GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4611 Tutu Park Mall
Suite 300, 2nd Floor
St. Thomas, VI 00802
(340) 774-3320

45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted
St. Croix, VI 00840
(340) 773-1082
dpnr.vi.gov

Office of the Commissioner

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator
Jamal.nielsen@dpnr.vi.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2022

DPNR TO OFFER FREE KAYAK TOURS ON ST. THOMAS

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources invites St. Thomas residents to join in the opportunity to enjoy our islands' natural resources by exploring a wildlife sanctuary and marine reserve during a FREE kayak adventure beginning January 1, 2023.

"As part of our mission at the Division of Fish and Wildlife to encourage Virgin Islanders is to enjoy and appreciate all of our wonderful natural resources, we will be providing 200 FREE vouchers for a three-hour adventure of kayaking, hiking, and snorkeling with **Virgin Islands EcoTours**," said Nicole Angeli, Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Vouchers will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis to current residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands beginning January 1, 2023. Children must be at least ten years old to participate and must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a limit of eight people per reservation and each person may apply for a voucher only once.

Participants will get to kayak through mangrove water ways, hike on Cas Cay, and witness tidal pools, volcanic cliffs, and a geological blowhole before paddling back to the Mangrove Lagoon Marina. Each participant will be asked to complete a brief survey at the end of each tour as a requisite for participating in this program.

To make a reservation, call **Virgin Islands EcoTours** at 340-779-2155 or toll-free 1-877-684-2441 and mention the phrase **DPNR-DFW2023** or visit https://viecotours.com/. For more information, call the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 340-775-6762 ext. 5201.