



Buck Island Reef National Monument

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARK VISITORS

Buck Island Reef National Monument, administered by the National Park Service, has been protected by federal legislation since 1962. Thousands of people visit the park each year to enjoy the natural beauty, relax on the beach, and snorkel the magnificent coral reef. We ask all of our visitors to be conscientious and cooperate with the regulations outlined below to ensure the protection and preservation of the park and its natural and cultural resources. Buck Island is a natural area; treat wildlife cautiously.

Park Hours and Facilities:

The island is open everyday from sunrise to sunset. The park provides two picnic areas that have restrooms with toilets, picnic tables, and grills. The park has a "Pack it in, pack it out" policy; there are no garbage facilities, so please take all trash off the island with you. From June through November, the island is closed to the public from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. to protect sea turtles that nest on the beaches. During this time, boats may anchor overnight in the designated anchorage, but they must keep noise and lights to a minimum.

General Rules:

- ❖ Park boundaries, expanded in 2001, south boundary is marked by yellow can buoys. The overall park boundary is shown in the image on back. Large white can buoys are Coral Reef markers. Coral reef is protected; operate boats cautiously.
- ❖ ALL forms of collecting, taking, or harvesting are prohibited within the entire park.
- ❖ ALL feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- ❖ **ALL FORMS OF FISHING and POSSESSION OF FISHING EQUIPMENT ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF THE PARK.**
- ❖ All wildlife are protected including threatened and endangered species sea turtles, brown pelicans, St. Croix Ground lizard, and elkhorn coral.
- ❖ Anchoring is permitted only in the designated area and requires anchoring permit for both anchor area and moorings; permit application available at Headquarters in Christiansted. Boats must anchor in designated anchor area or be in transit into/out of the area.
- ❖ The anchorage at West Beach is a "no wake" area.
- ❖ Shore anchoring at West Beach is restricted to below the high tide line (wet sand).
- ❖ Volleyball nets and beach umbrellas are prohibited.
- ❖ Parties or groups over 20 people are required to get a special use permit.
- ❖ PETS MUST REMAIN ABOARD VESSELS AT ALL TIMES.

Inside the Lagoon:

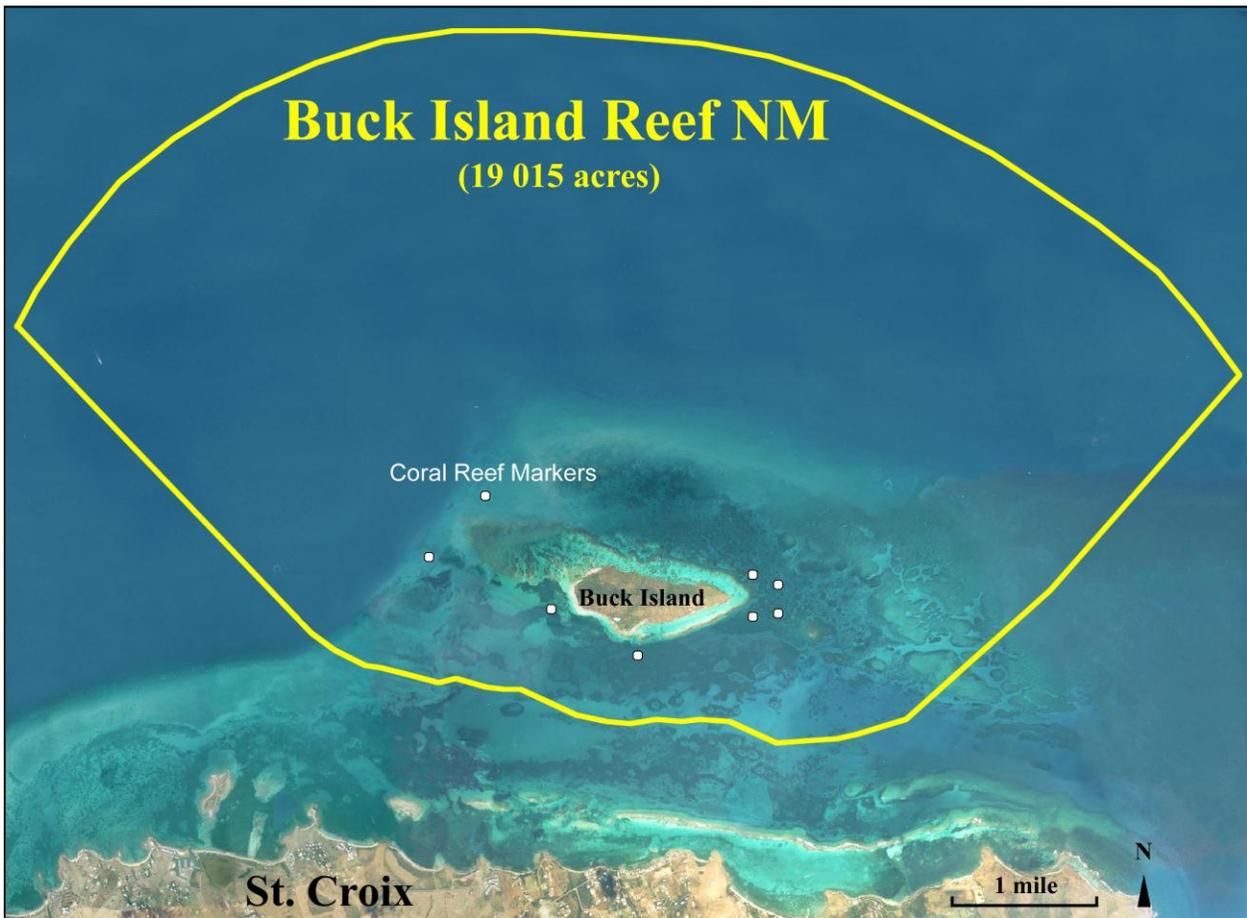
- ❖ The Underwater Trail is open from sunrise to sunset. Snorkeling only.
- ❖ Pick-up moorings are provided at the Underwater Trail and Scuba areas.
- ❖ Always snorkel with a buddy! Keep a sharp lookout for boat traffic.
- ❖ Do not touch, stand or rest on the coral reef at any time.
- ❖ Scuba diving is restricted to the two scuba areas provided by the park.
- ❖ Lagoon is a "no wake" area.
- ❖ Vessels over 42 feet are prohibited from the lagoon area.
- ❖ No overnight mooring in the lagoon.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT, TAKE ONLY PICTURES AND LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS...

GPS locations for Buck Island Reef NM expanded boundaries are available from Superintendent.



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Anchoring Area highlighted in yellow. Vessels over 42 ft must take a dinghy to the Underwater Trail; Underwater trail and moorings closed sunset to sunrise. Contact the National Park Service at (340) 773-1460.