



Archeology Program

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NPS NEWS

Virgin Islands National Park Opens Archeology Laboratory

Virgin Islands NP has announced the opening of the Educational Center and Archeology Laboratory at Cinnamon Bay. Displays showcase artifacts found on St. John, St. Thomas and Hassel Island. Virgin Islands NP Cultural Program Manager Ken Wild has led archeological investigations in the park for more than 30 years, and in many respects, the new laboratory is the sum of his career working in the territory.

Artifacts come from excavations at Lameshur Bay, Tutu, Hassel Island and various plantation investigations around the district. The oldest artifacts were found at Krum Bay, St. Thomas, and are about 1,000 years old, although the center chronicles the human existence on the islands going back about 3,000 years. Visitors can follow the rise of the Taino Indians, the fall of the Taino as Spanish explorers arrive, the European colonists, up to the Danish settlers and the post-emancipation era. An exhibit on maritime history in the Virgin Islands is also a key element at the center.

The Educational Center and Archeology Laboratory is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with docents providing guided tours. The center may also be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays if the archeologist and interns are working in the laboratory.

From story by Aldeth Lewin, Virgin Islands Daily News Staff



Ken Wild shows off one of the new display cases in the Educational Center.