



PLACES OF INTEREST

fares no better and the island reverted to French King Louis XIV. Even the great Sun King was unable to establish a successful settlement, and by the end of the 17th century St. Croix was all but abandoned for the next three decades.

The Danish West India & Guinea Company (Det Vestindisk-Guineiske Kompagni) purchased St. Croix from France in the early 1730s and immediately introduced African slave labor. The island quickly began to prosper primarily by growing sugarcane for the production and export of sugar, molasses and rum. The island's slave trade (importation) was abolished in 1803 however slavery as an institution did not end until 1848. Improvement in working and living conditions did not follow the end of slavery. The rapid fall of the European sugar market, droughts, earthquakes, tidal waves, devastating hurricanes and social unrest all combined to bring about the virtual collapse of St. Croix's economy.

As the dark clouds of World War I gathered on the horizon, in order to protect the new Panama Canal and counter any attempted incursion into the Caribbean by Germany, the United States

re-established negotiations with Denmark for the acquisition of the Virgin Islands. The United States soon bought the islands for \$25 million. On March 31, 1917 the Stars and Stripes were raised over Government House as the Virgin Islands became a U.S. Territory. The U.S. Navy governed the U.S.V.I. through 1937. With all previous governors having been appointed by the President of the United States, in 1971 the islands' first elected governor was voted into office by the people. Virgin Islanders have had full U.S. citizenship since 1927 and have a non-voting Representative in Congress.

FREDERIKSTED PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Fort Frederik was constructed by the Danes in the mid 1700s and like the town, is named in honor of their King Frederik V. The fortification was designed to protect and encourage settlers while guarding sea-going commercial interests. The fort's museum brings together a collection of artifacts from the island's colonial past. On this site in 1848 Governor General Peter Van Scholten abolished slavery.

2 Emancipation Park is a quiet setting dedicated to the emancipation of the slaves in 1848.

3 The Customs House was originally built in the Danish Colonial style in the 1700s. The Victorian style second floor was added later. On the National Registry of Historic Landmarks, the building underwent restoration and repair following the devastation caused by the category five, Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

4 Strand Street is the main ocean front drive through Frederiksted. It is here visitors will find many of the town's colorfully restored colonial era buildings, restaurants and shops.

5 Market Square was the heart of Frederiksted for over two centuries. It does not have quite the hustle and bustle as it did in times past, however visitors might find some delicious, locally grown, fresh fruit.

6 St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was built in the mid 1800s combining the styles of a Spanish mission with Gothic revival.

7 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was built in 1792. It replaced an earlier Lutheran church which was built of wood in 1766. The church and the public cemetery across the street have many interesting gravestones dating back to the early 1800s.

8 St. Paul's Anglican Church is Frederiksted's oldest house of worship. It was built in the Danish colonial style in the early 1800s and has a rather unique bell tower.

9 Apothecary Hall ("Apoteksbygningen" in Danish) was built in 1828 by a young Danish pharmacist named Peder Benzon. Mr. Benzon was able to secure a "Privilegium Exclusivum" from the Royal Danish Crown. This privilege gave him a virtual pharmaceutical monopoly throughout the islands.

Beyond Frederiksted

Christiansted is located on the northwest coast approximately twelve miles from Frederiksted. It is the largest town on the island and the capital of St. Croix. The Danes founded this port town in the early 1700's and named it in honor of their King Christian VI. It is easy to walk among the many colonial era buildings while taking time to browse the shops and relax in any one of the many restaurants. Some of the town's historic sites (all centrally located) include Government House, Customs House, the home of Alexander Hamilton – who spent much of his youth on St. Croix, and Fort Christianvaern. The Boardwalk along the waterfront is scenic and popular.

Buck Island Reef National Monument is just off shore from Christiansted. Underwater trails guide snorkelers and SCUBA divers through a beautiful coral garden teeming with colorful sea life.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to St. Croix we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For more information, please consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Prices are fixed in restaurants and most stores. Bargaining at open-air markets is common. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Tipping: A 10-15 % tip is customary at restaurants.

Local Cuisine: Caribbean cooking is primarily a combination of European and West African. Curry has been a popular addition since slavery was abolished and indentured workers from India came to the region. While you are here in St. Croix try some of the favorite traditional dishes which have been passed down for generations. Fish is understandably popular and always fresh. Bonito, yellowtail and kingfish are common. They are usually grilled or boiled in a lime based sauce with onions, peppers, and tomatoes. Fungi are dumplings made from cornmeal. A fresh vegetable such as okra (ochre) is often added to the dough. Okra is very popular throughout the islands. It is often fried in butter or with bacon then tomatoes, garlic, peppers and onions are added. Seasoned Rice is prepared with most meals. Pork, onion, tomatoes and garlic are the usual additions. Conch Creole is a rich stew made with local fresh conch, salt pork, garlic, onions and hot peppers. Goat Curry is fresh goat meat which has marinated in a mixture of lime juice, salt, pepper, thyme, garlic and onions then cubed and slowly stewed with curry and sugar. A few potatoes are then added. Meat Pate is a baked pastry filled with a mixture of cooked beef or pork and sweet pepper, chopped celery, parsley, tomato paste, garlic and onion.

Drink Specialties: Rum has been produced in the Virgin Islands for three centuries. The famous "Cruzan Rum" has been distilled on St. Croix by the same family since the 1750s. If you are not a rum drinker and you decide to try a fresh fruit rum punch, be warned; they are delicious, however the rum is smooth and the fruit will disguise the strength of the alcohol. Ginger beer is a cold and refreshing nonalcoholic drink which is popular in the islands.

SHOPPING Shopping in the U.S.V.I. is duty-free. Popular items include jewelry, liquor, perfume, crystal as well as crafts and artwork produced by local artists.

In Frederiksted the main shopping area is along the waterfront on Strand Street. In Christiansted the primary shopping area is found along King Street and Company Street.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The U.S. dollar is the official currency in the Virgin Islands. Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Post Office AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES