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Point Udall's stone sundial sits on a lonely hill on St. Croix, beginning with sunrise in the east and ending as the sun falls into the Caribbean on the west side of the island.

LIVE LOCAL

The Best Sunrise in the World... No Passport Required

JESSE DALEY

Before sunrise, the eastern tip of St. Croix feels like the edge of the world.

Trade winds move steadily across the cliffs at Point Udall, carrying the smell of salt and wind. The Caribbean stretches out in front of you, dark and quiet, with nothing more than open water between the rocky point and the horizon. A few people stand near the stone sundial at the top of the hill, coffee cups in hand, watching the sky slowly change color.

First comes a faint band of violet. Then orange begins to seep into the clouds. Within minutes, the sun rises from the sea and spills warm light across the hills and shoreline of St. Croix.

Watching the sunrise here feels different. The island is quiet at this hour. The breeze is steady. The occa-

sional rooster announces the start of the day. It's one of the simplest and most memorable ways to begin exploring the island.

US CITIZENS CAN VISIT OR LIVE IN ST. CROIX WITHOUT RESTRICTION AND WITHOUT A PASSPORT.

St. Croix is the largest of the US Virgin Islands, a Caribbean archipelago located southeast of Puerto Rico. As an American territory, it's easy to reach with non-stop flights from several major mainland airports. US citizens can visit or live here without restriction and without needing a passport.

Point Udall sits at the easternmost tip of St. Croix and is marked by the Millennium Monument, a massive stone sundial built to commemorate the first sunrise of the year 2000. From the monument, the view stretches across open Caribbean water toward distant islands. There's no development crowding the cliffs—just wind, sea, and sky.

It's worth arriving before dawn. The light changes quickly, and the early hours offer a calm that disappears later in the day.

After years working in Hollywood's entertainment industry, I moved to St. Croix to pursue my dream of island living. After settling on the island, I was able to combine my on-camera background with a lifelong fascination with weather and began working as a local weather reporter.

Explore the Wild Side of St. Croix

Once the sun is up, one of the best places to continue the morning is just down the road at the [Jack and Isaac Bay Preserve](#).

This protected stretch of coastline is one of the most

untouched corners of St. Croix. A short trail winds through scrub forest and cactus before dropping down to two beautiful bays with clear water and soft sand. The hike takes about 20 minutes, and the reward is a quiet beach where sea turtles are sometimes spotted offshore. Calm days offer clear visibility for snorkeling.

THE PROTECTED STRETCH OF COASTLINE ALONG JACK AND ISAAC BAY PRESERVE IS ONE OF THE MOST UNTOUCHED CORNERS OF ST. CROIX.

Bring water, sturdy shoes, and a mask and snorkel if you have them. There are no facilities here, which is part of the appeal. Early morning is usually the most comfortable time to hike before the tropical heat sets in.

Breakfast in Christiansted

After a swim, head west toward **Christiansted**, one of



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Christiansted's pastel waterfront and Danish colonial architecture frame one of St. Croix's most inviting harbors, a perfect stop for coffee and a slow morning stroll.

the island's historic towns.

Pastel buildings line the waterfront boardwalk, and the harbor fills with small yachts and fishing skiffs. Danish colonial architecture highlights the island's layered past.

This is the perfect time to grab coffee and breakfast at one of the cafés along King Street or Company Street. Restaurants along the harbor boardwalk overlook the tiny island of Protestant Cay. Boat taxis ferry passengers from the boardwalk across the harbor in just minutes to the historic [Hotel on the Cay](#) where visitors can enjoy a drink or a casual bite to eat.

Wander through Christiansted National Historic Site, where restored warehouses and fortifications

overlook the harbor. The area is easy to explore on foot, and the views across the water are dotted with sailboats.

A Sunset Finish in Frederiksted

Later in the day, drive west across the island to **Frederiksted**.

Where Point Udall greets the sunrise, Frederiksted faces the setting sun. The town's waterfront pier stretches out over the sea, and as golden hour approaches the sky often glows in shades of pink and deep orange.

It's a fitting way to end a day that began with sunrise on the opposite side of the island.

Tax Quirks of the US Virgin Islands

Like neighboring Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands (USVI) are an "unincorporated territory" of the United States. That means they belong to the US but are not part of it. If you live there—something any American can do without visas or any other hassles—you're still part of the US banking system, you use the dollar, and you're subject to US court systems.

However, living in the USVI can create tax advantages for US taxpayers—but only if you qualify as a "bona fide resident" under IRS rules. The system is unusual because USVI is a US territory with its own tax administration, operating under a "mirror code" of the US tax system.

Here are the main tax advantages and how they work.

- 1. You Pay Income Tax to the USVI Instead of the IRS.** The tax rates in the Virgin Islands are the same as on the mainland. But if you are a bona fide USVI resident for the entire year, you file your tax return with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue (VIBIR) and pay your income taxes to the USVI government rather than the IRS.
- 2. Tax Incentives for Businesses:** The biggest tax advantage comes from USVI economic development programs, which can dramatically reduce tax rates for qualifying businesses. Qualified companies may receive up to 90% reduction in corporate income tax, 90% reduction

in personal income tax on qualifying business income, and 100% exemption from property and gross-receipts taxes in some cases. This is why some entrepreneurs relocate consulting, finance, tech, or trading businesses to the USVI.

- 3. No State Income Tax Equivalent:** Because the territory's income tax mirrors federal tax, there is no additional state income tax layer. Effectively you have the equivalent of living in a state with zero income tax, like Florida, Texas, or Nevada.
- 4. The 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax** often does not apply to bona fide residents of the USVI, depending on how income is structured and reported. In practice this can reduce the tax burden on investment income, capital gains, and passive income streams.

To qualify for these benefits, you must spend 183+ days per year in the USVI, have your tax home in the territory, and show stronger ties to USVI than to the mainland (home, driver's license, voting, etc.).

As in Puerto Rico, living in the USVI works best for entrepreneurs running portable businesses, fund managers / traders, consultants, digital services companies, and some investment structures.

—Ted Baumann, [IL Global Diversification Expert](#)