

Security Brief for US Virgin Islands prepared on: **Jun 8, 2011 5:43:30 PM GMT**

## Security Assessment Rating

Security Rating for US Virgin Islands:



Overall Rating:	Sub-Ratings	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>1</b> <b>Minimal</b>	Crime	2	[Progress bar]		
Security Services		2	[Progress bar]			
Civil Unrest		1	[Progress bar]			
Terrorism		1	[Progress bar]			
Kidnapping		1	[Progress bar]			
Geopolitical		2	[Progress bar]			

## Security Overview of US Virgin Islands

The islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands (USVI) have similar populations and destination activities; St. John is more sparsely populated. The crime rate in USVI is high compared to most Caribbean islands. Violent crimes, including homicide, occur on St. Thomas and St. Croix, although most of the crime on St. John is petty theft. Use caution in populated areas where pick-pocketing and theft occur. Do not leave any items unattended, particularly on the beach and when visiting crowded areas. Use hotel safes for valuable items. Do not leave items in cars, even in the trunk. At night, avoid traveling alone especially on beaches.

Limit public transportation use to resort buses and taxis. A rental car is a convenient method of transportation. Avoid poorer sections of the island. Limit travel in remote areas to daylight hours.

There is little threat from civil unrest, kidnapping or terrorist activity. Strikes by civil servants occur infrequently.

## No Current Security Alerts

## Security Intelligence

### SECURITY

**Crime: Crimes involving foreign personnel do occur in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The outer islands have lesser crime threats.**

Crime does occur in the USVI, with robbery, assault and burglary the most common. Approximately 25 murders and 50 rapes occur annually, mostly involving locals.

St. Thomas is a highly developed Caribbean island. Visitors should feel safe traveling about the towns and beaches during the day, but should pay close attention to personal security after dark. Many tourist attractions are within walking distance of downtown hotels. There are frequent reports of petty street crime, especially in tourist areas.

Avoid wearing flashy jewelry, including watches. Do not walk alone in deserted areas at night if avoidable, especially in secluded waterfront areas. Street criminals work deserted areas, particularly in Charlotte Amalie, at night. Avoid the waterfront between town and the St. Thomas marina. Never leave valuables or baggage unattended on beaches. Do not wear beach attire on the streets. Police are often slow to respond.

St. Croix is the largest of the USVI and crime is slightly less of a concern than on St. Thomas. The towns of Christiansted and Frederiksted have higher crime rates than resort areas.

Crime on the outer islands, such as St. Johns, is much lower, but commonsense precautions should be exercised.

Theft of property is common and no items should be left unattended. Use hotel safes for all valuables and travel documents.

Related Advice: [Protecting yourself from petty theft during travel.](#)

**Scams, Fraud, Corruption and Extortion: Credit card fraud U.S. Virgin Islands.**

If you are a victim of credit card fraud and learn of the fraud while still in your destination, report it to the credit card issuer and to the local police. Most incidents are such that visitors do not know until much later that they have been defrauded, frequently only when the bill is received from the issuer.

The most common of the many fraud methods are electronic skimming of account numbers, adding digits to totals, changing digits, intentionally misplacing decimals, adding bogus sales taxes, inflating prices on un-itemized records or adding service charges post-transaction.

Traveler's checks and cash are the safest means of payment. If you must use a credit card, try to keep it in sight during the whole transaction and ensure that the card is returned to you before you sign the voucher. Write the amount of the transaction, in your own handwriting, in the signature block; this helps protect you against merchants who might alter the amount on your credit slip after you leave. Insist on the customer's copy and an itemized receipt, and verify all entries. Ask for and keep any carbons that were used.

**Security: Useful contact numbers in the U.S. Virgin Islands.**

Emergency Services:

POLICE EMERGENCY	911
AMBULANCE EMERGENCY	911
INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY CODE	1-340

Select embassies:

<p>Australia - Embassy (Embassy in Washington, D.C. is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) 1601 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036-2273 Phone: 202-797-3000 Fax: 202-797-3331</p>	<p>Brazil - Consulate (Consulate in Miami is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) 80 SW 8th Street 26th Floor Miami 33130 Phone: 305-285-6200 Fax: 305-285-6229</p>	<p>Canada - Embassy (Embassy in Washington, D.C. is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 Phone: 202-682-1740 Fax: 202-682-7701</p>
<p>China - Embassy (Embassy in Washington, D.C. is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) 2300 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008 Phone: 202-328-2500 Fax: 202-328-2582</p>	<p>France - Consulate (Consulate in Miami is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) Espirito Santo Plaza Suite 1050 1395 Brickell Avenue Miami 33131 Phone: 305-403-4150 Fax: 305-403-4151</p>	<p>Germany - Consulate (Consulate in Miami is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) 100 North Biscayne Boulevard Suite 2200 Miami 33132 Phone: 305-358-0290 Fax: 305-358-0307</p>
<p>Japan - Embassy (Embassy in Washington, D.C. is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) 2520 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008 Phone: 202-238-6700 Fax: 202-328-2187</p>	<p>United Kingdom - Consulate (Consulate in Miami is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) Brickell Bay Office Tower 1001 Brickell Bay Drive Suite 2800 Miami, FL 33131 Phone: 305-374-1522 Fax: 305-374-8196</p>	<p>Spain - Consulate (Consulate in Puerto Rico is accredited to the U.S. Virgin Islands) Mercantile building floor 11 office 1101 Avenue Ponce de Leon Puerto Rico 00918 Phone: 787-758-6090 Fax: 787-763-0190</p>

For a comprehensive listing of embassy contact information in this destination and a comprehensive listing of U.S. Virgin Island embassies and consulates in other destinations, visit [Embassy World](http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/directory.htm) (www.embassyworld.com/embassy/directory.htm).

Familiarize yourself with the location and contact details of other foreign embassies in case your country's embassy closes due to an emergency or some other unexpected circumstances. Another embassy can often provide assistance in such cases.

**Security: Fire safety information for travelers worldwide.**

Most local fire departments worldwide lack the equipment to effectively combat fires in multi-story buildings. Request rooms between the second and eighth floors; rooms above the seventh floor are out of reach of most fire departments' ladders.

Consider bringing a portable battery-operated smoke alarm for use in hotel rooms and/or private lodgings abroad.

Related Advice: [Minimizing traveler risk from hotel fires.](#)

**Weather, Currency Exchange**

**US VIRGIN ISLANDS WEATHER**

Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas - Cyril E. King International Airport:

Jun 08	Jun 09	Jun 10	Jun 11	Jun 12
High: 85° F (29° C) Low: 80° F (26° C)	High: 84° F (28° C) Low: 81° F (27° C)	High: 84° F (28° C) Low: 81° F (27° C)	High: 84° F (28° C) Low: 81° F (27° C)	High: 84° F (28° C) Low: 81° F (27° C)

**CURRENCY EXCHANGE**

CURRENCY NAMES	1 Euro =	1 US Dollar =
Euro	1.0000	0.6832
US Dollar	1.4639	1.0000

**Disclaimer**

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