

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730

Official Government Website:

<https://gov.vg>

Junior Minister Hodge-Smith Highlights Activities for Culture and Tourism Month 2025

Release Date: 11 November, 2025



Junior Minister Hodge-Smith Highlights Activities for Culture and Tourism Month 2025

Junior Minister for Culture and Tourism, Honourable Luce Hodge-Smith, has announced a dynamic lineup of activities for Culture and Tourism Month 2025, which is being observed under the theme “Rooted in Culture, Growing Through Tourism.”

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, 7 November 2025, Honourable Hodge-Smith said the month is a dedicated time to highlight the very heart and soul of the Virgin Islands.

“Culture and tourism are not just related, they are two sides of the same coin,” she declared. “Our vibrant heritage, stories, culinary traditions, and art are precisely what create the unique and authentic experiences that visitors seek. This celebration is a crucial investment. By highlighting our cultural assets, we are not only preserving our identity for future generations, but we are also strengthening our tourism product and fueling economic growth across our Territory.”

Culture and Tourism Month officially began with the 284 Excellence Film Festival held from 30 October to 2 November, followed by the Long Story Short BVI Literary Festival, ongoing from 5-15 November, which features local authors, poetry readings, and writers’ workshops. The month continues with the Forbes Travel Guide Elevated Luxury Training on 10-11 November in Tortola and Virgin Gorda; the Third Annual Tourism Education Symposium for senior school students on 13 November; and the launch of the Virgin Gorda Book Club on 14 November.

The three-day Fungi Fest will be held from 14-16 November across Jost Van Dyke, Tortola, and Virgin Gorda, featuring performances by local and regional bands celebrating the Territory’s musical heritage. Other highlights include the UberSoca Cruise and the launch of the Sister Islands Ad Hoc Cultural Committees on 18 November, and the launch of the Virgin Gorda Historical Tour Manual on 20 November; and the Cultural Food Fair and Expo at the Noel Lloyd Positive Action Movement Park on 21 November. “On this particular day, we always ask for

persons to rock their Territorial Wear - a pin, scarf, and just for the whole month, identify with our culture,” Honourable Hodge-Smith added.

Activities continue on 25 November with the Emancipation Festival Forum. The Junior Minister explained, “At this forum, we are inviting the public to come and share their views so that we can move forward in a more energetic way addressing the issues when it comes to our Emancipation Festival.”

The month’s celebrations will culminate with the opening of the Virtual Reality Museum at Crafts Alive Village on 27 November and the annual Anegada Lobster Festival on 28 and 29 November. “Again, we would like to have everyone participate in all the activities. If you can’t do all, do some,” she stated.

Public schools across the Virgin Islands will also be hosting cultural activities from 14-21 November, with students celebrating through dress, music, dance, and traditional art forms.

For more information about Culture and Tourism Month 2025, persons may contact the Ministry of Culture and Tourism at 468-2161 or the Department of Culture at 468-4408.

###

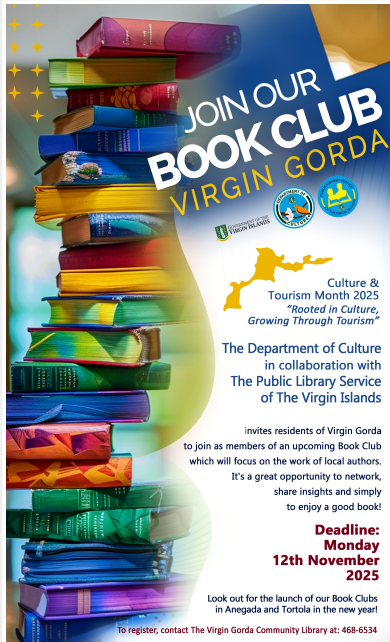
About:

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sustainable Development is responsible for advancing the Territory’s tourism sector, preserving and promoting cultural heritage, and implementing policies that support sustainable growth and environmental stewardship.

For Additional Information Contact:

Angela U Burns
Information Officer II
Premier's Office
Government of The Virgin Islands
Tel: [+1 284 468 9445](tel:+12844689445)
Email: aburns@gov.vg
Website: <https://gov.vg/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BVIGovernment/>

Gallery



JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB VIRGIN GORDA

Culture & Tourism Month 2025
"Rooted in Culture, Growing Through Tourism"

The Department of Culture in collaboration with The Public Library Service of The Virgin Islands

invites residents of Virgin Gorda to join as members of an upcoming Book Club which will focus on the work of local authors. It's a great opportunity to network, share insights and simply to enjoy a good book!

Deadline: Monday 12th November 2025

Look out for the launch of our Book Clubs in Anguilla and Tortola in the new year!

To register, contact The Virgin Gorda Community Library at: 468-6534



FREE SERVICE EXCELLENCE TRAINING

ELEVATED LUXURY

Schedule

10TH NOVEMBER 2025 - TORTOLA
Ritter House (BVI Arbitration Centre)
12 SESSIONS
9:30 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

11TH NOVEMBER 2025 - VIRGIN GORDA
HLSCC | 2 SESSIONS
9:30 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00 PM-3:30 PM

FACILITATOR
GABRIELA MANJARRES
SENIOR MANAGER, SERVICE AND QUALITY DEVELOPMENT

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Persons interested in elevating their service/hospitality skills
- Students interested in hospitality and tourism
- Transportation professionals
- Public Service Officers

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

REGISTRATION EMAIL TRAINING@BVI-TOURISM.COM



Long Story Short

EVENT RUNDOWN

- 5 NOV** **BOOK LAUNCH: BUILD YOUR TABLE**
Green Room, HLSCC Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | 5:00 p.m.
- 6-7 NOV** **LET'S TALK LIT PANEL DISCUSSIONS**
HLSCC LRC/Eliene L. Parsons Auditorium, Paraguta Bay | 9:00 a.m.
- 6 NOV** **WRITERS' WELCOME RECEPTION**
Rhythm & Sands, Cane Garden Bay | 6:00 - 10:00 P.M.
- 7 NOV** **BOOK FAIR**
HLSCC Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- 7 NOV** **SUNSET STORIES**
Brandywine Estate Restaurant, Brandywine Bay | 5:30 p.m.
- 8 NOV** **LITERARY WONDERLAND: TORTOLA**
HLSCC Learning Resource Centre (LRC) | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 8 NOV** **WRITING WITH WRITERS WORKSHOPS**
HLSCC Main Building, Paraguta Bay | 9:00 a.m.
- 8 NOV** **ART FOR ART'S SAKE**
Taste the B.V.I. 60 Main St | 2:30 p.m.
- 8 NOV** **LIGHT A FIRE: POETS' SHOWCASE**
Botella, Cyril B. Romney Pier Park | 7:00 p.m.
- 9 NOV** **BOOK BRUNCH**
1748 Restaurant, Long Bay Beach Resort | 10:00 a.m.
- 15 NOV** **LITERARY WONDERLAND: VIRGIN GORDA**
HLSCC Virgin Gorda Centre, The Village Rose | 9:00 a.m.

For more info, visit www.bvilitfest.com



Culture and Tourism Month Schools Activities

NOVEMBER

14 Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies	20 Walled Woodley Primary School	21 Jost Van Dyke Primary School
17 Leonora Delville Primary School	Robinson Ornela Memorial Primary School	Elizabeth Thomas Primary School
18 Joyce Kennedy Primary School	Francis Edmonde Primary School	Charles Cregoe Educational Centre
19 Bingado Park Educational Centre Secondary School	Erin Adams Primary School	Ivan Dawson Primary School
	Alexandria Mokuere Primary School	Lynn Bentley Richter Learning Centre
		Elmore Stoutt High School

"ROOTED IN CULTURE, GROWING THROUGH TOURISM"



Fungi Fest 2025

14-16 NOV

A Weekend of Music, Culture & Celebration!
Come and experience the rich cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands and beyond at Fungi Fest 2025!

FRIDAY 14 **JOST VANDYKE | FOXYS**

JVD (Foxys)
Zion Sounds
Four Strong

Razor Blades
Family String Band (St. Maarten)
Heavy Bees (New)

Stanley & His 10
Sleepless Knights (St. Croix)

SATURDAY 15 **TORTOLA | C.B. ROMNEY TORTOLA PIER PARK**

Two Brain Cells
Ezra Fung Band
Zion Sounds
Four Strong

Razor Blades
Leahing Oge
Family String Band (St. Maarten)
Heavy Bees (New)

Stanley & His 10
Sleepless Knights (St. Croix)

SUNDAY 16 **VIRGIN GORDA | VIRGIN GORDA YACHT HARBOUR**

Zion Sounds
Four Strong
Razor Blades

Leon & The Hot Shakes
Family String Band (St. Maarten)
Heavy Bees (New)

Stanley & His 10
Sleepless Knights (St. Croix)

Additional Activities
BVI Posh Patters
Primary School Posh Patters & Dancers

Special Feature
Lighting of the 30-foot Christmas Tree at Tortola Pier Park, supported by the Rotary Club of Central Tortola, Anguilla Restaurants, and C.B. Romney Tortola Pier Park.

EVENTS BEGIN 5:00 P.M.



Culture & Tourism MONTH NOVEMBER 2025

"Rooted in Culture, Growing Through Tourism"

OCT 30 - NOV 02	NOV 07	NOV 10	NOV 11
28th Excellence Film Festival	Local Authors Book Fair	Forbes Travel Guide Elevated Luxury Training	Forbes Travel Guide Elevated Luxury Training
2nd Annual Tourism Education Symposium (Senior School Students)	Launch of the Virgin Gorda Sisk Club	Fungi Fest Tortola	Fungi Fest Tortola
UBER SOCA	Launch of Sister Islands Ad Hoc Cultural Committees	Launch of the Virgin Gorda Historical Tour Manual	Cultural Food Fair and Expo
Emancipation Festival Forum	Fungi Music Workshop	Opening of the Virtual Reality Museum	Back year Terribles Wear Day
			Anguilla Lobster Fest

For further information please contact the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sustainable Development at 468-2161 or The Department of Culture at 468-4408.

Additional Documents or Media

- [ff junior minister re culture and tourism month.pdf](#)