

Virgin Islands

NATIONAL PARK

St. John, smallest and least populated of the American Virgin Islands, is the one most likely to keep its virgin look. Nearly two-thirds of its land mass and most of the colorful offshore waters are set aside as our only National Park in the West Indies. This is a park where visitors experience a change of pace from their woodland hikes to a marine adventure on an underwater nature trail; it's a park where visitors soon take for granted the breathtaking sea-scapes, long stretching views of forbidding rocky coastlines that run into crescent-shaped bays where gleaming white beaches contrast with blue skies and changing blue-green seas.

St. John is famous for white coral sand beaches, scenic mountain roads, walking trails, and quiet coves. Magnificent coral gardens fringe the island. Swimming, snorkeling, underwater photography, fishing, and hiking are all popular on St. John, and brush-covered ruins of 18th- and 19th-century plantations entice the visitor to explore its human history.

CLIMATE

St. John's equable climate—mildly tropical—is very healthful. Easterly trade winds blow in from the ocean, tempering the sun's heat and soaking up that "blah feeling" you get from the high humidity, making days pleasant and nights delightful. Rainfall averages about 40 inches a year and comes mostly from brief night showers. Temperature varies only about 6° between winter and summer; lowest on record is 61°, highest is 98°, and the year's average is right at 79°.

GETTING TO AND TRAVELING IN THE PARK

Most visitors fly direct to Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, or via San Juan. Others may come by ship. Once on St. Thomas, nearly all go to the public dock at Red Hook by taxi (\$3 one person, 50¢ each additional). Also a public bus (40¢ per person) operates between Charlotte Amalie and Red Hook. The Ferry across Pillsbury Sound from Red Hook to Cruz Bay (\$1 per person) operates daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. After hours charter service only is available at \$10.00 to \$12.00 per boat. A special boat for Caneel Bay Plantation guests runs between the Red Hook Ranger Station and Caneel Bay.

Also available, and very popular with those who can stay but a day, are the package jeep tours and scenic boat charters that leave from St. Thomas with all transportation arranged. See your travel agent.

Taxi service is available on St. John and fares vary with the length of the trip. For example,

a trip from Cruz Bay to Trunk Bay (see map) is \$3 for one person, 50¢ each additional person.

Popular too are the taxi tours through the park with a guide. These operate from Cruz Bay and a typical tour may be 2½ to 3 hours and costs \$4 per hour for up to four persons, plus \$1 per hour for each additional person.

For you-drive-it jeeps at \$15 per day—also by the week—make reservations well in advance. A temporary Virgin Islands drivers license (\$1) and a valid state license (U.S. or foreign) are required. Drive slowly as the narrow island roads have many sharp turns and steep grades. **TOP SPEED IS 20 MILES PER HOUR AND REMEMBER, DRIVE ON THE LEFT!**

Hiking trails on St. John are numerous: from easy walks to difficult climbs; well maintained to brushy; and short to long—1/4 mile to 6 miles. Bring good hiking shoes and cool clothing. Small knapsacks and belt canteens are handy. Water is not available along hiking trails.

THINGS TO DO

Come into the Park visitor center at Cruz Bay for information, maps, literature on fish, plants, and island history. Several exhibits and orientation talks at 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. give you a general introduction to the natural and human history of St. John.

Take a jeep tour (taxi or you-drive-it) over Centerline Road and return via the North Shore. This 15-mile loop includes spectacular scenery, panoramas of the sea and nearby islands, a stop at the ruins of Annaberg and at one of the island's many beaches.

Guided snorkel trips are conducted weekly as well as history and nature walks. One is an all-day guided hike into the Reef Bay Valley to see the famed petroglyphs. For illustrated evening campfire programs and other activities, check the weekly schedules posted at the visitor center in Cruz Bay, Cinnamon Bay Camp Store, and Caneel Bay Plantation.

Swimming and snorkeling are excellent at St. John's many fine beaches when weather and sea conditions are good. Lifeguards are on duty periodically at Trunk Bay, Cinnamon Bay, and Hawksnest. For your safety please check posted lifeguard schedules, and swim only when lifeguards are on duty. Hazards increase in deep water and at night. **NEVER SWIM ALONE.**

You may rent snorkel equipment at Trunk and Cinnamon bays. Ask a lifeguard about the safety features of the equipment you are using.

SCUBA also can be rented and serviced on both St. John and St. Thomas.

FISHING AND BOATING

Salt water fishing is good in all seasons and no license is required. Fishing with handline or rod and reel is permitted, tackle may be rented from Cinnamon Bay Camp. Charter boats for deep sea fishing, drift fishing, or shoreline trolling are available in Cruz Bay and St. Thomas. Fishing is not permitted, however, at Trunk Bay.

Sail and power boats with operators are available in Cruz Bay and St. Thomas to charter for recreation and cruises in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands.

WHERE TO STAY

CINNAMON BAY CAMPGROUND with a beach nearby is 5 miles from Cruz Bay. Accommodations consist of cottage units and tent sites with picnic tables and charcoal grills. **LENGTH OF STAY IS 14 DAYS** in any consecutive 12-month period. Fresh water is available, but may be rationed during periods of exceptionally dry weather. No electricity or laundry facilities are available in the camp. Dry cleaning and laundry facilities are available in Cruz Bay.

The concessioner operates a camp store, providing basic food supplies such as eggs, bread, soft drinks, canned foods, dry foods, and a small selection of meats. A wider selection of foods is available in Cruz Bay and on St. Thomas. Ice, charcoal, and fuel for stoves and lanterns is available at the camp store.

At Cinnamon you may rent complete **CAMPING EQUIPMENT** (includes rent of site, tent, cots, bedding, linen, cooking utensils, eating utensils, cold and dry storage boxes) for two people at \$35 per week, plus \$8.75 per week for each additional person.

TENT SITES (without equipment) rent for \$2 per night.

COTTAGE UNITS rent for \$10 per night for two people and \$2 for each additional person. Included equipment is the same as that with tents.

COTTAGE, TENT, AND TENT-SITE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE WELL IN ADVANCE (but not more than 1 year). Write to the Concessioner, Cinnamon Bay Campground, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands 00830.

For accommodations outside the park write to Department of Commerce, Box 1692, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801; or see your travel agent.

ALL RATES MENTIONED IN THIS FOLDER ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

REGULATIONS

Campgrounds and beaches are off limits to cats, dogs, and other pets.

Spearfishing and water skiing are prohibited in park areas (see map for offshore boundaries).

Collecting artifacts, plant and animal life, coral, shellfish and other marine life is prohibited.



ADMINISTRATION

Virgin Islands National Park, established December 1, 1956, is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. Address questions or comments to the Superintendent, Box 1707, St. Thomas, U.S. V.I. 00801. His office is located at International Plaza in Charlotte Amalie.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.



EATING

In addition to several eating facilities in the Cruz Bay area, a concessioner at Trunk Bay offers sandwiches and cool drinks Tuesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Caneel Bay Plantation serves breakfasts, buffet lunches, and dinners to non-guests but by reservation only.

AND OTHER NOTES

Park rangers are always happy to answer your questions, even if the ones most often asked are answered below:

Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, and Anglican churches are located in Cruz Bay.

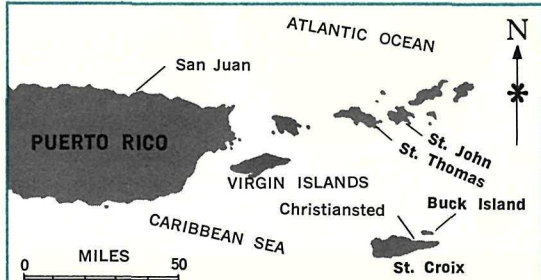
Vaccinations and inoculations are not required for persons traveling between the Virgin Islands and the United States mainland.

Avoid eating strange wild fruits: they may be poisonous. Although mosquitoes and sandflies frequently may be annoying, remember, there are no poisonous snakes on St. John, and any snake is rare.

In emergencies the Morris F. DeCastro Clinic in Cruz Bay is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—telephone 774-1469. At other hours telephone Cruz Bay Police Station, 774-1685, or contact a Park Ranger.

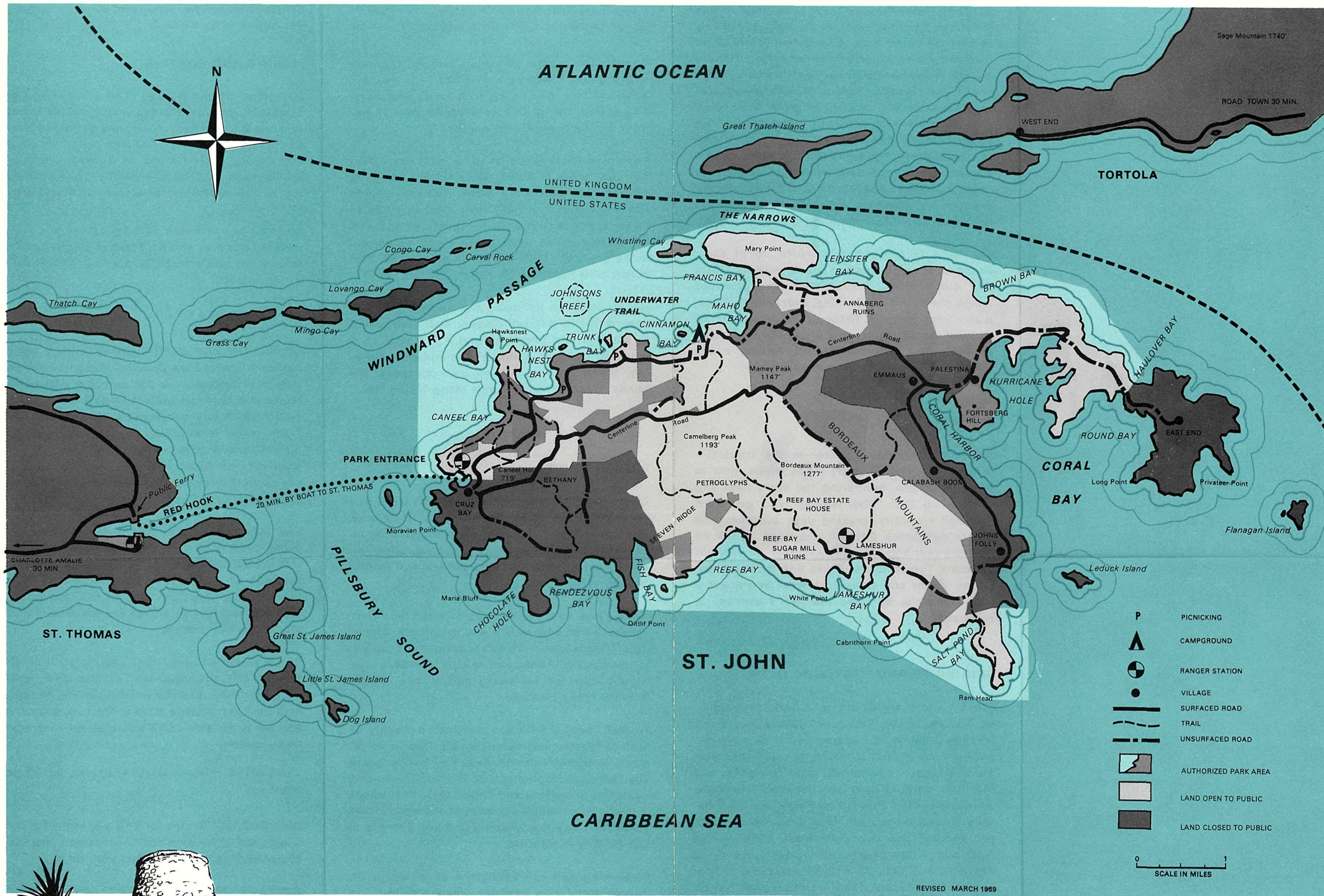
Persons returning to the United States from the U.S. Virgin Islands must go through Customs and Immigration at San Juan or other U.S. ports of entry. For fruits, vegetables, plant cuttings, or seeds, an import permit is required.

Much of the land that the Congress included within the authorized boundaries of the Virgin Islands National Park is still private property. Always be courteous and ask permission before entering or using private areas.



OTHER NATIONAL PARKS NEARBY

San Juan National Historic Site has ancient Spanish fortifications of Old San Juan; Christiansted National Historic Site on the island of St. Croix, 40 miles south of St. Thomas, consists of colonial structures in this former capital of the Danish West Indies; Buck Island Reef National Monument, a short boat trip from Christiansted, features a magnificent coral reef and the well-known underwater nature trail. No camping is available in National Park Service areas on St. Thomas, St. Croix, or Puerto Rico.



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