



# SPOTLIGHT ON BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COUNTRY

Our country is a British Overseas Territory located at the northern tip of the Eastern Caribbean.

**Places to visit:** Mount Sage on the mainland Tortola, the country's highest peak and a natural rain forest. The Baths on one of our sister islands Virgin Gorda, famous for its unique rock formations and bathing caves.

**Capital City:** Road Town

**Population:** 30,659

**Economy:** Tourism and Financial Services

**Currency:** US Dollar

**Language:** English

**Flag:** The Union Jack with the Saint Ursula coat of arms

**Climate:** Tropical

## SPOTLIGHT ON GB MEMBERS

Meet grade school member Sierra(1). She is an explorer with the 5<sup>th</sup> VI GB with views of her own on just about everything. At her tender age what she loved most about GB was not the games or having fun, but in her words 'the great Christian Activities.'

Makaayla (2) a Junior High member and Senior of the 5<sup>th</sup> VI GB, with an action packed schedule to rival any leader of the new world. Everything from instrumental music lessons (several instruments I might add), to Karate, volunteering as a trainee leader for fellow youth at her Sunday School, member of the High School Senior Drama Club....and Girls' Brigade of course.

Jahlia (3) is a High School member and member of the 5<sup>th</sup> VI GB. She is easy going but quietly committed to her Sunday School and Brigade activities. She loves socialising and cooking (quite a chef – and actually the winner of the 2016 Youth Week Chopped for the Methodist Church BVI circuit). More importantly, she loves the 'great fellowship' at GB

Chelsea(4) is a Senior High School student and member of the 1<sup>st</sup> VI GB. She balances her school commitments with Brigade with a contagiously positive attitude. A natural leader who shares that 'with GB I go places.' Going places – is a phrase used to express someone who is expanding their horizons and succeeding.

Beyoncé (5) is in Junior High and a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> VI GB, who joined GB as a pre-schooler and very young explorer and has remained steadfast throughout. She is a friendly and very outgoing teen, who does not shy away from sharing that 'with GB I have fun!' Join her in finding out why GB has been so exciting to so many.

Kellian (6) is a high honours High School Senior and member of the 5<sup>th</sup> VI GB with an eye on medical school. Amidst her hectic final year exams, school band, debate club tours and graduation preparations she seldom misses GB. It's been that way since she first stepped into GB at the tender age of 6 and remarkably remains that way today. She is almost always available to train her younger Brigaders in bible study (when called upon) or dance (one of her God given gifts).

the girls' brigade  
girls' lives transformed  
god's world enriched



## PHOTO GALLERY



## Brigaders with their Nail & Thread Craft



## National Flag





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Every GB country around the world has the same:

## Aim, Motto, Principles, Badge & Vision

But, look at the GB facts here and spot the similarities and differences between GB in our country and yours!

### Our History

After the Girls' Brigade was founded in 1893, the movement came to the British Virgin Islands in the 1960s before the 1967 amalgamation now known as Girls' Brigade International. The 1<sup>st</sup> Virgin Islands Company was founded in 1965 and today we have 6 active companies within the British Virgin Islands: the 1<sup>st</sup> Virgin Islands Company in Road Town, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Virgin Islands Company in Sea Cows Bay, the 5<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Company in Long Look, the 7<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Company in Purcell, the 8<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Company in East End and the 9<sup>th</sup> Virgin Islands Company Valley Virgin Gorda

### Statistics

Statistics: Number of Companies: 110, Number of Members: 3298 (2016 figures)

### Age Groups & Sections

Explorers: 3- 8 years Juniors: 8-10 years Seniors: 11-13 years Brigaders: 14-21 years

### Uniform

Ceremonial uniform is worn for most official occasions. Officers wear a white short sleeved buttoned blouse, with a navy neck tie, navy skirt with metal tie pin, navy blue hat and optional navy jacket. The Explorer, Junior and Senior girls wear a short sleeved royal blue dress buttoned at the bodice or a skirt and with matching buttoned blouse – Juniors wear red ties and Seniors wear light blue ties. Brigaders wear navy blue skirts and white buttoned rounded collar shirts with navy blue and red ties. All sections wear black shoes with white socks, whilst officers wear black shoes and sheer pantyhose.

### Programme

Our badgework is based on the traditional 4-sided GB program linked to Christ's example of rounded development in Luke 2:52. The programme aims to help members of the organisation develop holistically and offers a wide choice of subjects under the headings of Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service

### Awards

Explorers work for stars. Juniors receive circles, Seniors receive square and Brigaders receive triangular awards on completion of activities for all four sides of the programme. Their awards are bronze, silver or gold according to which year they are in. In addition girls can receive individual stars/circles/squares (as the case may be) for each subject area as they are completed through the year. (Spot some of the awards on the red sashes in our pictures.) Older girls may also work for the Queens' Award and the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

### Activities

Apart from their weekly work in company, most Brigade Companies visit the sick or shut in members as part of their community service. They also participate in their church's Third Sunday either by providing praise and worship, piano accompaniment, dance, drama, scripture reading or by serving as liturgists. Also Brigade typically participates in the National Queen's Birthday parade and in the annual Methodist Whit Monday Parade

### Something Special You Should Know About Us!

We celebrated Girls' Brigade Week in October 2016 in conjunction with the World Day of the Girl. A highlight of the week of activities based on the International "Be Courageous" theme, was a girls' gala hosted by the Girls' Brigade National Council. The event served to recognise the outgoing and incoming executive bodies, to showcase the talents of the girls and to encourage them via a stirring key note speech from a former Brigade member now in her mid-20s.

### And Finally An Idea To Share

Here is a Caribbean Treat : Caribbean Coconut Tart  
**You will need:** 2 cups all-purpose flour, 1/2 teaspoon table salt, 8 oz. cold unsalted butter, 1 egg, 2 cups grated coconut, 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar, 1/4 cup water, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla essence.

**What to do:** Combine flour, salt, cut up butter and egg to form a soft dough. Wrap dough in plastic wrap, flatten and rest in the refrigerator for 1 hour. Unwrap and roll out to 1/8-inch thickness. Place dough into the tart pan. Save some dough to decorate. Bake crust for 5 minutes at 425 degrees F. Set aside. Combine coconut, sugar and water in a saucepan. Simmer, stirring occasionally, for 40 to 45 minutes, until mixture turns from milky white to clear. Add essence. Spoon filling into crust. Crisscross 3/4 inch strips of dough on top of filling lattice-style. Bake at 375 degrees for 15-20 minutes, or until the crust is a toasty brown.

### Find Out More

You can find out more about GB British Virgin Islands by contacting: Messena Vanterpool, National Secretary:

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