

...Welcome to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands

Please note, we own 2 houses on st. john

Luxury 5 BR house/East end (known as "Wild Jasmine") (# 6 Privateer Bay Estates @Hansen Bay)

Or

6 BR house at Coral Bay (under renovations for now and will be ready summer 2010. This House is known as the "Love Nest")

Homeowner: John F. Gallagher

Our phone # in Massachusetts is (978) 526-7512

our website: www.OurRentalParadise.com

our email: info@ourrentalparadise.com

To reach our local people on island (housekeeper Terry at (340) 626-7744. You can email her at Beesnh20@yahoo.com Let her know approx. what time you'll be arriving as you'll be flying into St. Thomas (STT) first, then take the 20 minute ferry from Red Hook over to St. John

In case of a serious problem or issue you can call our builder on the island: Kyle Olsen at (978) 423-0099

Thanks for renting our villa(s). You'll notice the breath-taking views of the ocean and Coral Bay from every room in both houses! Both houses are on the quiet east side of the island where there are few cars, no traffic jams, gorgeous scenery, friendly people and more donkeys and wild goats than humans! It's paradise on the east side of the island!

You'll also see lots of wild deer and hundreds of wild donkeys just milling around.

The Privateer Bay house (Wild Jasmine) has 4 master suites, each with its own private bath. And a 5th private Bedroom. There is also a pull out couch/queen bed in the family room (in the rear pod)

Sleeps 12 people. Plus crib. The 5th br has a queen bed. All Br's are fully air-conditioned. This house has just been totally renovated at a cost of \$ 250K with extensive landscaping, new pool and patios, new deck railings, every room painted in bright tropical colors, new beds and mattresses, new designer sheets and new furniture. The house is appraised at near \$ 2 million.

The new Coral Bay house (aka as the Love Nest) will sleep 16 guests. Note: this house is undergoing renovations including a new swimming pool, patios, painting, etc. and is not yet available

Both house have their own beach area a short walk away!!!

Tel # at the Privateer Bay house: (340) 715-1803

Tel # at the Coral Bay 6 br house: (340) xxxxxxxx (under renovations now)

Each house has a fully equipped kitchen with oven, microwave, blender (of course), icemaker (of course), full sized refrigerator and outdoor gas grille.

Most of your meals you'll want to eat outside on the decks with the awesome ocean views.

Local Assistance: Call Terry Lamb our housekeeper if you need anything as she is local and a great lady. Our neighbors Sloop Jones, next house down from the 5 BR Privateer bay house are good friends of ours. And my local workmen are often on island Kyle Olsen at (978) 423-0099 who are usually there. They will arrange for the housekeeper to greet you when you get to the house so email us the expected time your plane lands in st. Thomas and we'll forward that to the housekeepers.

You should visit Sloop Jones' store at his house where he is an artist and makes custom island t-shirts, paintings, signs, etc. A real island character !

Getting Here: There is no airport on St. John (and helicopters are not allowed to land on the island either though I'm told the resorts recently received permission to land helicopters). Even country music star Kenny Chesney has to take a boat to get to his

Peter Bay house on St. John (his primary residence by the way). It's easiest to fly into St. Thomas. (airport code is STT). Then you can take a 20 minute taxi ride to Red Hook on the east end of St Thomas to catch the ferry which runs hourly on the hour until well into the later evening. You can buy your (people) ferry ticket right there for \$ 6 per person.

The ferry ride from Red Hook St. Thomas over to St. John's Cruz bay only takes 20 minutes. From there it's best to get your rental car (reserve in advance is advised).

(People) Ferries run once per hour from Red Hook to St John, and every several hours from downtown Charlotte Amalie to St. John (a bit longer but more scenic boat ride). 7 am until usually 11pm hourly for the Red Hook one) For the ferry schedule :

www.couponstjohn/stjohnferryschedule.htm or try

<http://stjohnsource.com/content/visitors-center/transportation/2006/02/18/ferry-schedule>

The car ferry operates quite often now, sometimes as much as every half hour as there are 2 competing companies. On St. Thomas it leaves next door to the people ferry boat. But on St. John it leaves from a separate source to the left of downtown, going in the direction of the Westin area, but only ½ mile from downtown Cruz Bay.

Airlines: The airport symbol for St. Thomas is STT. For airfare quotes, try www.Orbitz.com

An interesting idea is to take Jetblue airlines from Boston or NY or other cities into San Juan. Then from there, take Cape Air from SJU to STT.

Another car rental option: you can rent a car at St Thomas airport (STT) and drive yourself to Red Hook about 35-40 minutes and take the car ferry over to St. John. Car ferries run from Red Hook St. Thomas to Cruz Bay St. John hourly on the half hour. But be careful as last car ferry over is 6:30pm. (double check this last time with schedule and our housekeeper) If you miss this, you'll need to take a people ferry over to st. john, then a taxi to our house, then the following day, reverse the process and go back to Red Hook and retrieve your rental car. A major pain in the neck should you miss the last 6:30pm car ferry to the island of St. john each day. Don't try cutting it close as there is often a lot of traffic on St. Thomas.

As of Jan 2009, there are now more car ferries going back and forth from Cruz bay to Red Hook on St Thomas nearly every half hour, but like most things in the Caribbean, they can be unreliable. You may get 3 in one hour and go 90 minutes until the next one! There are two competing car ferry companies. The car ferries land at Cruz bay at a dock halfway between downtown and the Westin hotel (not the people ferry dock in the

shopping area of Cruz bay). Talk to our housekeeper Terry as she will give you advice on car rentals.

Directions to Wild Jasmine the 5 BR house at Privateer Bay/Hansen Bay:

From Cruz Bay it's a 22 minute drive over to the East side of St. John. Follow signs along the north shore beaches (past Caneel bay and Trunk bay, etc) to Coral Bay and you'll follow the road around on the left side of Coral Bay another 4 miles to our house at Hansen Bay. Our house is just past artist Sloope Jones' studio/house (take a left here and it's first house on left up the hill a few hundred yards). Sharp turn into driveway on left. There is now a sign that says: Wild Jasmine

Directions to house at Coral Bay (the Love Nest as we call it): From Cruz Bay (where the ferry comes in from St. Thomas), follow signs along the north shore road to Coral Bay. You go by all the famous beaches on the North Shore Rd. Or you can take the more direct route called "Center Line" which meets up with North Shore rd. halfway thru the island.

At Coral Bay, you take a right (towards Concordia) and go one mile. Our driveway is on the right, just before the Shipwreck restaurant. Drive up the driveway and you'll see the house. Sign on street will say as of July 2009: Our Rental Paradise.com

Many major airlines fly direct from U.S. cities into St. Thomas. American Airlines, Continental and Delta have many flights including direct flights from Boston and NY. Spirit Airlines is now flying into STT with discounted rates. Try [www.orbitz](http://www.orbitz.com) or [www.kayak](http://www.kayak.com) for airfare bookings. Many airlines (like Jet Blue) also fly into San Juan and you can then take a local airline like Liat or AirCaribes over to STT.

No Passport Needed for the U.S. virgin islands. Just a birth certificate and drivers license or other photo ID. (all other Caribbean islands visits require you to have a valid passport in order to re-enter the United States)

St. John is considered a very safe island with very little violent crime, especially compared to St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Car Rental: there's a limited number of cars or jeeps for rent on the island so reserving one in advance is recommended, especially in peak winter months. Try these car rental places: _____

L & L Jeeps Rental St. John (340) 776-1120 (www.bookajeep.com)

St. John Car Rental (340) 776-6103 (www.stjohncarrental.com)

(Important: drive on the left !!!)

St. John is only 19 sq. miles and has a year round population of 4,000 people. Most of the island is protected National Seashore donated by the Rockefellers. Avg. temp in winter is 77 degrees F, and in summer is 83 degrees. There's normally a nice tropical

breeze year round. Average rainfall is 40-50 inches per year and houses collect rainwater on the roof (known as a cistern) for drinking so please conserve water. U.S. citizens can bring home \$ 1,200 worth of goods each, duty free. The U.S. dollar is the currency and credit cards are accepted at most places.

Residents of the U.S. Virgin islands are citizens of the United States and must pay regular federal taxes to the IRS. The first inhabitants of St. John are thought to be the Arawak and Carib Indians. Christopher Columbus was the first European to see St. John and gave it the name “Virgin Islands”. Sugar plantations were common and African slaves were brought in to work the fields and rum production facilities. You can tour an old rum factory by taking a ride over to the north shore beaches, then follow signs to Annenberg area (near Francis beach which is excellent and never crowded).

The United States bought the Virgin Islands from Denmark for \$ 25 million in 1917 in order to prevent Germany (pre World War) from building a sub base here. Today, some houses on St. John in Peter Bay are worth that alone !

In case you were wondering... our 5 br house at Privateer Bay has an appraised value of about \$ 2.3 million. The house at Coral Bay will have a finished value of about \$ 3 million

Pack Light: Each house has a washer and dryer so just bring a few pair of shorts, a few polos, some t shirts, sandals, walking shoes and bathing suits. Don't bring a sports jacket or fancy night clothes as you will likely not wear them (only restaurant that requests long pants and a shirt with collar for men is Caneel Bay resort's formal dining room and the Ritz-Carlton dining room on St. Thomas. Jackets are no longer mandatory but collared shirt and long slacks for men are mandatory in those 2 restaurants at night). Avg daytime temps are 83 and night time you'll seldom need a sweatshirt or light jacket, though if you're on a boat at night a light jacket might be handy.

Groceries: There's several little funky convenience stores in Coral Bay (a few miles from the Privateer Bay house and only one mile from the Coral Bay house). They also have fresh fruits and veggies and even some decent meats. A surprisingly good selection. Not terribly expensive and pretty good quality. You might want to take the side road from Coral Bay past the convenience store to the “Coral Bay Garden Center”. The lady who owns it is named Josephine and she also does the landscaping at our house. Great fresh veggies and many restaurants buy from her and her hubby co-owner.

For a bigger shopping trip, Cruz Bay has a supermarket: the Dolphin with fine wines, cheeses, meats, fresh fish, veggies, etc. All the convenience stores sell beer, wine and usually liquors. Rum is dirt cheap—as you might expect.

The Starfish Market in the Marketplace complex in Cruz Bay is a great gourmet store with fresh fish and excellent meats, veggies, baked goods, etc. In the Marketplace you'll also find a good drug store, hardware, video rentals, banks, mail

center, and hair and nail salons. You should stop here in town and buy a bunch of groceries and wines etc as it's much larger than the small stores in the Coral Bay area. From the ferry it's up the hill, slightly to the right 4-5 blocks. It's a rather tall outdoor mall complex on left side of the road.

Our own Beaches...YES !: Our homeowners association (at the Privateer Bay house/Wild Jasmine) has deeded beach rights to a nice beach at the foot of our hill. It's several hundred yards long and has great snorkeling also when you swim out 50 yards where there's lots of coral. Just walk down the hill, though you can also drive as the walk back up is hilly.

This beach belongs to our HomeOwners Association (that's me) so you're free to use this beach as our guest. Park your car near the dumpster and mailboxes, then walk thru the big hole in the fence. We only rent those 2 cottages to the homeowners ourselves so sorry we cannot rent the cottages to you. But I can rent either cottage as a homeowner if my house is rented.

You can swim right in front of those 2 cottages as our association owns them ! Feel free to walk the beach also as all beaches are public in the Caribbean.

If you're into the world's best beaches that go on and on and on, then take a ride over to the North Shore beaches along the north shore road such as Francis Bay, Cinnamon Bay, Trunk Bay, Caneel Bay, etc. Many are often deserted and you can just park your car on the side of the road. At Trunk Bay, you can rent snorkel gear and there's an underwater snorkel tour which is quite cool (self guided).

Vi's Beach and food stand (shack) is near our houses, 5 minutes away and is quite a nice little beach. She charges \$ 3 per person for beach access and she makes outstanding garlic chicken in her little food stand. Real friendly local lady. You may want to order some food from her in the afternoon and pick it up when she closes at 5pm. Tell her you're renting John Gallagher's house which we call "Wild Jasmine" (the 5 br house at Privateer Bay)

The local people are very friendly you'll find and a pleasant "good morning" before ordering breakfast is a good idea (or they'll look at you funny). There is very little violent crime on St. John. However St. Thomas has its share of crime so if you go over there for dinner, avoid the dark alleys or out of the way streets downtown at night. The excellent restaurant Herve on St. Thomas is on the hill behind downtown and they have parking right there.

Shopping in St. Thomas is excellent as it's duty free and a great place to buy fine Swiss watches, electronics, clothes at Tommy Hilfiger and other designers, etc. The town is known as Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas.

St. John has a number of shops in Cruz Bay and a few art and funky local shops scattered around the island. Moongoose Junction is a neat little mall full of shops. And don't

forget to stop into Sloop Jone's home store right near Wild Jasmine as he's a local artist but also makes t-shirts, paintings and signs, etc. Sloop's wife is Barbara.

Great Restaurants: St. John has 5-6 outstanding gourmet restaurants and probably a dozen or more really neat casual family style places.

If you want to stay close to our houses for a casual dinner, try **Miss Lucy's** at Coral Bay which has excellent food, well prepared and you can eat right next to the ocean. (call 693-5244). They also have a well regarded Sunday brunch with some live jazz music

Also in Coral bay is the famous Skinny Legs which is very casual and has good grilled local fish and BBQ—and a busy bar scene late afternoon when happy hour(s) start;

The Shipwreck at Coral Bay (340) 693-5640 you can walk to from our house the Love Nest the new 6 br house we're building. Good fresh fish and very reasonably priced for the whole family. Sit outside and look at Coral Bay

Island Blues at Coral Bay are also good casual family dining with water views big drinks and great atmosphere for an island bar/restaurant.

as is **Sweet Plantains** at Coral Bay if you like spicy food.

New owner at Island Blues is a lady named Joan from South Carolina and she's real nice. Great spot to have lunch sitting outside by the water in the shade !

Skinny Legs at Coral Bay is also a sports bar with satellite tv and great drinks. A lot of boaters moored out in the bay take their dinghy in here to party and have a great burger. They say here the richer the customer, the worse they dress. I heard Bill Clinton was here in January last year putting them down (many beers I'm told) one night as he was staying on a yacht out in Coral Bay. (they're also famous for their t-shirts)

For Breakfast, you can't top **the Donkey Diner** at Coral Bay (just past the fork in road on the way to east end from Coral Bay). Sit outside with the wild goats and birds, etc for an excellent casual breakfast. A few wild donkeys will probably meander by on the hill. Just a 5 minute ride from our house. They also have excellent BBQ served 3 nights per week and you can sit outside or inside. Bring your own wine and beer if you'd like. Call (340) 693-5240

Café Concordia: This is a really good casual restaurant with terrific views past Coral Bay on the road that dead-ends, as if you were going to go around the southern side of the island. Only 4-5 miles from our houses, good prices and interesting fish and meat dishes. One guy owns the restaurant and another lady owns the bar and sells you your

wine and drinks I believe. Highly recommended by John and not terribly expensive. Call (340) 693-5855. It's near the big salt pond, eco-tourism area which also has a surprisingly nice quiet and secret beach, facing the south side of the island.

For a special gourmet dinner, try Chateau Bordeaux high on a hill on the central road halfway over to Cruz Bay (www.stjohnrestaurants.com) (340) 776-6611 (it's closed now for renovations but will reopen fall 2009). Or the dining rooms at the swanky Caneel Bay Resort (where Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie stayed last winter with their entourage).

Asolare in Cruz Bay shares same owners as Café Bordeaux (www.stjohnrestaurants.com) or call (340) 779-4747 (very romantic and expensive but big views and a great setting for a special occasion).

Same with www.paradiso.com (340) 693-8899 which is located in the Mongoose Junction shopping complex in Cruz Bay. Expensive, but great food and very romantic.

In Cruz bay, we love **La Tapas** which has a really fine selection of freshly opened wines by the glass and eclectic cuisine. If you like fine wines like I do, this is the best restaurant on the island though small and crowded and not on the water, so no water views.

Tage was good but is undergoing changes and is now re-opened under a new name.

ZoZo's is also excellent and has ocean/harbor views and considered by some to be the best restaurant on the island with awesome sunset views. And there's a bunch of funky bars overlooking the ocean that are all fun. Reservation is usually needed at Zo Zo's so call 693-9200. Expensive but worth it !

www.morgansmango.com is a popular casual funky place on the water in Cruz Bay for food and drinks (and big margaritas !).

The Fish Trap in Cruz Bay is excellent but not on the water with no views, though the food is very good and obviously extremely fresh as they also have a small retail fish market. Call 693-9994. I recently had a whole red snapper deep fried which was awesome and huge !

Sushi: Happy Fish is located in the Marketplace complex in Cruz bay and is very good. You can also eat on their patio (340) 776-1717. Try the local fish and chilled sakes. Sushi is good but selection far too limited I think.

The swanky resort Caneel Bay hosts a lot of celebrities such as Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie recently, Michael J. Fox, Anne Bancroft, actor Kevin Bacon, the band Metallica. They have a nice formal dining room as well as several outdoor cafés you may want to try for dinner one night. Or just go to their huge outdoor bar and have a drink and relax. The Turtle Bay room is their swanky high end restaurant in a former sugar mill which is

now a Steak House serving Prime Beef. Expensive but worth it (long pants required for men, but they're dropped their requirement that men wear a jacket in evening).

St Thomas restaurants: If you go over to St. Thomas for dinner, the top places might include the Ritz Carlton dining room (now a steak house I think) or the Ritz' casual outdoor grille (the Ritz is only a 5 minute ride from Red Hook); Herve downtown Charlotte Amalie; or Blue Moon Grille at Secret Harbor (5 min. cab ride from Red Hook). Blue Moon is very romantic/casual gourmet-- sitting outside overlooking the beautiful beach. Agave Terrace is also very romantic and good food and wines and overlooks the ocean (just a 6-7 minute cab ride from the Red Hook ferry)

If you're shopping in Charlotte Amalie and feel like having sushi for lunch, find the little place called Benny Iguana's—now located where the cruise ships dock called Yacht Haven. Superb sushi and definitely try the cooked mussels from New Zealand that are fantastic and they always seem to have them. It's also open at night of course and has a few tables outdoors. Try the sake chilled instead of warm. This is sushi at its best at BI's. (frankly quite a bit superior to Happy Fish on St. John I'd say). Try calling them to see if they have one or two locations on St. Thomas as I'm not sure.

Chef at the house: www.stjohncatering.com (340) 776-6117 they'll come to the house to cook for your group, or they can just drop off a gourmet meal. Or try East-West Catering at (340) 693-9343 (www.eastwestcatering.com). Small world.....we were at our Stowe VT house recently and the woman server at a local restaurant is also a chef in the winter months at East-West catering on St. John and remembered us.

Need a workout? There's a gym in Cruz Bay with good fitness equipment. Gym in Paradise (340) 776-0600 is located in the Marketplace complex in Cruz Bay town. Call because it was closed for awhile. But I like going to the Westin hotel near Cruz bay and pay \$ 20 for a work out in their excellent gym, then sit around their huge pool and have lunch, or get a massage at their spa.

Fun things to do: Take a snorkel trip half day boat to the coral reefs. Easy even for beginners. Some include lunch and free drinks. Snorkel gear provided. Try Captain Dan who has snorkel trips and sunset yacht cruise rides at (340) 776-4037 or email him at dristuc@aol.com

Do something you wouldn't normally do at home and buy some fresh fish for lunch and fire up our gas grille on the patios. Open a fine chardonnay or red wine and have a gourmet meal at noon, followed by a nice little nap. Crack a beer before lunch if you're so inclined.

Try Scuba diving or Snuba Diving if you're not a certified diver. Call Frank the diving instructor for 20 years and he's a super guy. Took me out this winter for my first dive trip even though I'm not certified. (340) 693-8063. Check his website out at www.visnuba.com. Highly recommended !!! He usually goes out of Trunk Bay area.

Try Para-sailing ! I did this winter and it was a blast. The boat will pick you up on St. John and they put a big harness around you and a guest as you can both go up at the same time. Views from 600 feet above the water are incredible. You have a huge parachute holding you aloft as the boat cruises around between St. John and St. Thomas. Around \$ 80 per person and money well spent and they take a ton of photos of you (see my website). Call (340) 775-9360. Website is www.viwatersports.com

Sailboat: Our friend Jared is the Captain of a 50 foot sailboat. They go out everyday for a 4 hour sail or so. For reservation, call his cell phone at (340) 626-8229. (he also sells real estate part time at Remax Island Paradise realty). Bring cover-up so you don't get sunburnt to a crisp.

Remember, "mad dogs and Englishman" sit in the mid-day sun. You can get a hell of a sun burn in just 10-15 minutes outside so take precautions in the Caribbean.

Take a day trip via boat over to Tortolla or one of the British Virgin Islands. But passports are needed to go over to the BVI's (unless you're just tying up at the Soggy dollar bar (on Jost Van dyke) and "swimming/wading" into shore as most people do).

Power boat trip: www.lionindasun.com is a real nice 26 ft Mako owned by two brothers from Boston Josh and Matt. They have a fully licensed Captain take you snorkeling or over to Virgin Gorda or Jost Van Dyke, or all of them. Call for reservation (340) 626-4783

www.waywardsailor.net Capt Phil (340) 473-9705 six guests max. 30 ft sailboat. Half day sails, snorkeling trips, sail over to Jost Van dyke, sunset sails. Very flexible. Half day sail with snorkeling just \$ 60 pp. If you want to get married, Capt. Phil is also an ordained Minister/JOP who can take care of that also.

Power boat chartered boat with Captain (holds 12 people max) the Stormy Petrel and Pirate's Penny (340) 775-7990 does day trips to the BVI's and snorkeling.

Caneel Bay Resort has a sunset sailboat that goes out several nights per week from 5-7pm so you can see the \$ 32 million house, and Kenny Chesney's from that area of Drake's Passage (call 340-998-2904) Capt is Greg and his mate is Barbara. Real nice people and they'll also take you out on their 51 foot sailboat for a charter or day sail also anytime.

www.sailcoralbaystjohn.com Rick and Robin Gallup Pearson 40 ft sailboat, goes out near our houses. Call (340) 513-1386

www.handsonsailing.com Capt Doug has a 35 ft sailboat (340) 344-2211

www.bestdaycharters.com or call (340) 643-3155

www.divelowkey.com scuba diving rental and tours (beginners welcome also)

www.tropicpowerboatrentals.com rent a beautiful 26 ft powerboat (guide is optional if you have no clue what you're doing). Call (340) 776-6462. find deserted beaches that Gilligan would envy.

www.powerboatrentalsvi.com rents 26 ft power catamarans (340) 775-0860. you can rent with or without a captain and can go anywhere in the u.s. or british virgin islands

www.sportfishvi.com marlin, tuna, wahoo, etc. call (340) 775-6147. Figure on \$ 700-800 for a 4-6 fishing trip. (dinner is free of course)

www.divest.john.com rents boats, jetskis, scuba and snorkel tours et (340) 776-6234

www.oceanrunner.vi rents 22, 25 or 28 ft. Mako powerboats in Cruz Bay (340) 693-8809

A really cool thing is to take a rented power boat or sailboat over to Jost Van Dyke for the Soggy Dollar Bar which is quite a party bar. Or the famous Foxy's bar(s) (there are now 2 of them on the island). You can even rent a small power boat and do it yourself but don't attempt this if you've never driven (piloted?) a boat before (or plan on partying heavily at Soggy Dollar Bar). Technically a passport is needed but many small boats just dock off the beach at Soggy Dollar or Foxy's. If you take the scheduled ferry over, a passport is definitely required but pretty simple to clear BVI customs (as they know people are coming over to party). It's only a 20 minute boat ride.

Kayak 3 hour trip: www.arawakexp.com or call (340) 693-8312... \$ 50 pp

Take a day trip to Tortolla, BVI (passport required for everyone). Ferry boats leave St. John several times a day. Use our computer and google St. John ferry for their websites and times.

Golf: St. Thomas has an excellent 18 hole Fazio designed course called Mahogany Run. Bill Clinton has played it a bunch of times. It's famous for its Devils Triangle, holes 15-16-17 where you have to shoot over water. From the Red Hook ferry, it's a 15 minute cab ride. Call for t-time and to rent clubs (340) 777-6250 www.mahoganyrungolf.com

Relaxing Massage: www.massagestjohnvi.com Barbara or Carrie will come to your house or you can go to them for Swedish massage, hot stones, etc (340) 693-5663. Or try www.stjohnmassage.com (340) 626-2271 who does deep tissue or thai yoga massage. They also make house calls of course.

Horseback Riding: Carolina Corral call Dana at (340) 693-5778.
www.stjohnretreats.com/trailrides.htm (great for kids and donkey rides too)

Motorscooter rentals: www.beachscooters.com (340) 693-rent

Getting Married: www.stjohnweddings.com the barefoot minister AnneMarie (340) 626-4658 (also for vow renewals). Ceremonies on the beach available. www.usviwedding.com is another wedding coordinator. Call Stacy at (888) 282-3933. We allow weddings at our house by the way.

Nude Beaches: (I knew this would get your attention).....sorry, this is not the island for you if you like the “au naturel” look. You want our St. Maarten houses. There’s a few topless women here and there, but nudity is not encouraged on public beaches where the tourists hang out.....now the secluded beaches, that’s another story !

Our Luxury House (or Villa as they’re known on the islands): We usually leave a stocked bar but please replace with other bottles of premium vodka, rum, bourbons, etc for the next guests. The refrigerator contains condiments such as mustard, ketchup, olive oils, butter, etc so we don’t throw these out between guests. Don’t throw any fresh unopened foods if they’re still good and maybe just leave a note in the refrigerator that they’re recently purchased.

Please keep gourmet coffee in the freezer. We appreciate your leaving some liquor and spirits for the next guests.

Beds have silky fine linens.

All 5 Br’s are air-conditioned. Several also have ceiling fans but doors that open wide for nice tropical breezes. When you turn on A/C in the bedrooms, please be sure the bathroom doors are closed as bathrooms are not air conditioned, and close any windows of course.

Please shut off A/C and lights when not in use as electricity is very dear and expensive in the Caribbean. Use water sparingly please.

Groceries: We no longer provide first night food items (as we lowered all our rental rates substantially a while ago) so we suggest you stop at the Starfish Market in town at Cruz bay to grab: coffee, milk, sugar, cereals, eggs, beer, wine and other provisions for your first few days. Starfish is an excellent gourmet supermarket though the prices are about 20% higher than here in the U.S. mainland.

Computer: There’s internet access on our computer. Follow instructions on the machine to log on. It’s fairly high speed with a radio signal and works surprisingly well.

We also have a Magic Jack telephone so you can call the U.S. free on that so long as the computer is turned on. The phone is next to the computer in the rear unit.

You can use our regular phone and make long distance calls which are not very expensive for us, so be our guest.

Real Estate: If you want to buy a piece of paradise here on st. john, it's easy to do. As a point of Reference, our 5 br house at Hansen Bay is valued close to \$ 2.5 million. To view properties and more info, call Diana who owns Remax/st john at (340) 775-0949

Before you leave:

1. please strip any beds used and leave soiled sheets on the floor
2. please load and start the dishwasher
3. it would help the maids if you could start a load of towels in the washing machine, or two, as there's a lot of laundry to be done in 5 hours
4. leave key as instructed
5. a little gratuity for the maid of \$ 20 or 30 is very much appreciated
6. Have a safe trip home
7. Plan to be at the STT airport on st. Thomas 2 hours before your flight. Check our computer to see if your flight is on time as many afternoon flights get delayed due to weather issues in the U.S.
8. Please fill and run the dishwasher
9. When you get home, email John and book next year's trip to the Caribbean and next year's ski trip to Stowe or Bretton Woods, NH or Sunday River, Maine also !

Leave yourself plenty of time to get from St. John to the airport on St Thomas as you need to do customs at the airport going home. We recommend 5 full hours from our St. john house to plane departure time on St. Thomas (STT). Note the ferry schedules, though the car ferries now run nearly every half hour (from the dock 1 mile from Cruz bay downtown to the left side of downtown going towards the Westin hotel slightly). People ferry runs once per hour from town dock

Note: We also have vacation houses in St. Maarten (the friendly island-- half French and half Dutch).

And 2 Ski houses (5 bedrooms each) on the slopes at Bretton Woods, NH.

And 3 big luxury 6 BR ski houses at Stowe Vermont (the Aspen of the East).

And a huge Ski Chalet at Sunday River Maine with two 4 br units, heated pool, movie theater and tremendous views of the slopes. Great for a summer rental as one big house sleeps 24 people.

Best regards for a great vacation!

John F. Gallagher, owner and Bon Vivant

Please Conserve Water at the St. John Houses !

(we collect rainwater from the roof into our cistern and it's been dry lately so please don't run water unless necessary. Keep showers short please or you could run out of water for the house.

Please shut off air conditioning and lights when not in use.

Thanks.