WELCOMETOVI · ROMANCE EDITION

# SAY I DO

## *in the Virgin Islands*

Weddings · Elopements · Honeymoons · Vow Renewals



2027 EDITION

St. Thomas · St. John · St. Croix
Marriage license, planner & honeymoon guide

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# 12 THINGS COUPLES SHOULD KNOW

*Read this page first, even if you read nothing else*

01 **No passport needed**
U.S. citizens fly in with a government photo ID. You'll need a passport only for a BVI day trip.

02 **License from the Superior Court**
Apply through the court's Family Division. It's $100 to apply and $100 for the license.

03 **Count 8 days**
Applications are posted publicly for eight days before a license is issued.

04 **Both of you, in person**
You're examined under oath by the Clerk. Bring photo ID, and dress business casual.

05 **No slippers, no shorts**
The court's dress code is business casual, even on island time.

06 **Divorced or widowed?**
Bring a certified copy of the divorce decree or death certificate.

07 **Judge or your own officiant**
A judge costs an extra $400, on set weekday mornings. Clergy and officiants can marry you anywhere.

08 **Park beaches need a permit**
Every wedding in Virgin Islands National Park needs a special use permit.

09 **Dry season is Dec–Apr**
It's the most reliable weather, and the most booked. Plan 9–12 months out.

10 **June–Nov is hurricane season**
Read every contract's weather and cancellation clause. Consider trip insurance.

11 **Drive on the left**
U.S. cars, left side of the road. Hills are steep and roads are narrow.

12 **Mineral sunscreen only**
Sunscreens with oxybenzone, octinoxate or octocrylene are banned for sale here.

> **The one mistake we see most.** Couples arrive Friday for a Saturday wedding without a license in hand. The court is a weekday office, and you must appear in person. Plan to arrive by **Wednesday**, or arrange weekend pickup ahead of time (there's a $150 surcharge).

# WHICH ISLAND & WHEN TO GO

*Three islands, three moods*

| Island | The feel | Best for |
|---|---|---|
| **St. Thomas** | The most flights, resorts, restaurants and boats. A hilly harbor town with big views. | Guests who want easy travel, resort weddings, sunset sails, nightlife |
| **St. John** | About two-thirds national park. Quiet bays, trails and villas, reached by ferry. | Barefoot beach ceremonies, elopements, nature-loving honeymooners |
| **St. Croix** | The biggest island. Slower and wide-open, with two historic towns and a rich food and rum scene. | Slower, more local trips, Buck Island snorkeling, the bioluminescent bay |

Many couples marry on one island and honeymoon on another. St. Thomas and St. John are a short ferry ride apart. St. Croix is a short flight or seaplane hop away.

## When to go

| Months | Weather | For couples |
|---|---|---|
| **December – April** | Dry season. Steady trade winds, including the breezy "Christmas winds" around the holidays. | The most reliable weather and the highest prices. Venues and boats book up early. |
| **May – July** | Warmer, with some showers. The official hurricane season starts June 1. | A sweet spot: lower rates and calm seas. Read the weather clauses. |
| **August – November** | The rainiest stretch and the peak of hurricane season. | The best deals and the quietest beaches. Go only with flexible bookings and insurance. |

**Golden hour planning.** Sunsets here come early year-round, roughly between 5:45 and 7:00 p.m. depending on the month. Ask your photographer for the exact time on your date, and start the ceremony about an hour before it.

**Holidays & festivals.** Carnival on St. Thomas (spring) and the Crucian Christmas Festival on St. Croix (late December to early January) are wonderful, but they fill hotels and roads. The court is also closed on several holidays, including Carnival Saturday. Check before you set a date.

# THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

*Step by step, from the Superior Court's own rules*

## 1 · Get the packet

Contact the **Family Division of the Superior Court** for the island where you'll marry (St. Thomas/St. John or St. Croix). If you live off-island, give them your mailing address and phone number and they'll send the marriage packet: a fact sheet, the application, and the license and certificate forms.

## 2 · Fill it in properly

- **Typed** and fully complete. Handwritten applications are returned.
- **Don't notarize it** yourself. The Clerk notarizes it when you appear.
- You'll need: full names, ages, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, nationality, residence, both parents' names and birthplaces, and previous marital status.
- Divorced: a **certified copy of the divorce decree**. Widowed: a **certified copy of the death certificate**.

## 3 · File it and pay the application fee

The **$100 application fee** is non-refundable and paid at filing. Pay by certified check or money order (cash only in person). Off-island couples also include a letter with your **visit dates, length of stay** and, if you want a judge, your **preferred ceremony date**.

## 4 · The 8-day posting

By law the application is posted for public review for **eight days** before a license can be issued. The court can grant exemptions, but don't plan around one.

## 5 · Appear in person

**Both of you** go to the Family Division with government photo ID, are examined under oath, and pay the **$100 license fee** at pickup.

> **Dress code:** business casual. **No slippers, no shorts.** Hours are Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend or holiday pickup is by prior arrangement only, with a **$150 surcharge** per couple.

## 6 · Who marries you

- **A judge:** an extra **$400**. On St. Thomas, weekdays at 8:30 a.m.; on St. Croix, Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Holidays excepted, by request.
- **Clergy or an officiant** can marry you at your beach, boat or villa. Your planner can recommend one.

## 7 · After "I do"

The officiant signs and returns the license to the court. CONFIRM Several sources say this must happen within 10 days, so ask your officiant to confirm. Then order **certified copies** from the court. You'll need them for name changes.

| Fee | Amount |
|---|---|
| Application (at filing) | $100 |
| License (at pickup) | $100 |
| Judge ceremony (optional) | $400 |
| Weekend / holiday service | $150 |

# THREE ISLAND MOODS

*Pick the honeymoon that sounds like you*

### BAREFOOT & WILD

**St. John**

Snorkel straight off the beach, hike to ruins and lookouts, and eat dinner in Cruz Bay or Coral Bay. Stay in a villa or an eco-camp with a view.

**Don't miss:** the Trunk Bay underwater trail, Honeymoon Beach, sunrise at Ram Head, Annaberg's ruins.

### SAIL & SPARKLE

**St. Thomas**

Resort pools, boat days, duty-free browsing in Charlotte Amalie, big harbor views and a lively dinner scene. The easiest island to fly in and out of.

**Don't miss:** a sunset catamaran, Magens Bay, the Skyride at golden hour, a day out to the cays.

### SLOW & SOULFUL

**St. Croix**

Wide roads, two historic towns, farm-to-table food, rum heritage and some of the territory's best snorkeling and diving.

**Don't miss:** Buck Island Reef, a glowing bio-bay kayak night, sunrise at Point Udall, sunset on the Frederiksted pier.

## Mix and match

| Trip length | A combination that works |
|---|---|
| 4–5 nights | One island only. Don't spend your honeymoon on ferries. |
| 7 nights | 3 nights St. Thomas + 4 nights St. John (one ferry, plus an optional BVI day) |
| 10 nights | 4 St. John + 2 St. Thomas + 4 St. Croix (fly or seaplane STT–STX) |

**Villa or resort?** Villas give you privacy and a kitchen, but you'll need a car or taxis, and some sit on very steep roads. Resorts give you a pool, a beach, restaurants and staff on site. Many couples split their stay: villa first, resort to finish.

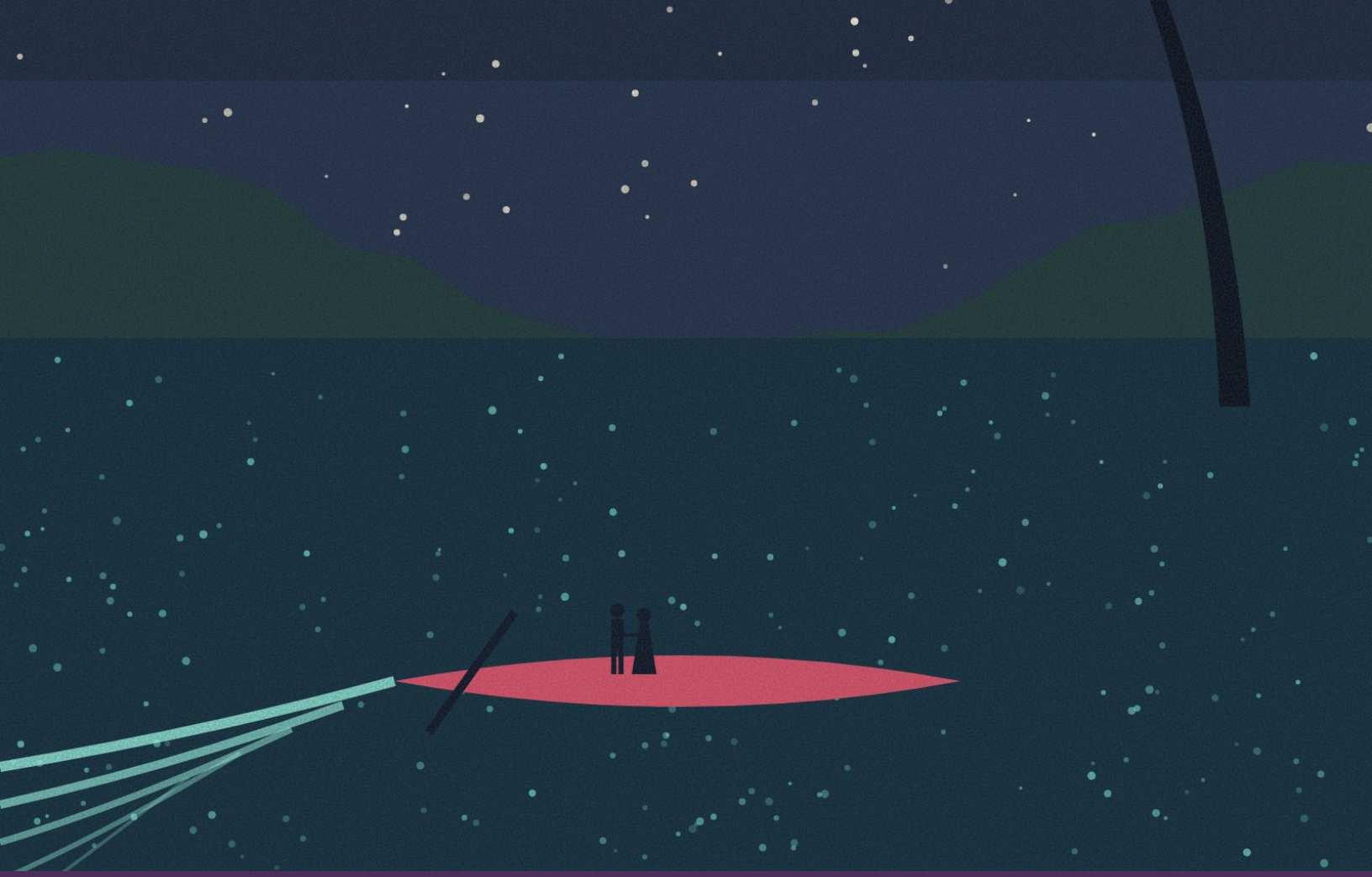
**Companion guides:** our St. Thomas, St. John, St. Croix and BVI Day-Trip guides cover beaches, fares and ferries in depth. Also in the WelcomeToVI shop.

# 15 ROMANTIC EXPERIENCES

*Your shortlist, island by island*

| Experience | Why it's worth it | Island |
|---|---|---|
| **Sunset sail** | A catamaran out of the harbor or Red Hook. Champagne, quiet water and the sun going down behind the islands. | STT / STJ |
| **Trunk Bay underwater trail** | Signed markers on the reef guide you along a snorkel path in the national park. | STJ |
| **Honeymoon Beach × 2** | There's one on Water Island (short ferry from St. Thomas) and one in Caneel Bay on St. John. Pick both. | STT / STJ |
| **Magens Bay** | A long, calm, heart-shaped bay. Go early on a weekday, with no cruise ships in port. | STT |
| **Bioluminescent bay** | Kayak at night through Salt River Bay as the water lights up with every stroke. Best on dark, moonless nights. | STX |
| **Buck Island Reef** | A national monument with a famous snorkel trail. Licensed boats only. | STX |
| **Point Udall sunrise** | The easternmost point of the United States. Be among the first in the country to see the day begin. | STX |
| **Ram Head at dawn** | A rocky, windswept trail to the edge of St. John. Start early and bring water. | STJ |
| **Annaberg ruins** | Old sugar-plantation ruins above turquoise bays. Historic, beautiful and very photogenic. | STJ |
| **Skyride at golden hour** | A cable car up to Paradise Point for harbor views and a sundowner. | STT |
| **Frederiksted pier sunset** | Watch the sun drop over the Caribbean. You might see turtles below. | STX |
| **BVI day trip** | The Baths, Jost Van Dyke or Norman Island. Passports required. | via STT/STJ |
| **Private chef night** | A villa dinner of local fish, fungi and johnnycakes, on your own terrace. | any |
| **Couples massage** | At a resort spa or in your villa, after a sun-heavy day. | any |
| **Rum & history** | A rum distillery tour on St. Croix, or a walk through Christiansted's Danish-era streets. | STX |

**Book with confidence.** Many of these tours can be booked on **welcometovi.com**. Ask Moko to fit them into your days around ferry times and sunsets.



YOUR ISLAND, YOUR WAY

# PLAN EVERY DAY OF IT WITH MOKO

Moko is our AI Virgin Islands guide. Ask it for sunset times, quiet beaches, the best ferry or a romantic dinner, and it plans your days around them.

**WELCOMETOVI.COM/AI-GUIDE**

Also in the shop: St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix guides, the BVI Day-Trip Guide and the Port Day Guide.