates available.

The gourmet **Oscar's** (☎ 495-4844, Frenchman's Point on Frenchman's Cay, serves Mediterranean dishes and tapas.

The 12-acre **Frenchman's Cay Resort** is closed for refurbishment until 2009 or so.

Soper's Hole Marina (☎ 495-4553, ☎ 495-4560. Box 601, West End) here is a full-service marina with a five-star

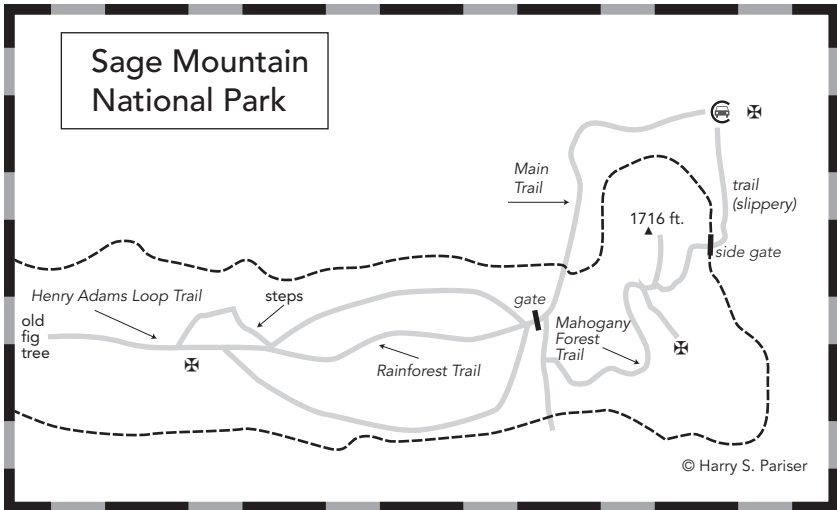
dive center, charter yacht company, restaurant, and boutiques including **Island Treasures** (a fine art gallery and shop at Soper's Hole Marina), **Pusser's Company Store** (which is similar to the one in Road Town), **Sea Urchin** (beach ware), and the **Ample Hamper** (food, alcohol, and deli items). **Caribbean Jewellers** sell a variety of gemstones and coins, and **Samarkand Jewellers** sell maps, coins, and other items. **Latitude 18** is a hip clothing store. **Pusser's Landing** serves fish and lobster as well as other dishes in a restaurant inside the store. They're open for breakfast and lunch, and serve dishes such as pizza, fish and chips, and *roti*. **Pisces** is a friendly and attractive restaurant serving local food. It has good prices and offers good breakfasts.

Soper's Hole has a great website:
<http://www.sopershole.com>
erin@surfbvi.com

Bay View Inn (☎ 494-0740, ☎ 494-0741) rents four a/c rooms with refrigerator, phone, cable TV, and views. It is associated with Voyage Charters.

OTHER NEARBY ACCOMMODATION:

Near the junction of the roads heading to the N Coast and to Road Town, and built around a 17th-C. Dutch fort, **Fort Recovery Estate Beachfront Villa Resorts** (☎ 495-4354, 495-4970, 800-367-8455 9 (wait for ring), ☎ 495-4036; Box 239, Road Town or Box 11156, St. Thomas 00801) offers a variety of villas which include maid service. Yoga and meditation classes, massages, babysitting service, water sports, commissary, DSL connection (66 cents/min.) and other services are available as is their gourmet room service. A car is advised if staying here. Rates start at around \$160 d for a two-person villa off-season and range from \$250 up to \$797 for a four-bedroom luxury house (sleeps eight); continental breakfast is included. Packages



are available. A 10% service charge is added along with 7% tax, and each additional person is \$50. A complimentary dinner as well as a boat excursion is included in the seven-night-stay rates.

<http://www.fortrecovery.com>
villas@fortrecovery.com

Sage Mountain

Take a left turn at Meyers, then drive a few miles on down the road, following the base of a hill containing communications towers, to reach the trailhead leading to the top of **Mt. Sage** (1,780 ft.), the highest mountain in the Virgin Islands. This attractive area contains the remains of old houses. Orchids peek out from the primeval forest. It has been declared a protected area. Its 92 acres are under the administration of the National Park Trust. From visiting the park, you can get an idea of how the island must have looked when the Europeans first arrived.
note: A \$3 admission fee is now charged.

FLORA AND FAUNA: The 15–20-ft.-tall fern trees are “living fossils,” virtually unchanged since the Coal Age. The bulletwood trees can be identified by their straight trunk and thick brown cracked bark. West Indian mahogany, silk cotton, white cedar (the colony’s national tree), and broadleaf mahogany trees are found here. Cocoplums (related to the rose), mountain guavas (small white blossoms and green edible fruit), and red palicoureas (small red flowers blooming on a red stalk with black fruit) are among the flowering plants found here. There are also a number of species of anthurium on the ground. Among the birds are Antillean crested hummingbirds, pearly-eyed thrashers, American kestrels, mockingbirds, and Caribbean martins. Soldier crabs (hermit crabs) may be spotted on the trails.

TOURING THE PARK: Try to obtain a brochure from the National Parks Trust before arriving. A beautiful view of Jost Van Dyke may be had from the parking lot. To enter, take the path straight ahead, unhook the gate, and follow the gravel path until you