



# The Trail Bandit Guide To The Hiking Trails of St. John, V.I.

A variety of hiking trails, including old Danish roads, beckon you to discover St. John, with its lovely beaches and bays, rugged mountain forests, dry cactus woodlands, historic sugar factory ruins and inspiring vistas of blue seas and green islands.

## HIKE PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Plan your hike with, bring, and know how to read a map. Notify friends where you are going and when you will return. Plan ample time for up hill terrain, exploring, swimming, and scenic rests. Nothing on St. John is flat so plan for a lot of hot uphill hiking.

Wear cool loose clothing that includes long pants, a shirt, and a hat to protect against sunburn, insects, and thorny vegetation. Be alert for the Jack Spaniard wasp nests that sometimes hang into the trail. Carry a swimsuit and a towel. Comfortable walking shoes, boots, or sneakers are recommended footwear. Sandles are not advisable. There are many thorns waiting to stab your feet, especially on the south side of the island. Extra energy and water intake is needed for hiking on this rugged, subtropical island. A half gallon of water is recommended for each four hours of hiking time. There is no safe drinking water along the trails. Other practical hiking essentials include a first aid kit, a watch, sun screen lotion, insect repellent, and a flash light. When the sun sets, it gets dark more quickly than up North.

Do not climb on or enter historic structures as most are fragile and unstable. Much of St. John is in the Virgin Islands National Park, so please leave artifacts in place for others to see and enjoy. Please respect the rights of private property owners so we will continue to enjoy these trails.

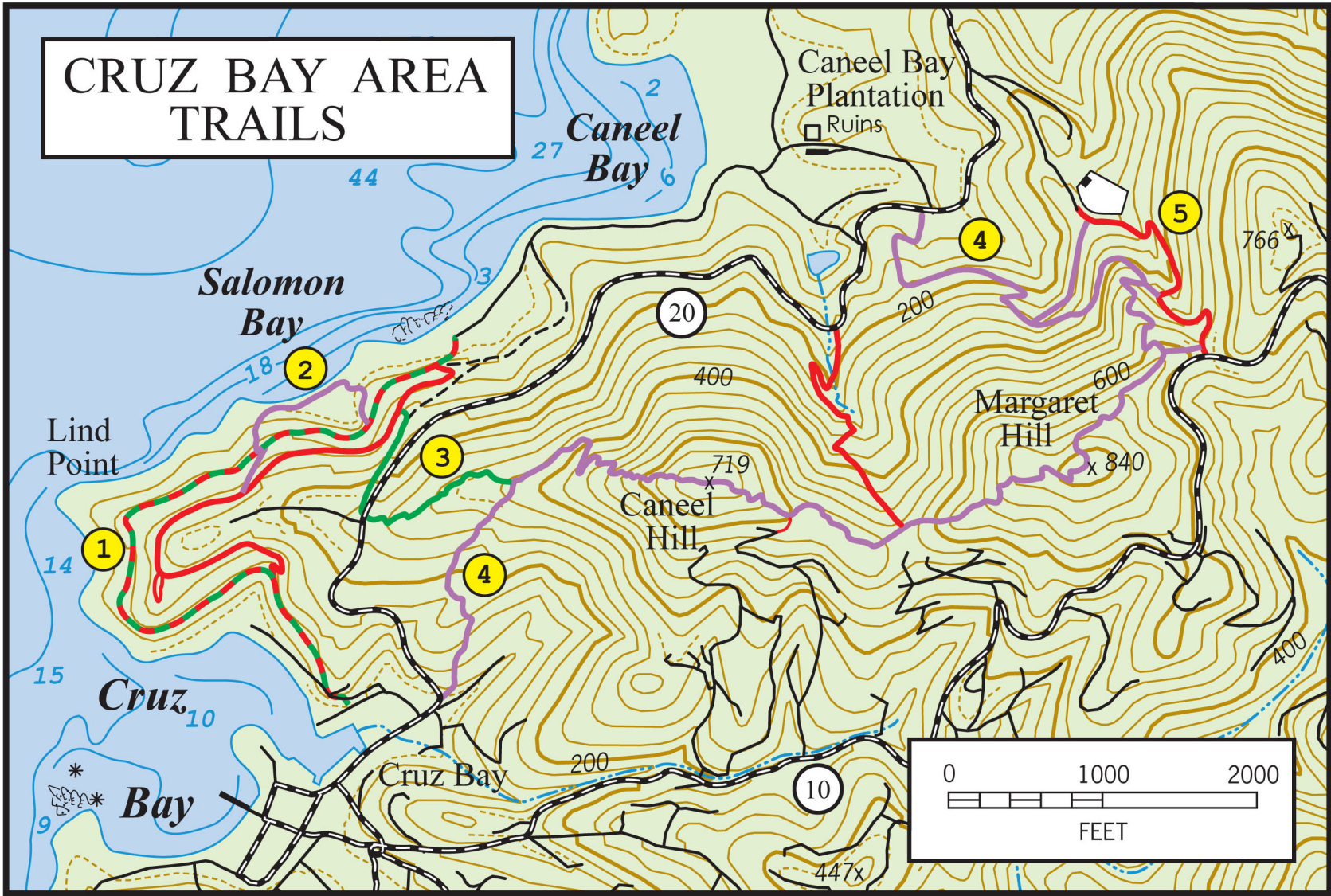
Many of the trail heads are accessible by vehicle. Hitch hiking seems to work well on most of the island, except along the north shore. The VITRAN bus system is inexpensive and runs along Centerline road from Cruz Bay to Coral Bay and out to Salt Pond Bay. Check the schedule and make sure the bus is running. Local taxis service the North Shore Road and the rest of the island. Rental cars are available in Cruz Bay. They are expensive and you should reserve one before you come if you want one. Finding a parking place can be a problem in town and at popular beaches.

When walking along the sides of roads, face oncoming traffic and be ready to jump in the bushes. The roads are narrow and at times there is a lot of traffic. Remember, we drive on the left.



All of the trails on this map were hiked and accurately located using a GPS receiver.


The secondary roads shown on the map were accurately located using aerial photographs taken in 2007. In general, these have not been field checked. Just because there is a roadway shown on the map, does not mean that you can drive there. Some of these roads are under construction or may be abandoned and not maintained. New roads are constantly being put in as more and more houses lots are sold. Many are on private property. They are shown to help those out exploring to figure out what goes where.


St. John is beautiful, go explore it.






## North Shore Trails


**1 Lind Point Trail** (1.1 miles)  
Connects from the National Park Visitor's Center in Cruz Bay to Honeymoon beach at Caneel Bay Resort. The trail splits into a lower trail  which passes (at 0.7 miles), on the left a side trail to Salomon Beach and an upper trail  that ascends to the Lind Point overlook.


**2 Salomon Beach Trail**  
A short trail  descends from the Lind Point trail down to the beach, along the beach and back up again.


**3 Caneel Spur Trail** (0.4 mile)  
Trail  starts from the upper Lind Point Trail, crosses the North Shore Rd. (Rt. 20) at a point overlooking Cruz Bay and Caneel Bay, and continues up to join the Caneel Hill Trail


**4 Caneel Hill Trail** (2.4 miles)  
Trail  joins Cruz Bay village with the North Shore Road at the entrance to Caneel Bay Resort. A 0.8 mile climb from Cruz Bay leads to a scenic overlook atop Caneel Hill (elev. 719 feet). At the low point of the saddle between Caneel and Margaret Hills, a spur trail  on the left, leads down a nice but seldom used trail to North Shore Road. The main trail continues to Margaret Hill (elev. 840 feet) then descends to North Shore Road. Three side trails on the right connect with Centerline Road and the Water Catchment Trail.


**5 Water Catchment Trail** (0.8 mile)  
Trail  starts from the North Shore Road, just east of the entrance to Caneel Bay resort. It follows a road as far as the water catchment, ascends a short washed out section and follows an old roadbed up to Centerline Road. The trail passes Caneel Hill Trail on the right.


**6 Turtle Point Trail** (0.5 mile)  
This trail , which is located inside the Caneel Bay Resort, follows along the shore around the peninsula and ends at the beach at Turtle Bay. There are great views of the islands off the North shore and convenient benches to sit on along the way.



**7 Hawksnest Bay Trail** (0.6 mile)  
This trail , also within the Caneel Bay Resort, follows an old road for a way then heads up the hill for great views of Hawksnest Bay, continuing on to the resort's beach.


**8 Peace Hill Trail** (500 feet)  
This short trail  leads from a parking lot up to a grassy overlook with an old sugar mill windmill tower. A side trail on the right leads (0.2 mile) down to Denis Bay and Perkins Cay.


**9 Susannaberg Trail** (1.0 mile)  
This trail , also known as Rt. 204 (walk, don't try to drive) starts directly across North Shore Road from the Peace Hill parking lot. It follows an old road up the hill and connects with Centerline Road. At the top of your climb, the road forks and you should keep to the right. The left fork climbs up past the ruins of an old windmill tower, but is on private land and is currently posted.


**10 Catherineberg Road** (1.4 miles)  
This trail/road , also known as Rt. 206 or John's Head Road begins on the North Shore Road about 0.3 miles West of the entrance to Cinammon Bay Campground and ascends up to Centerline road, passing the ruins of Catherineberg Estate and the restored-windmill tower. The road, passable by 4 wheel drive vehicle, provides better footing down from Centerline Road than the Cinnamon Bay Trail, especially after dark and when wet.


**11 Cinnamon Bay Self Guiding Trail** (0.5 mile)  
This shady history/nature loop  passes through the ruins of an old sugar factory and native tropical trees. The trail begins 200 feet East of the entrance to Cinnamon Bay Campground.




**12 Cinnamon Bay Trail** (1.0 mile)  
This forested trail , beginning 300 feet East of the entrance to Cinnamon Bay Campground, follows an old Danish road up, steeply at first, to Centerline Road, with a view of Cinnamon Bay along the way. At 0.12 mile, a side trail , on the left, leads up (0.38 mile) to a ruin atop America Hill with great views of Maho Bay. When you get to Centerline Road, if you head west for about 200 yards, there is a short trail that leads to the Rustenberg Estate ruins. Sometimes the entrance gets overgrown but if you look around you can find it.


**13 Maria Hope Trail** (0.8 mile)  
This trail  connects the North Shore Road to the Centerline Road. Beginning on Centerline Road, about 75 feet east of the Reef Bay Trail, head into the woods near the end of a guard rail, turn left and down. Soon you will be on an old Danish road. After about 0.5 miles, there is a side trail, on your right, that switch backs down to the valley floor and emerges on the North Shore Road just east of the green building on the shore of Maho Bay. The road you were following down from Centerline Road continues down and originally went toward Cinnamon Bay. The end of this old road has been destroyed by modern road building and an access trail turns right and down to join the North Shore Road at the hairpin turn, just west of the Maho Bay Beach. Parts of the lower end of this trail are on private property and it may be rerouted in the future.

**14 Maho Goat Trail** (0.25 mile)  
This short trail  connects the beach at Maho Bay with the tent cabins at Maho Bay Campground. The lease at the campground runs out in a few years and then probably private homes or a resort will fill the hillside.



**15 Francis Bay Trail** (0.4 mile)  
This trail  starts at a parking lot at the end of the Mary Creek paved road, passes the ruins of the Francis Bay Estate House and leads to the beach. Just before the beach, the trail turns left and leads along the salt pond behind the beach. There is a new boardwalk out into the pond for wildlife viewing.


**16 Leinster Bay Trail** (0.8 mile)  
This trail  follows an old road along the shore from the Annaberg historic site to the beach at Waterlemon Bay


**17 Johnny Horn Trail** (1.8 miles)  
This trail , begins at the East end of the Waterlemon Bay beach and ascends past ruins on both sides of the trail. At the top of the first hill, a side trail  on the left leads (500 feet) to a hill top ruin with great views in all directions. The Johnny Horn trail continues past the start of the Brown Bay trail at 0.7 mile, to near the top of Base Hill where there good views of Coral Bay. Also, at this point, there is a spur trail  to the left that leads to the top of the hill with great views over Hurricane Hole, and continues down to meet the main trail along the road. The main trail continues, following a road down to the paved road (Rt. 10) at the Moravian church in Coral Bay.



**18 Brown Bay Trail** (1.6 miles)  
This trail  branches East from the Johnny Horn trail, descends past the beach at Brown Bay, and climbs over a ridge overlooking Hurricane Hole. The extensive ruins at the end of the beach at Brown Bay are worth a visit. The trail ends at East End road, 1.2 miles East of the Moravian church in Coral Bay.


## South Shore Trails




**19 L'Esperance - Reef Bay Trail** (2.6 miles)  
This trail  begins on Centerline Road, 0.3 miles East of the Catherineberg road and follows the old Danish road bed down to Reef Bay. At 0.2 miles, a short trail on the left leads to the L'Esperance ruins. The main trail crosses Fish Bay Gut, and leads out into the dry scrub forest of the South shore. Shortly after your first views down into Fish Bay, the Great Sieben trail leads off to the right. Further along, after crossing a ridge, you will get many great views of Reef Bay and the stone work along the old road becomes obvious. The trail continues down until it reaches the short trail  from the Reef Bay Sugar Factory to the beach, at it's highest point.



**20 Great Sieben Trail** (0.5 mile)  
This trail  follows a beautiful old road from Fish Bay up to the L'Esperance - Reef Bay Trail, passing through the extensive Sieben ruins along the way. From the Fish Bay area, take Cocoloba Trail road (signs on Marina drive) almost to the top of the hill where another road comes down to meet it. Take this road up to the first hairpin turn. The trail starts next to the power pole at the turn.


**21 Parret Bay Trail**  
This short trail  leads from near the end of the Reef Bay Road (which heads East from Fish Bay) down to the beach at Parret Bay (Western end of Reef Bay). The trail starts next to a wood shingled house with a green metal roof at a telephone pole with an electric meter on it. There is a set of stairs leading steeply down. If you are looking for the trail from the West end of the beach, follow along the base of the steep hillside, into the woods. The trail will become obvious. The stairs you see from the beach that lead to a house are not the trail. The walk along the shore of Reef Bay is nice and has only one easy rock scramble to negotiate.


**22 Reef Bay Trail** (2.1 miles)  
This well used trail , begins 4.9 miles East of Cruz Bay on Centerline Road. The trail descends through a shady, moist forest and a dry forest, passing the ruins of several sugar estates along the way. The Reef Bay Sugar Estate, with its old buildings and steam powered machinery, is not to be missed. A short trail  exits right just before the factory and leads to the main beach. At the height of land on this trail, the L'Esperance trail enters on the right. The Park Service leads hikes down the Reef Bay trail and arranges for a boat to pick you up at Reef Bay, thus avoiding the hike back up the hill. You have to make a reservation for this guided hike.


**23 Petroglyph Trail** (0.23 mile)  
This trail  starts 1.6 miles down the Reef Bay Trail and leads to a waterfall and pools. The rock carvings are attributed to early Arawak Indians. A steep, unofficial, and somewhat dangerous track to the left of the falls, leads to a second set of falls higher up.


**24 Lameshur Bay Trail** (1.5 miles)  
This trail  connects the Reef Bay Trail with Lameshur Bay through open dry forest. At 0.12 miles, a trail  on the left leads up (0.15 mile) to the decaying but still beautiful Reef Bay Great House. As you ascend toward the Great House, another trail  enters left at the first switchback and follows an old Danish road down to the ruins of the Par Force Sugar Estate. Continuing along the Lameshur Bay Trail, you climb up over a ridge and then descend, passing the Europa Bay and Europa Point trails on the right, to meet the Little Lameshur Bay road that continues on to Saltpond Bay,



**25 Europa Bay Trails** (0.25 mile)  
There are two trails that lead to the Europa Bay area. Coming from the Reef Bay Trail on the Lameshur bay trail, at about 1.2 miles, you come to the "official" Europa Bay trail on the right. This trail  leads up over a small ridge and down past a salt pond, to the coral rubble beach at Europa Bay. About 0.1 mile further East along the Lameshur Bay trail, another trail  goes off to the right and leads up along an old road, out to a point overlooking Europa Bay and Lameshur Bay.

**26 Bordeaux Peak Trail**  
This short trail  leads from the Bordeaux Mountain Road to the top of Bordeaux Mountain, the highest point on St. John. It starts across the road from power pole #ES38. There are no views but if you are a peak bagger, this is the place. You won't need ropes, crampons, ice axe, or supplemental oxygen.


**27 Bordeaux Mountain Trail** (1.2 miles)  
This trail , not to be confused with the trail described above, follows an old road from the West end of the Little Lameshur Bay Road, up past a ranger residence, climbing 1100 feet, to the Bordeaux Mountain Road. Centerline Road is 1.7 miles to the Northwest of this junction.


**28 Yawzi Point Trail** (0.3 mile)  
This trail  leads from the Little Lameshur Bay road through thorny scrub vegetation, past ruins of old buildings, to isolated coves and a rocky point.


**29 Lameshur Bay Shoreline Trail** (0.7 mile)  
This trail  follows the East shore of Great Lameshur Bay. After scrambling over several rock outcrops, you come to one with a small tree on your right. The trail turns left and climbs steeply (white arrows on the rock) and follows along the cliff top with great views of the sea below. The trail continues along the top of the cliff and soon meets the Tektite Trail at a cairn.


**30 Tektite Trail** (0.7 mile)  
This trail,  starts 60 feet West of the top of the steep, concrete paved hill on the road to Lameshur Bay, goes into the woods, and climbs steeply up to the ridge where it meets an old bulldozed road. The trail follows this roadway along the ridge, over three hills, with superb views of Salt Pond Bay and Ram Head to the East and Lameshur Bay and the South shore of St. John, to the West. Just after you pass the top of the third hill, a side trail  on the left leads out to Cabritte Horn Point. The Tektite Trail continues down the hill and shortly after the Lameshur Bay Shoreline Trail enters on the right, the bulldozed road ends with great views off the cliffs to the sea below. The adventurous can follow along the cliff top and climb down to the water.

The Tektite Trail and the trail out to Cabritte Horn Point have some of the best views on the South side of St. John.

**31 Salt Pond Bay Trail** (0.25 mile)  
This trail  begins at the parking area 3.9 miles South of Coral Bay and leads to the beach.

**32 Ram Head Trail** (0.9 miles)  
This rocky, exposed, trail  starts at the South end of Salt Pond Bay beach and leads to a blue cobble beach and then switchbacks up the hillside to it's crest 200 feet above the sea.

**33 Drunk Bay Trail** (0.25 mile)  
This trail  leads from the South end of Salt Pond Bay beach and heads East along the North shore of the salt pond to the rocky, windswept shore of Drunk Bay

**34 King Hill Road** (1.4 miles)  
This road/trail  starts as a paved road, which is the first right turn when you are heading South out of Coral Bay. It is the shortest way to hike back to Cinnamon or Maho Bay campgrounds from Coral Bay and meets Centerline Road where the North Shore Road comes up from Maho Bay. You get good views out over Coral Bay on the way. Don't try to drive this way unless you check the road conditions first. The road is steep and there may be serious washouts.

A few words about the trails are in order. All of the numbered and described trails are well maintained as of the beginning of 2010. The NPS may or may not maintain them but there are a number of volunteers who have been doing a lot of work. Perhaps you would donate some of your time and help out. These volunteer efforts are being coordinated through the Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park. You can contact them or the Park Service for more information. If you have interest in doing some trail maintenance on your own, there is a NPS Volunteer Coordinator that you should contact. Also there is a Trail Maintenance Fund at the VINP that is used solely for trail maintenance. Any donations will help. Contact the Superintendent for more information.

You will see a number of tracks on the map shown as a dashed red line. These are a few of the many unmaintained old Danish roads and trails that you may enjoy. Have fun exploring. There is a lot more to discover. None of these "unofficial" trails get any maintenance by the Park Service. Some of the rangers and a few locals have even pulled down flagging tape that has been left to help others find their way, and thrown brush in the trails to obscure them. If you hike these trails, do your part and bring some clippers to help keep the trails open. I will put the track files for all the trails on my web site in .GPX format so you can load the track log of any trail into your GPS receiver. I will also put a table of the location of many of the trailheads on the web site to help locate them when the trails get over grown again.

You can download a copy of this map from my website that is in the proper format to be loaded into a Garmin GPS as a base map. The instructions and the necessary software are on my web site too.

The location of the major roads, and all the trails were measured by hiking them with a Garmin GPSMAP 76Cx global positioning system (GPS) receiver. In most cases, the tracks on the map are the average of a number of GPS tracks taken on different days, to improve the location accuracy. The map datum used is WGS84. The tracks were downloaded to the map using Fugawi and Global Mapper software. In areas of poor reception, such as in deep valleys, or under dense wet foliage, the accuracy of a GPS receiver can be degraded, or it won't work at all. It may help to use a remote high gain antenna, mounted on your hat. For those interested in doing their own mapping, the map projection is Universal Transverse Mercator. Make sure that your GPS and your mapping software are set to the WGS84 datum. The map is available in digital form on a CD or can be downloaded for free from my web site, so you don't have to get a scan of the map made. If you want more copies of this map, or any of my other maps, you can contact me at the address below.

Please feel free to copy or use this map for any purpose. The best way to save these trails for future generations is to spread the word and get people out there hiking. If you make copies for distribution or sale, please either remove any reference to The Trail Bandit, and my name, or state that it is a copy of my map.

For a more complete description of the trails, other hiking possibilities, and the history of St. John, see "St. John Off the Beaten Track" by Gerald Singer. He also has a superb web site <http://seestjohn.com> where he describes all the trails and has great photos of what there is to see along the way.

Happy Hiking, 2010

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