

# Perfect Day

A boat trip is an unforgettable way to see the BVI, and Celtic Powerboats will definitely not disappoint.

BY SARA SHERMAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM SCHEINER/RAINBOW VISIONS

**A DAY ON** the water is often a highlight of a trip to the beautiful British Virgin Islands. But with so many stunning places to see and amazing experiences to consider, how does one choose to spend the day? Patrick Conway of Celtic Powerboats has the answer and the perfect BVI day trip itinerary.

As the sole proprietor, manager and captain of Celtic Powerboats since 2016, Patrick has lived in the BVI for more than three decades and cultivated a masterful set of hospitality skills. With more than 40 years of experience in the hotel industry all over Europe, Patrick built a life in the BVI managing Long Bay Beach Resort and the Sugar Mill Hotel.







**Celtic Pride is a great boat for Caribbean waters and gives a very smooth ride**

A love of the sea and boating paired with a knack for creating memorable experiences for guests made for the perfect blend of passion and skill for the charter business. Celtic Powerboats began with two vessels: *Celtic Wisdom* (a 2008 Glacier Bay 2665) and *Celtic Tiger* (a 2017 Worldcat 320CC). The devastating hurricanes of 2017 destroyed both vessels. By January of 2018, Patrick and Celtic Powerboats were back in business with *Celtic Pride* (a 2018 Worldcat 320CC).

Celtic Powerboats is TripAdvisor's #1 ranked BVI charter tour provider with nearly 250 five-star ratings.

### **A Perfect BVI Day Trip Itinerary**

A full day on the water is an amazing way to see the beauty of the British Virgin Islands. The day begins from Celtic Powerboat's private dock in West End, Tortola. Guests settle in and Captain Patrick briefs everyone on safety procedures and helps make everyone as comfortable as possible before setting out into the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean.

"I let my guests know that the boat is theirs exclusively for the day and my suggested tour is only a guideline and they ultimately decide how long we stay at each stop," said Patrick. "I can tailor the tour to each group's specific requests."

After a quick cruise, the first stop is Norman Island (which is reputed to be Robert Louis Stevenson's inspiration for the famed *Treasure Island* novel). Norman Island's infamous Caves and 'Indians' rock formations provide excellent snorkelling opportunities.

Peter Island is next, where Little Harbour offers warm, crystal clear water for swimming and snorkelling with sea turtles and viewing all kinds of coral and marine life. Guests will enjoy a glass of champagne on board while relaxing in the sun or while floating in the sea.

What's a Caribbean vacation without a great beach?





Deadman's Beach or Honeymoon Beach is next for strolling on the white sand and taking in the view. After this relaxing morning, guests may begin to feel peckish, so a lovely ride to Cooper Island is the perfect way to get to lunch. Cooper Island Beach Club offers delicious food in their beachfront restaurant, as well as a microbrewery, rum bar, coffee shop and boutique for guests to explore.

*"Captain Patrick gave us a phenomenal day in the ocean. He took our family of 10 to four snorkelling spots and also to our own private beach to play to our heart's content. Our family ages ranged from 3 to 68 and each of us had a spectacular day. When people ask what my highlights from vacation were I quickly tell them about the excursion with Captain Patrick." - Pam S., TripAdvisor reviewer*

After lunch, a power ride to the Baths in Virgin Gorda gives guests a lovely tour of the area. Once at the infamous Baths, relaxing on the beach at Devil's Bay or navigating the trail through the large boulders and enjoying the warm water pools is the perfect way to spend an afternoon.

The final stop is Guana Island's Monkey Point for snorkelling the vibrant reefs full of schools of colourful fish and the occasional graceful sea ray. End the day with Captain Patrick's famous Celtic Painkiller for the cruise home along Tortola's north shore.

"I truly never get tired of taking guests out on my island tours," said Patrick, "The beauty of the islands is stunning and I feel blessed to see God's amazing creation every day I go out."

The sun begins to set over St. Thomas and the perfect BVI day comes to an end.

**ABOVE** After a morning of snorkeling, enjoy a glass of champagne and the warm Caribbean sun on *Celtic Pride*.

## Tour Details

Each Celtic Powerboats tour includes soft beach towels and high-quality snorkelling equipment (masks and fins) for the day's use. Life vests and floating noodles are also included, as well as beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and snacks.

All necessary BVI Customs Cruising permits and National Park fees are included with the day's charter, and guests also enjoy Captain Patrick's deep knowledge of the BVI while on tour. ■

Learn more at [www.celticboats.com](http://www.celticboats.com) and book a charter at [celticboats@gmail.com](mailto:celticboats@gmail.com) or 1(284)346 7766