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Trunk Bay Ranked No. 1 in World as Sandy Point and Magens Bay Give USVI Three Top-25 Beaches

Trunk Bay topped Beach.com's Global Beach Index 2026, with Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge at No. 7 and Magens Bay at No. 17, as the USVI claimed three places in a worldwide ranking using expert reviews, satellite analysis and traveler sentiment.

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Trunk Bay, St. John. By. GETTY IMAGES.

ST. JOHN — Trunk Bay has been ranked the world's best beach in Beach.com's Global Beach Index 2026, leading a strong showing for the U.S. Virgin Islands that also placed Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge at No. 7 and Magens Bay Beach at No. 17.

The territory secured three of the 25 positions in a list spanning 14 countries and four continents, with one beach from each of the three main Virgin Islands represented.

The No. 1 placement adds another accolade to Trunk Bay following recognition from other beach-ranking systems.

Beach.com described the index as a “first-of-its-kind, data-driven” ranking combining recommendations from travel experts with traveler reviews, satellite observations and environmental information.

According to the company’s published methodology, 58 travel experts, content creators and local authorities submitted 322 beach nominations between February 20 and March 14. The analysis also incorporated more than 93,000 Google Maps reviews, five years of NASA MODIS-Aqua satellite data and a decade of global climate information.

The final ranking was calculated using 18 measurements covering expert input, water quality, popularity, public sentiment, accessibility and climate. Expert rankings accounted for 30 percent of the overall score, followed by popularity at 27 percent and water quality at 26 percent.

Beach.com said few of the beaches evaluated came close to Trunk Bay’s final score.

The St. John beach was among the most frequently recommended by the expert panel, held one of the strongest average Google ratings and recorded some of the bluest water included in the analysis.

Experts also gave Trunk Bay top ratings for natural beauty, water quality and its overall visitor experience. The study determined that the beach offers optimal conditions during 10 months of the year, with April through June identified as the best period to visit.

Trunk Bay is located within Virgin Islands National Park and is known for its white sand, turquoise water and mountainous backdrop.

Beach.com’s separate guide to Trunk Bay notes that experts rated its beauty and water quality five out of five, while its Google review score stood at 4.9 out of five. The beach is also widely used for snorkeling because of its water clarity and underwater trail.

Sandy Point Ranks Seventh Worldwide

Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge on St. Croix ranked No. 7, making it the second USVI beach in the global top 10.

Beach.com said Sandy Point distinguished itself through its largely untouched natural setting and some of the clearest and bluest water measured in the study.

The ranking also cited strong visitor reactions and perfect expert scores for beauty and overall experience. Satellite measurements of water conditions were supported by the expert assessment, according to the company.

Sandy Point was found to have optimal beach conditions during 11 months of the year, one of the strongest year-round results among the locations evaluated. April through June was identified as its best travel period.

The beach's limited development and lack of commercial amenities were treated as part of its appeal, with Beach.com highlighting its uncrowded shoreline, natural setting and carefully established trails leading from the parking area to the coast.

Magens Bay Places at No. 17

Magens Bay Beach on St. Thomas completed the territory's representation in the ranking at No. 17.

Beach.com attributed its placement to expert-approved natural beauty, quality amenities and favorable water-quality ratings.

The analysis found that Magens Bay offers suitable beach conditions during 10 months of the year, with April through June again identified as the optimal period to visit.

The three placements mean the USVI secured more than one-tenth of the positions in Beach.com's worldwide top 25, with Trunk Bay and Sandy Point both finishing among the first seven beaches listed.