

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO BUCK ISLAND REEF NATIONAL MONUMENT, VIRGIN ISLANDS

LOCATION: Buck Island Reef National Monument lies off the northeast shore of the island of St. Croix, in the U. S. Virgin Islands. Some thirty square miles of mostly water have been set aside to protect the coral reef and allow for its judicious enjoyment. Most of the Monument is below sea level, but the island rises to a few tens of feet higher. Access is by private boat or by concessioner boat from Christiansted on St. Croix. The Monument is closed from sunset to sunrise, and there is not overnight camping or anchorage. Buck Island itself has no facilities except a primitive footpath. All of the chief attractions of the Monument are underwater. There is an excellent snorkeling trail off the eastern end of the island. This summary also applies to *Christiansted National Historic Site* in Christiansted, and to the *Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve* on the northern shore of St. Croix.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	11:12	11:34	12:02	12:32	12:58	13:11	13:05	12:44	12:16	11:46	11:20	11:06
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	8:18	8:37	9:21	9:20	8:45	9:35	9:38	9:40	8:36	8:30	7:56	8:09
AREA OF BLUE SKY	57%	56%	56%	53%	44%	47%	48%	52%	47%	50%	52%	55%
LOW FOR MONTH	65°	66°	66°	69°	71°	73°	74°	72°	71°	69°	67°	66°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	70°	69°	70°	72°	74°	75°	76°	76°	75°	74°	72°	71°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	83°	84°	84°	85°	86°	88°	88°	88°	88°	87°	86°	84°
HIGH FOR MONTH	87°	87°	87°	88°	89°	90°	91°	91°	91°	90°	90°	88°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	13%	20%	28%	23%	13%	4%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	61%	58%	57%	64%	64%	62%	63%	65%	65%	65%	65%	64%
NEARBY WATERS	80°	79°	79°	80°	81°	82°	83°	83°	84°	84°	82°	79°
DRY DAYS	47%	58%	61%	65%	60%	55%	51%	49%	51%	51%	48%	50%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	82%	82%	86%	80%	76%	76%	73%	70%	64%	72%	70%	73%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.41	0.30	0.25	0.38	0.66	0.49	0.54	0.68	1.02	0.90	0.88	0.48
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	5%	7%	7%	11%	7%	6%	2%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 73% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a "low" of 68% in May, to a high of 78% in March. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 63°, and the highest should be near 93°. Humidities are high all year long. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be substantially higher than the actual ones. There is very little climatic difference from one part of the island to another, although the northern and eastern shores get the direct benefit of the prevailing Northeast Trades. These very persistent winds tend to be at their peak in the late morning or early afternoon, and at their gentlest in the wee hours of the night. They average about eleven to twelve miles per hour. The hurricane season officially runs from June through November, but almost all of these storms pass farther north. St. Croix has about one chance in thirteen of having a hurricane in any given year.