

There are answers to "Frequently Asked Questions"

Listen to Alex's daily "Podcast from Paradise" a little bit of news, daily weather report from Water Island and music. Go to www.vinow.com/blog and listen to this while you read...

North Cottage - one bedroom has a king and sofa/twin, the other bedroom has a pair of twin beds; the living room has a sofa/double and a futon.

South Cottage has a king size bed and sofa/twin in one bedroom, a queen in the second bedroom and three singles in the living room.

The **Pool Cabana** has a ROUND 7 foot diameter bed and a single, but it has no kitchen or shower.

Have you ever been here before?

If yes, welcome back!

If not - we want to be sure you know what to expect and don't have crazy ideas.

It is a slice of paradise... It is also a remote tropical island.

This place is not the Ritz or the Holiday Inn. The cottages are two bedroom homes... not hotel rooms. You are making your own meals. We have no maid service, no bar, no bell hop and no restaurant.

The buildings were made in the 1940's and while remodeled and modernize in the last few years, they do not sparkle. You may find dust on the book shelves. The ceiling fans may have dust, the floors may have sand.

While we do our utmost to keep everything up to snuff, sometimes things break and we have to get replacements. We keep replacement parts for almost everything, like if a refrigerator dies, we have a spare small one until a replacement can get to Water Island. If something breaks - it sometimes takes days to get replacement parts.

You may see a gecko or a mahogany beetle. You may see a spider (not big ones, and nothing poisonous lives here.) You will see Iguana and Big turtles and maybe even a snake... (No big ones and nothing poisonous lives here.)

If you are OCD about clean, well, we can't be. We clean between every visitor but it is not easy to make stuff as clean as the Marriott. This is light years ahead of camping - cause these are real houses... but in some ways it is like camping too.

What is this place?

We have a private family compound on Water Island. When the family is not using it, we make it available to visitors. You will enjoy a private swimming pool located at the very end of Providence Point, which has been described as a "work of art" with a Roman Temple pavilion by the pool. It all looks like a classical roman bath. It was featured on a television show on HGTV! The pool does not "Belong" to any one cottage and is equally far from all - so everyone feels comfortable at the pool. Go see www.water-island.com

What does it look like?

Look at the photos at <http://www.water-island.com/property/index.htm>. You can blow up the aerial photo. I live in the large house on the left. The waterfront cottage is the building on the right. The north and south cottages are in the long building at the bottom of the photo. There are images of the inside of each of the places on that same page.

Water Island is a wonderful place - 500 acres, most of it wild, we are ten minutes from St. Thomas - so you have access to the St. Thomas shopping and restaurants but our island is far from the noise and shuffle of the city. No noise. No problems. No Crime. We ferry to St. Thomas when we need things and once you cross the "moat" it is a different universe.

OK, here's a longer description...

The **Waterfront Cottage** has two bedrooms, each with a king bed and a fold out double in the living Room. It has one bathroom with a shower, a very full kitchen, satellite TV, and use of one of the golf carts. The cottage accommodates two couples or a family up to 6. The water front patio has a spectacular unimpeded view of sunset. It has remarkable privacy.

The North and South cottages are full size two-bedroom attached houses with 1,200 square feet of living spaces. Each cottage has a full kitchen, huge living room, bathroom with shower, and each has a large topical library. The patio overlooks the ocean and has unparalleled vistas of the western Caribbean.

North had a rebuild in 2001 with a new tile floor and a new kitchen. One bedroom has a king bed with a sofa/twin. The second bedroom has two twin beds. There is a sofa/double and futon in the living room. The whole place is ideal for a couple with 2 to 4 children or two couples. One family lived in North cottage for 30 years! This is house size, not a meager hotel room. The library is novels and non-fiction about the sea.

South was totally refurbished in 2005... new tile floor, new kitchen, fresh plaster and paint. There are two separate bedrooms. The main bedroom has a king bed and sofa/twin. The other room has a queen size bed. There are 3 day beds in the living room (one is a trundle bed) This is ideal for two couples or a family with up to 4 kids. The library is an eclectic collection of great literature, Italian verse and Psychology. The stereo includes a collection of jazz and classical discs.

We all share the Pool, Beach, Dock and Views.

Is this like a hotel? Are their neighbors? Is it private and quiet?

Providence Point is a private family compound, so there are no unexpected visitors or neighbors. Our place is very private. We are totally secluded from the outside world. This is three acres - so you can easily get lost on the shoreline. We have lots of places to sit and be all alone.

We can barely see the cottage from our house. We assess visitors - if they have kids - then the kids play with our kids. If they want privacy, then we leave you alone. We know how to give honeymoon couples their space - or folks who want quiet.

Our whole place is "Kid friendly" - My wife is a pediatrician so we have a doctor on site 24/7 and we have 5 children - a 17 yr old boy, 12 yr old girl and 11 yr old boy and two baby girls - 4 years and 2 years.

Between the **North** and **South** cottages there is another cottage that is occupied year round by our baby sitter and her husband. They are also quiet and reserved folks. They will leave you alone. There are two dogs on the property - both mellow critters.

Typically only 12 people are on the property. But we can manage beds for up to 20. So this is not a desert island with no-one-but-you, but we are also keenly aware of our visitors privacy needs. This is NOT a hotel. There is no front desk, concierge, wake-up call, restaurant or any rules. No one will turn down the bed or put a chocolate on the pillow.

Most folks -once they discover our pool - don't go to the beach much... You have the option. You hear the waves all the time. Since we are on the downwind side of the island of St. Thomas so we don't have big crashing surf. This is a gentle ocean here. We swim from the dock in gentle water.

The BIG Disclaimer: Instead of fine print at the end - here is your warning in advance... This is based on everything folks have ever complained about:

1) *There is NO Air Conditioning. A hot day in summer gets up to 95 and most of the year*

mid-day temps are 85. If you want air conditioning - don't come here. We like the Caribbean breeze and we have no glass windows. This place has excellent fresh air and we do not pay to make it cold.

2) We are NOT a hotel - no one will turn down the bed or leave a chocolate on the pillow. We provide linen and towels, but no maid service, no room service, no hotel restaurant, no bus boy or bell hop either.

3) We are on a tropical island, a remote tropical island. We have a few mosquitoes (not more than any shore location). We also have geckos and mahogany beetles and palmetto bug. We apply pesticides but you might see one. We run a Mosquito Magnet, which controls the population. We have nothing poisonous, nothing that bites.

4) We do NOT take credit cards. We take checks, cash, bullion, beef ribs and trade but not credit cards or traveler's checks.

5) Someone once complained there was "dust." We have no glass windows; only open screen windows and screens allow some dust to get in. We get Sahara Dust and occasionally Montserrat volcano dust. We dust, we clean, we vacuum, BUT you might find a speck of dust... This is reality.

6) The buildings were built in 1945. They are not new. Concrete steps have settled. The places were refurbished and have lots of modern amenities, but the pipes in the shower look old and the furniture is not new. This is not the Ritz. These are shore front cottages on a remote island. Things are not like the Marriott. If you want granite countertops and sparkling tile - go to the Ritz. Our places are light years ahead of camping, far nicer than most shore places we have visited, but we don't want anyone disappointed if the sofa has a spot, or there is dust on a shelf. See pictures!

There. I told you.

Here is more information on our place...

The Pool.

We have the largest fresh water pool on Water Island - right on the end of the Point - surrounded by ocean. It is spectacular and has three distinct areas - one shallow for toddlers, one for small children and a "deep" area that is 6 feet deep. The pool has an island! Stargazing or sun bathing on the roof top deck is spectacular!

Transportation on Water Island

We have three Golf Carts. You get whatever fits your family; included in your rental. All vehicles are idiosyncratic - be sure you ask for the details of your vehicle. No children drivers. You must have a driver's license to operate a golf cart. And remember, we drive on the left.

Television

All three cottages have satellite television with more than 100 channels. Dish Network.

Computer Links:

We have a DSL line on the property and all cottages have plug in DSL. The pool pavilion is a wireless 802.11G "hotspot." Bring your laptop and Ethernet cable.... 100 Megabits per second. Not even the big hotels have free Internet like this. "If your brain can work on the Internet, your body can be in Paradise."

Dock

You are free to use the boat dock on Honeymoon Bay to swim and set off on a trip to the beach. Be careful - the steps can be slippery. Hold on while climbing in or out. We keep the sea urchins out of the dock area, but keep your eyes open when swimming in this area anyway.

Kayaks

We have two Crystal Clear Kayaks - transparent kayaks that let you see the ocean below you as you paddle. We also have one ocean going kayak available to guests of Providence Point.

Linen

All sheets, towels and related linen are here. Do not bring towels or sheets unless you need a security blanket or a favorite pillow. Otherwise - it is all here. Some people like a fresh towel every day, if this applies to you then bring some of your own.

Laundry

We have a washer and dryer in the main house that you can use for a load or two, but we practice water conservation here by taking a lot of our laundry to St. Thomas to the Drop-or-Do Laundry in Crown Bay Marina - they use "town" water.

Credit Cards

We do not take credit cards, but Gourmet Gallery and Pueblo and all of the stores on St. Thomas take all the major credit cards. There is an ATM in Nisky Center just a few steps from the ferry dock.

Phones

Do the cottages have phones: Yes the waterfront cottage has its own phone number 340- 774-6929. The North and South Cottages share a phone that is 340-774-2207.

How do we get to the Virgin Islands?

Your destination is Cyril King Airport in St. Thomas, USVI. Airport Code: STT

Several airlines fly directly to St. Thomas: American Airlines flies from New York City, and Miami. Delta flies direct from Atlanta and Chicago. Continental flies direct from Newark. US Airways has direct service from Philadelphia and from Charlotte, North Carolina. There are many airlines flying to San Juan Puerto Rico and others doing the 18 minutes from San Juan to St Thomas.

How to get from the Airport to Water Island:

From the Airport - ask the Taxi Dispatcher for a taxi to Crown Bay Marina. Ask the driver to go to "Tickles Restaurant in Crown Bay Marina" From Tickles - you either take the ferry or make arrangements for Alex to pick you up.

The ferry to Water Island is NOT your grandfather's ferryboat! There is no room for cars - - It is just a launch with room for 25 passengers and luggage. The latest price is \$5 each way or whatever the new owners are charging. You are advised to buy ticket books or weeklong pass.

Water Island Ferry (340) 690-4159, (340) 775-5770 or (340) 690-4446

Rates: Adults/\$5 one-way, \$9 roundtrip and Children/\$3 one-way and \$5 roundtrip.

Time: 10 minutes Note: Night Trips and special trips are available on request, additional fare may apply.

Leaving Crown Bay, St. Thomas: 6:30 am, 7:15 am, 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 12 noon, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:15 pm, 5:15 pm, 6:00 pm,

Leaving Water Island: 6:45 am, 7:30 am, 8:15 am, 10:45 am, 12:15 pm, 2:15 pm, 3:15 pm, 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:10 pm

Sundays and Holidays: the Ferry schedule is subject to a holiday schedule. This may not be the latest Schedule! Ask the captain for the latest schedule!

If you are arriving late or have an odd connection - we can bring you over in our boat. Let Alex know as soon as know your flight arrival times so we can figure if you will come over on the ferry or if you require a special trip or a ride in our boat. Call Alex from the Airport - 774-2635. A Special trip with Alex's boat costs \$20.

How do we have dinner on St. Thomas at its famous restaurants if the last ferry is at 6 PM? We know there is no late ferry, so we can come over to St. Thomas and pick you up after a dinner on that island. Let Alex know well in advance when you need to come... I'll pick you up. Same \$20.

Heidi's Honeymoon Grill

Heidi is a wonder - Gourmet dinner on the beach Saturday night. She is open all day on Sunday and every day for lunch and she has a snack wagon at the dock at breakfast time. Do not miss the movies on the beach every Monday evening with the snack wagon there it is the best of the old drive in movie theater - with palm trees, sand and golf carts!!

Gourmet Gallery

On the ferry dock in Crown Bay Marina you find Gourmet Gallery that has all the finest foods imaginable. And a bit further up the road from Gourmet Gallery is Pueblo (a grocery store). So without using a car, one can buy almost any kind of food just steps from the ferry. Yes - they all take credit cards. In the other direction is **Nisky Center** with KFC, Dominos, Subway, take-out Chinese, a pharmacy, bank, computer shop, video rental, music shop, Pro Nails, eye glasses shop. Nisky Center is a complete mall of shops, but no Sears or K-Mart. K-Mart is across town.

Crown Bay Marina also has **Tickles Restaurant** with excellent pub fare. "Mail, Messages and More" offers communication services and rental cars." Cingular Communication for cell phones, Phoenix's Hair Salon, Blue Island Divers scuba shop, Peanut Gallery Fishing Charters, and marine hardware store, and "Drop or Do" laundry - - all in Crown Bay Marina.

Water Use

On Water Island we get our water from roof top catchments and we store the water in cisterns - under the patio. The water is chlorinated regularly. We wash with cistern water, brush our teeth, cook and flush with it, but we avoid drinking large quantities of cistern water straight. Coffee and Tea are OK because you boil the water first. Do not make Kool-Aid or powder mix - we advise boiling the water first. DO NOT WASTE WATER. In the shower, we soap up with the water turned off.

What to Bring

Nothing! Well, almost nothing. One visitor came to Water Island with nothing more than a purse saying "I have my bikini; Do I need anything else?" She's right. It is comical to see visitors arrive with suitcases upon suitcases of long pants and sweat shirts and evening gowns. Consider this - the weather is never colder than 70 degrees - never hotter than 95. I advise - hat (mandatory) shorts, T-shirts, sneakers, enough socks and underwear, one long sleeve shirt or pullover, a beach wrap, sunscreen, mosquito spray, sandals, toothbrush. PACK LIGHTLY... You don't need much here. Long pants? Yes - if you plan to hike the "outback." A bathing suit is necessary. One is enough. It will dry between uses. No coats, jackets or sweaters unless you freeze in July.

Beach

Water Island has a spectacular beach - Honeymoon Beach - fine sand and gentle waves - not the big surf of Hawaii or even St. Thomas north shore. There are no houses on the Beach, but Providence Point is the closest home to this beach. We swim from our private dock in about 10 minutes or walk on the road in 5 minutes. Honeymoon beach is almost deserted on any day and you will feel like it is your own private beach. On Sunday's there is a group of regulars and a volleyball game.

Do you do wedding?

YES! We've had many weddings in the last two years. Sometimes a couple will take over the whole place with bride's family in one cottage, groom's family in another and friends in the third. Some people like the end of The Point for a wedding, others like the pool pavilion, others prefer the beach. Alex is an ordained minister and can perform your wedding - your way. We can make arrangements for flowers, music, wedding license, catering - whatever. Ask for pictures of some of the recent weddings.... We have had proposals here too... We also offer the option of a carved stone cemented in the wall - so you can show the grandchildren on your 50th anniversary.

Travel on Water Island

We yield to Turtles, Iguana and elderly walkers returning from the beach. We also drive on the left like all of the Virgin Islands. We drive golf carts, cars without mufflers or doors or windshields. The Providence Point Cottages include a golf cart or car depending on your needs. Walking works on Water Island since it is only 500 acres.

Scuba

If you want to go on a scuba adventure, we recommend Blue Island Divers in Crown Bay Marina. They can do PADI certification, rent gear and take you to all kinds of amazing ocean bottom tour... wrecks, wildlife... <http://www.blueislanddivers.com/>. Snorkeling in our front yard is world class.

Fishing.

Lots of folks want to go on fishing adventures. We have lots of folks who fish from the rocks at the end of the Point. Others prefer a fishing charter. We recommend Peanut Gallery Fishing Charter. They have two boats and know all the local and deep-water spots. <http://www.fishingstthomas.com/index.html>

"Icky" things?

Does Water Island have any nasty creatures? We have NO poisonous snakes. NO scorpions. NO tarantulas, NO biting spiders, NO alligators, NO sharks or mountain lions or bugs with big pincers or vampire bats or anything else that is nasty or icky. We are in the tropics - the nastiest critters that bite are mosquitoes. We run a gadget called the Mosquito Magnet so we don't have many mosquitoes. We advise that you wear "Off" or burn Mosquito coils. We have a non-biting beetle called the Mahogany Bug that looks like a two-inch cockroach. They aren't cockroaches and they are utterly harmless. They scurry around and you may see one but we use control measures to minimize their presence. There are geckos that live here. They are little chameleons that eat bugs and spiders, so they are good friends. You may see one or two. You may not. That's it. Nothing else. You

might see a box turtle, or an iguana - they are interesting and harmless.

Swimming

Water Island's beaches are the finest anywhere - not too crowded, yet not totally alone. We have a dock with a staircase that goes right into the ocean. If you want to swim from the rocks, you should wear surf shoes so you don't step on Sea Urchins. Snorkeling is also divine. Remember: Don't touch - some of the pretty things have stingers and the Sea Urchins are nasty if you step on one. They are not aggressive.

Great Sights

Local residents think that the view from the lookout on top of Flamingo Point Hill is the best view anywhere. It is excellent at sundown or for stargazing at night. There is a 180-degree view of the ocean. Honeymoon Beach is worth a visit. And a walk on Limestone beach is also a special treat where driftwood and flotsam treasures wash up all the time. There is a nature preserve on the south east side of the islands. Good walk.

Bike Tour

There is a Bicycle tour of Water Island. Susan and Butch will take you around on a bike ride that is mostly downhill. You end the tour at the beach. The bike tour of Water Island is excellent. Make a reservation now 340-714-2186 Say Hi to Susan Miller from Alex.

Exotic Shopping

St Thomas is a shopping Mecca. We have more diamond shops and jewelers downtown than any other place in the world. We get 2 million visitors a year to come to our shopping. There is a K-Mart and Cost-U-Less that require a drive.

Best Walk

Go down to the shore in front of the cottage and walk the perimeter of the Point along the shore, sneakers required and some agility. Any kid can do it. Then take the same trip 20 feet further out (in the ocean) with a facemask and snorkel - fabulous!

Contacts:

Alex Randall's Home Phone 340-774-2635
Work until 11 AM - 340-777-4500,
Cell 340-514-9995.
Waterfront Cottage Phone 340-774-6929
North and South Cottage Phone: 340-774-2207

For more information - go see www.water-island.com

Don't miss this... We were on HGTV Television.

http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/remodeling/article/0,1797,HGTV_3659_1654825,00.html

Also go to www.usvi.net/water and www.vinow.com/waterisland

Archeology and History of Water Island is available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/wi/wi-index.htm>

For more information or questions write to alex@islands.vi