



**INDIAN
VALLEY
TRAVEL**



Leaders in Sustainable & Accessible Travel

St. Croix:

Be a Farmer in Paradise!

Organic Farming & Sustainable Practices for Reef Preservation

Length of Trip: 8 Days / 7 Nights

ACCESSIBILITY RATING:



THE PROJECT

Learn and practice minimal-impact farming on the only all-organic farm in the US Virgin Islands. Participate in educational seminars on topics such as herbalism, sustainable land utilization and organic farming practices. Conduct a beach cleanup, construct hiking trails, and assist with other improvements to protect the natural resources, rain forests and offshore reefs of this beautiful Caribbean island.

BACKGROUND

Pollution from land-based sources is a primary cause of coral reef degradation throughout the world. In the Caribbean, for example, approximately 80 percent of ocean pollution originates from activities on land. As human populations expand in coastal areas, development alters the landscape, increasing runoff from land. Runoff often carries large quantities of sediment from land-clearing, high levels of nutrients from agricultural areas and sewage outflows, and pollutants such as petroleum products and pesticides. These land-based sources of pollution threaten coral reef health.

Founded in 2003, the Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute mission is to provide a working educational farm model that integrates sustainability in education, environment, and community through quality instruction in Agroecology and related fields. VISFI is located on the 200-acre forest campus of Creque Dam Farm. The farm is the first and only USDA certified organic farm in the US Virgin Islands, and also has achieved the Green Globe certification for sustainability beyond "best practices."

Our group will travel to the Eastern Caribbean for one week to work at the Ridge to Reef Farm in a remote location in the mountain highlands of St. Croix. Ridge to Reef is the only sustainable farm in the Virgin Islands and their practices benefit the local community through educational projects, conservation of local rain forest lands and supplying organic produce to local markets. Ridge to Reefs preservation of the adjacent watershed has had a direct impact on the beach 3 miles down the mountains. Frequent beach cleanups by Ridge to Reef volunteers add the conservation effects to preserve the surrounding coral reefs of St. Croix.

The trip starts in St Croix where our group will meet at the airport in Christiansted. Please arrange your flights to arrive by 4pm Saturday afternoon. Our van will pick you up at the airport in Christiansted and transfer you to Ridge to Reef Farm for the week. The IVT van will be available during the week after daily farming duties for group trips and activities back to coastal cities of St. Croix.

After project duties are completed, the final two days are open for personal recreation and to enjoy optional local adventure activities like SCUBA diving, horseback riding, sea kayaking tours, trail hiking and more.

**Minimum
Contribution:
\$775**

Project Partner:

Virgin Islands Sustainable Farm Institute

2012 Expedition Dates:

March 31 – April 7

June 9 – 16

August 11 – 18

November 3 – 10

Gateway City: N/A

Trip Highlight:

- ▶ Roundtrip Airport Transfers & local transportation
- ▶ 7 Night Accommodations at Ridge to Reef Farm
- ▶ Group Van access for week for transfers to and from Ridge to Reef Farm
- ▶ Continental breakfast included each morning
- ▶ Two organic farming classroom sessions

Optional add-ons:

Adventure tours are available through our licensed tour operators. These include:

- ▶ SCUBA Diving
- ▶ Snorkeling
- ▶ Hiking
- ▶ Kayaking
- ▶ Sightseeing & Rain Forest Tours

And so much more. Contact us for details.

Please note:

Add-on flights from any departure city available at an additional charge.

Airfare portion of package not guaranteed until ticketed.

No changes to the trip as shown and no refunds will be granted for unused services.



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EXCLUDED

- ▶ **Flight costs** – unless otherwise noted
- ▶ **Optional adventure activities & tours**
- ▶ **Misc. trip costs** – Additional meals, checked bag fees (if applicable), equipment rental, departure taxes/fees
- ▶ **Travel & Dive* insurance** – both are highly recommended for this trip. (* if diving is a part of this trip)

TERMS: *Refund Policy & Customer Responsibilities*

- ▶ No refund or credit will be made on any payments
- ▶ No refund or credit will be made for any activities or lodging not used by the customer by choice or due to inclement weather
- ▶ Any payment made to Indian Valley Travel indicates acceptance of the terms and conditions
- ▶ Valid passport or valid government identification with original birth certificate required
- ▶ Indian Valley Travel shall not, at any time, be responsible in any way for loss, injury, or damage arising from any causes beyond its control including but not limited to theft, cancellation, regulations or illness
- ▶ Indian Valley Travel accepts no liability for the consequences of personal activity by any customer
- ▶ The customer will be responsible for concerns of health, fitness to participate and personal safety
- ▶ Indian Valley Travel reserves the right, without notice, to make changes and/or cancellations as it deems necessary
- ▶ Customers have the sole responsibility of ensuring their compliance with all immigration laws of the United States & the destination countries

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: *Securing your trip reservation*

- ▶ \$500 non-refundable deposit per person is required at time of reservation
- ▶ \$500 due 120 days prior to expedition start date
- ▶ Balance due 60 days prior to expedition start date

Pricing is per person based upon double occupancy. Single, Triple and Quad Occupancy rates are available upon request

PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Passport/Full Legal Name: _____ **Date of Trip:** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Email Address: _____

I have read & accept the above terms & conditions.

Signature

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under age 18)

Date

When communicating personal details and trip needs with an IVT associate, please have the following handy: Passport # and expiration date
For those trips including scuba diving, please provide: DAN Membership #, C-Card #, Agency & Diver Level