


**2024/25  
SCHOOL  
YEAR**

  
*Friends of Virgin Islands National Park*

# **SCHOOL KIDS IN THE PARK**

**NATURE, HISTORY & CULTURE  
FOR ALL AGES**



**Trips To Virgin Islands National  
Park**



**Classroom Visits**

**Lesson Content & Resources**



**Financial Assistance For  
Transportation & Teaching Tools**

**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A VISIT**

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# TRIPS TO VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

The School Kids In The Park (SKIP) program aims to encourage educators to utilize the Park as a “living classroom” by facilitating visits to the Park and working to remove barriers that may limit students' participation like transportation costs. These trips to the Park offer options for your class to explore and learn in the park and include beach talks about sea turtles, visits to the Annaberg historic district, bird walks, nature and plant walks, and hiking the National Park Service Network to Freedom trail in Leinster Bay.

**Discuss your classroom's field trip options and schedule a Park or classroom visit with Friends of the Park's Program Manager, Taylor White at [twhite@friendsvinp.org](mailto:twhite@friendsvinp.org) or (203) 530-4392.**

## **NETWORK TO FREEDOM HIKE**

Age Range: 4th-12th grade

Location: Leinster Bay trail

Length: 3 hours

Themes: History

Trip Description: Guided hike on Leinster Bay trail to the Leinster Bay Factory ruins. The hiking trail is about 2 miles total, 1 mile to the factory, and 1 mile back to the parking lot. The path along the Leinster Bay shoreline is slightly shaded, and has some areas with uneven terrain. Two years ago this area was accepted into the NPS Network to Freedom Program, which honors, preserves and promotes the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight.

Preparation: Closed toe shoes, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection, swimsuits

\*Trip Tip\* Combine this trip with a guided tour of Annaberg

## **EXPLORE THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF ANNABERG**

Age Range: Pre K- 12th grade

Location: Annaberg Historic Site

Length: 1 hour

Themes: History, Culture

Trip Description: Join a guided tour of Annaberg, enjoy a cooking presentation from Ms. Olivia Christian in the cookhouse ruins and explore the Annaberg garden with Mr. Charles Jackson to learn about native plants and their medicinal uses.

Preparation: Closed toe shoes, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection. Annaberg has many bees and wasps. Please inform your guide of any allergies, and have an epipen on hand if needed.

\*Trip Tip\* Combine this trip with the Leinster Bay, Network to Freedom hike (4th grade and up)

## **LEARN ABOUT SEA TURTLES**

Age Range: Pre-K-12th grade

Location: Hawksnest

Length: 1 hour

Themes: Turtles, Marine Conservation

Trip Description: Join our Turtle Education Specialists for an interactive discussion about sea turtles, their environment and the issues facing their species today.

Preparation: 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection, swimsuits

## **LEINSTER BAY SEASHORE WALK**

Age Range: Pre-K-12th grade

Location: Leinster Bay trail

Length: 1 hour

Themes: Marine Resources, Conservation

Trip Description: Join retired Ranger Laurel Brannick on a walk along the Leinster Bay shore and into the mangrove flats. Learn about the marine and natural resources along the beach and shore, and their importance to our ecosystem.

Preparation: Waterproof shoes (crocs), swimsuits, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection

# TRIPS TO VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

## **FRANCIS BAY BIRD WALK**

Age Range: Pre-K-12th grade

Location: Francis Bay trail/Boardwalk

Length: 1 hour

Themes: Birds, Natural Resources

Trip Description: Join retired Ranger Laurel at the salt pond at Francis Bay (~.25 mile) and learn about local birds and other plants and animals that live around the salt pond, mangroves and seashore.

Preparation: Closed toe shoes, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection

\*Trip Tip\* The best time to take this trip is Nov-Apr, when there are more birds at the pond

## **CINNAMON BAY INTERPRETIVE LOOP TRAIL**

Age Range: Pre-K-12th grade

Location: Cinnamon Bay

Length: 2 hours

Themes: History, Plants

Trip Description: Hike the Interpretive Loop trail (~.25 mile) through the shaded forest and the Cinnamon Bay Plantation ruins. Learn about the history of the area and the local vegetation.

Preparation: Closed toe shoes, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection

\*Trip Tip\* Combine this trip with a tour of the Friends of the Park Plant Nursery & Learning Lab.

## **VOLUNTEER WITH THE TRAIL CREW**

Age Range: 8th-12th grade for trails, All Ages for trash pickups

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Locations: All over the park

Length: 4 hours

Themes: Volunteerism, History, Natural Resources

Trip Description: Join the Friends trail volunteers in the field, maintaining ruins, clearing trails, picking up trash and debris, or assisting in our native planting projects! Learn about history, the natural and cultural resources in the park, as well as the importance of volunteerism and conservation.

Preparation: Closed toe shoes (no crocs or slides), long pants, 2 liters of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection

\*Trip Tip\* Projects will vary based on what work needs to be done in the park at that given time. Students will work alongside our visiting volunteers working. Trail work is hard work in the hot sun! Be prepared to use tools such as loppers to cut vegetation such as catch and keep and acacia. Be sure to pack plenty of water and wear the proper clothes.

## **TOUR THE FRIENDS PLANT NURSERY AND LEARNING LAB**

Age Range: Pre-K-12th grade

Locations: Cinnamon Bay

Themes: Plants, Conservation

Trip Description: Join a Friends Educator for a tour of our native plant nursery located at Cinnamon Bay. The nursery grows native plants, non-native fruiting plants, and rare and endangered plants. Learn about conservation issues affecting the island such as coastal erosion, and the restoration projects happening in the park to protect endangered species. A planting activity can be arranged if we have the resources at the time.

\*Trip Tip\* Combine this trip with a guided hike on the Cinnamon Bay Interpretive Loop trail

## **ASK ABOUT OTHER TRIP TOPICS**

Options that can be arranged include mangroves, coral reef systems, watershed management and more!



# ONLINE EDUCATIONAL & LESSON CONTENT RESOURCES

**Explore the resources for lesson planning ideas and teaching resources about sea turtles, marine life, history and cultural heritage on our website at [www.friendsvinp.org](http://www.friendsvinp.org)**

## **SEA TURTLES**

Resources on these endangered species that live in our waters, their lifecycle, how to identify tracks, and more! Our library includes videos, species cards, posters, images and more.

## **EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS**

Fun educational videos on birds, marine life, and plants and trees.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Explore research papers, study guides and more on subjects like natural resource history, birds, bats, and island economics.

## **VOICES OF ST JOHN**

Here, St. John is an oral history about Virgin Islands National Park and St. John. It serves to give voice to the heritage, culture and natural history as told by born St. Johnians and resident scientists. These stories recall historical details of the people and the natural life of the island that shape this place.

## **PASSING IT ON DOCUMENTARY**

Passing It On To Another One weaves together inspirational tales told by culture bearers who have participated in the Annual Folk Life Festival through the years in colorful interviews and demonstrations of their expertise in the cultural arts, music and crafts of the Virgin Islands. Watch the entire documentary or dip into the wonderful short segments featuring our Virgin Islands' culture bearers!

## **HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

There is a rich cultural heritage in the Park including two prehistoric archaeological sites. A number of papers on the Taino petroglyphs, ship wrecks in VI waters and more are available.



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