



At the heart of the British Virgin Islands, Peter Island is available to hire in its entirety for a completely private escape, or guests can simply enjoy a day or two relaxing at the resort's spa, beaches and restaurants

Peter Island

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By Miriam Cain

For information on chartering a yacht in the Virgin Islands, contact your Camper & Nicholson charter broker, see page 6

Peter Island and its 1,800-acre resort lies at the centre of the 50 or so islands and islets of the British Virgins in the Caribbean.

The only way to access the resort is by sea, and it has its own marina so you can sail up in your superyacht and step straight onto the pier. Once there, you really do feel as if you've escaped the world, particularly if you hire the island for the sole use of your charter party as you'll have a free run of all the facilities – including a yacht club and dive shop.

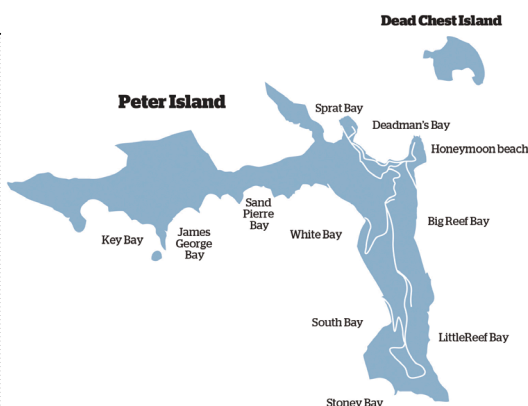
But if you simply want to relax or escape, you'll find extensive tropical landscapes at your disposal.

What to do

Life on the island is a balance between total relaxation and indulging in first-class water sports in the surrounding sea.

During the day you can lounge on vast cushions on the beach, sail, snorkel and kayak, relax in a hammock or explore the island on foot.

The popular trend is to 'book your beach'. There are five to



choose from, including Honeymoon Beach for two, and White Bay Beach where there are six sun-loungers and spectacular views of Norman Island. The beach is believed to be the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*.

Take a dinghy to Dead Chest Island, reputedly the origin of the sea shanty "15 men on a dead man's chest; yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum." The island is said to have earned its name when the infamous pirate Blackbeard left his crew there with nothing but a bottle of rum. Some of the pirates tried to swim to Peter Island but didn't make it, hence the name of the main beach on Peter Island: Dead Man's Bay.

The spa at

Peter Island has signature treatments incorporating the island's indigenous plants and drawing on ancient therapeutic practices of the Carib Indians. Indulge in a Fresh Coconut rub or a Thermal Sand Bundle massage.

The Virgin Islands have some of the world's best snorkelling and diving opportunities. Just off Peter Island, The Indians are a reef and rocky outcrop resembling an Indian headdress and are a superb snorkelling site. There are also plenty of gentle dives that rarely exceed 30 metres (98 feet), including the wreck of RMS Rhone: the Royal Mail steamer that went down in 1867 and is now one of the most celebrated dive sites in the Caribbean.

Where to stay

The resort has 52 rooms, comprising 32 ocean-view rooms and 20 beachfront suites. There are also three private villas available: the Hawk's Nest, Crow's Nest and Falcon's Nest. The latter cliff-top eerie, Falcon's Nest, sleeps 12 and has its own private infinity-edge pool, Jacuzzi and chef.

Where to eat + drink

The British Virgin Islands are not known for their fine dining opportunities but there are exceptions, one of which is Peter Island. Tradewinds Restaurant is famed for its fantastic fresh seafood dishes and French flair. The restaurant also hosts a buffet twice a week.

For a fusion of Caribbean and continental cuisine, Deadman's Beach Bar & Grill is a more relaxed affair, serving lunch and dinner. A steel drum band sets the mood on Sunday afternoons, and on Wednesdays they play at the Caribbean buffet. Alternatively, you can dine privately by candlelight on the beach, or at your accommodation.

Left

Life on the island follows a lazy pace. The villa pictured, complete with infinity pool, is the Falcon's Nest