



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

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SAFETY ALERT **NOTICE TO MARINERS No.1 - 2019**

**OWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS, SKIPPERS AND MASTERS OF
ALL VESSELS OPERATING AT THE BATHS, VIRGIN GORDA.**

REFERENCE: SAFETY FLAG SYSTEM

The Baths in Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands are quite dangerous at times especially in the winter season and tragically the outcome of many emergency calls to The Baths results in the loss of life.

Mariners are advised that in an effort to ensure the safety of all visitors to The Baths; the National Parks Trust of the BVI, instituted a safety flag system which is updated daily and throughout the day as needed.

Red and Yellow Flags mark area that are patrolled by Lifeguards, this is the safest place to swim at the Beach.

Black and White Flags mark areas that are for use by Craft only-Do Not Swim in these areas

Red Flags indicate DANGER never swim when the red flag is flying. At The Baths, Devils Bay & Spring bay National Parks Trust) the Red Flag also indicates that Boats are prohibited from using the mooring field.

Yellow Flags these indicate that you should take CAUTION. Weak swimmers are discouraged from entering the water. At the Baths, Devils Bay & Spring Bay (National Parks Trust) the Yellow Flag also indicates that Boats should take caution when using the mooring field.

Purple Flags indicate a Marine Life Warning for example Jellyfish.

Should you wish to be added to the daily email updates regarding the flag status please contact Mr. Mark Street at the Conservation and Fisheries Department at surflifebvi@hotmail.com or call the National Parks Trust office on Virgin Gorda at tel: 346-2779.

8 January 2019

For the safety of visitors, operators, masters of all vessels, we are formally asking you to adhere to the flag system while visiting The Baths. Failure to do so is an offence as per the National Parks Trust Act 2006, Sections 3-6.

This notice has been issued in accordance with section 163 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2001

Director of Shipping
VIRGIN ISLANDS SHIPPING REGISTRY

Beach Safety Rules

- 1. Spot The Dangers**
 - Check out the Beach when you arrive.
 - Take care when Bathing and Swimming.
 - Beware of Rocks, Docks and other People.
 - Be aware of dangerous Rip Currents.
- 2. Do Not Go Alone**
 - Swim with a Friend, never on your own.
 - Make sure there are other People around, you never know when help might be needed.
- 3. Take Safety Advice**
 - Swim where there is a Lifeguard on Patrol and between the Red & Yellow Flags.
 - Look out for safety information – Beach Safety Signs & Beach Safety Flags
 - Never swim where a Sign says not to, or when a Red Flag is flying.
 - Listen and take advice from Lifeguards.
- 4. Learn How To Help**
 - If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a Lifeguard, telephone 999 or 911.
 - Learn Lifesaving and Rescue Skills.
 - If you are in trouble raise your hand and don't panic.




Safety Flags



Red and Yellow Flags mark areas that are patrolled by Lifeguards, this is the Safest place to Swim at the Beach.



Black and White Flags mark areas that are for use by Craft only - Do Not Swim in these areas.



Red Flags indicate **DANGER** never Swim when the Red Flag is flying.
At The Baths, Devils Bay & Spring Bay (National Parks Trust) the Red Flag also indicates that Boats are prohibited from using the mooring field.



Yellow Flags these indicate that you should take **CAUTION**. Weak swimmers are discouraged from entering the water.
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Lifeguards

Lifeguards make Beaches Safer!

Always listen to Lifeguards, they are looking out for your Safety

Lifeguards wear Red Shorts & Yellow Shirts, this makes it easy for you to spot them on the Beach

Lifeguards have First Aid and Rescue Equipment on the Beach incase of an Emergency

If you have any questions about the Beach you are on, or need any help please come and talk to the Lifeguards!



