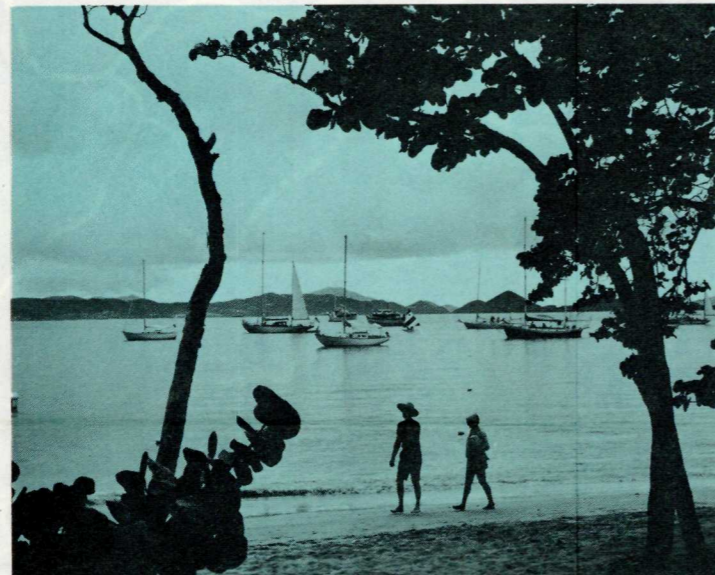


Virgin Islands

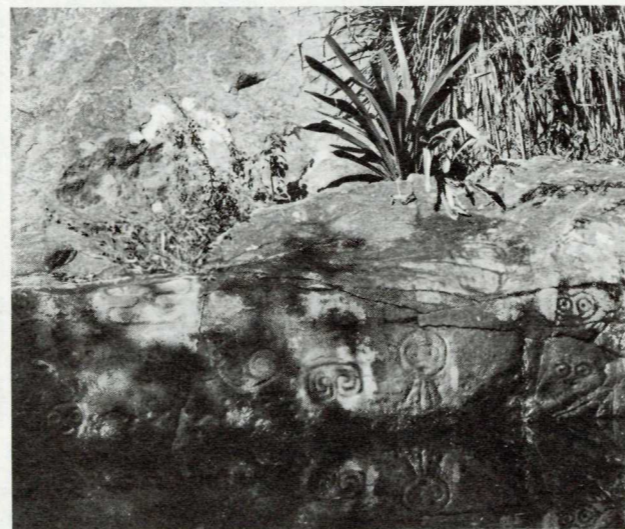
NATIONAL PARK

St. John is the smallest and least populated of the major American Virgin Islands. Nearly two-thirds of the island and most of the colorful offshore waters are set aside as our only national park in the West Indies. In this park, you will experience a change of pace—from woodland hikes to a marine adventure on an underwater nature trail. And you will see forbidding rocky coastlines, seascapes, and crescent-shaped bays where gleaming white beaches contrast with blue skies and changing blue-green seas against a background of lush hills.

St. John is famous for white coral sand beaches, scenic mountain roads, walking trails, quiet coves, and coral gardens which fringe the island. Swimming, snorkeling, underwater photography, fishing, and hiking are all popular, and brush-covered ruins of 18th- and 19th-century plantations entice you to find out more about the island's human history.



Shade, sand, water, and sails present a peaceful scene at Caneel Bay.



Petroglyphs of Reef Bay Valley are reflected in a quiet pool.



Historic ruins of sugar mills dot the island of St. John.



Shrub-dominated, south-facing slopes at Leinster Bay are drier than the north-facing slopes.



Gorgonians and staghorn coral grow on the offshore reefs.

GETTING TO AND TRAVELING IN THE PARK

You can fly direct to Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, or via San Juan, or travel by ship. Taxis and buses are available between Charlotte Amalie and Red Hook. The ferry across Pillsbury Sound from Red Hook to Cruz Bay is operated daily. After-hours charter service is also available. A special boat for guests at Caneel Bay Plantation 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 or make arrangements in advance.

WHERE TO STAY

CINNAMON BAY CAMPGROUND, with a beach nearby, is 8 kilometers (5 miles) from Cruz Bay. Accommodations consist of cottage units and tent sites with picnic tables and charcoal grills. Length of stay is limited to 14 days in any consecutive 12-month period. Fresh water is available, but may be rationed during periods of exceptionally dry weather. Laundry facilities are not provided in the camp but are available in Cruz Bay.

A concessioner-operated camp store has basic food supplies such as eggs, bread, soft drinks, canned foods, dry foods, and a small selection of meats, as well as ice, charcoal, and fuel for stoves and lanterns. A wider selection of foods is available in Cruz Bay and on St. Thomas.

TENT SITES, with or without equipment, can be rented at Cinnamon Bay. Equipment includes tent, cots, bedding, linen, cooking utensils, eating utensils, and cold and dry storage boxes.

COTTAGE UNITS can be rented with the same equipment as that rented with tents.

Cottage and tent site reservations must be made well in advance (but not more than 8 months in advance). Write to the concessioner, Cinnamon Bay Campground, St. John, VI 00830.

Phone 809-775-9276 for campground information only (NOT for reservations).

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

EATING FACILITIES

In addition to several eating facilities in the Cruz Bay area, the concessioner at Trunk Bay offers sandwiches and cool drinks daily. Meals are also available at Cinnamon Bay. Caneel Bay Plantation serves breakfasts, buffet luncheons, and dinners to non-guests by reservation only.

OTHER NOTES

Park rangers will answer your questions. Those most often asked are answered below:

Churches in Cruz Bay represent Seventh Day Adventist, Jehovah's Witness, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, and Anglican faiths. The Christian Ministry in the National Parks provides services at Caneel Bay Plantation and Cinnamon Bay Campground.

Vaccinations and inoculations are not required for persons traveling between the Virgin Islands and the U.S. mainland.

Persons returning to the U.S. mainland from the Virgin Islands must go through Customs and Immigration at San Juan, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. ports of entry. An import permit is required for fruits, vegetables, plant cuttings, and seeds.

Much of the land included within the authorized boundaries of Virgin Islands National Park is still private property; permission must be received before entering or using these areas.

Back-country camping is not permitted.

Never eat strange wild fruits—they may be poisonous. There are no poisonous snakes on St. John, and any snake is rare. Insect repellent may be useful because of mosquitoes and sandflies.

The Morris F. DeCastro Clinic in Cruz Bay is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A registered nurse remains on duty when the clinic is closed. She can be reached by telephoning the Cruz Bay Police Station, 776-6262, or a park ranger, 776-6451.

CLIMATE

St. John's equable climate is mildly tropical. Easterly trade winds blow in from the ocean, tempering the sun's heat and making days pleasant and nights delightful. Rainfall averages about 100 centimeters (40 inches) a year and comes mostly from brief night showers. Temperature varies only about 4° C (6° F) between winter and summer; lowest on record is 16° C (61° F), highest is 37° C (98° F); the year's average is 26° C (79° F).

THINGS TO DO

Cruz Bay Visitor Center offers information, maps, and literature on fish, plants, and island history. Exhibits and orientation talks give an introduction to the natural and human history of St. John.

Hiking trails on St. John are numerous—from easy walks to difficult climbs, well maintained to brushy, and short (403 meters, or one-quarter mile) to long (9.7 kilometers, or 6 miles). Bring hiking shoes and cool clothing; small knapsacks and belt canteens are handy. Water is not available along hiking trails.

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

A 24-kilometer (15 mile) tour (taxi or you-drive-it) over Centerline Road and return via the North Shore Road, includes spectacular scenery, stops at the ruins of Annaberg plantation and at one of the island's many beaches. Also popular are guided taxi tours through the park. These are operated from Cruz Bay, and a typical tour may take 2½ to 3 hours.

Make reservations well in advance for you-drive-it vehicles, which are available by the day or the week. A temporary Virgin Islands driver's license and a valid State license (U.S. or foreign) are required. Drive slowly as the narrow island roads

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ADMINISTRATION

Virgin Islands National Park, established on December 1, 1956, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Cruz Bay, St. John, VI 00830, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

have many sharp turns and steep grades. Top speed is 32 kilometers per hour (20 m.p.h.), and, *remember, drive on the left!*

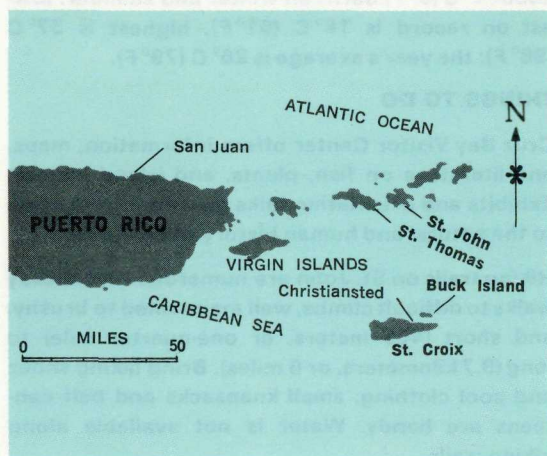
A variety of interpretive activities are offered on the park's unique natural and historical features. Activities include guided hikes and snorkel trips and evening programs. Interpretive schedules are available at the Cruz Bay Visitor Center.

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, check the posted lifeguard schedules, and swim only when lifeguards are on duty. Hazards increase in deep water, at night, and when the surf is rough. *Never swim alone.*

You can rent snorkel equipment at Trunk and Cinnamon Bays. Ask a lifeguard about the safety features of the equipment you are using. Scuba can be rented and serviced on both St. John and St. Thomas.

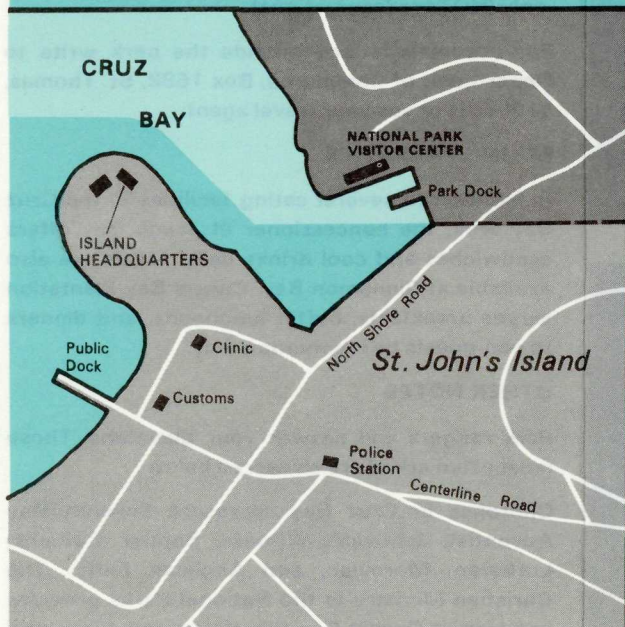
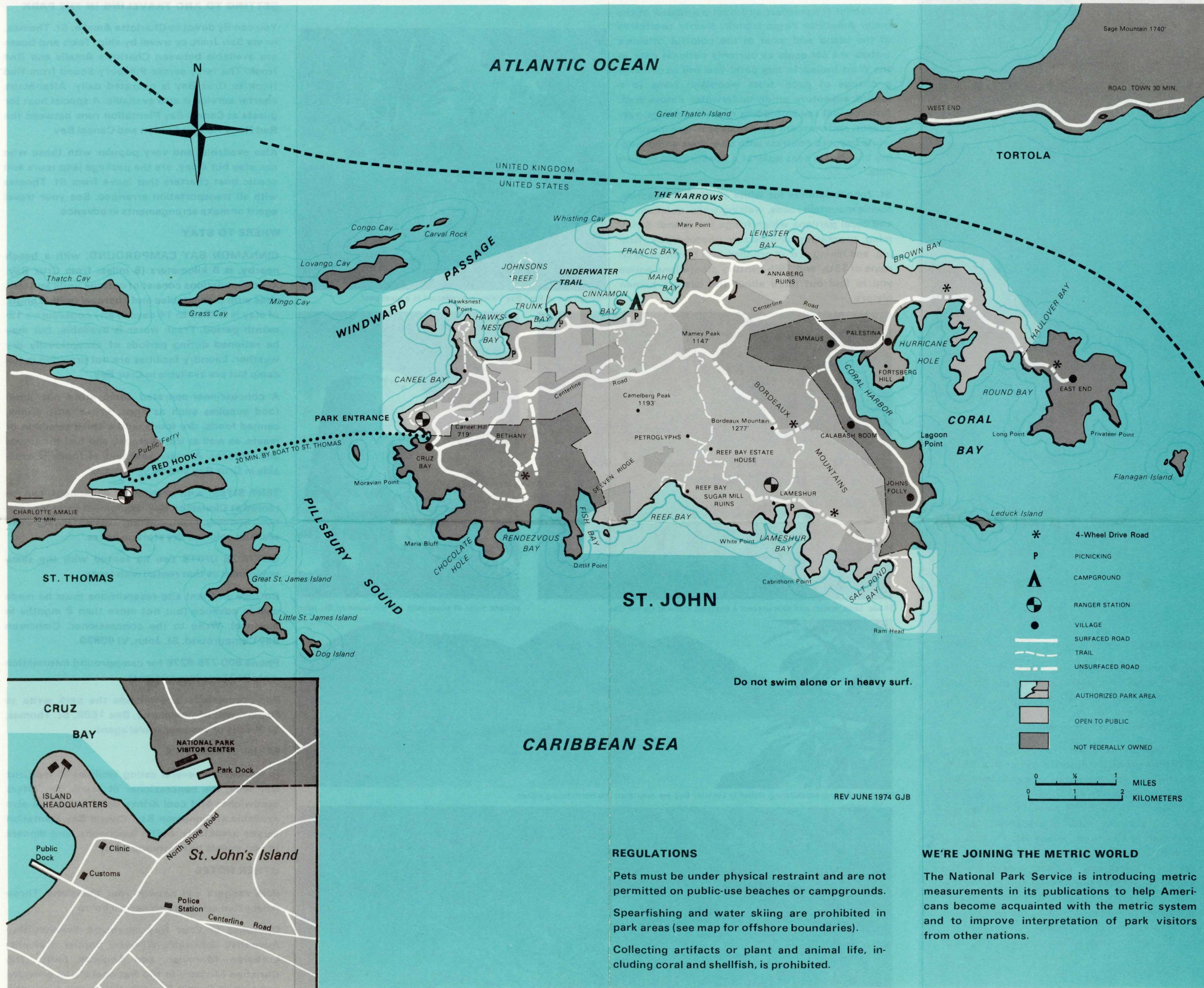
Salt-water fishing is good all year and no license is required. Off shore rod-and-reel fishing is permitted but not in the vicinity of public swimming or snorkeling beach areas. Fishing is not permitted at the Trunk Bay area. Boats for deep-sea fishing, drift fishing, or shoreline trolling may be chartered at Cruz Bay and St. Thomas.

Charter sail and power boats with operators are available in Cruz Bay and St. Thomas for recreation use and cruises in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands.

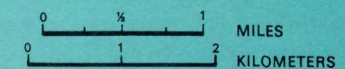


OTHER AREAS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM IN THE CARIBBEAN

Christiansted National Historic Site on the island of St. Croix, 64 kilometers (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 a well-known underwater nature trail. *San Juan National Historic Site* has ancient Spanish fortifications of Old San Juan. Camping is not allowed in areas of the National Park System on St. Thomas, St. Croix, or Puerto Rico.



- * 4-Wheel Drive Road
- P PICNICKING
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- ⊙ RANGER STATION
- VILLAGE
- SURFACED ROAD
- - - TRAIL
- · - · - UNSURFACED ROAD
- ⬜ AUTHORIZED PARK AREA
- OPEN TO PUBLIC
- NOT FEDERALLY OWNED



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Do not swim alone or in heavy surf.

REGULATIONS

Pets must be under physical restraint and are not permitted on public-use beaches or campgrounds. Spearfishing and water skiing are prohibited in park areas (see map for offshore boundaries). Collecting artifacts or plant and animal life, including coral and shellfish, is prohibited.

WE'RE JOINING THE METRIC WORLD

The National Park Service is introducing metric measurements in its publications to help Americans become acquainted with the metric system and to improve interpretation of park visitors from other nations.