

The Wonders of the Sister Islands



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Tortola is the largest island in the British Virgin Islands. The capital of the B.V.I. is located there and is called Road Town. This is where many people go to do Banking, Shopping, Government business transactions, seek medical care and many other activities; however it may be considered a disservice to oneself to actually live in or travel to this territory without making an effort to explore the Wonders of the Sister Islands: Anegada, Virgin Gorda, Jost Van Dyke and all of the smaller islets and cays. More information about the various islands, activities and sites can be viewed <https://www.bvitourism.com>.





MESSAGE FROM Hon. Melvin Mitch Turnbull

Minister of Natural Resources and Labour



I am delighted to make my debut in the Sister Island Newsletter as the Minister responsible for Natural Resources and to lead the charge to protect them. These Beautiful Virgin Islands are a canvas that God used to show his finest handiwork, particularly in the diverse makeup of the sister islands, which hold the majority of our national parks. That's no coincidence. Persons travel from lands far and near, spend their money and reserve their time just to be with us, sometimes time and time again. So, what is it that makes them come? Well, I've been told that it's the peace, the stillness, the beauty, and the pristine quality of our natural habitats, along with the wholesome goodness of the Virgin Islands' people, that make this one of the world's favourite retreats.

It is because of this that we in the Ministry responsible for our territory's Natural Resources will be pushing a little harder and speaking a little louder about preserving these same resources. It's why as the Minister for Natural Resources, I intend to fight to increase budgets and locate resources

that'll engage us more effectively in preservation and development of the blue economy in the Virgin Islands. The fact is that our natural beauty is our brand, and which frankly cannot be taken away unless we neglect to preserve it.

I extend heartfelt congratulations to Sister Islander of the Quarter Mr. Athley Stevens, a long-standing champion of nature preservation, who has dedicated his life's work to maintaining the beauty of the Virgin Islands. I take the time now to give him the flowers he is due for the amazing commitment he has made to his passion, which in turn has led to major advancements.

For those locally and abroad that have not ventured off Tortola on to the sister islands, I just have one question. What are you waiting for? If I had to choose what I want persons to take away from this message, it would be that you're missing out. One ferry and a taxi-ride will take you to the boulder caves at The Baths where you can hike over to Devil's Bay in your swimwear; One can snorkel or dive the historical

Wreck of the RMS Rhone; Tan somewhere different like Cam Bay at Great Camanoë; Visit the Tobagos and watch the frigate birds; Sail over to Jost Van Dyke and take a dip in the natural bubbly pool; Visit the Flamingo Pond and Iguana Sanctuary in Anegada or even go horseback riding or swim by the conch shell mound. I've mentioned a few but there's so much more.

In closing, there is an aim I want us all to share, and that is to have Jost Van Dyke, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and all neighbouring islands to Tortola not be viewed as sister islands. These islands in fact equally make up the Virgin Islands, and there would be no Virgin Islands without your beauty, your people, and your tourism. So, here's to preserving the beauty of all of our islands and ensuring their development.

Hon. Melvin Mitch Turnbull





SISTER ISLANDER OF THE QUARTER Mr. Athley Stevens

Senior Terrestrial Warden for National Parks Trust on the island of Virgin Gorda

Our Sister Islander for this quarter is none other than Mr. Athley Stevens, Senior Terrestrial Warden for National Parks Trust on the island of Virgin Gorda. Mr. Stevens has been employed by the National Parks Trust for twenty-six years and takes pleasure in serving his community in this capacity. He considers himself to be a very jovial individual, spreading love to those in whom he comes in contact with.

Within the National Parks Trust, Mr. Stevens manages six terrestrial parks on the island of Virgin Gorda; The Baths, Spring Bay, Copper Mine, Gorda Peak, Devil's Bay, and Little Fort. He also manages one outer park on Prickly Pear. In alignment with the National Parks Trust's mission of conservation throughout the Virgin Islands, Mr. Stevens' work entails ensuring that these parks are preserved and that activities on the parks are monitored. When asked how his work as a Terrestrial Warden positively impacts his community and wider territory, Mr. Stevens noted that the conservation of our national parks helps to preserve our cultural heritage, as well as provide persons with safe places to enjoy.

Outside of his day-to-day functions as a Terrestrial Warden, Mr. Stevens is very active within the Virgin Gorda community. He considers himself a "sports fanatic" and as such, has been a part of the Virgin Gorda Basketball Association and softball for over twenty years. In addition to this, he has also served on the Virgin Gorda Festival Committee for

over ten years. Mr. Stevens believes firmly in physical fitness and healthy living. He attends the gym regularly and enjoys taking part in sporting events throughout his community.

When asked what advice he would provide to persons throughout the territory, his words were, "Love what you do and do it to the best of your ability." He expounded on the importance of having fun in whatever field one may be involved in and remaining positive in every situation. Mr. Stevens noted that the best part of his job is meeting different people from all over the world. He considers it a privilege to work with the National Parks Trust, citing that it offers mobility as well as diversity with positions ranging from Director, Program Coordinator, Marine Biologist, and lots more. A plus, he added, is the ability to work within the serene atmospheres of Nature's Little Secrets





SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES on the Sister Islands

Anegada, Virgin Gorda & Jost Van Dyke




Virgin Gorda

SEPTEMBER
22

Bingo: A Fundraiser for Ciboney Centre for Excellence
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: CocoMaya
Description: \$30 for 8 games

SEPTEMBER
24

International Coastal Clean Up Day
Time: 8:00 a.m.
Location: Spring Bay, Virgin Gorda

SEPTEMBER
24

Ciboney's 5K Race Series & 1 Mile Walk
Time: Registration @ 6:30 a.m.,
Race starts at 7:00 a.m.
Location: Ciboney Campus, Handsome Bay, VG

OCTOBER
29

Proceeds to Benefit the athletics programme
Contact: Laura Fox # 541-3397 or
Keanu George #547-5656
if you have any questions.
\$5.00 per entry

NOVEMBER
26

OCTOBER
01

Fasten Your Pink Ribbons 3K Walk or Run for a Cure
(Valley Sound Lions Club Presents Breast Cancer Awareness Month)
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Location: H. Lavity Stoutt Community College Campus in Virgin Gorda

OCTOBER
07

Sail Safe Workshop
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Flax Administration Conference Room

OCTOBER
08

Pink Power Cancer Awareness Forum
(Valley Sound Lions Club Presents Breast Cancer Awareness Month)
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: H. Lavity Stoutt Community College Campus in Virgin Gorda

OCTOBER
28

Positively Pink Friday
Wear Pink in Support of a Cure

The Wonders of the Sister Islands



Anegada

SEPTEMBER

01

International Coastal Clean Up Day

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Loblolly Bay, Anegada

OCTOBER

17

Anegada Heroes Day Special Adventure

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Contact: 284 346-9779

Bookings Only – Limited Space Tickets \$150
Ferry ride, short horse ride, BBQ lunch, Ground
transportation, conch island tour, beach sports

OCTOBER

03

Sail Safe Workshop

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: The Emile E. Dunlop Community Centre

NOVEMBER

25 - 27

The Anegada Lobster Fest - 10th Anniversary

Place: ANEGADA



Jost Van Dyke



Public Holidays

SEPTEMBER

24

International Coastal Clean Up Day

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke

OCTOBER

17

Heroes and Foreparents' Day

OCTOBER

05

Sail Safe Workshop

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Methodist Church Annex

NOVEMBER

21

Commemoration of the 1949 Great March & Restoration of the Legislative Council

green
TIP

OF THE
QUARTER

SAVE ENERGY TO SAVE MONEY

Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater from your downspouts. The water you save can then be used to water all your outdoor plants. Saving you dollars on your water bill.



The Wonders of the Sister Islands



Territory Wide Activities

**SEPTEMBER
24**

International Coastal Clean Up day
Time: 6:00 a.m.
Location: Trellis Bay, Beef Island

**SEPTEMBER
25**

International Coastal Clean Up day
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: Salt Island
Meeting Place: Village Cay

**SEPTEMBER
24**

International Coastal Clean Up day
Time: 6:30 a.m.
Location: Tortola
Meeting Place: From the West End Basketball Court

**OCTOBER
17**

Elite Ballers Street Showdown
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Multipurpose Sports Complex, Tortola

**SEPTEMBER
24**

International Coastal Clean Up day
Time: 7:00 a.m.
Location: Tortola
Meeting Place: From the Festival Grounds



MASA-Legacy Benefits Brochure-St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, BVI, Grenada, Turks, Dominica-8.5x11-22.pdf

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

Jost Van Dyke

Sister Islands Coordinator- 468-9721/496-9333

District Officer- 468-9013

Fire & Rescue- 911/468-9297

Royal VI Police Force- 368-9211

BVI Health Services- 346-1709

VISAR- 767/ 499-0911

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

Virgin Gorda

Sister Islands Coordinator- 468-9721/496-9333

District Officer- 341-8686

Fire & Rescue- 911/468-9296

Royal VI Police Force- 368-9552

BVI Health Services- 852-7700/852-7717/440-1661

VISAR- 767/ 499-0911

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

Anegada

Sister Islands Coordinator- 468-9721/496-9333

District Officer- 368-9712

Fire & Rescue- 911/468-4268

Royal VI Police Force- 368-9137

BVI Health Services- 852-7787/440-1627

VISAR- 767/ 499-0911





TOURIST ATTRACTIONS ON THE SISTER ISLANDS



The Baths

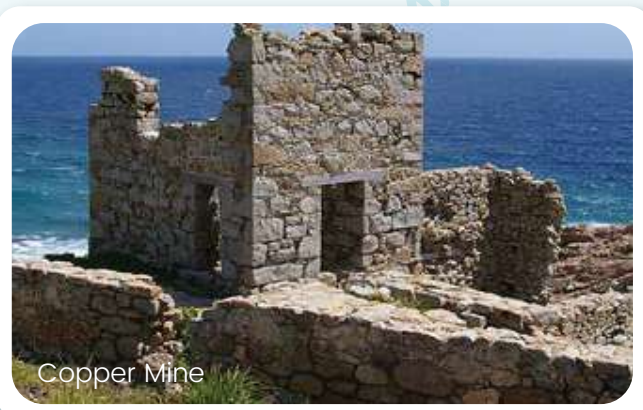
As Virgin Gorda's main attraction, the Baths features large granite boulders nestled on a white sandy beach. What most people are attracted to however, are the caves and pools formed by these boulders that are perfect for swimming and snorkeling.



The Baths

Copper Mine

Constructed in 1837 and still visible today, the ruins at Copper Mine showcase where copper was once mined on the island in the 19th century.



Copper Mine

The Saddle

Popularly known now as the "99 Steps Hike", The Saddle trail stretches above Long Bay beach on Virgin Gorda. The trail offers much fun and adventure for those who enjoy hiking. Rich with history, The Saddle offers stunning ocean views and was the location for burning charcoal that was shipped to St. Thomas in years passed. A cave that connects directly to the



The Wonders of the Sister Islands



ocean can also be accessed on this path-though its route is only for the brave at heart. The trail culminates with a footpath leading directly along the water's edge, perfect for ending your hike with a swim.

Pond Bay

Featuring the largest salt pond on the island, Pond Bay is situated between North Sound and the Valley. When it dries, the surface can be seen glistening with salt that both tourists and residents collect for personal use. The pond, however, is not all there is to see. Pond Bay Beach is just a few steps away, a tranquil scene that hosts the BVI's annual Christmas in July events.

Savanah Bay Beach

Looking for a beach with breathtaking views and a long stretch of glistening, white sand? Well, Savanah Bay is the beach for you! Perfect for swimming and snorkeling, Savanah Bay offers a serene ambiance that is perfect for every family.

Spring Bay Beach

One of the most beautiful beaches on the island of Virgin Gorda, Spring Bay boasts beautiful white beaches, massive granite boulders, and intimate caves and pools. Its main swimming area lies between two large boulders that some brave swimmers use to jump into the ocean. This beach is perfect for family outings with picnic benches and areas for grilling.

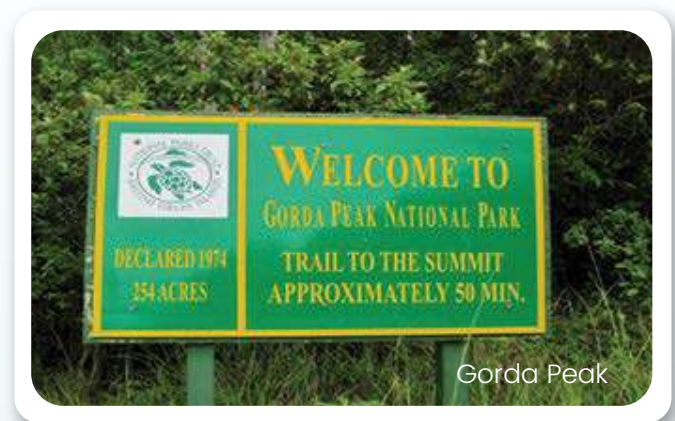
The Lookouts

Virgin Gorda boasts three beautiful lookout points that are situated strategically throughout the island to allow visitors and residents to embrace its scenic views and

breathhtaking beauty. Two of the most popular are the Little Bay lookout that overlooks North Sound and Soldier Bay lookout that overlooks the Valley. Be sure to stop by while driving on our main road to enjoy these scenic views for yourself.

Gorda Peak

The highest point on Virgin Gorda at 1,370ft; Gorda Peak is located on the north-western ridge, south of North Sound and north of Soldier Bay. Donated by Laurance Rockefeller in 1974, Gorda Peak is one of the last remaining examples of Caribbean dry forest in the region, which makes it a high priority for conservation internationally.



The Wonders of the Sister Islands



The Bubbly Pool

Visit and enjoy this naturally occurring "hot tub" swimming hole on the northeast shore of Jost Van Dyke.



The Bubbly Pool

White Bay Beach

A beautiful day on the beach awaits you!



White Bay Beach

HURRICANE TIP OF THE QUARTER



“ Insure your home to protect yourself in case of loss. Know the difference between home insurance and flood insurance and sign up for both if you can afford to. ”

HEALTH

TIP OF THE QUARTER



“ Drink 8 ounces of water and stay hydrated and limit sugary beverages ”



The Wonders of the Sister Islands



BVI Eco-Tours

There is so much to see and do including: birdwatching, snorkeling, hiking, learning about the history and culture of the island. There are also many bars and restaurants to choose from and nice places to stay and relax.

Sandy Spit

The British Virgin Islands are truly blessed to lay claim to an enchanting little island such as Sandy Spit! Girdled by a picture perfect, 360° white sand beach, sailors and visitors from all over the world continue to enjoy sun bathing, excellent snorkeling, picnics and exploring here.



Sandy Spit

Sandy Cay

The landscape includes a wide sandy beach, dry coastal woodland, salt pond, mangrove wetlands and rocky cliffs. The island is an important nesting site for the hawksbill turtle, green turtle, leatherback turtle, laughing gull, bridled tern and red-billed tropicbird.



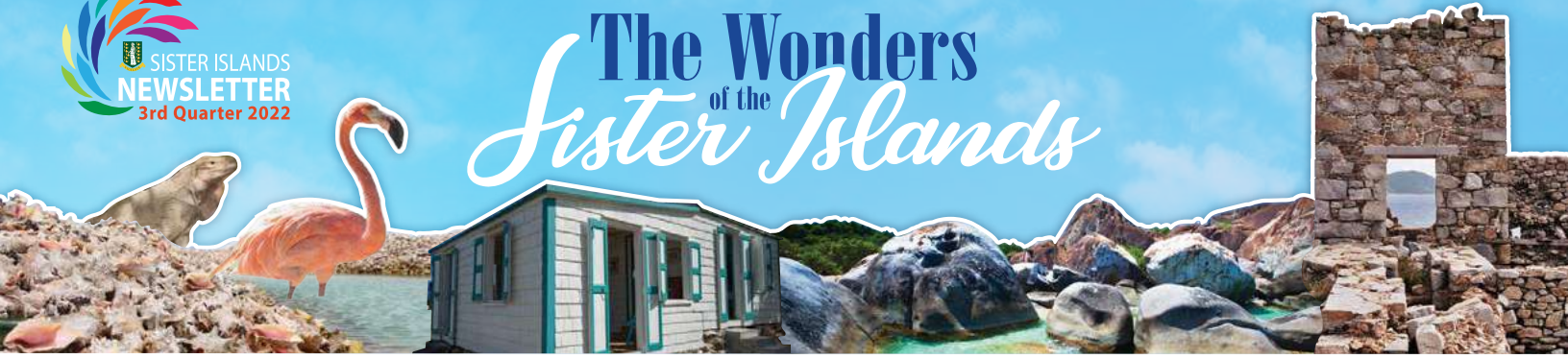
Sandy Cay



Great Harbour, Jost Van Dyke



The Wonders of the Sister Islands



The Conch Shell Mounds

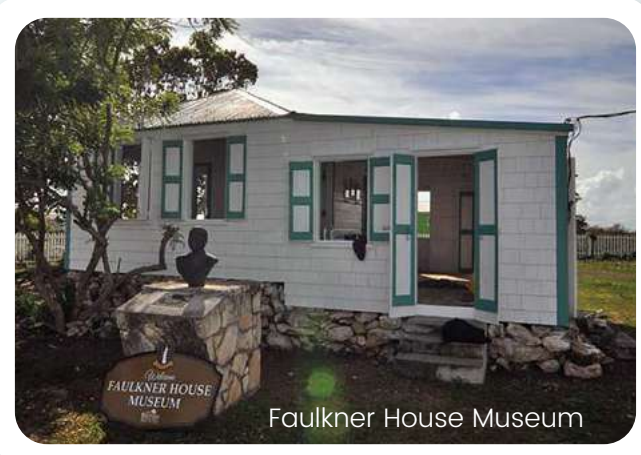
There are several tour operators on Anegada ready to take you to this beautiful area teeming with beautiful conch shells piled high, left there by conch divers who cleaned their conchs there before returning to shore. There is scientific evidence to suggest that indigenous Arawak populations lived on Anegada thousands of years ago.



Conch Shell Mounds

The Theodolph Faulkner House Museum

Mr. Faulkner was a political activist, an instrumental figure in the famous 1949 March and the rebirth of the Legislative Council. He was referred to by many as "One of the Fathers of this Little Nation."



Faulkner House Museum

The Lookouts

Enjoy the views at both the Flamingo Pond Look out and the Conch Shell Mound Lookout. Guests can view the sights from afar by visiting these sites which have an elevated platform and a telescope.





The Shirley Vanessa Faulkner Botanical Garden

Stop in and enjoy the spectacular views of the indigenous plants and take a photo standing by the beautiful and unique ANEGADA Sign.

Other sites and activities to experience while visiting Anegada include:

Visit the Anegada Rock Iguana Sanctuary, go swimming, snorkeling, hiking, kiteboard surfing, bone-fishing, or horseback riding. And there are several restaurants to choose from to enjoy some island flavors.

Flamingo pond

Many years ago, the roseate or greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) could be found throughout the salt ponds of Anegada. The Anegada flock was known to inhabit the ponds in large numbers, possibly by the tens of thousands! One of the ponds even bears the name of the bird - Flamingo Pond.

Anegada Rock Iguana

The island of Anegada supports the last remaining population of the critically endangered Anegada Rock Iguana, *Cyclura pinguis*, whose numbers have been reduced to approximately less than 200 individuals in the wild. This has been brought about by a combination of habitat loss, habitat degradation by grazing animals and predation of juvenile iguanas by feral cats that prevent replenishment of the adult population.



Faulkner Botanic Gardens



Anegada Iguana



Flamingos, Red Pond Anegada



The Wonders of the Sister Islands




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VIRGIN GORDA

DIVE BVI
VIRGIN GORDA

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\$1,100

\$200 off a Full Day Charter
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CHARTERS INCLUDE: Water, sodas, snacks, beer & hard seltzer, snorkel equipment, fuel, national park fees, cruising permits PLUS captain doubles as your in-water snorkel guide
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End: 30th September, 2022

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(TAX + SERVICE FEE INCLUDED)

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\$241.50 PER NIGHT
(TAX + SERVICE FEE INCLUDED)

— 3 BEDROOM —
\$488.75 PER NIGHT
(4 NIGHTS MINIMUM | TAX + SERVICE FEE INCLUDED)

Start: 1st August, 2022
End: 30th December, 2022

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The Wonders of the Sister Islands




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End: 31st October, 2022

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RECIPE CORNER

LOBSTER SAMPLER WONKY DOG LOBSTER ICE CREAM

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 quart heavy cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 cans condensed milk
- 4 tbsp water
- 1 jar lemon curd
- 1 large lobster tail, cooked
- ½ lb. unsalted butter

METHOD:

- 1 Soften butter at room temperature, set aside.
- 2 Whip chilled heavy cream to soft peaks.
- 3 Add the condensed milk.
- 4 Keep whipping to form soft peaks.
- 5 Fold in the butter and the lemon curd; place in container with an airtight lid in the freezer.
- 6 Take the Anegada lobster tail out of the shell.
- 7 Slice very thinly and place on a silicone mat or baking tray; refrigerate.
- 8 Now place the sugar in a pan.
- 9 Add the water and bring to a boil until a light caramel colour forms.
- 10 Now take the lobster out of the refrigerator and pour the sugar mixture over the lobster, making sure all the pieces are covered.
- 11 Then wrap in clingwrap and place in refrigerator to set for 15 minutes.
- 12 Last, take the lobster out of the refrigerator and smash into small pieces.
- 13 Take the mixture from the freezer and fold the lobster in gently until fully combined. Place container back in the freezer for 24 hours. Scoop and serve!





VIRGIN ISLANDS EDUCATION Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead Academic Calendar

2nd – 8th October

Teachers' Week (BVITU)

9th – 15th October

Reading is Fun Week with the theme: "S.T.E.A.M. Powered by Reading"

16th – 22nd October

Anti-Bullying Week

17th October

(Public Holiday) Heroes' and Forefathers Day

21st October

Midterm Break

November

Virgin Islands Culture and Tourism Month

November

DYAS Primary Basketball League Begins

4th November

(TBC)-Deadline for Online Registration for SAT (3rd December sitting)

22nd – 25th November

Culture Week (For schools)

21st November

(Public Holiday) Commemoration of the Great March of 1949 and Restoration of the Legislative Council

7th December

Final day of classes for students (Public Schools)

26th December

(Public Holiday) Boxing Day

27th December

(Public Holiday) Christmas Day
(In lieu of Sunday 25th)



TIPS

- Get enough sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Try your best.
- Use good work habits, like writing down your assignments and turning in your homework on time.
- Take your time with school work. If you don't understand something, ask the teacher.
- Keep a sense of humor.
- Dress appropriately and follow school rules.
- Avoid candies and soda at snack time. Replace with fruit snacks and water.
- Wash your hands often.
- Stay home when feeling sick.





Glimpse of the Past...

Sail Safe Workshop

A series of Sail Safe workshops were held on the Sister Islands to encourage safe sailing practices, provide much needed information and to ensure that the boating laws and regulations are communicated and understood. These workshops were well attended and appreciated by many residents on each of the main Sister Islands. Hosted by Office of the Deputy Governor in collaboration with BVI Red Cross, VISAR, DDM, His Majesty's Customs & Shipping Registry.




GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS
Office of the Deputy Governor

Sail Safe WORKSHOP

TOPICS
Safety on the Seas | BVI Boating Laws and Regulations
First Aid Refresher | VHF Radio Training

MONDAY 3 OCT 2022	ANEGADA Emile Dunlop Community Centre 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 5 OCT 2022	JOST VAN DYKE Methodist Church Annex 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY 7 OCT 2022	VIRGIN GORDA Flax Administration Building Conference Room 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Presented by:



For Registration Call: 468-9721
Email: sisterislands@office.gov.vg



International Coastal Clean-up Day

Clean Ups were done on coasts across the BVI Sat – Sun 24th and 25th September 2022. Customs & Shipping Registry.



SAFETY TIPS



Always Wear a Life Jacket



Accidents can happen.

Whether you are on a dock or boat, accidents can happen. It is better to be prepared for anything if you are around water.



Research has proven that wearing a life jacket can increase your chances of survival by up to four times.

Overestimating your ability to swim is a major factor when choosing to go without a life jacket. No matter how good you are at swimming when faced with fear, your mind may react differently than you think it would.



Life jackets are not just for children.

Only one in five people who die from drowning are children aged 14 and younger. No matter how old you are it is never too late to wear one.



Make sure it fits before going out.

It is very important to ensure that there are enough life jackets onboard for all passengers including adult and children and that you choose a correctly fitted life jacket. If the life jacket is too big it will cause the flotation device to push up around your face, which is very dangerous. Jackets that are too small will not be able to keep your body afloat.

Children need life jackets that are appropriate for their weight range, fit snugly and don't allow their chin or ears to slip through. To check the fit, pick the child up by the shoulders of the life jacket. If it fits, his or her chin and ears will not slip through. Test your child's life jacket in the water soon after purchase. Float testing can help you check the fit and buoyancy of the life jacket


☎ : 284-468-9646

✉ : vishipping@bvimaritime.vg

🌐 : bvimaritime.vg



The Wonders of the Sister Islands

PUBLIC MEETINGS

to discuss the
Liquor License Act

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Bar Owners
- Night Club Owners
- Restaurant Owners
- Persons wishing to open up any of the above
- or Anyone with an interest in the Bill

Visit House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands Facebook page for a copy of the Act.

LOCATION AND TIMES

TORTOLA
Tuesday, 11th October 2022
Elmore Stoutt High School Tent
6:00 PM

VIRGIN GORDA
Wednesday, 12th October 2022
Flax Administration Building
6:00 PM

JOST VAN DYKE
Thursday, 13th October 2022
Foxy's Bar and Restaurant
12:00 NOON

ANEGADA
Friday, 14th October 2022
Emile Dunlop Community Centre
10:00 AM

Come, learn more about this Bill, discuss it, and have your questions answered.

Hosted by Deputy Speaker and Territorial Member
Honourable Neville A. Smith

SAVE THE DATE

FOR ANEGADA LOBSTER FESTIVAL 2022




FRIDAY 25TH TO SUNDAY
27TH NOVEMBER, 2022
"FROM SEA TO SHORE...EXPL-OUR!"

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE CARIBBEAN'S BEST
CRUSTACEAN CELEBRATION

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