

Australia's relationship with

VIRGIN ISLANDS



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 104,354 (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Charlotte Amalie (capital)
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** US\$ 3 Million (2018)
- **GDP Growth:** -1.5% (2018)
- **Key Industries:** tourism, petroleum
- **Known for:** Reef Bay, Virgin Islands National Park, Cruzan Rum Distillery, Buck Island Reef National Monument, deep water harbours along the Anegada Passage.
- **The US in USVI:** Searching for a strategic Caribbean military base, the US purchased the Virgin Islands from the Danish for \$25 million, in 1917. It wasn't until 1959, when the US initiated an embargo on Cuba, that the USVI became the tourism powerhouse that it is today. Like Guam, Puerto Rico and American Samoa, the USVI is an American Territory, with all residents of the islands recognized as American citizens

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** None
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Virgin Islands is managed by the Consulate General In New York
- **Consul General:** the Hon Nick Greiner AC

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-way trade (goods & services):** US\$0.3 million
- **Value of Australian exports to the Virgin Islands:** US\$0.3 million
- **% of Virgin Islands exports to Australia:** 0%

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Albert Bryan Jr, next election - 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Doesn't cast votes for presidential race
- **Delegate at Large** (House delegate with limited voting privileges): Stacey Plaskett (D)

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

No Australian firms operate out of the US Virgin Islands

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Large employer is the hotel and tourism industry:

- **K-Mart:** Chain of retail stores with locations in the Virgin Islands.
- **Ritz Carlton:** An American luxury hotel chain with a location in the Virgin Islands.
- **The Westin:** An American upscale hotel chain with a location in the Virgin Islands.
- **Marriott Hotel:** An American multinational diversified hospitality company that manages and franchises a broad portfolio of hotels and related lodging facilities with a location in the Virgin Islands.
- **Bank of Nova Scotia:** a Canadian multinational bank operating in the Virgin Islands.