Northwest Off-Road
4x4 Island Safari
1/2 Day Tour

Come and spend a half day touring the lush northwest section of St. Croix with Ay-Ay Eco Tours, the authority on the environment and history of St. Croix and the Caribbean. Ras Lumumba will show you high overlooks with panoramic vistas of St. Croix, and secluded streams and forest glades replete with our unique history, culture, and environment.

Your tour includes: Lush Scenic Ridge West road, Annaly Bay Tidal Pools, Mount Victory Camp, Creque Dam Road, majestic Mahogany Road; L.E.A.P. mahogany factory and the Country Snacks stand. Cool off with one of their all-natural tropical fruit smoothies and try a West Indian treat.

Duration: Approx. 4-5 hours. Per person - $80, min. 3 persons.

Custom Scheduling We are pleased to tailor our departure and return times and hike durations to match your schedule. Call for details.

What You Need First, you need to pick a hike that suits your level of physical activity and the time you want to spend with Ras Lumumba. Then, organize your gear to maximize your comfort and interests. Good hiking shoes/sneakers, a hat for the sun, T-shirt, and sun block will be useful for all hikes. You may also get a bit of history and Caribbean culture, pertinent to the locale you traverse. What you hear will depend upon your interests and your questions. You may also get some surprises...

The Hikes & Talks described here will include a rambling informal lecture based on the species actually encountered, their properties (both actual and legendary) and the taxonomic Latin names as well as the more colorful appellations by which they are known in the Caribbean. The very same plant may be called by any of up to twenty or thirty different names, depending on the island (sometimes which part of the island), culture, language, and use. You will also get a bit of history and Caribbean culture, pertinent to the locale you traverse. What you hear will depend upon your interests and your questions. You may also get some surprises...

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Maroon Ridge (continued) is a very special place for the people of the Virgin Islands and particularly the people of St. Croix. It was in this area where some slaves killed themselves by jumping off the cliff in the 1700s to avoid slavery. Maroon Ridge is also a significant part of our history as a stronghold for the runaway slaves on the island. It was there where Maroons, or escaped slaves, fought the French, then later the Danish to protect the forrest of St. Croix.

In this particular area you will see or hear rare birds such as: Bridled Quail dove, Caribbean Elaenia, & Black Whiskered Vireo. The scenery is breathtaking. You must also see the old Lighthouse on top of Ham's Bluff, in fact, the only one left in the entire U.S. Virgin Islands. Please travel with your swimsuit, for at the end of your tour you may cool off in the inviting Caribbean sea.

Eco Walk is Strenuous. Duration: 3 hours. Per person - $50 (3)

**Salt River Bay: Jewel of Ay-Ay (St. Croix)**

Eco Hike & Talk

The historical and archæological significance of Salt River rests on its remarkable history of human settlement, dating back to pre-Columbian times when villages of extended families dotted Salt River. From other archæological finds on St. Croix, experts think that Salt River would have been a likely home for pre-ceramic peoples living more than three thousand years ago. Salt River Bay is the first and best documented site where Christopher Columbus made landfall on his second voyage to the New World.

Columbus arrived at the mouth of Salt River with 17 ships on November 14, 1493 and sent his soldiers ashore in search of fresh food and water. Although the Carib Indians abandoned their village and fled to the hills, the explorer’s ships remained in the first violent encounter between Europe and the Carib Indians.

Salt River contains nearly 45 acres of white and black mangrove forest and is fringed by red mangroves. Along with salt ponds and shallow-water estuarine environments, the area is considered the rarest type of West Indian estuarine habitat.

Eco Walk is Moderate. Duration: 2.5 hours. Per person - $55 (3)

**Estate Annyal, Mt. Victory, Creque Dam...and (optional) Sprat Beach**

Eco Hike & Talk

You will be bussed from Estate East End to Hall to Estate Annyal where your tour begins. On this exciting Rainforest Eco Hike & Talk tour you will enjoy the most spectacular vistas that very few experience. The excitement begins at Estate East End and the tour will stop by the largest man-made ponds on the Island, Hermitage Pond. Hermitage Pond is teeming with shore birds and water birds, such as Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Ducks, Common Moorhens, Black-Faced Stilts, Great Blue Herons, Green Backed Egrets, and many more. Chickens are dancing through the air, the thundering sounds of tropical birds are everywhere and local blossoms permeate the air. From Hermitage Pond your hike continue across the pasture to the overgrown ruins of Estate Hermitage. From Hermitage ruins we travel the western trail to the Guava Patch and back to your car.

Eco Walk is Moderate. Duration: 2.5-3 hours. Per person - $50 (3)

**Estate Mount Stoww**

As we meander along the verdant mountain ridge your naturalist tour guide will bring the island's colorful history to life. He will also point out the many wild flowers and medicinal herbs such as Fissey-bed-bush, Black Sassafras, Man-Better-Man, etc., and many tropical trees such as the mighty Kapok tree (Ceiba Pentandra) which was sacred to the indigenous inhabitants of the Caribbean. You will have the opportunity to sample some of our tropical fruits and nuts in season such as Mangos, Sugar-apple, Guanabana (soursop), Guanabana, Purple Currants, West Indian Almond, Stinking-toe, Papaya, Tamarind, Passion Fruit, and many more.

From the mountain ridge we walk to the Sustainable Farm Institute, an organic farming green agricultural project. Then we walk to the estate. On another 18th century sugar plantation, Estate Mount Victory was established in the vicinity. In this particular area we will visit Mount Victory Camp and the ruins of Mount Victory School, a series of 17 schools established throughout the Virgin Islands in 1843 by Governor Frayne and John Scholten as part of social reform. From Mount Victory Camp we walk along the lush scenic valley of Creque