

Sea Kayaking the Virgin Islands

Trip Information and Packing List

Trip Information

Time Change: The Virgin Islands are on Atlantic Standard Time, which is one hour earlier than Eastern Standard Time. When the continent goes on daylight savings time, the time in the Virgin Islands remains the same.

Passport Information: U.S. citizens need a passport, birth certificate, military I.D. or voter's registration card to enter the British Virgin Islands. All others need a valid passport.

Meeting Place in St. John: We are based in St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. To get to St. John, most people fly to St. Thomas first (where there is a major airport), then take a taxi to the eastern end of St. Thomas (known as Red Hook), then take the twenty-minute ferry from Red Hook.

Places to Stay on St. John: You will need lodging on St. John the night before the trip and the night after the trip. Names and phone numbers of several reasonably priced places to stay are listed below.

Less Expensive:

The Cruz Inn 1-800-666-7688
The Inn at Tamarind Court 1-800-221-1637
Maho Bay Camps 1-800-392-7449
The Raintree Inn 1-800-666-7449

More Expensive:

Caneel Bay Resort 1-800-223-7637
Gallows Point Resort 1-800-323-7229
The Hyatt Regency 1-800-233-1234

Packing List

We will meet on the first morning of the tour outside Big Planet Adventure Outfitters at 7:00 a.m. They carry a full line of outdoor clothing and accessories from Patagonia, The North Face, Sierra Designs, Teva, Sperry, Birkenstock, Ray Ban, Revo, and much more. The store hours are 10-6 daily.

Dressing for the tropics requires very few clothes, but it does require careful consideration. You have to remember that the sun can be brutal, and that you're going to be wet most of the time. Light colored clothes reflect the sun best. Remember that lightweight, long sleeve shirts work well for both sun and bug protection.

Paddling Clothes

- 2 or 3 shirts (preferably made of a poly/cotton blend)
- 2 bathing suits
- 1 pair of shoes or sandals for swimming and walking in the water (Teva's, Alpi's, or Aqua Socks work well, regular flip-flops don't)
- 1 hat - for keeping out the sun. Remember, a light colored hat will keep you cooler than a dark one. A string tied to your hat will keep the wind from blowing it away.

Camp Clothes

- 1 extra set of comfortable clothing for wearing around camp
- 1 lightweight rain jacket with hood
- 1 set of sleeping clothes or pajamas - after wearing wet, salty, sandy clothes all day, have a clean, dry set of clothes to sleep in is luxurious!
- In the winter, it can get cool at night, so bring along a sweatshirt or windbreaker

Other Items

- Plenty of non-greasy, waterproof sunscreen, SPF 15 or higher.
- Bring your own snorkeling gear.
- Small flashlight or headlamp, with extra batteries.
- Small pocketknife (optional).
- Camera (optional). If you do bring a camera, you may want to invest in a waterproof bag or dry box for it, or consider using a waterproof disposable camera.
- Small toiletry kit: toothbrush, toothpaste, comb/brush, biodegradable soap, baby powder, etc.
- Towel
- We provide everything else - all kayaking gear, meals, dry bags, tents, sleeping bags, and sleeping pads
- Please do not bring expensive watches, jewelry, camera equipment, or anything else that could get lost or ruined by saltwater and sand. Space is limited in the kayak so pack light! Any excess baggage/clothes can be stored with us for the duration of the trip.

Note: Far Flung Outdoor Center does not provide beer, wine, or alcohol for its guests. If you would like to bring beer, wine, or alcohol on the tour, feel free to do so. It will probably be cheaper and easier for you to buy it when you get to the Virgin Islands rather than bringing it with you. We do not drink until we are through paddling for the day.

Illegal substances are still prohibited in the Virgin Islands. In fact, the Virgin Islands has strict, "Zero Tolerance" laws against drug use or possession. If you bring anything other than prescription medication, we will ask you to leave the tour and you **will not receive a refund**.

