

The Tropical Savanah and Water Conservation at Camp Wall

The island of St. Croix has a varied climate structure. It is commonly referred to as a **Tropical Savanna**. This means that it has a distinct rainy season and a distinct dry season. If your Camp Wall Adventure occurs between June and October, you will be on St. Croix during the hot and dry season. The only rain that you should at experience at that time is the occasional brief shower.

As you make your way around St. Croix during your Camp Wall adventure week, you will notice that the west end of the island is at a higher elevation than the east end of the island. Also, you may notice that the wind tends to blow from east to west. Because of this you may also notice that clouds tend to accumulate in the west. This is where most of the rain on St. Croix falls and as you travel there, you will find a lush **rain forest environment**.

The area around Camp Wall on the other hand, is some of the driest on the island. This is a **semi-arid environment** and is marked by grasses and shrubs with an occasional tree. On the far eastern end of the island at the **Point Udall National Park**, you will find mostly grasses and cactus. This is the most eastern point of the United States and we hope you get a chance to go there.

At Camp Wall, we have two water sources. Water is drawn from a well for the shower house. It is filtered through the terrain by **osmosis** to the well and is limited by the amount of water in the ground. From there it goes to a reservoir which takes time to fill. Once the reservoir is emptied, it may take a significant amount of time to refill.

The second source is from the collection of rain water from the roofs of our lodge building into a **cistern**. This is a very common practice in the Caribbean. We use the rain water for cooking and drinking only.

So, while you are on your Camp Wall Adventure, we ask that you conserve water as best as possible. In order to do this, please consider the following practices:

1. **Do not let the water run in the sink when brushing teeth and shaving. Turn it off while brushing/shaving and back on when rinsing.**
2. **Take shorter showers. We also encourage the use of a personal solar heated shower source in the washroom.**
3. **Consider dividing your group so that some shower in the AM and some in the PM**
4. **Use personal and reusable water bottles for drinking and do not “throw out” water. Remember, you are in a tropical climate and closer to the sun than you are used to so stay in the shade and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!**
5. **Assign water conservation officers for each patrol on each day to monitor your Troop’s conservation practices and present that day’s water conservation report.**

Remember: only Mother Nature can replace the water once it’s gone!!