CARIBBEAN
COMPASS

APRIL 2025 NO. 346

The Caribbean's Look at Sea & Shore

ALOFT IN ANTIGUA

— REGATTAS, CARNIVAL, RALLIES AND MORE! SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 27

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Elkhorn Marine Conservancy (EMC), in collaboration with other preservation agencies, has deployed a hydrophone, which is an underwater sound recorder, at a key site off Antigua to record whale sounds that will make it possible to identify species abundances and understand the timing of their movements through the Caribbean Sea. For the story, turn to Eco Briefs on page 8.

JONATHAN XU/EMC

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On the Cover *Photographer Lucy Tulloch went up the rig aboard* Adix, *built by Astilleros de Mallorca in 1984 to an Arthur Holgate design, to capture the scale of the beautiful three-masted schooner during the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta in 2023. For dates of the 2025 regatta and other events in the islands in the busy month of April, turn to Calendar on page 27.*

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Caribbean Compass

Caribbean Compass is published by Compass Publishing LLC of Connecticut, USA. www.caribbeancompass.com

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ISSN 1605 - 1998

The Royal Naval Tot Club of Antigua and Barbuda

Story and photos by Robin and Mike Stout

Since July 31, 1991, members of the Royal Naval Tot Club of Antigua and Barbuda have met at 6 pm each evening to partake in a tot of rum and raise a toast to the monarch, mirroring the ritual once performed by Royal Navy sailors. The club is dedicated to upholding naval traditions, fostering camaraderie, and engaging in meaningful community activities; it has evolved into an integral part of Antigua's cultural and social fabric.

"The Tot Club is a unique gathering of like-minded individuals who are dedicated to preserving Royal Navy traditions," says Dez O'Connor, Royal Navy veteran and club chairman. "We honor the legacy of the Royal Navy while fostering friendships that span the globe."

The origins of the club trace back to 1990 when founder Mike Rose was managing the Copper and Lumber Hotel in Nelson's Dockyard. Mike, a retired charge chief petty officer who served in the Royal Navy for 26 years, was in the habit of having a tot of rum each evening in the bar. One evening a patron who had noticed this tradition asked him if he could join in. "I've already had my tot for the day but come back tomorrow and we'll have one together," Mike replied. That was the spark that began what today is a club with over 600 members.

Each evening at precisely 6 pm the rum bosun announces the beginning of the tot by calling out "Up Spirits!" Members and guests queue up and are provided a glass of rum and a glass of water. Guests are poured a tot using a cooper tot measure just like the ones that were used by the Royal Navy. If you ask a member how much rum is in a tot, they're likely to respond "half a gill." Turns out that is two ounces to landlubbers. After the tots are issued, the participants gather in a circle and the tot ceremony begins with the rum bosun inviting participants to "cleanse your palates" with a sip of water. Members introduce their guests and share club announcements before the rum bosun reads historical excerpts that occurred on that date in the past from *The Royal Navy Day by Day*. Following these readings, participants hoist their glasses and propose the loyal toast for that day of the week, always adding "and the king, god bless him." The toasts range from the sentimental "to absent friends and those at sea" on Sunday to the bellicose "to a willing foe and sea room" on Friday.



"Up spirits!"

—Continued on page 6



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The Story of Budget Marine

Photos courtesy Budget Marine



Budget Marine management team in 2025

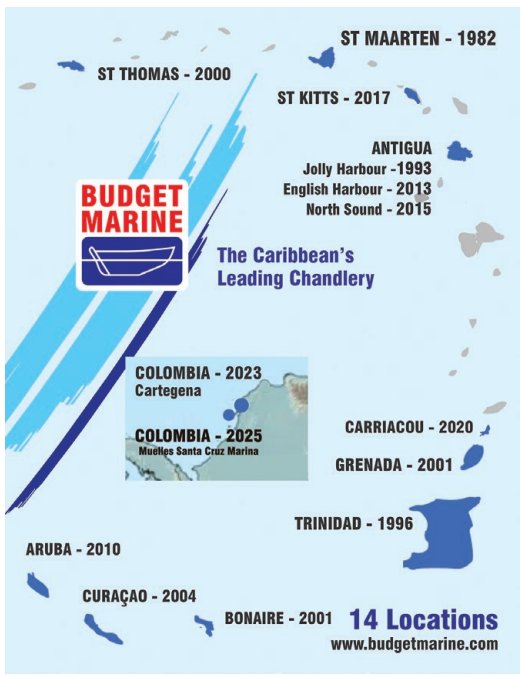


Early days



Budget Marine St Maarten at present

In 1982, Budget Marine opened in Sint Maarten. Robbie Ferron saw a clear need for essential boating items in the region. While the need was obvious, it took someone involved in yacht maintenance and repairs to identify and deliver on the full extent of that need. And once these necessary items had been identified, sourcing them proved to be a real challenge.



Budget Marine Group locations

That was 43 years ago. The early needs were identified and met, but then there was yet another new challenge — keeping pace with the times. The landscape of chandleries in the Caribbean had evolved.

The range of products demanded by boaters has expanded significantly. There was once a time when just a handful of polishes could meet the needs of the market. Now, there's a polish for nearly every aspect of every boat, and new product lines continue to emerge regularly.

Back then, solutions to boating problems were few and far between. Today, there are far more options available and though many of the newer products have validity, it can be challenging for the average yachtsman to keep up with the many technical nuances and choices.

While it's easier than ever to find information about products, getting them onto the shelves of the right island when they're most needed remains daunting. The solution? Software and data management, which Budget Marine continues to invest in to ensure we meet the needs of our customers.

Making the right choices remains key. Budget Marine's unwavering focus has always been to be the best technical chandlery in the region. While some chandleries around the world have shifted their focus to clothing, we've stuck to what matters most: the products essential to keeping your boat running smoothly. While our customers might wear less clothing in the Caribbean, when we do offer apparel, it's always focused on what's functional for sailing — UV protection, non-slip footwear, and fast-drying materials.

The basics any boater needs are in all our shops, although our product range may be limited by the size of certain markets. Like all chandleries, we understand the frustration of not finding the exact technical product necessary for a particular boat, especially when there are many similar items available. Whether it's a hinge that doesn't quite fit or a lightbulb that doesn't match, we understand the problem and we are here to meet it.

While the range of chandlery products continues to grow in complexity, Budget Marine's commitment to identifying and offering the most in-demand and necessary items remains as strong as ever.

Budget Marine also proudly supports and actively participates in these premier Caribbean events:

- Christal Clashing Dive Record
- Antigua Optimist Championship
- Antigua Sailing Week
- Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta
- Aruba International Regatta
- Bonaire Aquatics Federation
- Caribbean Multihull Challenge
- Grenada Round Island Regatta
- Grenada Grenfin Swim Club
- Heineken Regatta
- Spice Island Billfish Tournament
- St. Maarten Optimist Championship
- Trinidad & Tobago National Dinghy Sailing Championship
- Windies Multihull Trophy



Some of the products in the Carib Marine Range



Budget Marine founder Robbie Ferron

Our Budget Marine Racing Team competes in the region's top regattas and consistently finds itself on the podium, showcasing our commitment to excellence and passion for the sport!

Budget Marine is proud to introduce Carib Marine, a product range specifically designed to withstand the harsh conditions of the Caribbean environment. Featuring life jackets, rigid inflatable boats (RIBs), solar panels and controllers, inflatable fenders, sailing gloves, and more — each product is engineered to thrive in the unique conditions of the Caribbean.

With over 40 years of experience in the region, our products are built to endure extreme heat, salty conditions, and continuous exposure to the elements. From the durable hulls and fabrics of our RIBs to the specially designed life jackets and the ergonomically crafted sailing gloves, Carib Marine products are made to last longer and perform better than any other brand on the market.

It has been a long and eventful journey from early days in a small house jam-packed with boating products and a garden full of storage containers on the hill above Great Bay, but Budget Marine's core purpose remains the same:

"To be the Caribbean's most trusted and innovative technical chandlery, offering a wide range of essential products paired with expert technical support. We aim to deliver exceptional service that inspires trust, fosters loyalty, and enhances the boating experience for all our customers."

—*Continued from page 4*

Becoming a member of the Royal Naval Tot Club is a structured and meaningful journey and many people visit Antigua on vacation for the purpose of joining the club. Aspiring members are required to attend seven tots within a 14-day period. To demonstrate their commitment and understanding of naval traditions, aspirants must pass an oral entrance exam focused on Royal Navy history after their sixth tot. This rigorous process ensures that members share a common passion for naval heritage and uphold the club's esteemed traditions.

The final act of joining for each aspiring member is hosting a mismuster after the seventh tot. In the Royal Navy, a mismuster was a special issuance of rum when a sailor missed the regular tot through no fault of their own. The Tot Club holds mismusters to celebrate special occasions and the new member is required to invite and pay for a second tot for all members present. At the mismuster they thank those who assisted them joining and propose a toast, of which a favorite one is "there are good ships and wood ships and ships that sail the sea but the best ships are friendships and may they always be."

Beyond its ceremonial gatherings, the Tot Club actively contributes to the local community. The club extends warm hospitality to visiting yachtsmen and women in English and Falmouth Harbours, fosters positive relations within the community, and hosts visiting members of His Majesty's warships. A particularly noteworthy moment in the club's history was the visit of HRH Prince William in 2008, during his tenure aboard HMS Iron Duke.

In addition to these social engagements, the club channels its efforts into charitable work, supporting various causes and maintaining the hiking trails in Antigua's National Parks. Every Sunday morning members gather for a few hours of work to ensure that the trails and historical buildings in Nelson's Dockyard National Park remain clear of brush and in good shape in what is humorously known as "Keep Fit."

While the club's heart remains in Antigua, its influence now extends far beyond the island's shores. Official tot ceremonies have been conducted in prestigious locations across the United Kingdom, including aboard HMS *Victory*, the ship that Admiral Horatio Nelson commanded during the Battle of Trafalgar, and the Tower of London, as well as in far



A bit of naval history

flung places such as Pitcairn Island in the Pacific Ocean. Furthermore, members have established chapters in key maritime hubs in the UK such as Portsmouth and Dartmouth, as well as in Westport, Connecticut, in the United States.

One of the most defining aspects of the Tot Club is its use of historical symbols and traditions. The club secured permission from the Ministry of Defense to use the pre-1801 White Ensign, a distinction rarely granted outside the Royal Yacht Squadron. Additionally, the club has the honor of hoisting the White Ensign in Nelson's Dockyard on special occasions, such as the monarch's birthday or the anniversary of notable British naval victories such as the Battle of Trafalgar.

Through its daily rituals, commitment to community service and international presence, the Royal Naval Tot Club is an enduring legacy of naval traditions and the power of fellowship. For those interested in naval history, the Tot Club provides a community that offers a unique and enriching experience that continues to thrive across generations and borders.

Please turn to page 15 for Channel 16 news and briefs.



Creating Climate Risk Tools in the Caribbean

Story and photo by Kalim U. Shah

The University of Delaware's Island Policy Lab has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative to ensure that future development projects in the Caribbean are equipped to adapt to climate risks effectively. When completed, this work will set a new benchmark for sustainable development across the region. The research initiative is led by Professor Kalim Shah, director of the Island Policy Lab, with colleagues at the University of the West Indies.

The collaborative effort, which kicked off in Barbados, will integrate climate services into Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and bring together key stakeholders from public agencies, academic institutions and private organizations. Funded by NOAA and the U.S. Department of State, the project aims to strengthen environmental governance by embedding scientific climate data into regulatory frameworks.

The work will cover multiple Caribbean islands chosen for their contrasting regulatory frameworks, with the aim of addressing critical gaps in how climate risks are incorporated into EIA processes, which often lack consistent and actionable climate data. On this first Barbados leg, the project has drawn support from the Barbados Meteorological Services, the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, the Coastal Zone Management Unit and international financial institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Private sector project developers are working alongside regulatory bodies and academic institutions to ensure the success of the initiative.

William Duguid, minister of planning and development, emphasized the importance of the project during the launch event, held at the Savannah Beach Club in Christ Church. "Our very survival as a nation depends on building climate resilience," Duguid said, highlighting the vulnerability of Barbados's key infrastructure — such as airports, seaports, and hospitals — located along the coast. He stressed the significance of using climate data in EIA processes to mitigate risks such as sea-level rise and storm surges, which threaten the island's long-term sustainability.

The initiative follows a phased approach, beginning with assessments of the existing institutional frameworks in Barbados, Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, with other countries following in the future. The research team will evaluate how well current climate services align with the needs of both public agencies and private developers. In subsequent phases, stakeholders will participate in co-designing tailored climate tools to enhance EIA processes, leading to the development of Climate Services Implementation Plans. These plans will provide a roadmap for integrating climate services sustainably across sectors and jurisdictions.

"This project is about more than just collecting data — it's about turning scientific insights into practical tools for decision-makers," Shah explained. The co-design process, which involves collaboration with local stakeholders and international partners, aims to reduce conflicts between regulators and developers by embedding climate considerations early in the project approval process. This alignment will ensure that new developments are both environmentally sound and climate resilient.

The research is expected to deliver several key outcomes, including enhanced coordination among regulatory bodies, improved access to climate data, and greater institutional capacity to manage environmental risks. Dr. Sylvia Donhert, chief of the Inter-American Development Bank's Compete Caribbean program, endorsed the project, saying that it reflects the growing urgency for climate action across the region. "Embedding climate science into development planning is essential not just for policy but for the economic well-being of the region."

Dr. Kalim U. Shah is an associate professor of Energy & Environmental Policy with the Joseph R. Biden Jr. School of Public Policy & Administration at the University of Delaware. This article is republished with permission.



Kalim Shah, director of the University of Delaware's Island Policy Lab and associate professor of energy and environmental policy, is leading efforts to integrate climate services into Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) across the Caribbean.

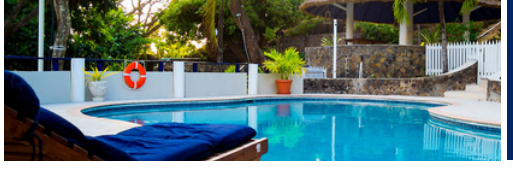
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Ocean Coordination Mechanism Launched

The Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) for the Wider Caribbean has been officially activated and will commence its activities this year, with a total of 17 states and nine Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) now signed to a *"Memorandum of Understanding Enabling the Creation of a Coordination Mechanism to Support Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and NorthBrazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems."*

Key initiatives of the OCM include the development of a holistic Ocean Action Programme, the launch of a periodic reporting mechanism on the "State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies," and supporting the strengthening of climate-resilient ocean-based economies — the latter being of key importance for the region's many Small Island Developing States.

EPIC Declares Sint Maarten Eco-Certifications



Sint Maarten's Green Key and Blue Flag eco-label programs have started back up again through the initiative of the Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) Sint Maarten Foundation, with the goal of promoting sustainable tourism and protect the island's natural environments, including beaches, coasts, and waterways. Forced to suspend operations in 2017 due to the devastation of Hurricane Irma, EPIC will once again collaborate with the local tourism industry to uphold high environmental standards.

To learn more about EPIC's work throughout the Caribbean visit www.epicislands.org or check out our Annual Impact Report. To participate in this program on Sint Maarten, contact ddelain@epicislands.org.

OECS Case Study on Waste Management

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission has released a case study on waste management, provides a strategic framework for tackling plastic pollution and advancing sustainable recycling initiatives across the Eastern Caribbean.

The case study underscores the growing environmental and economic threat posed by plastic pollution, which endangers marine ecosystems, coastal habitats, and the tourism-driven economies of the region. It focuses on tested solutions, partnership models, and actionable recommendations for transitioning from a linear to a circular economy, ensuring that waste is managed efficiently and sustainably.

This case study, documents how OECS countries are transforming their approach to waste management. It examines both the challenges these nations face and the practical steps they are taking to protect their environmental heritage.

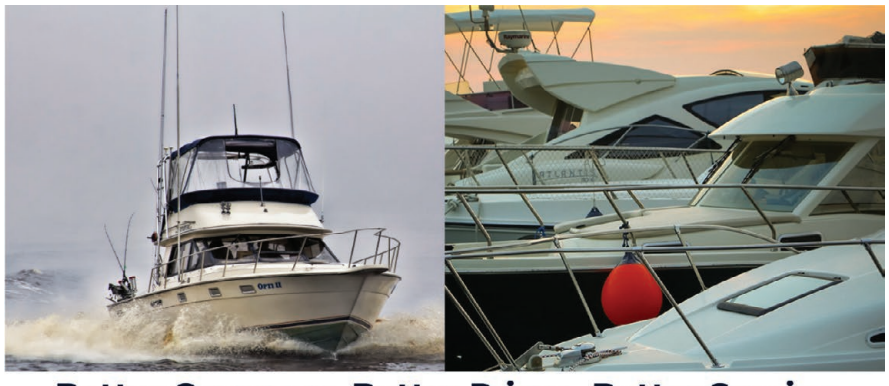
For access to the full case study and further information, visit https://oecs.int/en/our-work/knowledge/library/ocean-governance/recyle-oecs.

Advancing Whale Research in Antigua & Barbuda

Whales annually migrate to the Caribbean to mate and give birth, making the region a crucial breeding ground. Human-related activities, including ocean plastics, overfishing, ship strikes, and noise pollution, as well as climate change, have severely impacted their environment, threatening the survival of these species. Knowledge gaps regarding their movements, status, and interactions with key habitats hinder effective conservation and management efforts.

To address these challenges, the Elkhorn Marine Conservancy (EMC) has begun an initiative to deepen our understanding of whale species in the region, using a hydrophone, an underwater sound recorder, at a key site in Antigua, to record whale sounds, which will help us to develop artificial intelligence capable of analyzing their interactions with human activities, such as boat traffic. The observations collected will contribute to understanding the environmental factors shaping these species' movements and habitat preferences while evaluating their interactions with human activities.

For more information on Elkhorn Marine Conservancy (EMC) please visit www.emcantigua.org.





CMC VIII Will Have Lower Entry Fees

The Caribbean Multihull Challenge Race & Rally has announced CMC VIII dates of January 28 to February 1, 2026. Racing — including the long-distance CMC Trifecta™ for CSA 1 vessels — will continue for four days beginning and ending in Simpson Bay.



COURTESY SMYC

CMC Entrant Fly With Dede

Events will include the second annual Great Bay Beach and Boardwalk Jamboree featuring Diam 24 racing close to shoreside viewing spots; beach sports competition in the government sports park on the beach; and a fireworks show.

St. Maarten Yacht Club's sailing school dock will be outfitted with a tent making an event and meeting space that will hold, among other things, a pop-up boat show featuring displays from the CMC's selected sponsors.

A new entry fee structure is planned to be lower than that of CMC VII. Multihulls entering and paying before 1 December 2025 will pay $8/ft, a 33 percent discount from the 2025 cost of $12/ft. For entrance after 1 December up to registration day on January 28, the 2026 fee will be $12/ft (a 20 percent discount from 2025).

A 10-Step Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

Richard Jennings, global technical manager of AkzoNobel's yacht division, has shared his 10-step guide for hull care:

1. Wash boat with fresh water to remove growth and dirt
2. Scrape away any loose paint that is flaking or in poor condition
3. Remove or repair any damaged areas before sanding
4. Mask off areas that will not be painted to prep for priming or painting
5. Prepare the bare metal and prime
6. Start painting the bow or the corner of the transom
7. Choose the right fouling control
8. Check coating compatibility
9. Apply Interlux fouling control to the hull to protect your boat
10. Paint your topsides and apply gloss

For details and other step-by-step custom guides visit https://www.interlux.com/en/us/

—Continued on the next page



COURTESY AKZONOBEL

Step 9: Apply Interlux fouling control to the hull to protect your boat.



—Continued from page 9



COURTESY PARTS AND POWER

A seminar with Scott Dyball

Northern Lights Rep Visits the British Virgin Islands

Scott Dyball of the Northern Lights international service support team visited Parts & Power in Fish Bay, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, in February 2025. He addressed concerns from fleet operators and heard firsthand the challenges they face operating generators on bareboat and crewed yachts. He took their suggestions back to Seattle, Washington, to incorporate these in the design and build of Northern Lights generators.

Dyball also held a two-day service school for Virgin Islands fleet operators covering AC and DC electrics, as well as engine and electrical troubleshooting and maintenance. Service techs from the Moorings, Voyage, TMM, BVI Yacht Charters, Conch Charters and Waypoints Yacht Charters attended.

Topsail Insurance Enhances Coverage

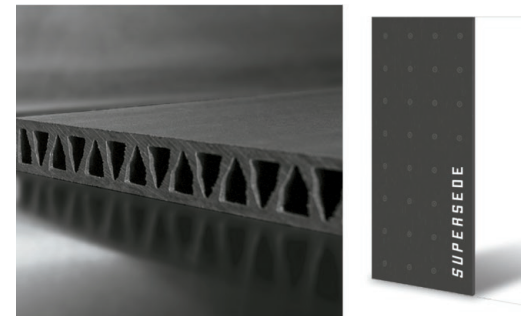
Topsail Insurance has extended its Caribbean coverage with an additional insurer and enhanced coverage to its yacht travel policy, which now includes:

- No offshore limits
- Comprehensive medical and emergency cover
- Cover for offshore racing and extended cruising

For more details visit the Topsail website at www.topsailinsurance.com

Supersede Marine Board from Budget Marine

Budget Marine is now offering "SUPERSEDE" Marine Board, the next-generation solution for marine projects. It transforms recycled materials into a reliable, sustainable solution that outperforms traditional alternatives.



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Supersede Marine Board

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Reg Bates Joins BVI Yacht Sales

Reg Bates, a veteran yacht broker from Sint Maarten/St.Martin, with over 40 years of experience, has joined the BVI Yacht Sales team, expanding the brokerage's reach in the Caribbean. Bates's experience includes guiding buyers and sellers through the complexities of yacht ownership, registration, mooring, and maintenance. He has a further background as a licensed appraiser and former stockbroker.



COURTESY BVI YACHT SALES

Reg Bates

Bates operates from Porto Cupecoy Marina in Sint Maarten, offering expertise in the local market.

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Dawgs at Nelson's Dockyard

Forty Years of ARC

This year marks the 40th edition of the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers. The crews who will set sail from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in November will follow in the wake of 7,890 yachts and over 30,000 people who have sailed the rally since 1986.

The ARC was the brainchild of Jimmy Cornell, yachtsman, author of *World Cruising Routes*, and founder of the World Cruising Club. He wanted to give a focus to would-be ocean sailors who gathered in the Canaries every autumn, and his focus on increasing safety and confidence has been the guiding principle of every World Cruising Club rally since. The original press release stated that the event was aimed "not for racing's elite of semi-professional and sponsored professional yachtsmen, but strictly for true cruising enthusiasts."

ARC 2025 starts on November 23 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, sailing over 2,700 nautical miles to Rodney Bay Marina in St. Lucia and ending with a huge prize giving celebration on December 20. It will include an enhanced program of activities in Las Palmas and St. Lucia. Special discounts are offered for any yacht less than 40 feet, and any yacht or skipper who sailed in the first rally.

Entrants will receive a comprehensive rally handbook to support the preparation of boat and crew, two weeks of pre-departure activities in Las Palmas, tracking of all vessels across the Atlantic, 24-7 support from the rally team, landfall welcome in St. Lucia, and a invitation to the gala prizegiving ceremony.

Registration Open for 2025 Salty Dawg Rallies

The Salty Dawg Sailing Association will host five (possibly six) rallies in 2025:

- **Homeward Bound Rally, on or about May 18, 2025:** Departing from both Simpson Bay, Sint Maarten and Marsh Harbor, Bahamas, for various ports on the US East Coast with an optional stop in Bermuda.
- **Downeast Rally:** Departing from Hampton, VA, in early July, with Newport, RI, as the first stop, then on to Cuttyhunk, MA, and final landfall in Rockland, ME, around July 15. Cruisers can join the rally at any port.
- **Bermuda Rally:** On or about May 18, 2025, departing from Hampton Virginia to Bermuda, taking advantage of the relatively stable weather available in May. This is a new rally.
- **Azores Rally, on or about May 18, 2025:** Another new rally, starting in Sint Maarten and Hampton VA with an initial stop in Bermuda. The fleet will gather there for final preparations and festivities and depart for the Azores on June 1, weather permitting. The passage is expected to last approximately 2 weeks.
- **Caribbean Rally, on or about November 1, 2025:** Departing from both Hampton, VA, and Newport, RI, around November 1, going to the Bahamas or Antigua, with an optional stopover in Bermuda.
- **Maritime Rally, on or about July 20, 2025 (if enough interest):** Departing from Rockland, Maine, for points in Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton and Bras D'Or Lakes.



Contessa 32 TEELA (GBR), is the first ARC 2025 entry (GBR) and currently the smallest boat in ARC 2025, owned by Ellen and Mark Catherall.

"Each rally is an opportunity for sailors to cruise-in-company with the safety, camaraderie, passage-preparation assistance and learning that only a rally can provide and with minimal requirements and minimal costs," says Mike Benjamin, Salty Dawgs president.

Registration and more information can be found at www.saltydawgsailing.org/rallies

Cartagena Sailing Week 2025

Scheduled for April 11-20, Cartagena Sailing Week includes a three-day high-performance clinic for refining tactical and technical skills; rest day gives sailors a chance to explore Cartagena, and three days of racing.

Participants, including sailors, coaches, and officials, will be accommodated at Colombia's Naval Academy, and Club de Pesca Marina will serve as a central hub for pre- and post-race activities.

For registration details and more information, visit Liga de Vela de Bolívar at https://www.ligadevelabolivar.org/csw2025.

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Cultural Legacy and Spirituality: The Whim Mariamman Temple Puja

Story and photos by Haimdat Sawh



Pujari Harvey Hardeen of the Whi Mariamman temple

Down in the verdant heart of Berbice, Guyana, nestled between sprawling sugarcane fields and winding rivers, lies Whim Village, a sanctuary of spirituality and a reservoir of rich Indo-Madrassi and Tamil culture in the Caribbean, which will celebrate its annual Whim Mariamman Temple Village Puja April 11-13, 2025. This vibrant festival, embodying the cultural richness and spiritual depth of the Indo-Madrassi Guyanese diaspora, draws people from around the globe, celebrating faith and communal ties under the brilliant Corentyne sky.

The Whim Mariamman Temple Puja traces its roots back to the early 20th century, when Tamil laborers from Madras were brought to British Guiana under indentureship. These pioneers brought their deep reverence for Mariamman, the goddess of rain, fertility, and disease. The first temple, established in the 1930s, became the hub for these annual celebrations.

Over the years, the temple has evolved, including the construction of the main building in 1972. A week before the Puja, villagers prepare the site — cleaning, repairing, and decorating it with flags and lights, while the *murtis* (devotional images) of Mariamman and other deities are carefully adorned. The three-night celebration is highlighted by the soul-stirring Tamil hymn "Mariamman Thuthi," honoring the goddess Mariamman, as chosen devotees carry the *karagam*, a vessel of water filled with sacred offerings, intricately tied and decorated with flowers, through the village. Last year's festival featured the historic inclusion of a lovely lady among the *uddakkay* singers during the Mariyamman Thuthi, representing a significant step towards gender equality in the village's spiritual practices.

The community is at a crossroads, seeking leadership that can bridge divisions and foster unity, with a focus on respectful and inclusive practices. This push towards inclusivity, echoed by modern thinkers, signifies a progressive shift that could redefine this community and others for the better. Nevertheless, there's a growing wave among the younger generation, advocating for more inclusive participation, marking a shift toward a modern and open vibe.

The Whim Mariamman Temple Village Puja is a must-experience for those of Madrassi descent, and its testament to the beauty of cultural preservation and the strength of community spirit is an uplifting spectacle for everyone.



Devotees of Whim Mariammam Temple



Cooking during the Puja



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BVI Tourism News

Natasha J. Chalwell is the new deputy director of tourism for the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board & Film Commission (BVITBFC). Chalwell is a veteran of two decades in the fields of tourism development, international marketing, and public relations, most recently serving as director of marketing at the British Virgin Islands Ports.



COURTESY BVITBFC

Natasha Chalwell

In her role as deputy director of tourism, Chalwell will assist the director in developing, implementing, and overseeing a broad range of tourism marketing strategies.

Unauthorized Platforms for Dominica Immigration Forms

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica has announced that the only authorized platform for completing the online immigration and customs declaration card is its official website, https://edcard.dominica.gov.dm. This secure and free government-managed website ensures the accurate processing of travelers' information in line with Dominica's Immigration and Customs Regulations. The government does not charge any fees for completing the online ED forms.



COURTESY DISCOVER DOMINICA

Yachts in Portsmouth harbor, Dominica

The online Embarkation/Disembarkation (ED) Card system does not affect the status of Sailclear, the optional service used by boaters to submit customs declarations in digital form.

The government reaffirms its commitment to providing efficient and secure services for all travelers. For further information or assistance, the public is encouraged to contact:

- *Ministry of National Security and Home Affairs: +1-767-266-3289*
- *Discover Dominica Authority Concierge Office: +1-767-275-7263 or +1-767-275-7298*

St. John Rotary Club is Santa's Helper

Members of the Rotary Club of St. John, with the support of the local community, accomplished the following over the holidays:

- Donated $500 to Love City Bites for the Cruz Bay Christmas Town.
- Raised $410 to support the Salvation Army.
- Delivered 246 letters to Santa Claus by local children to the North Pole. With Rotary's help, Santa provided a personal return letter to each child.



COURTESY ST. JOHN ROTARY CLUB

The Salvation Army benefitted from the St. John Rotary Club's support.

Kidz "Zero to Hero" Engineer Certification Course

In Sint Maarten, The Kidz at Sea Foundation's "Zero to Hero" Engineer Certification Course kicked off its second session in winter 2025, designed to provide young individuals with a pathway to a career in the marine industry.

—Continued on the next page



—*Continued from previous page*

Students in the program could emerge with industry-recognized certification in STCW (Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping), 15M Powerboat License, VHF Radio License and Basic Engineering Certification. Upon completion, graduates are job-ready for positions in the marine industry, with the necessary qualifications to work in many valuable positions in the sector including charter boats and mega yachts.



COURTESY KIDZ AT SEA FOUNDATION

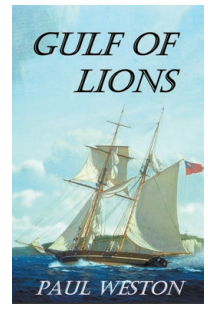
Certification!

The "Zero to Hero" initiative is designed for young individuals aged 17 to 25 who may not have the financial means to obtain these certifications independently but possess a strong passion for the marine industry.

Kidz at Sea is planning to start another session in April, and then to continue again after the summer. Their long range plan, based on available funding, is to run four sessions of four students each over the course of a year. They are looking for more private sector funding to do more.

For more information log on to Budgetmarine.com; https://www.kidzatsea.sx

Novel Follows Cruiser's Itinerary

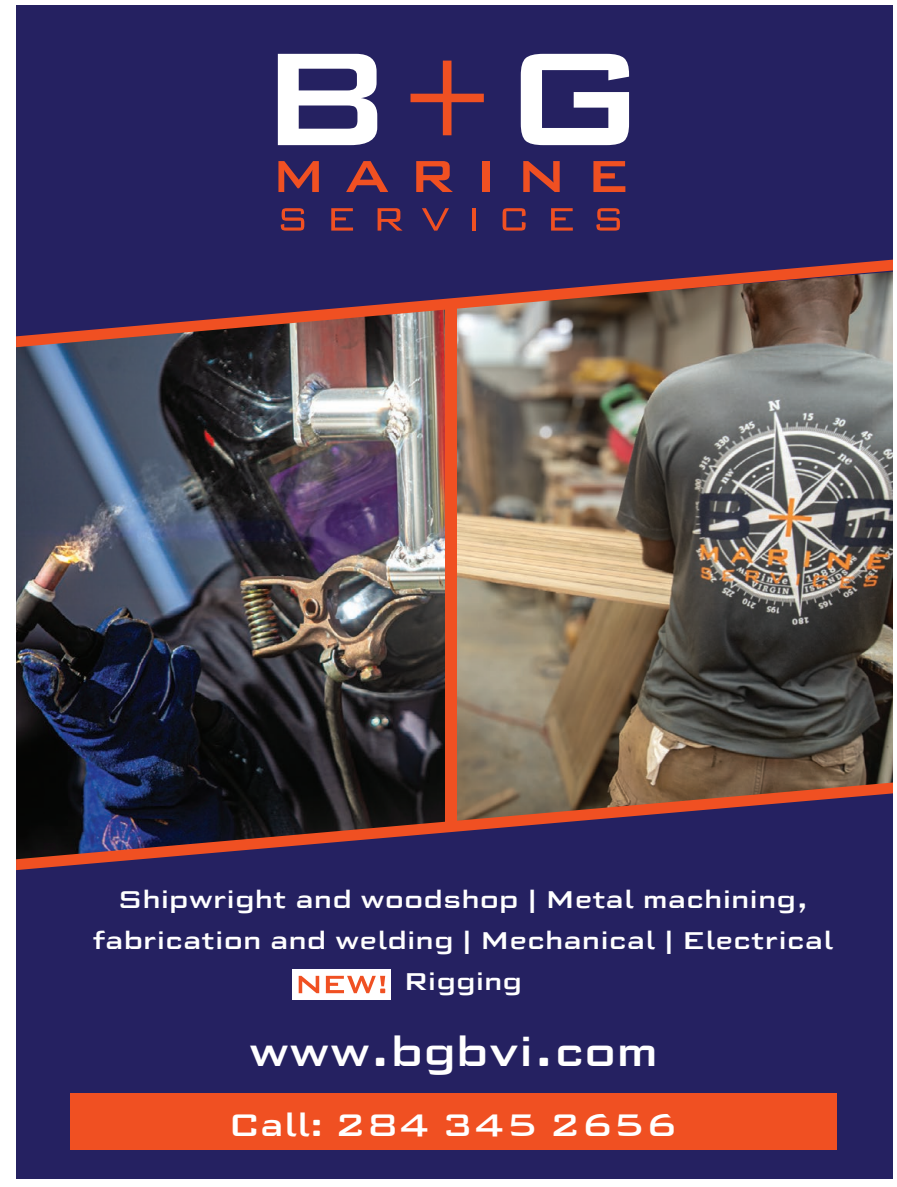


Paul Weston, whose boat *Kadash* is presently alongside at Hodges Creek Marina, Tortola, BVI, has used downtime there to pre-release *Gulf of Lions*, his latest novel. Weston and *Kadash*, an aluminium lift keeler, have cruised to all of the locations in *Gulf of Lions* — Brittany, southern France, Catalonia, the Gibraltar Strait and Rabat in Morocco. Paul says that *Kadash's* cabin is an ideal place in which to write — as long as the anchorage is not too rolly!

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DWY1KFZP







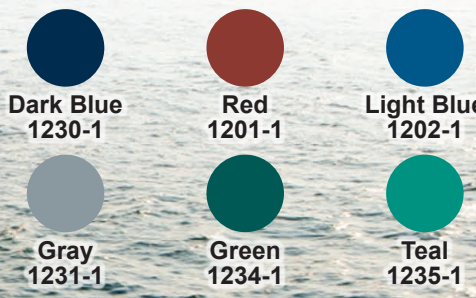
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Aerial view of Scrub Island



Scrub Island takes wellness to new heights with Ixora Spa.

Traveling is where the adventure begins

Getting to the British Virgin Islands is an integral part of the Scrub Island experience, setting the stage for an unforgettable journey. The most convenient option is flying directly to Tortola (EIS) from Miami (MIA) on American Airlines, which operates seasonally. Alternatively, visitors can reach Tortola via San Juan (SJU), which serves as a hub with connections from major.

Upon arrival, the transition to Scrub Island is seamless. After clearing customs, guests are greeted by a friendly representative who assists in transferring them to the resort's private ferry — complimentary for all guests and just minutes away.

Gracious luxury to accommodate one, two, or twelve

Scrub Island offers an exquisite range of accommodations tailored to every traveler, whether seeking an intimate retreat, a romantic getaway, or a spacious haven for family and friends. Ocean-view guestrooms and one-bedroom suites provide an elegant yet comfortable sanctuary, featuring plush bedding, spa-like bathrooms, and private balconies with sweeping Caribbean views.

For those traveling in larger groups, the resort's collection of private villas offers an unparalleled level of exclusivity and comfort. With two- to six-bedroom floor plans, each villa is designed to feel like a home away from home, complete with gourmet kitchens, infinity-edge pools, and expansive outdoor spaces ideal for entertaining or simply soaking in the breathtaking surroundings.

To elevate the experience, Scrub Island offers the Private Island Bliss package, perfect for guests planning an escape of four nights or more. This exclusive offer provides significant savings along with a $250 resort credit, which can be used for dining at one of the resort's renowned restaurants or indulging in a rejuvenating spa treatment. *Visit https://www.scrubisland.com/offers to book.*

Unwind, unplug, and float away

Scrub Island takes wellness to new heights with Ixora Spa, a sanctuary perched atop a scenic bluff, offering sweeping views of Sir Francis Drake Channel and the surrounding islands. This tranquil retreat invites guests to relax, recharge, and indulge in luxurious treatments tailored to their needs. The extensive spa menu includes anti-aging facials, revitalizing body scrubs, detoxifying wraps, and signature massages designed to melt away stress and tension.

For a more indulgent experience, couples can take advantage of the Couple's Spa Retreat, which includes daily breakfast, a champagne arrival amenity, and a 60-minute couples' massage — a perfect way to reconnect in paradise. *Discover more https://www.scrubisland.com/offers*

Sixty islands to explore

Scrub Island Resort is more than just a destination — it's a launchpad for adventure. The resort's world-class marina is the perfect starting point for discovering the British Virgin Islands' 60 stunning islands, each with its own unique charm. Charter a private yacht for a day of island-hopping, exploring hidden coves, or snorkeling in pristine coral reefs teeming with marine life. Visit nearby Virgin Gorda, home to The Baths, where giant granite boulders form awe-inspiring natural tidal pools. Or set sail to Jost Van Dyke, known for its lively beach bars and the famous Painkiller cocktail.

Just a short ride away on the resort's complimentary ferry, Marina Cay offers yet another slice of paradise. This charming neighboring island boasts white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and a laid-back atmosphere perfect for an afternoon escape. Guests can explore the island's rich history, indulge in a Caribbean-inspired meal with refreshing cocktails, experience the watersport



Scrub Island villas

offerings, or snorkel in the vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life.

For those with a passion for fishing, deep-sea charters offer the chance to reel in marlin, tuna, and mahi-mahi. And for thrill-seekers, a range of water sports — including kayaking, paddleboarding, and diving — awaits just offshore. Whether you prefer a serene sunset sail or an adrenaline-filled afternoon on the azure waters, Scrub Island ensures every guest finds their perfect adventure.

For curated excursions, guests can book the Virgin Gorda Explorer tour, which includes an unforgettable trip to the legendary Baths and surrounding beaches. Another popular choice is the Island Hopper excursion, a thrilling journey to multiple BVI hotspots, from hidden cays to vibrant beach bars. *Book your adventure at https://divebvi.com*

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VIBE: Virgin Islands Boating Expo Returns May 15-18, 2025

Photos by Savannah Willow



Harbor360 Vendor Expo

The highly anticipated Virgin Islands Boating Expo (VIBE) is set to return May 15-18, 2025, at IGY's Yacht Haven Grande, St. Thomas. This premier marine event offers an unparalleled opportunity to explore powerboats, sailboats, and top yacht brands, discover charter options, and invest in a boat — all in one of the most tax-advantaged locations in the U.S. territories.

For prospective yacht buyers and charter business entrepreneurs, VIBE presents a unique advantage. The U.S. Virgin Islands is outside the U.S. customs area, meaning no sales tax on boat purchases. Plus, new yacht owners can skip transportation and commissioning costs on a vessel that is already in the heart of one of the world's most desirable yachting destinations.

VIBE's financial partners and sponsor, Azul Marine Lending, will be on site during the boat show to help navigate financing options. Staff experience covers a range of vessels from catamarans to powerboats, fishing boats, or sailboats, with the aim of making boat ownership more accessible than ever.

For the general public, VIBE is a true destination boat show, combining business with leisure in a spectacular setting. Attendees can step aboard luxury yachts, connect with industry experts, and even test sail exhibiting yachts straight from their show berths, making this a one-stop-shop experience for every boating enthusiast, from prospective purchasers or charterers to newcomers interested in the boating lifestyle.

In addition to exploring top-tier yachts from brands such as Fountaine Pajot, Axopar, Grady White, Lagoon and Bali, VIBE offers a variety of engaging activities for all attendees. New sailors can take the helm and gain hands-on experience with sailing demonstrations led by the St. Thomas Yacht Club. A highlight of the event is an exclusive raffle, sponsored by The Bitter End Yacht Club, offering attendees a chance to win a prize package valued at over $2,000. Guests can also deepen their knowledge of marine conservation by learning about coral reef restoration initiatives led by Reef Response USVI, in partnership with the University of the Virgin Islands. Additionally, those interested in maritime safety can attend an informative seminar hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard on boating regulations. The expo will also feature daily live music along the docks, interactive exhibits, and cultural performances, making VIBE a must-attend event for both boating enthusiasts and casual visitors alike.



Yachts on display at Yacht Haven Grande

After exploring all the show has to offer, guests are invited to cool down inside the air-conditioned Harbor360 Vendor Expo, where all ticket holders will receive two complimentary drinks at the terrace bar while enjoying a vibrant atmosphere of music and entertainment.

- **Book Now:** Purchase tickets at vibe.vi/attend/#buy-tickets
- **Accommodations:** Discounted hotel rates available at vibe.vi/accommodations
- **More Info:** Visit vibe.vi or email info@vibe.vi

VIBE is organized by the Virgin Islands Professional Charter Association, Inc. (VIPCA). To learn more about VIPCA, visit www.vipca.org. With its prime location in the Caribbean and no passport required for U.S. citizens, VIBE is the ultimate opportunity to explore, learn, and invest in the boating lifestyle.

Part One: Transatlantic Planning, Electric Style

Story and photos by Keith Dickey and Rebecca Frontz

Planning an Atlantic crossing with an electric motor presents unique challenges, but also exciting opportunities. In our previous five-article series in *Caribbean Compass* (https://caribbeancompass.com/5000-miles-against-the-trades-with-an-electric-motor/), we detailed the electric motor conversion of our 42-foot monohull built in 1979.

Since then, we have made a few systems changes. At the time of our Atlantic passage, she was equipped with approximately 15 kWh of lithium batteries, a 5.5 kW diesel generator with an 80-gallon tank, 2,500 watts of solar, and hydro generation capacity. These systems were designed to support both propulsion and house power during long passages.

Here, we'll delve into the critical decisions and preparations that made this ambitious crossing possible, focusing on route options, energy management, and systems preparation.

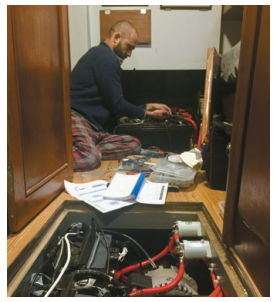
Route Options

Bermuda Route: This traditional route takes sailors north to Bermuda before heading east toward the Azores. It has stronger winds, but also significant waves and unpredictable storms; it is approximately 2,800 nautical miles. High winds keep a boat moving, but increased sea states and limited sunshine demand robust energy management for electric boats.

Modified Rhumb Line: This option lies between the direct rhumb line and the Bermuda route, skirting Bermuda by 200-300 nautical miles. It has the potential for favorable winds. It also includes calm sections, which can be challenging for boats without significant auxiliary propulsion range. It is a compromise for many sailors, but they often arrive with the fuel gauge at or near zero.

Direct Rhumb Line: At approximately 2,200 nautical miles, this is the shortest route, and the light winds and high-pressure systems are advantageous for solar-electric systems. The minimal sea state reduces drag, while clear skies maximize solar power generation. Reliance on solar and careful energy management underscores the importance of having backup generators and efficient energy storage.

For our (north)eastward journey from St. Martin to the Azores, we chose the direct rhumb line, which offered ideal conditions for our solar-electric system. With that thought and a new asymmetrical spinnaker to take full advantage of light winds, we felt reasonably confident in our choice.



Keith does final systems checks.

Optimize Energy Systems

One of the most critical aspects of planning for this journey was ensuring that we had enough power. With our electric motor-powered boat, we believed it would be essential to rely on both solar power and contingency systems.

Solar Power: Our 2,500-watt solar array is an important component of our energy system. It's split between panels mounted on the bimini and the davits, providing a broad and consistent surface area to collect solar energy. Of this, 2,100 watts are dedicated to charging the 48V propulsion batteries, while 400 watts support the 12V house systems, so even on overcast days, we can still generate enough power to keep the boat running efficiently.

Diesel Generator: While solar power would be our primary energy source, our diesel generator provides an additional 300 hours of runtime on its own fuel supply. This fuel reserve would serve as a safety net, giving us the confidence to sail directly into high-pressure zones with minimal concern about depleting our batteries.

Lithium Batteries: By the time of this crossing, we knew our high-capacity lithium batteries were nearing the end of their operational lifespan. While they were still functional, we had already begun noticing reduced capacity and charge-holding capabilities. In future instalments of this series, we'll go into more detail about how the batteries performed and how we adapted our strategies in response to this issue.

Energy Management: One of the keys to successful electric propulsion on long ocean passages is careful energy management. We planned to operate the electric motor primarily during daylight hours when solar input would be highest, relying on the sunlight to recharge the batteries. At night, we would reduce our energy consumption by limiting non-essential systems and using our diesel generator sparingly.

—Continued on page 23





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—Continued from page 21



Keith installs the new 1,600-watt solar array on the hardtop we added in Trinidad.

Harnessing the (Light) Winds: Recognizing the importance of maximizing wind energy for propulsion, we added an asymmetrical spinnaker for very light wind sailing. By optimizing sail trim and deploying the appropriate sail for conditions, we hoped to reduce our reliance on stored energy and extend our range significantly in calm weather.

Detailed Preparations

A successful crossing requires thorough preparation well in advance of departure. In addition to the obligatory safety checks and equipment (life rafts, EPIRBs, rig check, etc.) our pre-departure preparation focused especially on ensuring that our systems were in top working order and that we could respond effectively to any challenges that might arise during the journey. We also picked up a few additional electronics spares, which would be critical about one week into the passage.



Skies were slightly overcast for our departure from Marigot Bay, St. Martin.

Weather Research: One of the most important aspects of our planning is understanding the weather systems we could encounter, particularly the high-pressure zones we would sail through. These zones are typically characterized by light winds, but we could use them to our advantage. They are very dynamic and their position/location moves daily, but knowing when and where to expect these calms would allow us to plan our energy usage carefully, conserving battery power for when we needed it most.

System Testing: Before embarking on the crossing, we conducted extensive system testing, simulating the conditions of the Atlantic passage. This involved running our electric motor for long stretches at various speeds, testing how efficiently our solar array could recharge the batteries, and ensuring our backup generator would perform as expected under load.

Contingency Planning: To mitigate risks, we ensured that we had spare parts for critical systems such as our motor controller and battery management system, as well as tools for emergency repairs. Additionally, we had redundant navigation and communication systems to keep us connected to shore support if needed.

Closing Thoughts

Planning an Atlantic crossing with an electric motor requires careful coordination of energy systems, route selection, and contingency strategies. By embracing the unique challenges and opportunities presented by calm conditions and the direct rhumb line, we were able to prepare ourselves for a successful journey. In the next articles, we will dive into the realities of the crossing itself — exploring how our plans held up in practice, the surprises we encountered, and the lessons we learned along the way.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss sailboat electrification, feel free to email the authors at sail.vagari@gmail.com. Look for additional installments of this series at caribbeancompass.com.




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Catherine's Café: Ultimate Beachside Retreat for Sailors in English Harbour

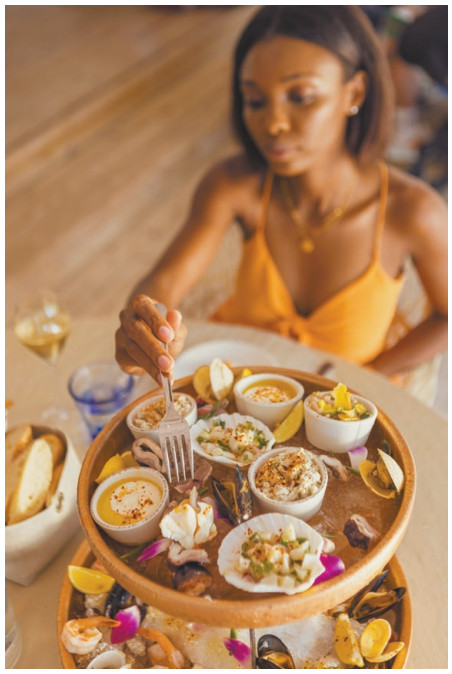


From elegant dinners to spontaneous dips in the sea, Catherine's Café offers a truly special Antigua experience.

Nestled on the sun-drenched shores of Pigeon Point Beach, Catherine's Café is an Antiguan gem where French-inspired cuisine meets the effortless cool of a Caribbean beach bar. A beloved haven for sailors, yachties, and food lovers alike, this award-winning beachside retreat blends barefoot luxury with a relaxed nautical charm. With renowned Antigua Sailing Week on the horizon, there's no better time for the maritime community to experience the magic of Catherine's Café. Sister to the famous Sheer Rocks and a part of the acclaimed Rocks Group restaurant collection, this sunny gem is the picture of barefoot luxury.

Sailing into Paradise: Catherine's Café at Pigeon Point

For those arriving by sea, Catherine's Café is a sailor's dream. Its prime location in English Harbour makes it an easy and alluring stop for yacht crews and regatta participants to anchor just offshore or stroll down from Nelson's Dockyard. Home to Antigua Sailing Week's iconic Lay Day party, taking place this year on April 30, the venue certainly knows how to throw a party, with live music, DJs, dancers, and champagne



Here's an Antiguan gem where French-inspired cuisine meets the effortless cool of a Caribbean beach bar.

By day, Catherine's Café embodies the spirit of a chic Riviera-style beach club. Guests lounge on oversized daybeds, sip chilled bottles of rosé, and wade into the turquoise waters between courses. The open-air dining room, framed by lush neem trees and blooming orchids, offers the perfect setting for long, leisurely lunches filled with French classics and fresh Caribbean flavors.

For those seeking something casual, Catherine's is just as inviting. Champagne and fruits de mer or a burger, everything blends seamlessly into the signature Rocks Group standard of excellence.

Unmissable Events & Live Music on the Sand

Sailors and islanders alike flock to Catherine's for its Saturday afternoons of live music and dancing barefoot in the sand, cocktail in hand. Or Wednesday night romance with smooth jazz creating an intimate and sultry ambiance under the stars. On Fridays, Seafood Night is a must, along with weekend brunch! From elegant dinners to spontaneous dips in the sea, Catherine's Café offers a truly special Antigua experience that keeps visitors coming back time and again.

Award-Winning Excellence: Best Beach Bar in the Caribbean

Catherine's Café kicked off the year by being named Best Beach Bar in the Caribbean by *Caribbean Journal*, recognizing it as a destination where every detail, from the curated wine list to the thoughtfully designed beachfront setting, has been carefully crafted to create an unforgettable experience.

Beyond the Beach: Discovering Rocks Group's Other Venues

For those eager to explore more of Antigua's premier dining destinations, Rocks Group offers a collection of exceptional venues, each with its own unique charm and culinary identity.



Perched on a rocky cliffside on Antigua's south coast, Sheer Rocks is known for unparalleled panoramic views.

Sheer Rocks, the flagship of Rocks Group, has won Best Restaurant in the Caribbean three times. Perched on a rocky cliffside on Antigua's west coast, this iconic restaurant is known for its plunge pool experiences, world-class cuisine, sunset cocktails, and unparalleled panoramic views. The newly introduced Cove Pool and reservation-free Infinity Bar offer a relaxed, way to soak in the breathtaking scenery. Weekends feature Music on the Rocks, with pools open to all guests, live DJs and a buzzing atmosphere.

Just around the corner, **Rokuni** has recently reopened in a stunning new location at Sugar Ridge, bringing its bold Asian-inspired cuisine and vibrant energy to Antigua's shores. The expansive space is a haven for those who love exciting flavors, featuring live music every Thursday and Saturday, along with the highly anticipated Music on the Ridge monthly pool parties. With its jaw-dropping sustainable design, innovative menu, and dynamic cocktail program, Rokuni has quickly become a must-visit for both travellers and locals.

For a more intimate and low-key experience, **Roquita**, located on Dockyard Drive, in the heart of English Harbour, offers a relaxed setting, perfect for late-night cocktails, small plates, and an inviting social atmosphere. The taperia and wine bar are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Rocks Group Events: Crafting Unforgettable Celebrations

Beyond its restaurants, Rocks Group Events is the go-to for bespoke celebrations in Antigua. From in-villa dining and private yacht experiences to luxurious weddings and corporate events, the team specializes in curating extraordinary moments.

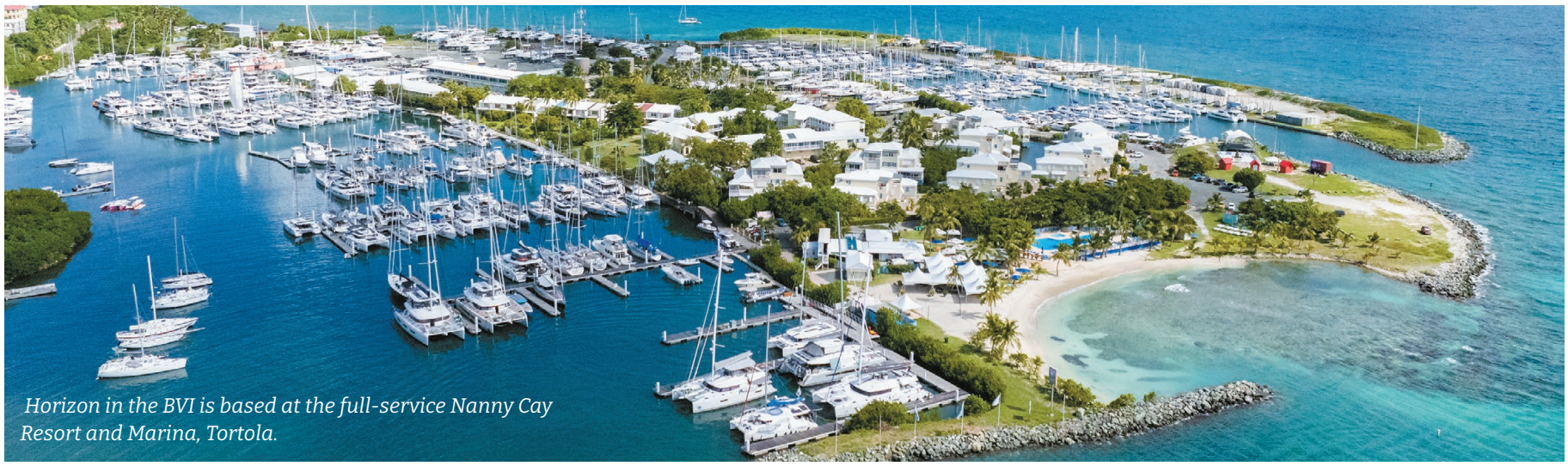
Set Sail for Catherine's Café

There's no better time for the yachting and sailing community to discover (or rediscover) the magic of Catherine's Café and Rocks Group. Whether you're lounging in the sunshine with a glass of rosé, celebrating Lay Day, indulging in fresh seafood, or dancing under the stars to live music, Catherine's offers the perfect blend of luxury, relaxation, and beachside revelry.

Drop anchor, come ashore, and immerse yourself in the best beach bar experience in the Caribbean. www.catherines-cafe.com

Pigeon Point Beach, St. Paul's, Antigua; @catherinescafe. For reservations at any Rocks Group Restaurant, call +1 268 463-6161; WhatsApp: +1 268 464-5283; reservations@itsrocksgroup.com

Discover the Ultimate Sailing Experience with Horizon Yacht Charters in the BVI and St. Vincent & the Grenadines



Horizon in the BVI is based at the full-service Nanny Cay Resort and Marina, Tortola.

Few experiences in life compare to the freedom and exhilaration of sailing through the crystal clear waters of the Caribbean. If you're in the market for a Caribbean sailing charter, Horizon Yacht Charters offers an exceptional range of yachting options in two of the most breathtaking sailing destinations: the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and St. Vincent & the Grenadines (SVG). Whether you're looking to embark on a luxurious crewed yacht, enjoying the freedom of a bareboat charter, learning to sail or exploring yacht ownership opportunities, Horizon has something tailored for every sailing enthusiast.

Who is Horizon Yacht Charters?

Horizon was established in Nanny Cay, Tortola, BVI, in 1998. It remains under the steer of co-founder, Andrew Thompson, whose early career in the financial markets and mega yacht industry helped lay the cornerstones of the business. Built on the principles of excellence, value for money and a commitment to providing high-quality yachts and top-tier customer service, Horizon is a preferred choice among sailors worldwide. With bases in both the BVI and St Vincent & the Grenadines, it is the largest independent yacht sales and charter company in the Caribbean.

The Ultimate Caribbean Sailing Experience

The BVI is renowned for its sheltered waters, consistent trade winds, and an abundance of idyllic anchorages. It is the perfect destination for both novice and experienced sailors seeking an accessible and enjoyable cruising ground. Meanwhile, St. Vincent & the Grenadines offer a more adventurous sailing experience, with secluded bays, pristine beaches, and a rich cultural heritage.

A Fleet Designed for Every Need

The rigorous maintenance schedule guaranteed to its yacht owners means the Horizon Yacht Charters fleet is undeniably in prime shape, so that whatever type of yacht is sought — from a 34-foot monohull to a 67-foot catamaran — is on offer for charter. Their yachts come fully equipped with modern amenities and a range of extras to elevate the guest experience. Options range from bareboat charters for experienced sailors to fully crewed charters offering the luxury of a professional captain and chef.

One unique offering by Horizon is their "asymmetric" sailing charters in the BVI, allowing experienced sailors to take advantage of downwind sails for a more dynamic and exciting voyage. This is the only charter company in the Caribbean to offer this experience.

Flexible and Personalized Services

Horizon Yacht Charters takes pride in its boutique approach, ensuring personalized service and flexibility for guests. Unlike larger, corporate-owned charter companies, Horizon is independently managed, allowing for tailored experiences and greater attention to detail. Guests can enjoy flexible start dates, custom itineraries, and seamless support from dedicated teams at each location.

Reaching the BVI and St. Vincent & the Grenadines is easy, with multiple flight options and daily connections available for guests flying in from the US, Canada and Europe. Horizon also offers an easy booking process, allowing guests to secure their yacht with a $500 deposit while finalizing their plans.

Yacht Ownership in the Caribbean

For those interested in extending their time in the Caribbean beyond seasonal charters, Horizon offers bespoke yacht ownership programs. Owning a yacht in the Caribbean not only provides an exclusive cruising experience but also offers financial benefits (and tax advantages for some clients) through Horizon's charter management programs.

As an authorized dealer for Nautitech Catamarans and Bavaria Yachts, as well as selling Lagoon, Fountaine Pajot, Excess catamarans and Jeanneau, Beneteau, and Dufour yachts, Horizon provides a variety of options for prospective yacht owners. Their competitive factory-direct, tax-free pricing, combined with potential "active management" tax advantages for US owners, makes yacht ownership a financially viable option.

Hassle-Free Yacht Management

Horizon offers a comprehensive preventive yacht maintenance system. The experienced team handles all aspects of the maintenance. This means owners can enjoy their yachts without the stress of upkeep while also benefiting from charter revenue.

Horizon offers flexible charter management programs, including guaranteed income and active management/maximum income/unlimited sailing options. These programs allow yacht owners to generate income from their vessels while also enjoying the flexibility to use them whenever desired. Additionally, Horizon's Worldwide Sailing Plan enables yacht owners to sail in other exotic destinations through partnerships with other charter companies.

Try Before You Buy

For those considering yacht ownership, Horizon offers a unique opportunity to "try before you buy." Prospective buyers can charter a yacht similar to the one they are interested in purchasing. If they decide to proceed with the purchase within three months, Horizon will deduct up to a week's charter fee from the purchase price.



Horizon has the largest fleet of monohulls available for charter in the BVI.

Seamless Yacht Purchase and Delivery

Horizon's yacht sales team assists buyers throughout the entire purchasing process, from selection and customization to delivery and insurance for a seamless handover, allowing owners to enjoy a turn-key Caribbean sailing experience.

Whether you're planning the vacation of a lifetime in the BVI or St. Vincent & the Grenadines, or considering yacht ownership, Horizon Yacht Charters offers an unparalleled experience. With a top-quality fleet, personalized service, and expert management, Horizon continues to set the standard for boutique yachting in the Caribbean year-round.

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Sales: yachtsales@horizonyachtcharters.com
Toll Free: +1 877 877 1888; WhatsApp: + 1 (284) 540 0287; horizonyachtcharters.com

CALENDAR

April 2025

1-5	Vujaday Music Festival, Barbados. vujadaymusicfestival.com
1-7	Trinidad and Tobago Film Folklore Festival. ttfilmfestival.com
7-11	Oyster Regatta, Antigua
10–13	St. Croix International Regatta. Stcroixyc.com
11-20	Cartagena Sailing Week, Cartagena, Colombia
12	FULL MOON (Full Pink Moon)
13-15	SVG Sailing Week: the Bougainvillea Cup, Fort Duvernette, St. Vincent. svgsailingweek.com/about/
13–19	Les Voiles de St Barth. lesvoilesdestbarthrichardmille.com
16	Public holiday in Puerto Rico (Birthday of José de Diego)
16-21	SVG Sailing Week: Bequia Easter Regatta. svgsailingweek.com/about/
16-21	Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. antiguaclassics.com
17-19	International Blueseas Festival, Curaçao. Curaçaoblueseasfestival.com
17-20	Tobago Rhythm and Soul Festival. tobagofestivalscommission.com/events/tobago-rhythm-and-soul-festival-2024/
18	Start of Salty Dawg Rally, USVI to US East Coast. saltydawgsailing.org
18-29	Afro-Cuban Dance Festival, Havana. afrocubandancefestival.com
19-20	Bequia Easter Regatta. bequiaregatta.com
20-21	Festival Del Mar, Anguilla. anguilla-beaches.com/festival-del-mar-anguilla.html
21-27	Ritmo Cuba, International Cuban Dance Festival, Havana
21-5 May	St. Maarten Carnival
22	Earth Day
22	Buccoo Goat Race Festival, Tobago. visittobago.gov.tt/festivals-events
23	Tobago Jazz Experience. tobagofestivalscommission.com
23-29	Jamaica Carnival.www.socaislands.com
25-27	St. Barth Book and Jazz Festival, St. Barth's. saintbarth-tourisme.com
25-27	West Indies Regatta, St. Barth. westindiesregatta.com
25-28	Mayreau Regatta, Mayreau Island, Grenadines. discoversvg.com
26	Peters and May Round Antigua Race. sailingweek.com/roundantiguarace/
26	Governor's Cup, Royal BVI Yacht Club. royalbviyc.org/racing/governorscup.html
26	Coveside Concert – Steady Rock. St. Ann, Jamaica. covesideconcerts.com
26-27	Aruba Food Truck Festival. https://www.arubatoday.com/food-truck-festival-its-about-food-entertainment-for-all/
26-27	Corozal Bay Sailing Club Regatta, Belize. https://www.arubatoday.com/food-truck-festival-its-about-food-entertainment-for-all/
26-27	NGC Bocas Lit Fest, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. publishersarchive.com/event/740
26–2 May	Antigua Sailing Week. www.sailingweek.com
27	Public holiday in St. Maarten and Bonaire (King's Day)
27-3 May	St. Thomas Carnival. visitusvi.com/carnivals-festivals/
28	Public holiday in Barbados (National Heroes' Day)
29 or 30	Public holiday in Trinidad & Tobago (Eid ul-Fitr, end of Ramadan)
30	Public holiday in Bonaire (Rincon Day)
30	St. Maarten-St. Martin Carnival. Carnival Day/Queen Juliana's Birthday public holiday in St. Maarten
30-3 May	Anguilla Culinary Experience. anguillaculinaryexperience.com
30-4 May	Vallenato Festival, Valledupar, Colombia. colombia.travel/en/fairs-and-festivals/festival-vallenato
30-11 May	St. Lucia Jazz and Arts Festival. stlucia.org/en/jazz/
TBA	Barbados Reggae Festival
TBA	Carriacou Maroon & String Band Music Festival. ourcarriacou.com/maroon-string-band-music-festival/

See the entire calendar of events at caribbeancompass.com/caribbean-events-calendar



EAT. DRINK. LIME.

MERIDIAN PASSAGE OF THE MOON
APRIL 2025

Crossing the channels between Eastern Caribbean islands, an ebb tide carries you off to leeward and a strong flood tide creates lumpy seas, so crossing with a favorable tide is faster and more comfortable. The table below, showing the local time of the meridian passage (or zenith) of the moon for this month, will help you calculate the tides.

Water generally tries to run toward the moon. The flood tide starts running eastward soon after moonrise, continues to run east until about an hour after the moon reaches its zenith (see TIME below) and then ebbs westward. From just after the moon's setting to just after its nadir, the tide runs eastward; and from just after its nadir to soon after its rising, the tide runs westward.

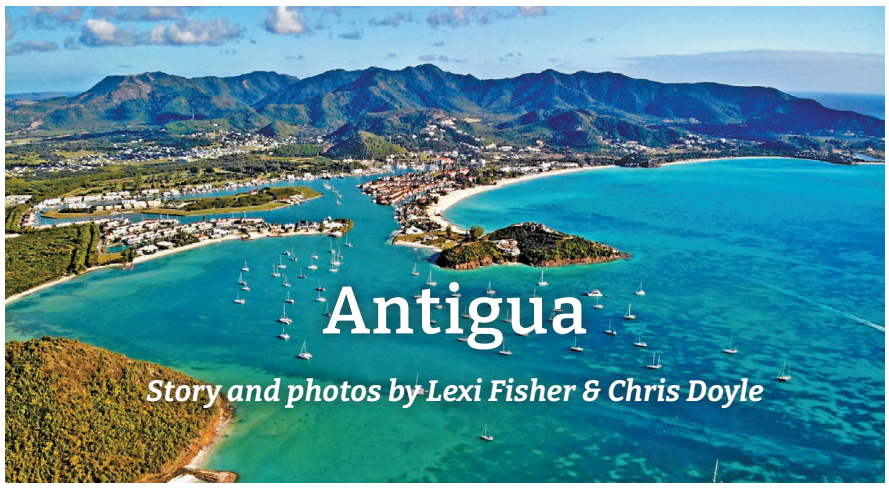
The first hour after moonrise, the westerly current is barely negated. The second hour the flood tide is stronger, the third and fourth hour it's strongest, then it eases off in the fifth and sixth hours. The maximum tide is three or four days after the new and full moons. For more detailed information enabling the sailor to calculate the direction and strength of the current, check the tidal section in the booklets that come with Imray-Iolaire charts A27 or B1.

April 2025

DATE	TIME
1	1452
2	1553
3	1655
4	1756
5	1853
6	1945
7	2033
8	2117
9	2158
10	2237
11	2317
12	2356
13	0000 FULL MOON
14	0038
15	0121
16	0208
17	0258
18	0350
19	0444
20	0538
21	0631
22	0722
23	0812
24	0901
25	0950
26	1041
27	1135
28	1233
29	1335
30	1439

May 2025

DATE	TIME
1	1543
2	1644
3	1739
4	1830
5	1915
6	1957
7	2037
8	2116
9	2156
10	2236
11	2319
12	0000 FULL MOON
13	0005
14	0054
15	0146
16	0239
17	0333
18	0426
19	0517
20	0605
21	0653
22	0740
23	0829
24	0919
25	1014
26	1114
27	1217
28	1323
29	1427
30	1527
31	1621



Antigua

Story and photos by Lexi Fisher & Chris Doyle

Antigua is one of those islands where you can get almost anything done, from finding the rarest of parts to commissioning custom work of any kind, and then sail around to the other coast and feel like you're in another world. You could spend days exploring the coastline around Great Bird Island, Long Island, and Maiden Island. Much of this northeast coast, with its series of islets and shallow, reef-strewn bays, is part of a national park, and sits in stark contrast to the hustle and bustle of English Harbour.

From a yachting point of view, Antigua is inextricably linked with the beautiful and historic English Harbour, perhaps the most famous yachting center in the Eastern Caribbean. Come the winter season, English Harbour, and the next-door Falmouth Harbour, attract a dazzling selection of the largest and fanciest sailing and power superyachts in the world. That leaves plenty of room for cruising yachts, and Antigua offers more beautiful, protected, and varied anchorages than most other islands. There are plenty of restaurants in English, Falmouth or Jolly Harbours, or anywhere with a hotel. Other anchorages are quiet and peaceful. Antigua hosts a variety of well-established yachting events, including the Caribbean 600 and Antigua Sailing Week. Come summer, most yachts leave and the island reverts to a quiet and peaceful pace.

The Antigua coast guard gives weather forecasts out of St. John's on VHF: 14 at 0100, 0900 and 1800. You should be able to receive them in most places on the west coast and maybe on passage to Barbuda.

Amid Antigua's highest hills are areas of mixed, but mainly dry, forest. Fig Tree Drive winds through this area and offers several attractions. Wallings Reservoir is along this road and many trails start there. If you hike up Signal Hill, you will find an open area of small ponds and great views, or you can hike to Rendezvous Bay. Also in these southern hills is the Antigua Rainforest Canopy Tour. This is not a conventional canopy tour, but it is exciting, good exercise, and something to remember. Much of it has been built by Bernard Nichols and it includes walking on well-designed trails and steps, and ziplining back and forth across a gorge strapped to a harness on a series of wires. The longest of these rides is 300 feet over a drop of 350 feet. This takes you downhill and you walk back up some amazing steps to a bar with a great view of the forest.

English and Falmouth Harbours

In the old days it was hard to find secure ports that were easily defensible, with immediate access to the trade winds, yet protected enough to careen a ship and be safe in a hurricane. Falmouth Harbour and English Harbour sit side by side, almost touching at the closest point, and they both meet all these requirements. Their potential was recognized as early as 1745, when work begun on the English Harbour Dockyard. It was completed much as it stands today around 1789 and was Britain's main naval station in the Lesser Antilles. Lord Horatio Nelson was stationed here in 1784 under Sir Richard Hughes, who had recently blinded himself in one eye while chasing a cockroach with a fork. Later, Nelson took over as Naval Commander. He did not enjoy Antigua and did not get on well with Governor General Shirley (after whom Shirley Heights is named) or the plantocracy, who resented the boring way in which Nelson insisted on enforcing the Navigation Act. This meant he kept the port closed to trade for all but British ships. Nonetheless, the dockyard is now generally known as Nelson's Dockyard in deference to Britain's favorite hero.

—Continued on the next page



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—*Continued from the previous page*

When former commander Vernon Nicholson sailed into English Harbour in 1947, the dockyard was in ruins. The arrival of Nicholson's charter company in 1949 and the restoration of the ruins into a beautiful yet functional monument gave momentum to the development of the yachting industry here. Today, these harbors are managed by the Nelson's Dockyard National Park, part of the National Parks Authority. This is not only the yachting capital of Antigua, it is a major Caribbean yachting center.

The neighboring harbors are the winter home of many gold-plated charter yachts of sail and power. They have become the Caribbean's main base for sailing superyachts, and these make a grand spectacle on the docks. English Harbour is prettier; Falmouth Harbour is more convenient for most yacht services. Many businesses are set up to sell duty-free goods to those on yachts, and yacht owners can order duty-free parts through these businesses. A wide range of marine services and a convivial social scene are found here, complete with happy hours and jump-up nights.

The whole of Nelson's Dockyard has been beautifully reconstructed to house hotels, restaurants, and businesses. It, and the land and ruins to the east, are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is an outstanding historic monument, all the better for being used, and a fitting scene for Antigua's main port of arrival for yachts. Falmouth Harbour is considerably larger and surrounded by hills. It has more facilities than English Harbour and is favored by most of the charter yachts, superyachts, and larger cruising yachts. Most places of interest are strung between the Dockyard and the eastern part of Falmouth, all within a few minutes stroll. However, the Catamaran Hotel and Marina and several important services in the northern end of Falmouth Harbour are a mile down the road. The road is hot, but buses run about every half hour. They start outside the Dockyard gates and pass Falmouth on the way to St. John's.

Most service providers in this area are members of the Antigua and Barbuda Marine Association. View a copy of their cruisers directory online at ABYMA.ag.

Doyle Guides contain the Eastern Caribbean's most comprehensive and reliable sailing information, available in hard copy and online through a free mobile app, website, and Facebook group. (www.doyleguides.com).

Antigua & Barbuda Entry and Exit Procedures

Ports of Entry:
The two ports of entry in Antigua are English/Falmouth Harbour and Jolly Harbour. Codrington is the single port of entry in Barbuda and is possible with advanced approval.

Advance Paperwork:
All visiting yachts should pre-register with eSeaClear or SailClear before arrival (https://eseaclear.com/ and http://www.sailclear.com/). For visitors from many countries, a visa is not required. Stays of up to 90 days are granted on arrival.

Entry Process:
All vessels must clear in with Antigua Customs and Immigration upon arrival with their eSeaClear or SailClear notification ID number, crew passports and boat paperwork. A cruising permit is granted on check-in.

Exit Process:
Same as the entry process. Outstanding anchorage/park fees will be collected along with a departure fee and fees for any passengers.

Rates:
Jolly Harbour is the cheapest option for entering and exiting the country at 85EC for check-in and 20EC for check-out (credit cards not accepted). Children are deemed passengers and incur an additional charge of 75EC when clearing out..

noonsite.com

This information is provided by Noonsite.com, specialists in worldwide formalities for yachts, and was accurate at press time. Check https://www.noonsite.com/place/antigua-barbuda/view/clearance for more details and updates.



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Catamaran Brokerage Sales

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Published by Compass Publishing LLC, Connecticut, USA, and printed by Guardian Media Limited, Trinidad & Tobago