

**2026/27
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

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. Field trips and classroom visits will be led by a National Park Service Interpreter or Friends Educator.



**Discuss your classroom's field trip options and schedule a
Park or classroom visit with**

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TRIP OPTIONS TO VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK



NETWORK TO FREEDOM HIKE

5th-12th grade | Leinster Bay Trail | 3 hours

Themes: history

Trip Description: Guided hike (3 miles) on Leinster Bay trail to the Murphy Great House and back. The trail is slightly shaded with uneven terrain and 250 ft elevation gain. This area is part of the NPS Network to Freedom Program, which honors the history of resistance to enslavement.

Preparation: Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (no Crocs or slides), 1.5 liters of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection, rain gear during rainy season or on rainy days.

Trip Tip Combine this trip with a guided tour of Annaberg.

EXPLORE THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF ANNABERG

Pre-K-12th grade | Annaberg Historic Site | 1 hour

Themes: history, culture

Trip Description: Explore 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 (no Crocs or slides), 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection, and rain gear during rainy season or on rainy days.. Annaberg has many bees and wasps, so have an epipen on hand if needed.

Trip Tip Combine this trip with Leinster Bay, Network to Freedom Hike.

RAM HEAD GUIDED HIKE

5th-12th grade | Ram Head Trail | 3 hours

Themes: history, 1733 African Revolution

Trip Description: A Park Ranger will introduce you to the meaningful history of Ram Head, including events of the 1733 African Revolution. The trail is 2.5 miles out and back and is rocky and steep in some areas with little to no shade.

Preparation: Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (no Crocs or slides), 1.5 liters of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection, swimsuits if staying after to swim, rain gear during rainy season or on rainy days.

LEARN ABOUT SEA TURTLES

Pre-K-12th grade | Hawksnest Beach | 1.5-2.5 hours

Themes: sea turtles, marine conservation, research, biology, measuring, weighing/scale use

Trip Description: Join our Friends educator for an interactive discussion about sea turtles, their environment and the issues facing their species today. Become a sea turtle biologist for the day with activities like nest protection and stranded sea turtle response. Have your students done a sea turtle trip before? We have new activities and a more data and skill-oriented curriculum for repeat or older students. Ask for more details!

Preparation: 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, mineral sunscreen/protective clothing, beach attire.

WAVES AND EROSION

4th-12th grade | Location dependent | 1 hour

Themes: wave formation, coastal erosion and deposition

Trip Description: Join a Friends Educator to learn about how waves form offshore and how weather and climate can contribute to coastal erosion or deposition. Preparation: Beach shoes, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, mineral sunscreen, sun protection, rain gear during rainy season.

NEW!

LEINSTER BAY SEASHORE WALK

Pre-K-12th grade | Leinster Bay Trail | 1 hour | Thursdays and Fridays Only | not available during winter swell season

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.

Preparation: Waterproof shoes (Crocs), swimsuits, 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, mineral sunscreen and sun protective clothing

FRANCIS BAY BIRD WALK

Pre-K-12th grade | Francis Bay Boardwalk | 1 hour | Thursdays and Fridays Only

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

Pre-K-12th grade | Cinnamon Bay | 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, rain gear during rainy season or on rainy days.

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

TOUR THE FRIENDS PLANT NURSERY AND LEARNING LAB

Pre-K-12th grade | Cinnamon Bay | 1-2 hours

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, endangered plants. Learn about 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.

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

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

VOLUNTEER WITH THE TRAIL CREW

8th-12th grade | Virgin Islands National Park | 4 hours

Themes: volunteerism, community service, 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! Projects will vary based on what work needs to be done in the park at that given time. Learn about history, the natural and cultural resources in the park, as well as the importance of volunteerism, community service, and conservation.

Preparation: Closed-toe shoes (no crocs or slides), long pants, 2 liters of water per student, lunch/snacks, sun protection. Trail work is hard work in the hot sun! Be prepared to use tools to cut vegetation such as catch and keep and acacia.

ANIMALS ON THE REEF

Pre-K-12th grade | Hawksnest Beach | 1.5 hours

Themes: marine ecosystems, conservation, ocean animals, invertebrates, and vertebrates

Trip Description: Join a Friends educator for an interactive discussion about ocean animals found on Virgin Islands reefs including sharks, corals, grazing fish, and more! End the day with beach activities.

Preparation: 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, mineral sunscreen and sun protective clothing, beach attire.

LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

Pre-K-12th grade | Hawksnest Beach | 1.5-2.5 hours

Themes: climate change, agriculture, indigenous peoples, data collection and management, temperature, measuring, weighing/scale use

Trip Description: Join our Friends educator for an interactive discussion and activities around climate change, the impacts in the Virgin Islands, or the use of agriculture to sequester carbon. This offering can be customized to have multiple sessions. Ask for more information!

Preparation: 1 liter of water per student, lunch/snacks, mineral sunscreen and sun protective clothing, beach attire.

ASK ABOUT OTHER TRIP TOPICS

Options that can be arranged include mangroves, marine debris, 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

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.

ACTIVITY BOOKS

Activity books for learning in the Virgin Islands are available for Sea Turtles and for Birds.

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

Fun Virgin Islands 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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