

Buck Island Reef National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



General Information For Park Visitors*

You Are in a Marine Protected Area

- Coral reefs are protected, operate boats cautiously.
- The Park is open every day.
- Possession of fishing equipment is prohibited.
- All forms of fishing are prohibited.
- All forms of collecting, taking, or harvesting on land or sea are prohibited.
- Feeding / Disturbing of wildlife & marine life is prohibited.
- Parties or groups of over 25 persons are required to get a Special Use Permit from NPS Headquarters in Christiansted, (340)-773-1460 (x224).
- Pets must remain ABOARD vessels at all times.
- Volleyball nets and beach umbrellas are prohibited.
- Anchoring requires anchoring permit and is permitted only in the designated area.*
- Vessels over 42 feet (12 meters) are prohibited from the lagoon area.
- Observe the continuous "No Wake" zone from the West Beach anchorage to the east and north lagoon areas.
- Jet skis & kite surfing are prohibited.
- We have a "Pack It In, Pack It Out" policy; there are NO garbage facilities, please take ALL trash off the island with you.
- The Diedrichs Beach Picnic Shelter is a dedicated First Amendment Activity Area.

In the Event of an Emergency Always Call 911 in the United States Virgin Islands

Boating Safety Requirements and Tips:

- Float Plan – Tell a friend or relative when you are leaving, where you are going, when you are expected to return, what to do if you do not, and a description of your boat.
- Fire Extinguishers – Inspect annually; have ready to use
- Personal Flotation Devices – Have both wearable and throw-able types, enough for every passenger.
- Sound-producing Device – Have a horn or whistle appropriate for boat
- Emergency Kit– Keep on board in a waterproof floating bag: maps, flares, a first aid kit
- Never use drugs or alcohol before or during boat operation.
- Be Weather Wise – Check weather before leaving shore.
- Boat Safety Check - Test your navigation lights before leaving the dock and carry extra batteries.

General Rules*:

Park boundaries were expanded in 2001 making Buck Island Reef NM a no-take area. The South Boundary is marked by yellow can buoys; large white can buoys mark coral reef area.

All wildlife and plants are protected in the park, including threatened and endangered species of sea turtle, Brown Pelicans, St. Croix Ground Lizard, and Elkhorn and Staghorn corals.

Anchoring permit applications are available at NPS Headquarters in Christiansted and on-line at www.nps.gov/buis and must be approved prior to anchoring within the Park boundary. Boats must anchor in designated anchoring area or be in transit into/out of the area.

Inside the Lagoon:*

The Underwater Trail is open from sunrise to sunset for 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 moorings provided by the Park north of Underwater Trail Area.

No overnight mooring in the lagoon.

Vessels over 42 feet (12 meters) are prohibited from the lagoon area.

ENJOY YOUR VISIT, TAKE ONLY PICTURES AND LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

*All Buck Island Reef National Monument resources are protected by a variety of Federal criminal and civil statutes. These include, but are not limited to, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Park System Resources Protection Act and the regulations located at Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations that apply to National Park System units. Violators will be prosecuted and required to pay for the cost to restore any injured resource.

If you see anyone injuring, harassing, or otherwise interfering with, in any way, a park resource whether living or not, contact 340-773-1460x234 immediately.

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