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President Biden to Spend Final Year-End Holiday in St. Croix Before Leaving Office

The outgoing president continues his tradition of celebrating the holidays on St. Croix, marking the end of his term before the transition to Republican leadership

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In 2022, President Biden and his family arrived on St. Croix just after 11:00 p.m. on Tues. Dec. 27. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM

ST. CROIX — Outgoing President Joseph Biden will spend his last year-end holiday as president in the U.S. Virgin Islands, specifically on the island of St. Croix, where he has celebrated many holidays both as vice president and as president.

The Bidens traditionally arrive on the island shortly after Christmas, and this year is expected to follow suit. Their arrival marks not only a personal retreat but also has implications for the local economy and traffic.

His presence on St. Croix is seen as a significant boost to the island's tourism appeal, with the USVI frequently mentioned in mainstream media coverage during his visits. This exposure is believed to enhance the islands' visibility, potentially attracting more tourists to this Caribbean destination. However, the president's arrival also impacts local travel logistics. Several roads are blocked as part of his security protocol, leading to extensive traffic rerouting and delays. This security measure, though necessary, can significantly inconvenience both residents and visitors during the holiday season, which also coincides with the busiest time on St. Croix due to the Crucian Christmas Festival.

This holiday retreat comes at the end of a term marked by significant political events, including Kamala Harris's loss to Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election. Despite her efforts to consolidate support across various demographics, Harris was unable to secure the presidency, with Trump gaining the presidency in what turned out to be a decisive victory. This election outcome has set the stage for Trump's upcoming inauguration on January 20, 2025, marking the transition of power back to Republican leadership.

As Biden winds down his presidency, his choice to spend time in St. Croix underscores a long-standing affinity with the U.S. Virgin Islands. His visits have been a tradition since his vice-presidential years under President Barack Obama, where he often rang in the New Year. The island of St. Croix, known for its historical significance, stunning beaches, and vibrant culture, has become a favored spot for the Biden family to relax and recharge away from the political limelight of Washington, D.C.

This visit, however, is tinged with the bittersweet acknowledgment of the end of his presidential term, offering a moment of reflection before the transition to private life.