



PRESS RELEASE

9th March 2022

PAYS READY TO HOST ITS 2022 YACHTIES APPRECIATION WEEK WITH A DIFFERENCE

Despite the challenges posed by the current COVID 19 Pandemic and other global events affecting the tourism industry, the Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services (PAYS) is ready to host its 2022 Yachties Appreciation Week with a difference from 20th to 27th March 2022 at Prince Rupert's Bay, Portsmouth, Dominica under the theme **Yachties are safer in nature. It's our business!**

The activities planned for this year's Yachties Appreciation Week includes:

Day 1: Sunday 20th March 2022

Registration of Yachties which; will include welcome packages provided by the Discover Dominica Authority. Live entertainment provided by the Band Akayo, and complimentary rum punch served throughout the day. A Welcome Dinner and Entertainment Night will end the day's activities during which Government representatives, PAYS representatives and a representative from the yachting community will deliver brief welcome remarks. Local historian, Dr Lennox Honychurch will also give a brief history of maritime activities in the Prince Rupert's Bay.

Day 2: Monday 21st March 2022

Beach Games featuring selected traditional and contemporary sporting activities will kick off the day with treasure hunts, crab race, volley ball, soft ball cricket, lime and spoon race, 3-legged race and sack race among others on the Purple Turtle Beach. Winners will be rewarded with special prizes. Following a Yachties Potluck Lunch, Yachties will participate in tours on the Indian River. The Indian River is one on the most popular tourist destinations in the north of Dominica – The Nature Island.

Day 3: Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Yachties will participate in a tour of the Syndicate Nature Trails with visits to the Milton Falls and Parrot Habitat. Their chances of viewing our endemic parrots, the Sisserou – Dominica's national bird and the Jaco are very likely. And this is a sign of our country's resilience. This will be followed by a second Yachties Potluck Lunch. In the evening the Yachties will participate in a Games Night



which will include bingo, dominoes, card and board games and other fun activities. A Bon Fire on the Purple Turtle Beach will end the night's activities.

Day 4: Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Yachties will participate in an All Day Tour to the Roseau Valley visiting the Trafalgar Falls, Hot Springs, among other sites and attractions of interest. However, those who do not want to venture on the all day tour, also have the following two (2) options; 1. participate in a Tree Planting Program organized in collaboration with the Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division where participants will plant one or more trees as their contribution to helping in the fight against Climate Change, or 2. Participate in a Dive Against Debris organized in collaboration with Island Dive Operations where Yachties will help to clean the marine environment by removing debris and litter found on the sea bed and coral reefs. In the afternoon Yachties will have the opportunity to participate in an afternoon tour of Fort Shirley and Cabrits National Park where they will learn a bit about Dominica's colonial past and the flora and fauna of the peninsular. The day will culminate with a Barbecue (Pig Roast) Dinner at the PAYS Events Building.

Day 5: Thursday 24th March 2022

Yachties have the options of participating in one of two tours featuring northern treasures; tour option 1 features a scenic drive to the Cold Soufriere in the Morne Aux Diables mountain followed by drives through quaint farming villages with a brief stop at Au Parc tourist site, then continuing to the Chaudiere Pool. While tour option 2 features a visit to the Chaudiere Pool, followed by visits to the Red Rocks and the Chocolate Factory where locally grown cocoa is processed into consummate chocolate. Both tours offer breath-taking views of the north east coast, the Atlantic Ocean, and the French islands of Guadeloupe and Marie Galante.

Day 6: Friday 25th March 2022

Yachties will have the opportunity to participate in an all-day adventure tour highlighting the Middle Ham Falls which is located within the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The awe inspiring trail and waterfalls will take your breath away. However, for those preferring maritime activities, there are two activities to choose from; 1. A Lion Fish Hunt operated by Island Dive Operations, and, 2. Bottom line fishing on traditional pwee-pwees fishing rafts. The catch will be served for dinner later in the evening.

Day 7: Saturday 26th March 2022

Yachties doing the Saturday morning market and local cooking with Martin Carriere will be impressed with the opportunity to select their own fresh fruits, vegetables and spices which will be used during their cooking like locals' experience. For Yachties preferring to learn about the sites of interest in the town of Portsmouth, Kenneth Gussie's Culture Tour will help you experience the community and local scene.



For those Yachties who appreciate the art of painting, the Sip and Paint experience with Jahna Mc Lawrence of Beach Avenue will help you explore your creativity by painting your own art piece which you will keep as a lifetime memento of your participation in this year's Yachties Appreciation Week.

Saturday afternoon comes alive with more beach games like the greasy pole challenge, tug of war, Kabuli Beer Treasure Hunt, swimming race, and the **Anything That Floats Race** featuring yacht dinghies, tour guides boats, traditional bwa flo pwee-pwees, bamboo rafts, surfboard, tubes etc. Winners will be rewarded with special prizes.

Day 8: Sunday 27th March 2022

On the final day of the PAYS Yachties Appreciation Week, Yachties will get the opportunity to walk the 13th Segment of the Waitukubuli National Trail, and plant a tree along the way as their mark of respect for nature and for a resilient country, called Dominica – The Nature Island, and called by the indigenous Kalingo people of this blessed land; Waitukubuli – Tall is her body. The walk starts at Penville on the Atlantic coast and ends at Capuchin on the Caribbean coast.

In the afternoon we hope to engage our Yachtie friends in a yacht race in the Prince Rupert's Bay, with special prizes to be won.

The curtains come down on the PAYS 2022 Yachties Appreciation Week with a Dinner and Entertainment with remarks from officials, testimonials from Yachties and awards for those who work tirelessly in their efforts to make yachting an important part of Dominica's unique tourism.

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