

# LOGISTICAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات  
政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO - 1, rue Miotlis - 75732 Paris Cedex 15

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## WELCOME BIENVENIDO ACCUEIL/BONJOUR



**BG ELTON LEWIS, CEM**

Director

Virgin Islands Territorial  
Emergency Management Agency/  
Homeland Security Advisor

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# LOGISTICAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



## IOC ICG/CARIBE EWS-IX

Ninth Meeting

of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions

St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands

May 13-15, 2014



### Date and Meeting Venue

The meeting will be held at the Sugar Bay Resort & Spa from  
May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014



STJ

Sugar Bay Resort and Spa  
6500 Estate Smith Bay,  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802



STT



STX



WI



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## Accommodation

Bay View at \$183 per night

Group rates are Single/Double (Room Only), per night, based on the occupancy stated above within each rate headline. These rates are also in US Dollars. Rollaway beds are available upon request and availability at a rate of \$25.00 each per day. Maximum occupancy per room is 4 persons (regardless of the adult/child ratio). - Extra Person Rates: 3rd & 4th Adult \$40 per person per room, per night - Children under 18 free - Category upgrade: Add \$24 to Bay View for Ocean View - Add \$200 to group rate for Suite. Rates are subject to change based on seasons and availability.

## Background

During the 17th century, the archipelago was divided into English and Dutch territorial units. Sugarcane, produced by African slave labor, drove the islands' economy during the 18th and early 19th centuries. In 1917, the US purchased the Danish portion, which had been in economic decline since the abolition of slavery in 1848. St. Thomas's history and culture alone are worth a visit to the island. Fort Christian, a U.S. National Landmark, is the oldest standing structure in the Virgin Islands and home to the Virgin Islands Museum, where early island memorabilia and old maps trace the islands' history. Market Square, a bustling produce marketplace, was once one of the West Indies' busiest 18th-century slave markets. - Also of interest is the Synagogue of Beracha Veshalom Vegmiluth Hasidim, the oldest synagogue in continuous use in the United States. On nearby Government Hill, looming over Charlotte Amalie, stands Blackbeard's Castle. Known during colonial times as Skytsborg, this 17th-century fortified tower also serves as a popular restaurant and hotel.

Located in the hills not far from the heart of Charlotte Amalie, Government House has been the center of government in St. Thomas since the mid-1860s. Visitors interested in seeing St. Thomas's political life may tour the building's first two floors. The 99 Steps, made by bricks that were once used as ballast on Danish and British ships, were built into the hillside to keep the orderly grid of the city intact.





## Geography

**Location:** Caribbean, islands between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east of Puerto Rico - Geographic Coordinates: 18 21 N, 64 56 W

**Terrain:** mostly hilly to rugged and mountainous with little level land

## Government

Organized, unincorporated territory of the US with policy relations between the Virgin Islands and the US under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insular Affairs, US Department of the Interior.

**Legal System:** US common law .

**Chief of state:** President Barack H. OBAMA (since 20 January 2009);

**Vice President** Joseph R. BIDEN (since 20 January 2009) –

**Head of government:** Governor John P. deJongh Jr. (since 1 January 2007).

**Judicial Branch:** Highest court(s): Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands (consists of the chief justice and 2 associate justices); note - court established by US Congress in 2004 and assumed appellate jurisdiction in 2007 - Judge selection and term of office: justices appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Virgin Islands Senate; justices initially serve renewable 10-year terms; chief justice elected to position by peers for a 3-year term - Subordinate courts: Superior Court (renamed in 2004 The Territorial Court); US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (has appellate jurisdiction over the District Court of the Virgin Islands; it is a territorial court and is not associated with a US federal judicial district); District Court of the Virgin Islands

## Illegal Items

There are severe penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs. Prescription drugs should be clearly labeled in their original containers. There are strict regulations for exporting or temporarily importing firearms and certain foods and plant and animal specimens. - Prohibited items include Cuban cigars, lottery tickets, narcotics and dangerous drugs, obscene articles and publications, seditious and treasonable materials, hazardous articles (such as fireworks, dangerous toys, toxic or poisonous substances), products made by prison convicts or forced labour, switchblade knives and fully automatic weapons and semi-automatic assault-type weapons. - For more information call the Customs Attaché or Commercial Officer at your nearest US consulate/embassy or call US Customs at (340)774-3264 (St Thomas).



## Driving

Driving in St. Thomas USVI is done on the left hand side of the road, while most cars have their steering wheels on the left-hand side, as in North America.

## Time

St. Thomas USVI falls into the Atlantic Standard Time, four hours behind Greenwich Mean Time and one hour ahead of major east coast cities like New York. - Time zone: UTC-4 (1 hour ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

## Communications

Sprint PCS, AT&T Wireless and Innovative Wireless (local) are cellular phone providers in the Virgin Islands. Some other cellular services work in the Virgin Islands however roaming charges are likely as they operate off the networks of the locally established cellular phone providers. There are limited payphones on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John. They are typically located in public areas: shopping areas/centers, hotels, post offices. Phone cards are a good idea; you can purchase them on island at grocery stores, calling centers and gas stations. Local calls - 35 cents for five minutes (this charge applies to public payphones). Calls within the territory are free. Calls to the US Mainland are long distance.



St. Thomas has a tropical savanna climate with dry winters. Subtropical, tempered by easterly trade winds, relatively low humidity, little seasonal temperature variation; rainy season September to November

**Temperature:** Over the course of a year, the temperature typically varies from 23°C to 32°C and is rarely below 22°C or above 34°C. - The warm season lasts from June 13 to September 22 with an average daily high temperature above 31°C. The hottest day of the year is August 3, with an average high of 32°C and low of 26°C. - The cold season lasts from December 10 to March 29 with an average daily high temperature below 29°C. The coldest day of the year is January 26, with an average low of 23°C and high of 29°C.

**Sun:** The length of the day varies significantly over the course of the year. The shortest day is December 21 with 11:01 hours of daylight; the longest day is June 20 with 13:13 hours of daylight. - The earliest sunrise is at 5:43am on June 1 and the latest sunset is at 7:01pm on July 5. The latest sunrise is at 6:55am on January 22 and the earliest sunset is at 5:41pm on November 24. - Daylight savings time (DTS) is not observed.

**Precipitation:** The probability that precipitation will be observed at this location varies throughout the year. Precipitation is most likely around November 3, occurring in 37% of days. Precipitation is least likely around April 1, occurring in 23% of days. - Over the entire year, the most common forms of precipitation are light rain, moderate rain, and heavy rain. - Light rain is the most severe precipitation observed during 47% of those days with precipitation. It is most likely around December 21, when it is observed during 17% of all days. - Moderate rain is the most severe precipitation observed during 26% of those days with precipitation. It is most likely around October 31, when it is observed during 11% of all days. - Heavy rain is the most severe precipitation observed during 21% of those days with precipitation. It is most likely around October 26, when it is observed during 10% of all days.

**Humidity:** The relative humidity typically ranges from 56% (mildly humid) to 87% (very humid) over the course of the year, rarely dropping below 45% (comfortable) and reaching as high as 97% (very humid). - The air is driest around March 2, at which time the relative humidity drops below 60% (mildly humid) three days out of four; it is most humid around November 7, exceeding 83% (humid) three days out of four.

**Wind:** Over the course of the year typical wind speeds vary from 2 m/s to 8 m/s (light breeze to fresh breeze), rarely exceeding 10 m/s (fresh breeze). - The highest average wind speed of 5 m/s (moderate breeze) occurs around June 26, at which time the average daily maximum wind speed is 8 m/s (moderate breeze). - The lowest average wind speed of 4 m/s (gentle breeze) occurs around October 23, at which time the average daily maximum wind speed is 7 m/s (moderate breeze). - The wind is most often out of the east (38% of the time), south east (15% of the time), and north east (10% of the time). The wind is least often out of the west (0% of the time), north west (0% of the time), south west (1% of the time), north (2% of the time), and south (2% of the time).



## Languages

The primary language spoken is English. However, in some isolated areas you may encounter French Patois or Spanish. St. Thomas United States Virgin Islands is multi-national and there is evidence of this in the language spoken between some members of the national community as well as non-nationals living on the island.

The residents of St. Thomas USVI speak English with a lilt that is distinctly Creole, sometimes making it difficult to understand. You shouldn't have a hard time if you ask them to speak a bit more slowly!

## Currency

The currency used on St. Thomas USVI is the US dollar. Foreign currency can be exchanged at most major banks on St. Thomas USVI and there are local bank branches spread throughout the island. Major credit cards are widely accepted, as are traveler's checks.

## ATMs

ATMs: Not all ATMs in the Caribbean operate like those in your home country. Some may only accept a four digit PIN number, so if yours is longer you may want to change it before your trip. Ensure you keep your travel money in your primary checking account as some ATMs default to this account and will not allow you to choose another. Withdrawal fees are generally much higher outside your home country. - The main banks are Banco Popular (tel (340)693-2777), Bank of St Croix (tel 773-8500), FirstBank Virgin Islands (tel 775-7777), Scotiabank (tel 340/774-0037) and Virgin Islands Community Bank (tel 773-0440). - Banco Popular, FirstBank and Scotiabank have ATMs at their branches. FirstBank also has ATMs at various malls and at the airport. - Banco Popular ATMs accept American Express, MasterCard, Visa and cards on the ATH, Plus and Honor networks. Scotiabank ATMs accept MasterCard, Visa and cards on the Cirrus/Maestro and Electron/Plus networks. They dispense US dollars.

## Banking and Business Hours

**Banco Popular:** Mon-Thurs 8:30am-2:30pm, Fri 8:30am-4pm, Sat 9am-1pm (Fort Mylner and Sunny Isle branches only)

**FirstBank:** Mon-Fri 8:30/9am-3/4pm (some stay open until 5pm on Fri), Sat 9am-2pm (Port of Sale and Estate Charlotte Amalie branches only), Sat 9am-4pm

**Scotiabank:** Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm, Fri 9am-4:30pm, Sat 9am-12 noon (Havensight branch only), Sat 9am-1pm (Tutu Park branch only)



## Electricity

Electric outlets in the Virgin Islands take standard North American current, with a 120 volt / 60 cycle.

## Restaurants

There is an abundance of restaurants of varying cuisines available in the city, where there are also abundant night clubs and bars.

Drinking Age: 18 years old is the legal age to drink in the US Virgin Islands. Note: While an 18 year old on island can buy, order, drink alcohol they cannot transport bottles of alcohol back to the US with them. 18 year olds will have their alcohol confiscated at the customs check point at the airport.

## Tipping & Etiquette

Residents of the Virgin Islands are extremely modest in their dress, in spite of Carnival costumes, which are a different matter altogether! When you're in public there, dress as you would to go shopping at home. Locals are greatly offended when you turn up in town wearing a bathing suit, with or without cover up, rather than nice shorts and tops. Dress is casual, and you want to be as cool as possible, but please cover up when in public.

Its good manners to greet everyone you meet with "Good morning, afternoon, or night" before launching into your questions or comments. Failure to do so will be thought rude. The island greeting in the evening is "Good night" when you meet or arrive, not just when you leave.

Tipping is the same as the US or Europe - 15% of your restaurant check, more if service has been exceptional. An extra dollar or two for your taxi driver is fine, more if he/she handles bags or conducts a good island tour.

## Drinking Water

The water is safe to drink at most establishments. Your hotel or villa will tell you if they recommend against drinking tap water; if they don't mention it you can ask. Bottled water is available in stores and at restaurants if you wish to purchase it. Is a great idea to take water with you when going to the beach, driving around, sightseeing - it gets hot here and it is necessary to keep hydrated.



### Taxi Service:

Taxis are available at the hotel to get you to and from any destination of your choice. Hotel concierge can provide guidance on taxi rates. Ensure you ask taxi rates prior to accepting.

### Entertainment & Events

Though it's only 32 square miles in size, St. Thomas has a million miles worth of things to do. Go shopping, sailing, snorkeling, sightseeing, or diving and dining. Enjoy the island's world-renowned golf course, picture-perfect beaches and spectacular nightlife. Take the Skyride 700 feet above the city or climb the famous 99 Steps of Charlotte Amalie for an incomparable view of the Caribbean. And if you're interested in culture and history, don't miss seeing the second-oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere, the 1680-built Fort Christian or the childhood home of Camille Pissarro, one of the best-known French Impressionists.

### Emergency Phone Numbers

<b>Ambulance - Fire - Police</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Air Ambulance</b>	<b>340-772-1629</b>
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b>	<b>340-776-8311 ext 2220</b>
<b>Hyperbolic Chamber</b>	<b>340-776-2666</b>
<b>US Coast Guard</b>	<b>340-776-3497</b>
<b>VI Search and Rescue</b>	<b>340-772-8390</b>

**Post Office:** Post offices are generally open Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm with some opening as early as 7:30am and some closing as late as 5:30pm. A few also open Sat 7:30am-12 noon.



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All rooms accommodate either one king bed or two double beds. Rooms have exterior corridor access, furnished balconies and Balinese-style furnishings, including a two-chair dining set. Rooms also feature a spacious bathroom with a shower/tub combination, marble floor and separate vanity. Close to the St. Thomas airport, our resort hotel offers world-class accommodations and amenities in a tropical paradise. ATM available in hotel Lobby.



**Sugar Bay Resort & Spa**  
**1-866-599-6674**

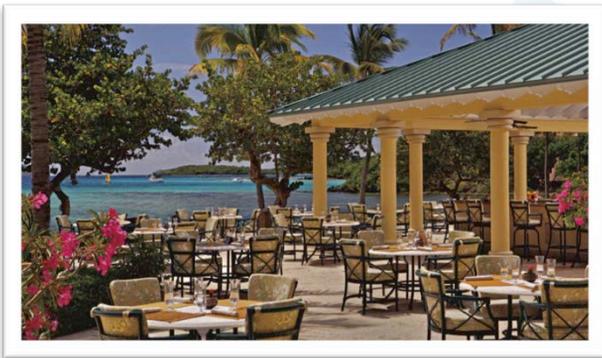
**Website link:**  
<http://www.sugarbayresortandspa.com>



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Amble leisurely along miles of picturesque shoreline, as crystal-white sand intersects seamlessly with the sparkling turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea. Here, you'll find the coastal paradise that is The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas – an exceptional U.S. Virgin Islands luxury resort.



## The Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas

6900 Great Bay, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802 U.S.A.

Phone: +1 (340) 775-3333

**Website link:**

<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/StThomas/Default.htm>



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Marriott Frenchman's Reef Resort has the pristine location on the island overlooking Charlotte Amalie Harbor with stunning views of the island. St. Thomas, located in the US Virgin Islands, is the ultimate Caribbean vacation getaway. St. Thomas is rich in history, eco-tourism, water sports, island adventures, and shopping.



## Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort

5 Estate Bakeroe

St. Thomas, 00802 Virgin Islands (US)

Phone: Toll-free: 1 800 524 2000

**Website link:**

<http://www.frenchmansreefresort.com>



## **ARIEL PORT OF EMBARKATION AND DEBARKATION**

**Cyril E. King Airport,  
St. Thomas, USVI**



### **Duty Free Shopping**

With no customs duties or sales tax on tourism related items, the United States Virgin Islands is a shopping lover's paradise. U.S. citizens are allowed a duty-free shopping quota of \$1,200.00 - twice that of any other island in the Caribbean and three times that of European countries. The USVI offers great bargains on items such as watches, cameras, fine jewelry, fine liqueurs, china and leather goods.



**VI Taxi Association, Inc.**  
 PO Box 1377  
 St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands 00804

Office: 340.774.4550  
 Fax: 340.774.0553

For Taxi Service, Call our Dispatch Line:  
 340-774-7457

Taxis come in all shapes and sizes, such as vans, mid-sized cars and open-air pick-up trucks with covered benches in the truck beds. Many carry eight to 12 people and operate as shared taxis, although you can negotiate a price for a private taxi. All licensed taxis follow the rules of the V I Taxi Association and have a taxi sign on the roof, taxi license plates with the letters "TP" and an "On/Off Duty" sign. The driver identification/taxi license should also be visible.

There are no taxi meters. The VI Taxicab Division sets fares, which are widely posted and should also be posted in the taxi. Rates are for one or two people based on destination. You should confirm the price with your driver before getting into the vehicle. Surcharges apply after midnight and for additional passengers. Hourly and weekly rates can also be negotiated. Island taxi tours are available in addition to standard taxi service.

Dial-a-Ride (tel 776-1277) provides transportation services and tours for people with disabilities, as well as seniors.

From Major Hotels:	Town (1)	Town (2+)	Airport (1)	Airport (2+)
Frenchman's Reef	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$6.50
Ritz Carlton	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
Sugar Bay	\$12.00	\$8.00	\$13.00	\$9.00

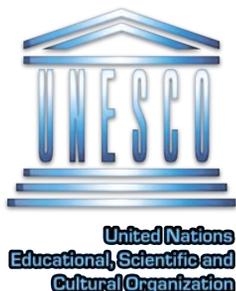


## Entry Requirements

**(NON US Citizens)** Nonimmigrant visas are for international travelers (citizens of other countries), coming to the U.S. temporarily. The visa, placed in your passport when issued, allows you to travel to a U.S. port-of-entry (Miami International Airport, for example) and request permission of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection immigration officer to enter the United States. A visa does not guarantee entry into the United States.

U.S. visa policy permits citizens of certain countries to travel to the United States without a visa when they meet certain requirements under U.S. laws. For information about travel without a visa, visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1261.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1261.html). Citizens of countries that are not eligible to travel to the United States without a visa should take the following steps to obtain a visa AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

- 1. Determine visa type:** see [http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1286.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1286.html). If there is any question regarding the appropriate visa type, please contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for further guidance.
- 2. Determine where to apply:** apply through the U.S. embassy or consulate where you will be available to appear for an interview. U.S. embassies and consulates are listed at <http://www.usembassy.gov>.
- 3. Submit application and schedule an interview:** the website of the U.S. embassy or consulate will provide detailed instructions on the application process, submission of the online visa application form, payment of applicable fees, scheduling the interview, and requesting an expedited appointment, if needed. If you have difficulty scheduling an interview, contact the U.S. Department of State Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs, c/o Jonathan Kelsey (202-647-6927, [kelseyj\[at\]state.gov](mailto:kelseyj[at]state.gov)).

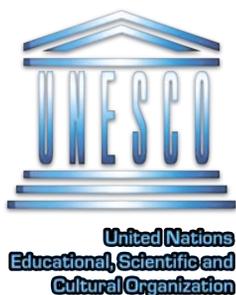


## Entry Requirements continued:

**What to bring to the interview:** the embassy or consulate website will list all required documents that must be presented at the time of the interview. Please note that submitting required documents and/or an invitation to an event does not guarantee issuance of a visa. All applicants for a visitor visa (B-1/B-2) will need to overcome Immigration & Nationality Act 214(b), which stipulates that every non-immigrant visa applicant is presumed to be an intending immigrant to the United States until the applicant proves otherwise. When evaluating immigrant intent, consular officers look for solid reasons that indicate the applicant will be returning abroad after his/her visit. In doing this, they take into consideration the totality of an applicant's situation, including, but not limited to, profession, property ownership, socio-economic status, as well as family and community ties. During the interview, the consul may request supplementary documentation or additional proof of solvency. Such documentation may include resume and list of publications and research projects. Some visa applications require additional administrative processing, which requires some additional time. Applicants will be informed during the interview if additional administrative processing is required. During the interview, most applicants will also be required to provide quick, inkless fingerprint scans.

### Passport Requirements

**(US Citizens)** U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR's) who travel directly between parts of the United States, which includes Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swains Island and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), without touching at a foreign port or place, are not required to present a valid U.S. Passport or U.S. Green Card. However, it is recommended that travelers bring a government issued photo ID and copy of birth certificate.



**The Honorable John P. de Jongh Jr.**  
**Governor of the United States Virgin Islands**



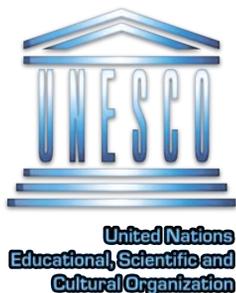
*Cordially invites you to attend a Hospitality/Social night.*

*Date: May 13, 2014*

*Time: 7:30pm*

*Location: Sugar Bay Resort and Spa*

*Attire: Island Elegant*



**U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS™**  
st CROIX st JOHN st THOMAS

**For more information visit these websites:**

<http://www.visitusvi.com>

<http://www.visitusvi.com/stthomas/homepage>

[http://www.visitusvi.com/stthomas/events\\_calendar](http://www.visitusvi.com/stthomas/events_calendar)

