



Happy Shark Week! Today we celebrate the Discovery Channel's annual Fintastic FinFest and I'm THRILLED to announce that the U.S. Virgin Islands recently made history when our Legislature unanimously voted for a "Toxic Sunscreen Ban" with the most far-reaching protections for coral and marine life in the United States. This pioneering law prohibits the importation, sale, and possession of sunscreen containing the "toxic 3 Os" of oxybenzone, octinoxate and octocrylene. It goes into effect March 30, 2020, nine months earlier than any other U.S. sunscreen ban, plus it adds the ingredient octocrylene to the chemicals banned in Hawaii and Key West. The "toxic 3 Os" cause coral bleaching, "zombie coral," and other extensive marine devastations, plus they are carcinogenic in humans, disrupting vital human hormones and causing cell damage. Banning them is an enormous win for our precious ecosystem and visitors to these glorious beloved islands.

I am the only person who has snorkeled solo all the way around the island of St. John (the story of my adventure 4 years ago was featured in St. John Tradewinds News), so I know all too well the heartbreaking condition of many of our reefs. On the other hand, I also know all of the most pristine reefs and secret beaches where corals and sea life flourish and would love to share them with you!

My friend and hero, Harith Wickrema, president of "Island Green Living Association" on St. John initiated the bill to ban toxic sunscreens in the USVI. I am forever grateful for this marvelous nonprofit organization's groundbreaking efforts and encourage members and anyone who may be interested in supporting their many wonderful projects to visit their website: www.IslandGreenLiving.org. Over the years, they have repeatedly been trailblazers initiating crucial changes to protect the Virgin Islands and serve as a guiding light for governments, communities, and avid protectors of ecosystems worldwide. For example, President Bill Clinton credited Harith for educating him about the hazards of the "toxic 3 Os" and now urges the use of coral-safe sunscreens.

Today's five favorites are all in the Virgin Islands where Lady Grace, our 42' scuba boat owned and operated by TTT, takes members diving with gorgeous Caribbean Reef Sharks (photo above). Lady Grace was moored in front of the Ritz-Carlton on St. Thomas for 12 years to take their guests diving until two Category 5 hurricanes in September of 2017 closed the Ritz (which will reopen December 1, 2019). After the hurricanes, we purchased this historic boat (which was in the movie, The Deep, with Jacqueline Bisset and Nick Nolte) to take members scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, island hopping, whale watching, lionfish hunting, freediving, and cruising the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. Have no fear, Caribbean Reef Sharks are not aggressive, just curious and they will follow us around hoping we'll feed them a lionfish. It's thrilling, come play with us in paradise!

The Mafolie Hotel on St. Thomas offers personalized service and deluxe amenities including one of the Caribbean's most acclaimed restaurants, complimentary Continental breakfast, a swimming pool and poolside bar, a breezy tropical style and a world of warm comforts including Serta Perfect Sleeper bedding, safes, microwaves, refrigerators, cable television, coffee makers, and private baths. Its prime location gives you easy access to local sightseeing in Charlotte Amalie and nearby activities, Blackbeard's Castle, and the world-renowned powdery white sand beach on Magens Bay.

Villa Tryst, Lantano Villa, and Casa Azure are wonderful properties with swimming pools and spectacular sea views. Please let us know if you would like to visit St. Thomas or any of the other Virgin Islands, or if you have available dates that you would like to trade in your vacation property for stays in the world's most luxurious vacation homes and villas, boutique hotels, resorts, spas, castles, chateaux, penthouses, private islands, boats, yachts and megayachts at 90% savings!

Thank you so much, we wish you a wonderful weekend!

All the best,
Leah

Lantano Villa St. John, US Virgin Islands

T2524

Available August 2-31 and October 5 - December 15, 2019



Villa Tryst St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

T3027

Available September 23-30, 2019



Mafolie Hotel St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

T3024

Please inquire regarding availability.



Casa Azure St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

T1389

Please inquire regarding availability.



Lady Grace St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

T3225

Available August 2, 2019 - December 31, 2020



"Give us a week and we'll give you the world!"