

The Virgin Islands Consortium

DPNR Provides Guidelines For Campers Utilizing Salt River, East End Beaches

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Cramer's Park Beach on St. Croix. By. ERNICE GILBERT/ V.I. CONSORTIUM

The V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources on Tuesday reminded campers that guidelines must be adhered to while camping on the Columbus Landing Site at Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve and within the East End Marine Park during the Easter Holiday.

D.P.N.R. said it manages the Columbus Landing Site area in cooperation with the National Park Service. "The Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve is a dynamic tropical ecosystem that protects significant natural and cultural

resources," stated the release issued Tuesday.

According to D.P.N.R, the following guidelines will keep these resources clean, healthy, and preserved for generations to come:

Guidelines for Campers at Salt River Bay Columbus Landing Site

- Identification must be shown if requested by a DPNR Enforcement Officer.
- No digging of any kind will be tolerated. Fire pits and trash pits are prohibited. Smoothing of the ground surface is allowed by hand, brush, rake or leaf rake only. No heavy equipment picks, or shovels are allowed on site.
- Campfires will be allowed if placed within a metal container or on bare sand. Fires and hot coals should be supervised and monitored always.
- All trash shall be removed from the site by individuals or individual families. Anyone caught littering will be cited with a violation of local littering laws. Beach and grounds cleanup activities are encouraged, even for those areas outside of individual campsites.
- Portable toilets and a trash bin will be provided from April 9 to April 24. The use of additional trash bins and portable toilets are encouraged. Do not place trash at bin site after the bin is removed on April 24th, carry it out.
- No motorized vehicles will be allowed on the earthen fort at Columbus Landing. Violators who drive onto the earthworks will be cited with a violation of the Antiquities and Cultural Properties Act (Title 29, Chapter 17 of the VI Code) and will be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500.
- Any fights, altercations, or loud, boisterous, or drunken activities will be dealt with by DPNR Enforcement Officers to the fullest extent of the law.
- Dogs and horses are prohibited.
- No cutting of brush or other vegetation, especially mangroves, or any of the trees on the beach.
- No marine organisms, native plants, or artifacts should be disturbed or removed from the site. Any violators will be persecuted to the full extent of the law.

Guidelines for Campers and Recreational Activities Within the East End Marine Park

- Shore based fishing by hook and line only is allowed from Chenay Bay to Cramer's Park on the north shore and Grapetree Point to Great Pond on the south shore. Spearfishing, the take of conch, lobster and whelk are prohibited from all EEMP beach access points.
- All temporary structures should be dismantled and removed from campsites at the end of your stay.
- All fires within park boundaries require a permit from V.I. Fire Service.
- Do not damage, trim, burn or remove coastal vegetation.
- All trash and debris must be removed from the campsite.
- The use of motor vehicles, ATVs, UTVs, and motorized bikes on beaches and salt ponds are prohibited.

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