

The easiest getaway: Caneel Bay Resort

BY DAVID LAHUTA

VIRGIN PARK

St. John When Laurance Rockefeller opened Caneel Bay Resort in 1956, it was the only hotel on St. John within the boundaries of Virgin Islands National Park — 7,000 unspoiled acres. Today, not much has changed. Caneel Bay, with its 166 electronics-free rooms (no phones, alarm clocks or TVs), remains the park's singular property, a low-key luxury retreat (from \$409 per night) that my wife and I can't get enough of. In part, this is because of its easy access. St. John is part of the USVI, so a passport isn't required. And we've always been fans of the boozy 40-minute ferry ride from St. Thomas, a red-carpet arrival if ever there was one, since St. John doesn't have an airport.

All this explains why we've returned again, this time with our two young kids. They love exploring the lush trails and spotting wandering wild donkeys. There are also the resort's seven white-sand beaches (Hawksnest for golden sunrises, Scott for adults-only quiet, Honeymoon for absolute seclusion). Even Caneel's cuisine is enough to warrant a stay, something my wife reminds me while devouring squid-ink linguine with Caribbean lobster at ZoZo's, an open-air restaurant housed in the ruins of an 18th-century sugar mill. And as the sun sets into the midnight-blue sea, we smile knowing that we can do it all over again tomorrow. caneelbay.com





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