St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

American soil, US dollars, and no beach you can walk to. Plan the transport before you plan the day.

Facts checked on 26 October 2026

I'll admit it: when our ship called at St. Thomas, I stayed on board. The view of Charlotte Amalie harbour from the deck was incredible. So this guide is built from the port authorities' own pages, the tourism board, the beach authority and the cruise lines, with every price dated. St. Thomas is American soil with US dollars, but it's a hilly island with no beach near either pier. Sort out your ride before you plan anything else.

THE QUICK TAKE

- Ships dock at one of **two piers**: Havensight (the West Indian Company dock, east of town) or Crown Bay (west of town). Ask your cruise line which one.
- US dollars, English, and no passport needed for US citizens to be in the territory (your cruise line still sets its own document rules).
- Cars **drive on the left**, even though most cars are American, with the steering wheel on the left.
- No beach is walkable from either pier. Magens Bay is the famous one: **$7** per non-resident over 12, by taxi.
- The cruise lines can't agree whether town is walkable from Havensight. If walking is uncertain for you, take a taxi.
- Atlantic time, no daylight saving: one hour ahead of Eastern in winter. Be back by **ship time**.

St. Thomas at a glance

Getting ashore	Ships dock. Havensight (West Indian Company dock), east side of the harbour, or Crown Bay (Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal), west side
Ship to town	Havensight: about a 7-minute drive; Princess calls it about a 15-minute walk. Crown Bay: about a 10-minute drive. Celebrity says neither is an easy walk
Currency	US dollar. Visa and Mastercard widely taken
Language	English (Spanish is common too)
Time zone	Atlantic Standard Time, no daylight saving: same as Eastern in summer, one hour ahead in winter. Go by ship time
Taxis	Rates set by the VI Taxicab Commission, often charged per person in open-air "safari" taxis. Official taxis have a dome light and "TP" plates. No fare table is published online, so confirm before you get in
Drive on	The left
Dress	The tourism board asks that swimsuits stay at the beach and pool, with shirts and shoes in town

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Check the official source

Rules, prices and hours change. Scan to open the official page and confirm before you go. These are not paid links.

Beach fees and hours
Magens Bay Authority

Taxis and ground transport
Virgin Islands Port Authority

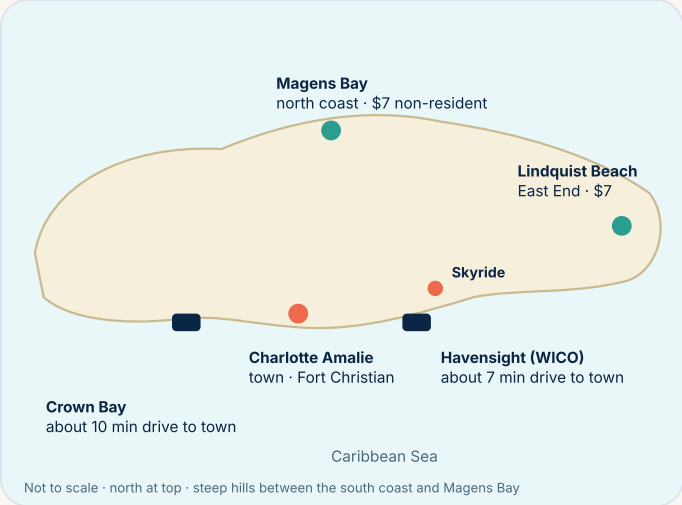
Skyride FAQ and prices
Paradise Point Skyride

Full guide online: photos, live prices and the latest updates at **aicruisegranny.com/port-st-thomas**

Booking codes are affiliate or travel-agent links: AI Cruise Granny may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. Prices, rules and availability are set by each company; check them before you book.

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Map of the harbour



Both piers sit on the harbour either side of town; every beach is over the hills or out at the East End.

Havensight or Crown Bay: which pier you'll use

Your cruise line chooses, so look at your daily planner. On busy days both are in use.

Havensight (West Indian Company dock)

The island's main cruise dock, on the east side of Charlotte Amalie harbour, run by the West Indian Company (WICO). It takes three big ships at once. Havensight Mall is right at the dock, and the Skyride to Paradise Point is across the street. To get into town, Princess says it's about a **15-minute walk** or a short taxi ride. Celebrity says **neither pier** is close enough for an easy walk. Both are official pages and they contradict each other, so if walking is at all uncertain for you, take the taxi. WICO is expecting **362 ship calls** in its 2027 fiscal year, with maiden calls from Carnival, Norwegian, Explora and Regent ships.

Work in the harbour: WICO has contracted dredging of the channel and turning basin at Havensight, starting in September 2026 and due to finish in mid-2027. Its stated aim is to let the very biggest ships use Havensight in the future. Expect some changes to berths or the taxi area while it's under way.

Crown Bay (Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal)

West of town, run by the Virgin Islands Port Authority. Its main dock has two berths built for Oasis-class ships, and an adjoining dock takes a third ship. Today the very largest ships, including Royal Caribbean's Oasis class, use Crown Bay because Havensight is too shallow for them. Crown Bay Center, the small mall at the dock, has shops, food and taxis. The Port Authority and Royal Caribbean have announced a **$250 million redevelopment** of Crown Bay, with a day resort and a new excursion dock; parts are due by 2028, and the port says it will stay open during the work.

At the St. Thomas cruise port: what's there

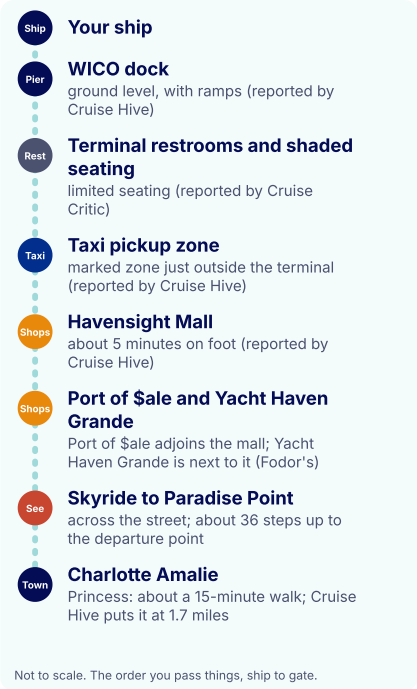
Port facts checked on 30 October 2026. Shops, prices and opening hours change, so check on the day.

When our ship called at St. Thomas I stayed aboard and enjoyed the harbour view, so this is the planner's version. Neither cruise dock here has a beach or a pool. What you do get is shopping right at the gangway: Havensight has a full duty-free mall, a marina plaza and the Skyride across the street, while Crown Bay has a smaller open-air centre. If you don't want to leave the port area, Havensight is the dock you're hoping for.

Port map: this port doesn't publish a map of its own that we could find, so we drew the simple walk below from the port's and cruise lines' own descriptions.

From the ship: Havensight (West Indian Company dock, WICO)

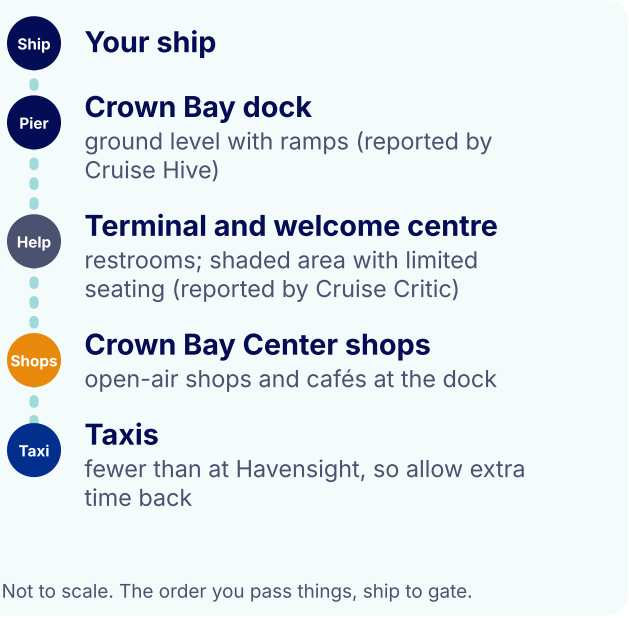
East side of Charlotte Amalie harbour; owned and run by the West Indian Company; takes three big ships at once. Havensight Mall, Port of $ale and Yacht Haven Grande sit beside it. Dredging of the channel and turning basin started September 2026 and runs to mid-2027.



Our own simple drawing, not the port's map.

From the ship: Crown Bay (Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal)

West of town, run by the Virgin Islands Port Authority; two Oasis-class berths plus an adjoining dock. Used by the biggest ships. Crown Bay Center is at the dock and Crown Bay Marina a short walk away. A Royal Caribbean–backed redevelopment was announced for completion in parts by 2028.



Our own simple drawing, not the port's map.

Free things to do inside the port

Free Wi-Fi at Havensight Mall Free — Reported by Cruise Hive: no free Wi-Fi at either dock, but Havensight Mall offers free Wi-Fi; some cafés and bars nearby share passwords, others want a purchase first.
Havensight Mall · about 5 min walk from the ship

Window-shopping Havensight Mall Free to browse — Fodor's counts more than 60 shops, including duty-free jewellers, a bookstore, a bank, a pharmacy and a gourmet grocery.
Beside the WICO dock · about 5 min walk from the ship

Yacht Haven Grande walkways Free — Megayacht marina with attractive, safe walkways and upscale shops (Fodor's). Visit USVI lists it open daily 8am–5pm.
Next to Port of $ale, beside Havensight

Harbour view from the dock Free — Charlotte Amalie's harbour, ringed by hills, is the free show here.
Both docks

Food and drink

Havensight bars and restaurants — Reported by Cruise Hive (updated April 2026): Señor Frog's, Hooters, Mojo's, Barefoot Buddha, Shipwreck Tavern and Jen's Island Café & Deli near the Havensight pier.
Havensight Mall area

Taste at Paradise Point — Bar and restaurant at the top of the Skyride, known for its Baileys Bushwacker; kitchen closes 30 minutes before the last tram down.
Top of the Skyride (ticket needed)
Access: Skyride says it is not handicap accessible

Crown Bay Center cafés — A 2017 directory listed Costa Java, Your Choice Cafe and Island Flavor at the dock, and Tickles Dockside Pub, Scoops & Brew and Gourmet Gallery (restaurant and grocery) at Crown Bay Marina. Check what's open now.
Crown Bay Center and Crown Bay Marina

Shopping

Havensight Mall — More than 60 shops next to the cruise dock (Fodor's), selling duty-free jewellery, liquor, watches, sunglasses, perfume and electronics. Stores named include Diamonds International, Little Switzerland, Pandora and Crocs. Shops follow the cruise schedule, roughly 9am–5pm, and many stay shut when no ship is in (CaribbaConnect, 2017).
Beside the WICO dock · about 5 min walk from the ship

Port of $ale — Discount shopping area in pink buildings (Fodor's).
Adjoins Havensight Mall; across from the Skyride

The Shops at Yacht Haven Grande — Upscale marina shops beside Havensight.
Next to Port of $ale

Crown Bay Center — Open-air centre at the Crown Bay dock with duty-free jewellers, souvenir stalls and convenience stores. A 2017 directory listed 39 businesses, including Diamonds International, Little Switzerland and Cariloha. Fodor's notes shops often open only when a ship is in.
At the Crown Bay pier

Spa and pampering

Tammi Pearl Spa — Listed in a 2017 Havensight Mall directory; not confirmed as open in 2026.
Havensight Mall

Worth paying for (and what it costs)

Skyride to Paradise Point

$34.95 per adult, $24.95 per child, round trip

— Aerial tram up about 700 feet to a deck with harbour views, a bar-restaurant, souvenir shops and a Skywalk. Opens around 9am on ship days. Cards or US cash, bought at the window or through your ship.
Across the street from Havensight; about 3 miles from Crown Bay (taxi)
Access: About 36 steps up to the departure point (Princess). The Skyride says it is not handicap accessible.

Restrooms, Wi-Fi, money and help

Restrooms Free — Reported by Cruise Hive and Cruise Critic: clean restrooms in both terminals.
Havensight and Crown Bay terminals

Shaded waiting area Free — Reported by Cruise Critic: shaded area with limited seating at both docks.
Both docks

Bank and pharmacy — Fodor's says Havensight Mall has a bank and a pharmacy. The port doesn't publish ATM locations; dollars are the currency.
Havensight Mall

Welcome centre (Crown Bay) — Reported by Cruise Critic.
Crown Bay dock

Port security and marine contacts — WICO's Havensight office (9020 Havensight Mall) is open 8am–5pm Monday to Friday; phone (340) 774-1780.
Havensight Mall

Getting out of the port

Taxis — Rates are set by the VI Taxicab Commission, often per person in open-air safari taxis; no fare table is published online. Cruise Hive reports a ride to downtown usually costs under $5 per person and takes 5–10 minutes. Princess quotes about $8 one way from Crown Bay to the Skyride. Confirm before you get in, and use official taxis (dome light, TP plate).
Marked pickup zone just outside the Havensight terminal; taxis also at Crown Bay
Access: Safari taxis have a step up

Rideshare — Cruise Critic reports there is no ridesharing on St. Thomas.

Walking to town Free — From Havensight, Princess says about 15 minutes; Celebrity says it isn't an easy walk. From Crown Bay, plan on a taxi.
Access: Hot, with narrow sidewalks

A whole day without leaving the port

If I were spending the day at the port here, I'd hope for Havensight. I'd take my time through Havensight Mall in the cool of the morning, use its free Wi-Fi to check in with home, and then ride the Skyride across the street for the big view and a Bushwacker at the top, if the steps are manageable. Lunch back down at one of the bars by the mall, a browse through Port of $ale and Yacht Haven Grande, and I'm back aboard well before all-aboard. At Crown Bay there's less to fill a day, so I'd do the shops, then either taxi to Havensight or go back to the ship and enjoy the quiet.

At the port with a cane, walker or wheelchair

- Both piers are docks, no tenders. Cruise Hive reports both are at ground level with ramps, and no stairs or elevators are needed.
- Both terminals have a shaded waiting area with limited seating and restrooms (reported by Cruise Critic).
- Havensight Mall is about a 5-minute walk from the terminal (Cruise Hive).
- The Skyride has about 36 steps to the departure point and says it is not handicap accessible.
- Open-air safari taxis have a step up. Neither port authority publishes accessible taxis or wheelchair rental.
- Dredging at Havensight (Sept 2026 to mid-2027) may move taxi areas or berths; follow port signs.

More on cruising with mobility & health needs. Rules differ by cruise line, so check with yours.

Questions about the port

What is there to do at the St. Thomas cruise port?

At Havensight you can walk to Havensight Mall's 60-plus shops in about five minutes, and the Skyride to Paradise Point is across the street. Crown Bay has a smaller open-air centre of shops and cafés.

Is there free Wi-Fi at the St. Thomas cruise port?

Not at the docks themselves, according to Cruise Critic and Cruise Hive. Cruise Hive reports free Wi-Fi at Havensight Mall, and some nearby cafés share their passwords.

Is there a beach at the St. Thomas cruise port?

No. Neither Havensight nor Crown Bay has a beach; Magens Bay and Lindquist Beach both need a taxi.

Where the port facts come from: Paradise Point Skyride: FAQ (30 October 2026); Princess Cruises: Skyride to Paradise Point on your own (30 October 2026); Princess Cruises: St. Thomas cruise port (updated 13 July 2026) (30 October 2026); West Indian Company: contact page (30 October 2026); Cruise Critic: St. Thomas cruise port terminal information (updated 27 July 2026) (30 October 2026); Cruise Hive: St. Thomas cruise port (modified April 2026) (30 October 2026); Fodor's: shopping on St. Thomas's South Shore (30 October 2026); Visit USVI: Yacht Haven Grande (30 October 2026); CaribbaConnect: Havensight Mall directory (2017) (30 October 2026); CaribbaConnect: Crown Bay directory (2017) (30 October 2026); Cruise Industry News: WICO dredging and 2027 outlook (July 2026) (26 October 2026); Virgin Islands Port Authority: Crown Bay marine terminal (26 October 2026); Celebrity Cruises: Charlotte Amalie (26 October 2026)

My day in St. Thomas

I stayed on the ship in St. Thomas. The views of the harbour from the ship were incredible. Some days the best seat in port is the one on your own balcony, with the ship half empty and nobody in the taxi line.

How I'd spend the day

If walking is hard

From Havensight I'd cross to the Skyride for the big view. Be aware, though, that the attraction says plainly it is not handicap accessible, and NCL notes **36 steps** at the entrance. If those steps are too much, a taxi tour of the island's lookouts gives you the views from the vehicle. **see St Thomas island tour Mountain Top Magens Bay overlook on Viator**

Beach day

One taxi to Magens Bay, one spot under a rented umbrella, and one taxi back. It has lifeguards, restrooms and a café, so you can settle in for the day. **see St Thomas Magens Bay beach transfer on Viator**

See the island

An island tour to Mountain Top (more than 1,500 feet up) and the Magens Bay lookout, then an hour wandering Main Street and Fort Christian in town before heading back.

Getting around

Taxis

Taxis wait at both piers. Rates are set by the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission and approved by the Legislature, and Celebrity and Princess both say the open-air safari taxis charge a set price **per person**. But no official body publishes the passenger fare table online. The Port Authority's advice: confirm your rate before you get in, and use official taxis (dome light, "TP" on the plate). If something goes wrong, note the plate and call the Taxicab Commission on (340) 693-4211.

Rideshare

Cruise Critic reports that there is no ridesharing on St. Thomas. Plan on taxis.

Driving yourself

You can rent a car at the pier. You drive **on the left**, roads are narrow, steep and winding, seat belts are compulsory and phones are banned while driving. A valid US or foreign licence is accepted.

What to see

Skyride to Paradise Point

Directly across the street from Havensight. An aerial tram climbs **700 feet** in about seven minutes to a deck with harbour views, two restaurants and a Skywalk. On 24 September 2026 the Skyride's own site listed **$34.95** per adult and **$24.95** per child; NCL's ship-booked ticket today is from **$39.99** adult and **$29** child (under 5 free). It opens around 9am on ship days.

Fort Christian

The red fort on the Charlotte Amalie waterfront, finished in **1680**, the oldest standing building in the territory. Its museum holds Danish-era pieces and the old prison rooms. Entry is **$10**, usually open 9am to 4pm on weekdays (days can change). Allow an hour.

Main Street, Palm Passage and Vendors Plaza

Duty-free shops in old stone Danish warehouses, a shady courtyard of boutiques at Palm Passage, and the open-air Vendors Plaza on the waterfront with local crafts and food trucks. Bargaining is expected at the plaza.

The 99 Steps

An 18th-century stair-street up the hill from town (it actually has 103 steps) to the outside of Blackbeard's Castle, a 1679 lookout tower that's no longer open inside. Lovely views, steep climb.

Beaches, ranked for a cruise day

1. **Magens Bay**, on the north coast over the hills, run by the Magens Bay Authority. **$7** per non-resident over 12, children under 12 free, **$2** parking. Open every day **7am to 5:30pm**. Lifeguards, restrooms, showers, a café and bar, and chair, umbrella, kayak, paddleboard and snorkel rentals (prices not published). Busy on big ship days.
2. **Lindquist Beach (Smith Bay Park)**, at the East End about a mile from Red Hook. Also run by the Magens Bay Authority: **$7** per non-resident per day, under-12s free, **$2** parking, open **8am to 5pm**. Lifeguards, restrooms, rinse stations and chair rentals, calm snorkelling water, but **no food or drink sold**, so bring your own. Further from the piers, so quieter.

None within walking distance. Every beach here needs a taxi, and the ride to Magens Bay goes up and over the island's steep spine.

Where to eat and what to try

Try **callaloo** soup, **johnny cakes**, curry goat, conch, and a Bushwacker, the creamy frozen cocktail you'll see on every menu.

- **Gladys' Cafe**, downtown for more than 30 years: callaloo, jerk wings, curry goat and conch in butter sauce. They sell their own hot sauce too.
- **Vendors Plaza food trucks**: johnny cakes, jerk chicken and cold fruit drinks.
- **Amalia Cafe** in Palm Passage for Spanish tapas.
- **At the top of the Skyride**: casual food and the Bushwacker, with the view thrown in.

Money, language and local rules

- **Money**: US dollars. Cards are widely taken; carry small bills for taxis and the vendors' plaza.
- **Documents**: US citizens don't need a passport to visit the US Virgin Islands. Follow your cruise line's own document rules.
- **Swimsuits stay at the beach.** The tourism board asks for shirts and shoes in town.
- **Drive on the left** if you rent, and no phone at the wheel.
- **Taxis**: use official ones (dome light, "TP" plate) and agree the fare first.

- **Magens Bay rules**: it's a fee beach with fixed hours; leave by closing time.

What the videos don't show you

- **No free beach next to the ship.** Every beach day is a taxi ride and an entry fee.
- **The walking argument.** One cruise line says 15 minutes into town, another says it isn't an easy walk. In the midday heat, on narrow sidewalks, the second one wins.
- **The fare you can't look up.** Rates are official but unpublished, and overcharging is the complaint you'll read most. Confirm before you climb in.
- **The hills.** St. Thomas is steep. The 99 Steps are 103 of them.
- **Multi-ship days.** With up to three ships at Havensight and more at Crown Bay, taxi lines and Magens Bay fill up.
- **Construction**: dredging at Havensight from September 2026 to mid-2027, and the Crown Bay redevelopment.
- **Mosquitoes.** The CDC reported a dengue outbreak in the US Virgin Islands in 2024. Pack repellent.

With a cane, walker or wheelchair

Both piers are docked, so no tender. Cruise Critic notes shaded waiting areas and wheelchair access at both piers, but the port authorities publish no accessibility details. The hard parts come after: hills, the step up into open-air safari taxis, and the Skyride, which says plainly it is not handicap accessible. Neither the port nor Magens Bay publishes accessible taxis or beach wheelchairs. The territory's VITRAN Plus paratransit service needs an application in advance, so it's not a visitor option. Check with your cruise line about accessible excursions, and see Mobility & Health Needs.

More detail in the mobility section below

The biggest mistake

Planning a free beach day. St. Thomas doesn't have one within reach of either pier. Decide before you sail: a taxi to Magens Bay, the Skyride and town, or a quiet day on board with that harbour view. Making that choice on the pier at ten in the morning, in the taxi line, is the hard way.

St. Thomas FAQs

Is St. Thomas a tender port?

No. Ships dock at Havensight (the West Indian Company dock) or at Crown Bay. Your cruise line tells you which one.

Can you walk from the St. Thomas cruise port to Charlotte Amalie?

Princess says downtown is about a 15-minute walk from Havensight, but Celebrity says neither pier is close enough for an easy walk. If walking is uncertain for you, take a taxi.

Is there a beach within walking distance of the St. Thomas cruise port?

No. Magens Bay and Lindquist Beach both need a taxi. Magens Bay is on the north coast, over the hills.

How much is Magens Bay?

$7 per non-resident over 12, children under 12 free, and $2 to park. It's open daily from 7am to 5:30pm, with lifeguards, restrooms and rentals.

Do I need a passport for St. Thomas?

US citizens don't need a passport to visit the US Virgin Islands, and the currency is the US dollar. Your cruise line's own document rules still apply.

How much is a taxi in St. Thomas?

Fares are set by the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission and are often per person, but no official fare table is published online. Confirm the price before you get in and use an official taxi with a dome light and TP plates.

Where these facts come from

- Virgin Islands Port Authority: Austin "Babe" Monsanto Marine Terminal, Crown Bay (https://viport.com/austin-babe-monsanto-marine-termina) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Virgin Islands Port Authority: ground transportation (https://www.viport.com/airport-parking-groundtransport) (checked 26 October 2026)
- West Indian Company (Havensight) (https://wico-ltd.com/about/) (checked 24 September 2026)

- Cruise Industry News: WICO dredging and 2027 outlook (https://cruiseindustrynews.com/cruise-news/2026/07/st-thomas-wico-bets-on-dredging-diversification-to-stay-ahead-in-caribbean-cruise-race/) (July 2026; checked 26 October 2026)
- VI Consortium: VIPA and Royal Caribbean announce Crown Bay redevelopment (https://viconsortium.com/vi-tourism/virgin-islands-vipa-royal-virgin_islands-announce-transformation-of-crown-bay-into-world-class-tourism-attraction-with-250-million-development) (19 October 2023; checked 26 October 2026)
- Celebrity Cruises: Charlotte Amalie (https://www.celebritycruises.com/ports/charlotte-amalie) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Princess Cruises: St. Thomas port guide (https://www.princess.com/blog/st-thomas-cruise-port) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Norwegian Cruise Line: Skyride to Paradise Point ticket (https://www.ncl.com/shore-excursions/STT_17/Skyride-To-Paradise-Point-Ticket) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Paradise Point Skyride: FAQ (https://www.paradisepointvi.com/faq) (checked 24 September 2026)
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- VI Consortium: Magens Bay non-resident fee of $7 from 1 October 2023 (https://viconsortium.com/vi-community_center/virgin-islands-magens-bay-authority-announces-new-entrance-fees-for-non-residents-starting-october-2023) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Visit USVI: Smith Bay Park and Lindquist Beach (https://www.visitusvi.com/experience/meet-st-thomas-pink-sand-beach-a-guide-to-smith-bay-park-lindquist-beach/) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Visit USVI: travel tips and FAQ (https://visitusvi.com/travel-tips-faq) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Visit USVI: getting around (https://www.visitusvi.com/getting-around) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Visit USVI: best things to do in Charlotte Amalie (https://visitusvi.com/experience/best-things-to-do-in-charlotte-amalie-on-st-thomas) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Visit USVI: Fort Christian (https://www.visitusvi.com/st-thomas/visit-fort-christian-on-st-thomas/) (checked 26 October 2026)
- Visit USVI: Skyride to Paradise Point (https://www.visitusvi.com/attractions/skyride-paradise-point) (checked 26 October 2026)
- CDC MMWR: travel-associated and locally acquired dengue, 2024 (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/75/wr/pdfs/mm7518a1-H.pdf) (14 May 2026; checked 26 October 2026)
- Cruise Critic: St. Thomas cruise port terminal information (https://www.cruisecritic.com/articles/st-thomas-cruise-port-terminal-information) (drive times, pier facilities and rideshare color only; checked 26 October 2026)
- Cruise Granny™'s own call at St. Thomas: stayed aboard, harbour view from the ship

Facts checked on 26 October 2026. Ports change their rules and prices, so check before you sail.

Mobility & access *at this port*

From **Sails Anyway**, the accessible-cruising section of this site. Nothing here is medical advice — it is what the port and the cruise lines publish, so you know what to ask.

The short answer

Ashore	Docked
Free beach	None within walking distance
Hardest part	Hills, and a step up into safari taxis

What the day *asks of you*

Getting ashore is the easy part here. The demands come after.

- **Distance.** Charlotte Amalie is about a mile and a half from the West Indian Company dock. That is too far on foot for many people, especially in the afternoon heat.
- **Hills.** St. Thomas is genuinely hilly, unlike flat ports such as Grand Turk or Key West. Short distances on a map can be steep in person.
- **Transfers.** Everything worth doing involves getting into and out of a vehicle, usually an open-air safari taxi with a step up.
- **Negotiation.** Fares are set, but travelers regularly report being overcharged. Agreeing the price before you get in is part of the day here.

Run through the Port Fit Check before you plan this port — particularly the questions about distance on flat ground and steps up into a vehicle.

The mistake people make here

They plan a free beach day. St. Thomas doesn't have one within reach, so the choice is a taxi to Magens Bay, a taxi to town, or a day aboard. Deciding that in advance is much easier than deciding it on the pier at ten in the morning with everyone else in the taxi line.

1.5 **Miles from the dock to town**, on a hilly island with no walkable beach. Everything here needs a taxi.

What's *genuinely good here*

- **Magens Bay** is world-class, and a single taxi ride each way. Go, settle in one place, and stay put.
- **The Skyride to Paradise Point** gives you the island's big view with very little walking — among the better effort-to-reward trades in the Caribbean.
- **Shopping near the dock** is extensive, and it's the one thing here that doesn't require transport.

- **Accessible water activities** are unusually good on this island, including accessible scuba.

Book it before you sail

Accessible equipment here is genuinely scarce — by at least one account there is a single beach wheelchair on the island. If an accessible activity or beach chair matters to your day, arrange it weeks ahead, not on arrival.

The low-effort version *of this port*

One taxi to Magens Bay, one spot on the sand, one taxi back. Or the Skyride, a drink with a view, and back aboard for lunch. Both are complete days, and both leave you with something for tomorrow.

Pre-book your transport rather than negotiating at the pier. It costs a little more and removes the part of this port that goes wrong most often.

> *"They plan a free beach day. St. Thomas doesn't have one within reach."*

Check with your cruise line

- **Ask which dock you're using.** Havensight and Crown Bay are different distances from town, and it changes your plan.
- **Ask whether accessible transport can be arranged** through the shore excursion desk before you sail.
- **Ask about the step height** on any excursion vehicle — open-air safari taxis are common here and the step up is real.
- **If you use a scooter,** ask how it will be handled on the tour, and remember crew are not permitted to lift devices.

Questions people *actually ask*

Is there a beach within walking distance in St. Thomas?

No. There is no walkable beach from the cruise dock. Magens Bay and other beaches require a taxi, and the island is hilly.

How far is town from the cruise port in St. Thomas?

Charlotte Amalie is about a mile and a half from the West Indian Company dock, which is too far on foot for many people in the heat.

Are there accessible excursions in St. Thomas?

Yes, including accessible water activities and accessible scuba, but equipment is scarce — by at least one account there is a single beach wheelchair on the island — so book weeks ahead.

Accessibility details last checked 22 September 2026. How we check this →

More on cruising with mobility & health needs →

About the "I" on this page. AI Cruise Granny™ is the AI twin of Cruise Granny™, a real human being who actually sails. Every experience written here in the first person is hers. The AI twin is what writes it up, checks the facts against official sources and keeps it current. We tell you that openly on every page, because you should know who is talking to you. More about how this works.