St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

Cruz Bay and Virgin Islands National Park

Your arrival

Many cruise visitors reach St. John from a St. Thomas call by taxi and scheduled public ferry. Some direct St. John calls use ship tenders. Confirm which journey applies: a public ferry is not your ship's tender.

Choose your main outing

DAY CHOICE	WHAT TO EXPECT / PLAN
Cruz Bay town	**Waterfront, Wharfside Village and visitor centre** A flexible town outing after arrival. Check current visitor-centre opening and access; leave time to reach the correct return dock.
Lind Point Trail	**Salomon and Honeymoon bays** The trail is about a mile to the beaches and includes hilly/uneven terrain. Check current trail access, heat and mobility needs; carry water. Beach services may cost extra.
Trunk Bay	**Beach and snorkeling option** An amenity fee applies. Arrange road transport and return pickup, then check current facilities, rentals, access and water conditions.
Other north-shore choices	**Cinnamon Bay, Hawksnest or Maho** Choose a manageable beach outing with a confirmed return. Do not assume calm water, available taxis or free facilities at every beach.
Annaberg ruins	**Heritage outing with road planning** Confirm site access, terrain and transport before adding it to a beach visit. Avoid stacking stops that consume your ferry-return margin.

A practical way to choose

Start the St. John portion of your plan in Cruz Bay. Choose town, a trail/beach walk, or one road-access beach/heritage outing. Transfers from St. Thomas are additional to all of these choices.

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Transport, conditions and your return

From a St. Thomas cruise call

Plan the full chain: cruise landing to the correct ferry departure by taxi; ferry to Cruz Bay; St. John outing; then reverse every leg. Red Hook, Charlotte Amalie and Crown Bay are separate departure places with operator/date-specific services. Verify the actual route and schedule.

Build the return around the boat

Choose an earlier confirmed return boat that leaves room for check-in, waiting, sea conditions, road traffic and a missed connection. Public schedules use local time; cruise deadlines use ship time. Reconcile the two before leaving.

Fees and local transport

NPS lists no general national-park entrance fee. Trunk Bay currently charges $5 per person ages 16+ and accepts card/mobile payment only; confirm current terms. Rentals and other services cost separately. Taxis are common; rental cars and limited public buses also exist, but neither guarantees a timely cruise connection.

Money & local arrangements

The US dollar is the currency; vehicles drive on the left. Confirm both taxi journeys and the exact boat/dock. For a direct tender call, use the ship's landing and final-tender instructions.

Check before leaving the terminal

Check trail/site notices, weather and water conditions. Confirm ferry departure point, ticket/check-in arrangements, alternate-return plan and the road journey back to your actual St. Thomas cruise dock.

Plan the complete return

Record all aboard / final tender in SHIP time. Work back from that deadline through every taxi, ferry, boat, walking and waiting leg; add a generous delay margin. Choose an earlier confirmed return where services are scheduled. Follow any stricter ship instructions. Estimated travel times are not a guarantee.

Official sources & current booking checks

https://www.nps.gov/viis/planyourvisit/directions.htm
https://www.nps.gov/viis/planyourvisit/fees.htm
https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/hike-the-lind-point-trails.htm
https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/salomonhoneymoon.htm
https://www.recreation.gov/activitypass/AP22093