Virtual Dry Tortugas National Park Expedition

Trip Description:



Dry Tortugas National Park is located at one of the southernmost points in the United States. This park Is a mix of beautiful coral reefs and historical sites. At this park, both history and biodiversity come into full focus.

Virtual Tour Links:

The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks, Dry Tortugas National Park, is linked below.
https://artsandculture.withgoogle.com/en-us/national-parks-service/bryce-canyon/sunset-point-tour

Navigating the Park:

Be sure to have headphones on and plugged in or you volume up on you computed before you start your underwater adventure at Dry Tortugas. When you click the link above to start the virtual tour, DO NOT click skip intro when it appears. Instead, watch the introduction video to its entirety. This introductory video is important because it provides great context and background to both the reef and historical sites of the park. Periodically (after the introduction), at the top right of the screen, a circle will sometimes appear. That circle will have a “play” triangle icon within. If you click this, it gives you background information from a park ranger about the location you’re currently viewing. In the top middle of the screen, there is sometimes a circle that pops up with a photograph within. That circle takes you on various experiences within the park if you click it. Do not click the right facing arrow on the right side of the screen, that skips the park entirely (we don’t want to skip the tour before we begin!). The four squares within a circle icon at the bottom left corner of the screen pulls up a list of other parks that you could visit in the future (keep this in mind after we finish with our adventure). If you want to change your orientation while on the tour, grab and drag your screen by left clicking and moving the mouse. Various yellow and red icons may pop up during your tour. If you click them, you will get extra mini adventures and more in depth information. OK, let's begin!

Virtual Tour:

Introduction video
Click the link above to begin your virtual tour. After completing the background introductory video (it automatically plays), answer the questions below.

1. During which historical era was the fort at Dry Tortugas constructed?

2. How many people once lived in the fort?

3. What is the name of the fort at Dry Tortugas?

4. Who lives at the fort now?

Diving Dry Tortugas
Dry Tortugas National Park is a fascinating mix of cultural and biological resources. Let's explore some of the Rangers Brian and Nick.

5. What do Rangers Brian and Nick see their roles as while working in the park?

6. Why is protecting a reef like the reef at Dry Tortugas so important?

Swimming through a reef
Swim through the reef with Rangers Brian and Nick. To do this, click on the circle icon with the image within. when you begin swimming, click the circle icon at the top right of the screen, it will give you some important information. Once finished swimming through the reef, answer the questions below.

7. What is coral exactly?

8. What is the name of the species of plant that lives in coral?

9. How old is some of the oldest coral at the reef?

10. Park Ranger Brian mentioned coral being delicate. What are some of the things that could kill coral?

11. Coral is considered to be a keystone species to ocean biomes. What does this mean?

12. Are all corals on the decline?

Dive the Windjammer Shipwreck
Shipwrecks have benefits to oceans with depreciating habitats. In a place where there are less and less places for plants and animals to live, a shipwreck can be a welcome site. Click on the Circle icon to the right of the page that allows you to dive and explore the Windjammer shipwreck with Rangers Brian and Nick. Grab and pull on the screen to look at different objects.

13. When did the Windjammer sink?

14. What reef did the Windjammer hit?

15. Did the crew survive?

16. When Ranger Nick said the ship is living it's second life, what did he mean by that?

17. As you swim through the site of the wreck, is the actual shipwreck easy to spot? Why or why not?

Explore Fort Jefferson
Fort Jefferson, once a bustling place with thousands of residents is now home to a few park rangers. Fort Jefferson only takes up 1% of Dry Tortugas National Park, but has immense cultural and historical significance. Click on the circle icon to the left of the page with a photograph of the fort within it. This will allow you to explore this fort with Rangers Brian and Nick.

18. What was significant about the way the fort was designed?

19. What building material was used to construct Fort Jefferson?

Tour Fort Jefferson
Click on the red hovering button over Fort Jefferson. This will allow you to take a tour of this special place. Once completed, answer the questions below.

20. Why is Fort Jefferson considered an engineering marvel?

21. How many cannons were based at Fort Jefferson.

22. How many bricks did it take to complete Fort Jefferson?

23. Who built Fort Jefferson?

24. What else is historically and culturally significant about Fort Jefferson.

Listen to the sounds of the reef

Click on the green icon havering just over the water. This will allow you to listen to the sound of the reef. Once you have a listen, answer the questions below.

25. What sounds did you hear?

26. Were any of them abiotic? If so, list some below.

27. Were any of them biotic? If so, list them below.

Congratulations! You've seen all of Dry Tortugas National Park. I think you're ready for your next national park adventure.