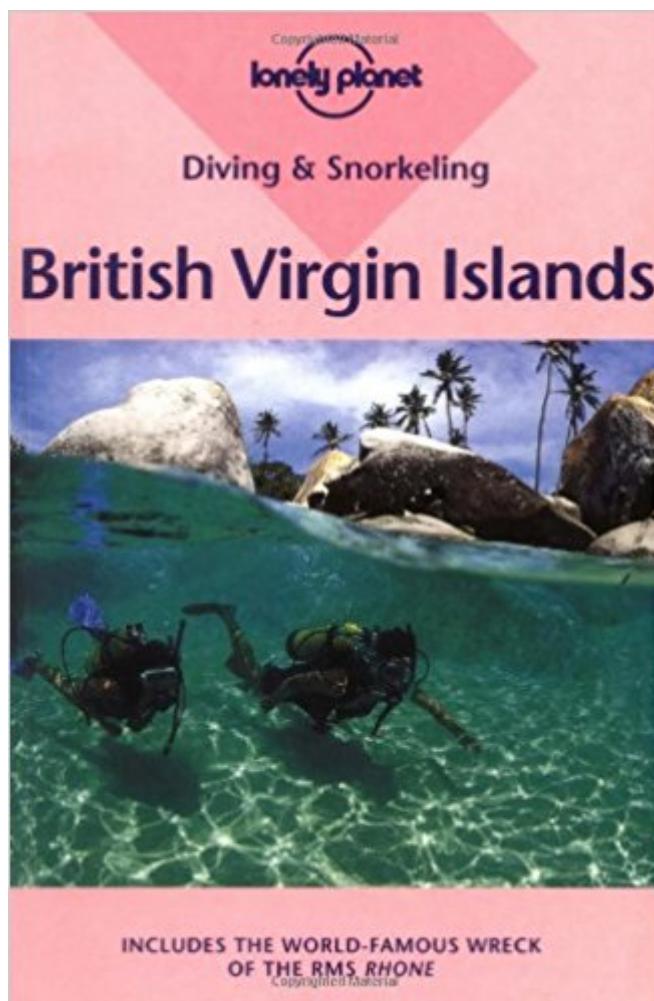


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# **Lonely Planet Diving & Snorkeling British Virgin Islands**



## Synopsis

Comprising some 40 islands and cays in the northeast corner of the Caribbean, the British Virgin Islands are low-key and uncommercial. Topside, they offer lush subtropical forests and endless pristine beaches. Underwater, divers and snorkelers delight in coral-covered pinnacles, caverns, walls and shipwrecks, including the famed 19th-century RMS Rhone. Once a notorious pirate hideaway, today's British Virgin Islands continue to be a sailors' paradise and are counted among the Caribbean's premier yachting destinations. This book describes 63 of the British Virgin Islands' best dive sites, with full-color photos throughout. You'll get specific information on: depth range, access and conditions Common and hazardous marine life Topside activities and attractions Diving services, live-aboards and yacht charters 8 easy-to-read maps

## Book Information

Series: Lonely Planet Diving & Snorkeling Great Barrier Reef

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## Customer Reviews

This book is moderately useful if you have never been to the BVI and are planning on diving with a commercial dive operation every day. However, it is not suitable for planning to dive on your own. I bought this book for my second self-guided dive trip to the BVI and it has not been useful for planning dives since few dives are marked on any kind of map and there are no diagrams of the underwater features to aid in underwater navigation. The text does not even provide much useful information for planning, it mainly consists of descriptions of sea life. It also includes notes such as "this dive site is tricky to find", yet provides no information that would help in finding it. If you are planning on diving on your own, the Williams and O'Hagen book is much more useful as is Franko's

Dive Map of the BVI. However, the photography is beautiful so I gave it two stars rather than one.

Great guide, don't go to the BVI without it.

Our group used this guide in doing dives from our yacht in the BVI. I found it to be comprehensive enough to help us to find the dive sites fairly well without asking too many questions of the locals. There were only one or two sites which we wanted to dive which we didn't find. I liked the ratings of the dives from beginner to expert but I think adding a 'star' rating would help people to determine what particular dive to choose when there are many choices. Also helpful would be to include a map of the dive site (some other dive books do this) which would help in planning the dive. These are the only reasons I didn't give this book a 5 star rating. This book was also valuable in explaining potential problems with dives such as currents or choppy seas. It also provided the maximum and minimum depths and these were pretty much on target. The book was definitely a valuable asset on our trip.

This book picks out the twenty-one best diving sites in the British Virgin Islands and gives a page or two of descriptive text about each. Each dive site has one or more pictures to show the reader what to expect. Each dive site also has some general descriptions such as the typical depth, the current conditions, how to access the site, and what expertise is required. There is a map on which all of the sites are located. There is a rating system the book uses to inform the diver whether a place is suitable for a beginner or an expert. The book also serves as a general guide to the BVI, including history, food, culture, lodging, and tourist information. The book includes some helpful tips on diving in the BVI and warns about the dangers underwater.

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