

# Reader Views

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## *Explore the Virgin Islands*

By Harry S. Pariser

Matatte Press (2004)

Reviewed by Juanita Watson for Reader Views (1/06)

This is a fantastic guidebook. Harry S. Pariser covers everything you need to know about the Virgin Islands and more. Condensed into a small, lightweight purse or backpack sized book, there is no compromising in quantity of information. Included are all the essentials – accommodations for all budgets, various choices of transportation, and endless ideas for entertainment, shopping, and restaurants. It covers every type of traveler.

Do you lean towards a more natural experience? There are choices such as ecotours, hiking trails, secluded beaches, dive sites, National Parks and even horseback riding. Maybe you prefer a more refined experience. Pariser provides information on art galleries, villas, formal dining, sailing, and yachting. How about an island wedding? Many ideas are included to help you plan that perfect day. Find out about golfing, bowling, bird watching, deep sea fishing, car rentals, tours, taxi fares, banking, internet access, island hopping and more. This guide really does have it all.

I especially appreciated the easy to follow maps, relevant charts, and inspiring photos. I feel this book would allow any traveler to easily plan a memorable vacation experience. Pariser also includes many websites, email addresses, and phone numbers to help you get direct and timely additional information.

All that said, what I really think sets this guidebook apart from many others is the wealth of additional information. A lengthy section, and various excerpts throughout the book, detail history, archaeology, flora and fauna, native foods, music and more. I personally have a fuller and deeper travel experience learning about the local culture, and this book provides just that. Not only is *Explore the Virgin Islands* a highly informative travel book, but a genuinely interesting read too.