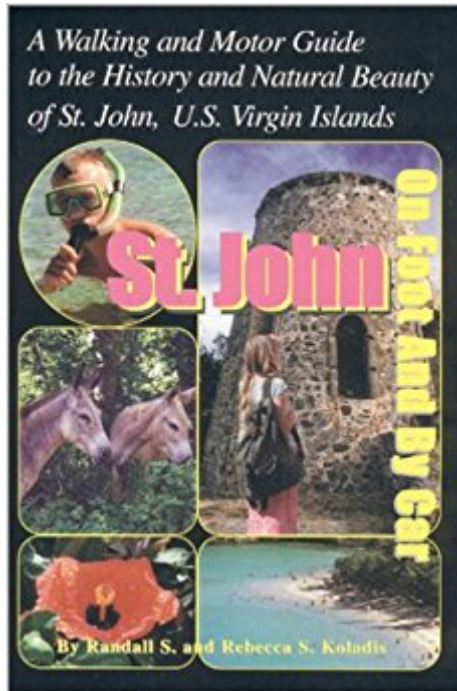




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St. John On Foot And By Car



Synopsis

St. John On Foot And By Car is an informative and entertaining guidebook featuring 4 self-guided walking and motor tours of the history, culture and natural beauty of St. John, US Virgin Islands. There is information on hiking trails and popular swimming and snorkeling beaches. Handy field guides help visitors learn firsthand about the exotic fauna and flora of this tropical paradise. Included are guides to local plants and trees as well as to the exciting array of tropical fish and other marine inhabitants of the crystal-clear waters surrounding St. John. The guidebook is designed to make St. John sightseeing a learning experience that is both adventuresome and fun. The authors, Randall and Rebecca Koladis, are frequent visitors and former residents of St. John. Collectively they have spent many years researching and compiling the information in this extremely attractive and easy-to-read book. Their self-guided tours provide a virtual road map of this unspoiled paradise, where nearly three-fifths of the island has been thoughtfully preserved as the Virgin Islands National Park. St. John On Foot And By Car is divided into several parts. It begins with an overview of this tiny Caribbean jewel, which measures only 21 square miles! There are only about 3,000 permanent residents, but each year the island attracts many hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world. There are no shopping malls, no high-rise resorts, no casinos and no traffic lights. But the scenery is breathtaking, the people are friendly and there are plenty of activities and attractions for everyone. The beaches are some of the most spectacular in the world! It is a picture-postcard island on which to escape and relax, and St. John On Foot And By Car is your own personal tour guide to a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Following the book's introduction, the authors include a brief history of the island beginning with the discovery of St. John by Columbus in 1493. Taino Indians, we learn, were in residence at the time of the Admiral's arrival. Tainos were a nation of peaceful Indians who supported themselves by fishing, gathering food from the land, and growing produce. The book is structured around the 4 self-guided tours, which are arranged and briefly described as follows: 1) WALKING TOUR OF THE CRUZ BAY VILLAGE (2.5 Hours). This tour begins with a visit to the National Park Visitor Center followed by a brief hike out to Lind Battery, where visitors can enjoy the panoramic view of Cruz Bay Village below. Other highlights of the tour include visits to the Administration Building (a former 18-century fortress) and the Ivan Jadan Museum, which houses over 5,000 letters, documents, artifacts and photos related to the life and singing career of Ivan Jadan, a former Soviet dissident and one of the great Russian tenors of the 20th-century, who made St. John his adopted home. 2) NORTH SIDE TOUR (4.5 Hours). Takes visitors to some of the most stunning beaches on St. John. The tour begins at the historic Caneel Bay Plantation Resort, which played a key role in St. John's slave revolt of 1733. Also included are visits to the restored ruins of

the Annaberg sugar factory and Cinnamon Bay, where artifacts of Pre-Colombian Indians have been recently unearthed. 3) CENTERLINE ROAD (4.5 Hours). Includes visits to the ruins of the Cathrineburg sugar plantation and Coral Bay Village, the site of St. John's original Danish settlement. Visitors are also guided to the isolated East End community, whose self-reliant residents are known for their skills as stone masons, boat builders and basket makers. Includes stops at popular Salt Pond and Lameshur Bay beaches. 4) REEF BAY HIKE (5 Hours). A full-day hike into St. John's fascinating world of fauna and flora. Hikers visit ancient Indian rock carvings and the abandoned ruins of one of the last operating sugar factories on St. John. This 126-page guidebook is fully illustrated with a lot of color photography. Makes a wonderful gift idea for anyone who has ever been or who might be contemplating a trip to the US Virgin Islands. A must for first-time and repeat visitors alike!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Presents [adventurous] readers the prospect of exploring and discovering St. John without professional guides; historical sites, underwater worlds... hiking trails... culture.” -- By Claudette Jones, The Daily News of the Virgin Islands, February 11, 2002

Randy Koladis and his wife, Becky, are long-time lovers of St. John and the Virgin Islands. The couple was married on nearby St. Thomas and lived for a number of years on St. Thomas and St. John. Randy was a former teacher at All Saints School on St. Thomas, and he also worked at Caneel Bay Resort on St. John. Although the couple now resides in Hartford, Connecticut with their three children, they are, nevertheless, frequent visitors to the Virgin Islands and St. John - the island

of their dreams.

Great!

I just finished a 10-day vacation to St. John. I bought (& brought) 3 guide books, of which this book was by far the worst and the most overpriced for what you get. Why the worst? Well, let's see ... 1) no maps (well one, an overview of the island, which is wholly inadequate), an essential for any trip to hilly & windy roaded St. John 2) lacks detail: for example, it lists 12 beaches, completely overlooking the other 27 beaches (many of which you will want to consider visiting), and gives you about 25 words on each of the beaches it deigns to list 3) about 3/4'ths of the book is comprised of bad color photographs Given the above, at \$...it's a waste of money. Basically, I think the books is a gloss-over of St. John that rehashes what's available for free from the Park Service. So what guide book to buy? My wife & I lived by two: 1) St. John: Feet, Fins, & Four-Wheel Drive and 2) St. John -- Off the Beaten Track. Neither of these will give you good up-to-date reviews of restaurants and the like, but both will give you much more important info on the beaches, the drives, and hikes, and the other "permanent" features of St. John.

I came across this book while surfing the internet looking for somewhere different that we could go for our family vacation. I found the website written by the authors which is worth checking out if you want to find out more indepth information on the book and the place. It's: [...] Getting to this lush island is an adventure in itself, but once we arrived, it was wonderful. For once we didn't feel taken advantage of by the many services geared towards tourists. We were able to explore the island indepth and at our own pace. Our children also loved reading this very accesible guidebook and helped in planning our daily activities. My favorite aspects of this guidebook is that it is small enough to throw into a beachbag and bring with you, and also that the authors didn't just list out a bunch of place for us to visit, but that they actually spent the time designing tours for us to truely explore what this unique island has to offer. St. John on Foot and by Car has provided us with a wonderful experience that we will not be quick to forget!!!

I was really impressed by this informative guide book. My boyfriend and I are very much into eco-adventures and we stumbled upon this handy guide book while surfing the web. We loved the website and ordered the book immediately. The best part of the book for us was the fact that the authors were really in touch with the cultural and historic aspects of the island and that while

simultaneously detailing various tours for us to try, they did not tell us everything that we would see. This led for many exciting day trips and adventuring on our own! This book led us in the right directions, and gave us just enough information to explore the island on our own terms! St. John has so many beautiful beaches and vistas that it was a thrill to discover them along the way when following the information provided by the authors in the motoring tours and by investigating the charming map that was provided. My boyfriend and I had such a wonderful time that we are planning to go back again next year, and we definately wouldn't think of going back without our copy of St. John on Foot and by Car!!!!

St. John is an amazing island! I have traveled to many islands over the course of my life with my wife. We have typically stayed in resorts, or once we hired a chartered sailboat and visited from a different angle. However those trips paled in comparison to this recent visit to the island of St. John in the USVI. We ended up visiting this island because a friend recommended that we check out this guidebook online. We reviewed the author's website, "[...]" and decided to purchase the book and plan our trip. We approached this trip in a different way than usual. We decided to explore the island, and all that it had to offer and we avoided the typical activities such as shopping that we usually do. We visited historic sites, treked down the Reef Bay trail, ate native foods and found hidden romantic beaches away from the crowds. All in all, we had an amazing time and I for one can't wait for the authors to come out with their next guidebook so that I can start planning our next adventure!

I have just returned home from a very special wedding on St. John, USVI. This book, St. John on Foot and By Car was included in the welcome packets that all the guests received. What a great idea! It is a colorful, informative book that gave me (and the rest of the wedding group) a snapshot of the island and provided just the right amount of island information. It is obvious that the authors are very familiar with the island, its history and charm. It is a very special remembrance of my friend's wedding location. I would recommend this book to anyone! In fact, I liked it so much that I intend to purchase several copies for friends who are planning a trip to St. John.

My friends and I all went down to the Virgin Islands over spring break. We were staying on St. Thomas, but got tired of shopping and decided that we wanted to do some exploring. We were directed to take a ferry over to St. John where I found this book in a local shop. We rented a jeep and followed the North Shore route where we visited Annaberg and stopped at Trunk Bay for a

swim. What a wonderful little book! It really helped us to learn about how special an island St. John is, and made us feel more like explorers of a tropical paradise rather than some tourists that are shuttled back and forth. I only wish that we had been able to stay longer and visit more of the sites listed in this guidebook.

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