

The Virgin Islands Consortium

V.I. National Park Modifying Operations To Implement Local Health Guidance on COVID-19

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The VI National Park Service has modified operations to support federal, territory, and local efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, according to a Park Service press release Monday.

Earlier Monday, the Virgin Islands government ordered the closure of all territorial beaches for two weeks. "Virgin Islands National Park supports Governor Bryan's protective actions to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. This is our moment to "shut the door" to prevent a major outbreak in the USVI," said Nigel Fields, Park Superintendent.

All park beaches are closed, effective immediately, until further notice. All parking lots are closed, and all park trails are closed. Although park waters currently remain open, mariners using park moorings and anchorage areas can expect further guidance and safety requirements later this week, the park service said.

Last month, the Virgin Islands National Park started offering only very limited services outside those that support visitor or resource protection.

The following services and operations have been modified:

- The Cruz Bay Visitor Center is closed. Information and services will not be available.
- The park dock and bulkhead at the Cruz Bay Visitor Center is closed to commercial activity.
- No more than two individuals may occupy a dinghy when travelling to or from the NPS dock.
- All restrooms and porta johns in the park are closed.
- Guided hikes and other on-site public or educational programs are cancelled.
- Food service and watersports rentals at Trunk Bay are not available.
- The park will not issue special visitor use or business permits.
- Trash is not being collected. When visiting the park bring garbage bags so you can take your trash with you. Pack it in, pack it out!
- Trash receptacles are not available for boater trash. Boaters must make other arrangements for trash disposal. Do not leave trash on shore.
- The pavilions at Trunk, Maho, and Hawksnest Bays are closed, as are changing rooms and showers.
- Moorings remain open for use. The waters of both Virgin Islands National Park and Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument remain open.

Law enforcement staff will remain on duty and may be reached at 1-866-995-8467.