

Great Thatch Island

Saving a National Treasure for the British Virgin Islands



Great Thatch Island is one of the most culturally, historically, and ecologically significant landscapes in the Caribbean. This project will restore it as a flagship destination for heritage, biodiversity, and sustainable tourism—creating jobs and revenues for the British Virgin Islands while preserving and celebrating national identity.

The BVI National Parks Trust will oversee all management, development, and operations to ensure conservation standards are maintained, ownership is transparent, and governance is consistent.

- Develop controlled, sustainable access with eco-sensitive infrastructure, overseen by the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands.

This is a once-in-a-generation UNESCO World Heritage Site opportunity for the BVI to lead the Caribbean in linking heritage, biodiversity, and sustainable tourism.

Suggested Implementation Timeline (2026–2030)

Year	Milestone	Visitor Attraction Delivered
2026	Preparation & Early Access	Guided walks, signage, NPT moorings, café/bar concession, school visits
2027	Expanded Attraction	Improved trails, dock, expanded café, family activities
2028	Core Development	Heritage storytelling, artisan program, children's digital app
2029	Destination Completion	Restored structures, learning center, artisan market
2030	Long-Term Sustainability	Fully operational, community governance, family (local and tourist) focused

Income & Benefits for the BVI

Appropriate overheads, running costs, visitor fees and support mechanisms will be built in so that the site generates a sustainable surplus, a top priority during the development stage.

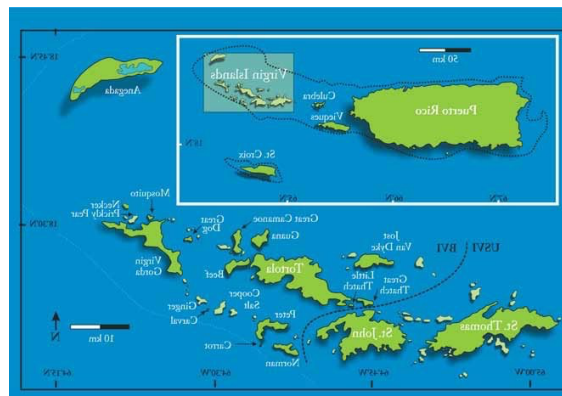
- Controlled visitor numbers projected to generate \$2M annually by Year 5, strengthening long-term government revenues.
- Creation of skilled jobs in heritage conservation, ecological monitoring, guiding, hospitality, and cultural enterprise.
- Education and training programmes embedded for schools, young people, and local entrepreneurs.
- International visibility for the BVI as a Caribbean leader in regenerative tourism and cultural heritage.

Phased Budget

Phase	Focus	Cost (USD)
Phase 1	Access & Early Visitor Offer	\$0.5M
Phase 2	Core Infrastructure & Ecology	\$1.5M
Phase 3	Heritage & Interpretation	\$1.5M
Phase 4	Visitor Experience & Governance	\$1.5M
Total		\$5.0M

Progress You Can See and Visit

The Great Thatch Island Project will evolve in phases that each deliver a financially viable visitor experience. From the very first stage, families and visitors will be welcomed with guided walks, refreshments, and engaging interpretation. By completion, the island will stand as a world-class, community-led, child- and family-friendly destination that safeguards BVI heritage and biodiversity while generating sustainable income and jobs and positioning the British Virgin Islands as a leader in Caribbean regenerative tourism.



Justin T. Albert OBE

*Trustee, National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands
Chair, Rewilding Britain*