

TOP 10 Caribbean Anchorages

What makes a good anchorage a great one? Superyacht captains look for good holding with a safe and substantial dock at which guests can disembark from tenders, while for owners, guests and those on charter, good beaches, great watersports and plenty to do ashore top the list. Michael and Francis Howorth seek out 10 top anchorages worthy of the most discerning of superyachts cruising the Caribbean



1 Carlisle Bay, Antigua

Lat/Long: 17°N 61°50'W Location: southwest Antigua

Carlisle Bay is a peaceful anchorage well away from the hustle and bustle of nearby Falmouth and English Harbour with beautiful and exclusive sandy beaches. Generally well protected, it is a short distance by tender from the many excellent dive sites around Cades Reef, which also offers good snorkelling and windsurfing. The Carlisle Bay Resort and nearby Curtain Bluff hotels are among the finest on the island and both have excellent restaurants for an evening meal away from the yacht. For tennis players, Carlisle Bay has great courts, while hedonists might prefer the spa and sunworshippers are welcome on the beach.



Depth	●●●●	Watersports	●●●●●	To do ashore	●●●●	Restaurants	●●●●
Holding	●●●●	<i>Cades Reef</i>		<i>Hotel facilities</i>		<i>East, Carlisle Bay</i>	
Shelter	●●●	Beach	●●●●	Nightlife	●●	Shopping	●●
<i>Open to southeasterly winds</i>		Jet skiing	YES	<i>Live music at Curtain Bluff</i>		<i>Hotel shops for beachwear or buy a local souvenir from Gwendolyn on the beach</i>	
		Peace	●●●●●				

2 Gustavia, Saint-Barthélemy

Lat/Long: 17°54'N 62°52'W Location: outside Gustavia, southwest of Fort Oscar

St Barths is the most chic of all the Caribbean islands and a popular superyacht destination. It is an ideal anchorage for those who dislike being tied to a dock and want a more exclusive, peaceful position that is close enough to shore to enjoy the sybaritic lifestyle the island offers. If you tire of designer label shopping, hire a mini moke to explore the island. The excellent Hotel Eden Roc is a fashionable favourite.



Depth	●●●●	Nightlife	●●●●●
Holding	●●●	<i>Le Petit Club</i>	
<i>Weedy bottom</i>		Restaurants	●●●●●
Shelter	●●●	<i>Le Sapotillier, La Mandala</i>	
Watersports	●●●	Shopping	●●●●●
<i>Nonstop wreck dive</i>		<i>The best island in the Caribbean for duty free clothes and accessory shopping with many of the world's most famous designers and brands represented</i>	
Beach	●		
Jet skiing	YES		
<i>300m offshore</i>			
Peace	●●●		
To do ashore	●●●●		
<i>Rent a moke and visit Le Nikki Beach</i>			

RATINGS: Excellent ●●●●● Good ●●●●● OK ●●●● Fair ●●● Poor ●

3

Man of War Bay, Tobago

Lat/Long: 11°20'N 60°33'W

Location: northern end of the west coast of Tobago

The Man of War Bay is a spectacularly beautiful natural harbour, surrounded by steep hills covered in tropical rainforest, and is a perfect spot for nature lovers and anyone looking for peace and quiet. The sleepy village of Charlotteville offers the delights of real Caribbean dinner or you could try a local roti with hot sauce for lunch, while Vanley Perry is worth a visit to see how steel drums are made. For the more energetic, a hike in any direction will be rewarded with photographic vistas, or you could swim, snorkel or dive around Pirate's Reef or take the tender a little further out for some of the best diving in the Caribbean. Call David Rooks the naturalist and ornithologist if you want to go on a special guided tour of the bird sanctuary on Goat Island or a walk through the spectacular rainforest. Get an upper body workout by helping local fisherman haul in their nets on the fine yellow sand of Pirate's Bay beach. But for the ultimate chill-out, watch the sunset from the deck of your yacht, sipping cocktails or rum and waiting for the fireflies to arrive.

- Depth ●●●●● Parrots can be a little noisy at sunset
- Holding ●●●●●
- Shelter ●●●●● To do ashore ●●●●● Plenty for nature lovers
- Open to northwest ●●●●●
- Watersports ●●●●● Excellent sites a tender ride away
- Beach ●●●●● Restaurants ●●●●● Sharon & Phebe's
- Pirate's Bay ●●●●● Shopping ●●●●● Calabashes from Maurice Alleyne's stall Jah One
- Jet skiing YES
- Peace ●●●●●



4

Marigot Bay, St Lucia

Lat/Long: 13° 58'N 61° 02'W

Location: west coast of St Lucia, south of Castries

Marigot Bay is a beautiful anchorage, so well sheltered that it is considered a hurricane hole. Little wonder the British fleets of old used to hide out from the French fleet here. The newly developed Discovery Resort offers dockage and hotel facilities for yachts up to 60m but equally welcomes guests from yachts at anchor in the bay. Guests may use the spa and beauty salon and the Marina Village shops offer a wide selection ranging from essentials to must-haves. St Lucia's beautiful waters have some excellent dive sites a short tender ride away, but it is necessary to go with a dive shop or better still hire a local qualified private dive guide. The island is easily explored by car; the Diamond Botanical Gardens, drive-in volcano, mud baths and hot sulphur spring baths are not to be missed.



- Depth ●●●●●
- Holding ●●●●●
- Shelter ●●●●●
- Watersports ●●●●● Excellent sites a tender ride away
- Beach ●●●●●
- Jet skiing YES
- Peace ●●●●●
- To do ashore ●●●●● Explore the island
- Nightlife ●●●●● Party at JJ's or drink at the Hurricane Hole bar
- Restaurants ●●●●● La Bourdaine
- La Bourdaine Rainforest Hideaway
- Shopping ●●●●● The recently opened Marina Village at Marigot Bay offers duty free shopping outlets and boutiques



- Depth ●●●●● Caution near Colquhoun Reef
- Holding ●●●●●
- Shelter ●●●●●
- Watersports ●●●●● All types
- Beach ●●●●● Vixen Point
- Jet skiing NO
- Peace ●●●●●
- To do ashore ●●●●●
- Nightlife ●●●●● Bitter End Yacht Club
- Restaurants ●●●●● Biras Creek Restaurant
- The Club House, Bitter End Yacht Club
- Shopping: ●●●●● Pusser's Company Store, Leverick Bay

North Sound, Virgin Gorda, BVI

Lat/Long: 18°31'N 64°22'W

Location: northern end of Virgin Gorda

North Sound, also called Gorda Sound, is large bay protected on all sides by islands and reefs. It is a favourite anchorage in the British Virgin Islands for yachtsmen aboard all sizes of boats. Relax in this calm spot which offers all sorts of watersports from a gentle swim to an exhilarating sail. If your yacht has no sailing dinghy the Bitter End Yacht Club can supply one. For a great dive take the tender out to the Invisibles, spectacular soaring peaks between 1m and 20m below the surface with abundant sea life. For a little retail therapy visit the Pusser's Company Store and buy a tin mug filled with the famous Painkiller cocktail. Drink the Painkiller and swagger back to the yacht keeping the mug as a souvenir.



5



Wallilabou, St Vincent

Lat/Long: 13°15'N 61°16'W
Location: centre of the west coast of St Vincent
 Wallilabou is an anchorage for film buffs. A picturesque bay surrounded by dramatic hills, it was made famous as the location for the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films. Many parts of the set are still intact including the remodelled restaurant/hotel. Nature lovers can take gentle walks through the lush countryside; about 1.5km from the anchorage there is a small but very photogenic waterfall. The anchorage is also a good base for exploring the heart of St Vincent with a local guide. You can visit the Soufriere volcano, hike in the rainforest, admire the Trinity Falls or see parrots on the Vermont Nature Trails. For a local seafood meal try the nearby Golden Spoon Bar and Restaurant.

- Depth ●●●●●
- Holding ●●●●●
- Shelter ●●●●●
- Except northerly swells
- Watersports ●●●●●
- Good diving nearby
- Beach ●●
- Jet skiing NO
- Peace ●●●●●
- Boat boys have been a nuisance in the past
- To do ashore ●●●●●
- Nightlife ●
- Restaurants ●●●
- Golden Spoon Bar and Restaurant
- Shopping ●

6 Bourg des Saintes, Terre d'en Haut

Lat/Long: 15°52'N 61°36'W **Location:** Iles des Saintes Islands, south of Guadeloupe

This tranquil anchorage offers easy access by tender to the small, clean and picturesque seaside fishing town with red-roofed buildings and quaint old gingerbread-style houses. Slaves were never imported here so many of the locals are fair-haired, blue-eyed descendants of Breton and Norman sailors

rather than of African descent. Most visitors are on day trips from Guadeloupe, so the evenings and nights are peaceful. For those who like history and an excellent view, a hike up the hill to the iguana-infested cactus gardens that surround Fort Napoleon is worthwhile. Don't miss the tableaux in the museum that depict an interesting interpretation by French historians of a British sea victory.

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|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Depth ●●●●● | Beach ●●●●● | Visit Fort Napoleon | Shopping ●●●●● |
| Holding ●●●●● | Baie de Pompierre | Hire moped to tour island | Mahogany (hand-painted/silk-screened clothes), |
| Shelter ●●●●● | Jet skiing NO | Nightlife ● | Pain de Sucre (swimwear), |
| Watersports ●●●●● | Peace ●●●●● | Restaurants ●●● | Pain de Sucre (swimwear), |
| Pain de Sucre | To do ashore ●●●●● | Auberge Les Petits Saints | Martine Cotten Gallery |



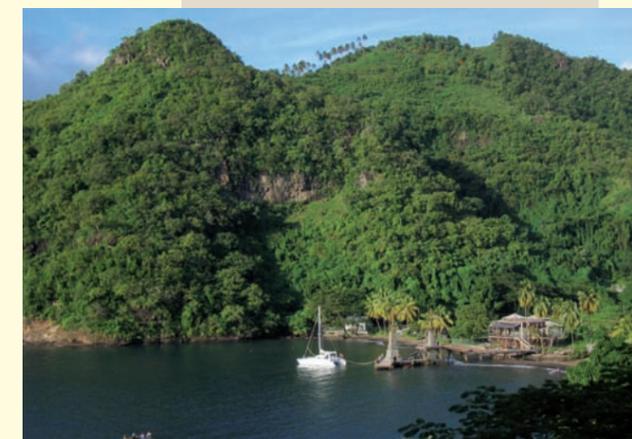
7 Prickly Bay, Grenada

Lat/Long: 12°N 61° 46'W
Location: southern end of Grenada

Beautiful houses can be glimpsed through abundant green vegetation and palms fringe the beach at the top of Prickly Bay, also known as L'Anse aux Epines. A short taxi ride away lies the best beach on the island, Grand Anse, a 3km stretch of white-gold sand edged with shady palm and almond trees. This great anchorage offers a secure base from which to explore Grenada and no visit to the island would be complete without a tour that takes in St George's, Grand Etang National Park, spice plantations and nutmeg-processing centres and the River Antoine rum distillery. For chocoholics, a pilgrimage to the Grenada Chocolate Company for their locally made organic chocolate is essential. The more energetic (and those wanting to work off the chocolate) can take a rainforest hike to a beautiful waterfall and for divers a visit to the wreck of the *Bianca 'C'* is a must.



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|---|----------------------------|--|
| Depth ●●●●● | Beach ●●●●● | Rhodes Restaurant at Calabash Hotel, The Red Crab |
| Beware reef in centre opposite the Prickly Bay Marina | Grand Anse | Shopping ●●●●● |
| Holding ●●●●● | Jet skiing YES | Visit the open-air produce market in St George's for pretty local spice baskets. |
| Shelter ●●●●● | Peace ●●●●● | Grenada chocolate should be on your list and some local rum if you dare |
| Except southerly swell | To do ashore ●●●●● | |
| Watersports ●●●●● | Island touring | |
| Bianca 'C' wreck | Nightlife ●●●●● | |
| | Fantazia 2001, St George's | |
| | Restaurants ●●●●● | |





Deadman's Bay, Peter Island

Lat/Long: 18° 22'N 64° 35'W

Location: British Virgin Islands

The anchorage off this private resort island has views of a 1.5km-long, crescent-shaped white sand beach with towering coconut palms, while to seaward are the islands of Dead Chest and Salt, which are national parks.

Numerous dive sites are just a short tender ride away with excellent swimming and snorkelling in the bay itself.

Although a popular large yacht anchorage, ashore the largely undeveloped island is ideal for peaceful scenic walks that offer dramatic views of outlying islands. For those extra guests or time ashore, the Peter Island Resort has three private villas with personal staff including a chef. Sunday lunch at the casual restaurant in the bay includes live music with a steel drum band. Prior arrangements can be made for yachts to use the resort's spa and helipad, and if the anchorage does not suit then the resort has its own secure marina that can handle yachts up to 60m.

Depth	●●●●	Peace	●●●●
Holding	●●●	To do ashore	●●●
<i>Grassy bottom</i>		<i>Excellent walks</i>	
Shelter	●●●●	Nightlife	●
<i>Except when northern swell</i>		Restaurants	●●●●
Watersports	●●●●	<i>Tradewinds Restaurant</i>	
Beach	●●●●	Shopping	●●●
Jet skiing	NO	<i>Hotel shop only</i>	

5 secret retreats

Looking for peace, quiet and an anchorage that is seldom visited by other large yachts? Then try out one of these:

La Vache Bay, Trinidad	10°46'N 61°29'W
Cocoa Point, Barbuda	17°33'N 61°47'W
Little Bay, Montserrat	61°48'N 62°13'W
Nonsuch Bay, Antigua	17°04'N 61°39'W
Vieux Fort, St Lucia	13°43'N 60°58'W

Sandy Ground, Anguilla

Lat/Long: 18° 12'N 63° 06'W

Location: Road Bay, northwest Anguilla

Anguilla is renowned for its fine dining and is an ideal place to laze on the beach. The main anchorage on the island, Sandy Ground, is the perfect spot to base a yacht. The long bay fringed by a white powder-fine sand beach is a popular area for windsurfing and waterskiing. Take the

tender or move the yacht to the nearby day anchorage at Sandy Island for a dive, resurfacing for a lobster lunch at the shack on the beach. In the evening Johnno's is the classic Caribbean beach bar; the place for rum punches and live music until the small hours. For a memorable meal ashore there is a choice of restaurants only a short taxi ride away.

Depth	●●●●	<i>tasting and take home</i>	<i>Cheddie Richardson's</i>	<i>Cheddie's Carving</i>
Holding	●●●●	<i>some Cask 1623. See</i>	<i>wonderful driftwood at</i>	<i>Studio</i>
Shelter	●●●●			
<i>Except northerly swell</i>				
Watersports	●●●●			
Beach	●●●●			
Jet skiing	NO			
Peace	●●●●			
To do ashore	●●●●			
Nightlife	●●●●			
<i>Johnno's Beach Stop,</i>				
<i>Pumphouse</i>				
Restaurants	●●●●			
<i>Altamer, Blanchard's,</i>				
<i>Malliuhana</i>				
Shopping	●●●			
<i>Visit Pyrat Rum for a</i>				



Latitudes and longitudes are given as identification guides only and should not be used for navigation purposes.

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