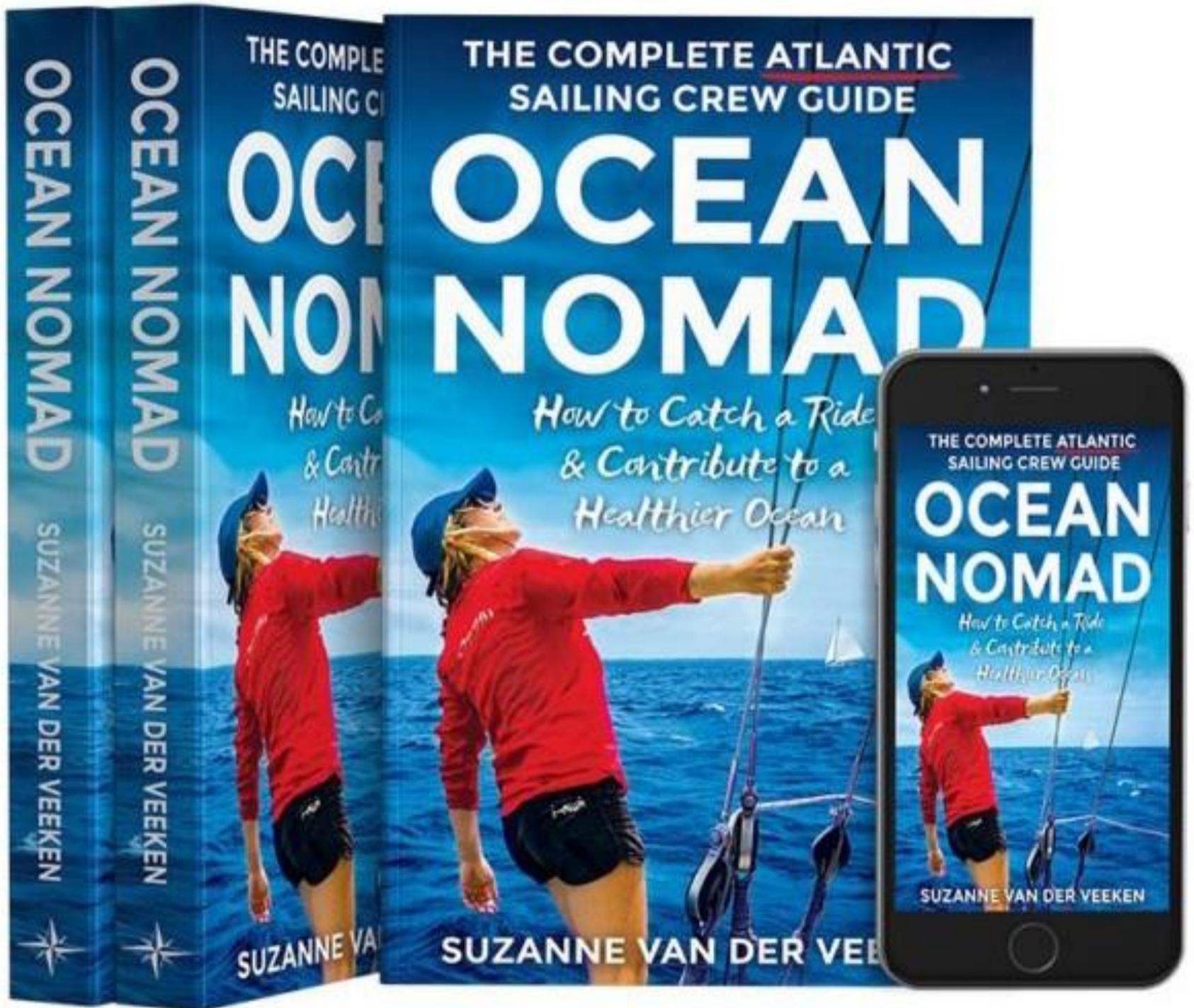


*Exert on IGY Rodney Bay Marina's
Waste Management & Recycling Practices
and
Greening the Caribbean*



“This ambitious guide book is the spark that will ignite your sense of adventure and provoke your compassion to creating a better world.”

Monique Mills (Captain & Ocean Citizen)

LANDING AND LEAVING

“I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day difficult.”

— E.B. WHITE

(Writer)

ARRIVING BY BOAT IN NEW TERRITORY is one of the most exciting parts of sailing! What’s next? Can you just leave the boat? How to dispose of waste? Is it easy to find another boat to the next destination? Or a job?

11.1 ARRIVAL: COCONUT O’ CLOCK

Woohoo! You have arrived! The captain has to go to customs and immigration to clear in. Sometimes crew has to join. Finally, you can have that coconut, jump in the sea (if you haven’t done so halfway), and go for a ten-mile (instead of ten feet) hike! Let the exploration begin! The world will be under your feet again, and you’re about to be on your own.

DON’T: Connect to the WiFi just yet. The amount of messages and news stories that pile up can be horrendous. Enjoy the arrival day. I repeat, *do not* connect to the WiFi! Just give your family a call to let them know you are safe and start to absorb land life.



Navigational Hazard! There's something about sailors and bars. On many boats, the first discovery that sailors are after on arrival is looking for the bar. Most boats are a 'dry boat', meaning no alcohol at sea. The missed-out alcohol seems to get balanced as soon as possible again once on shore. Be careful, especially with the Rum punch.

Arriving with the **ARC** was special. When I wake up, I see land. It's Martinique. Only that's not where we're going. Soon after, **St. Lucia** shows up. On the radio I hear another vessel, Rainbow, approaching the finish line. Civilisation is near. I see a fishing boat. St. Lucia gets closer. It is so green. The water is 30 degrees Celsius. The sun is shining on the water. I try to imagine what St. Lucia is like. Everyone is in the cockpit. We get welcomed by a photographer and pretend we're sailing like pros. "Congratulations *Eau Too*, you have passed the finish line!"—We hear on the radio. Time to get the sails in. We sail into Rodney Bay Marina. Dozens of boats have arrived before us. We're welcomed with an applause from fellow ARC participants. The yellow shirted ARC team, and local guys await us at the dock with Rum punch. That's a hospitable arrival! I can't wait to see my newly made sailing friends again! What's the time? No one has a clue. This crossing we were not really consistent with putting the clock back.



Waste disposal in Dominica

11.2 WASTE DISPOSAL

The boat will be trashed after the trip, so you will probably need at least a full day or two to clean it up. Hopefully, you can minimise your disposal impact by having provisioned consciously, and efficiently managed waste while at sea. What to do with the waste you have produced?

Waste disposal in the Caribbean

It's great to see signs around the place saying, 'Do not litter' and 'Keep our environment clean.' Yet, it's a common sight to see people throwing bottles in the bush. I can't blame them, to be



Common streetscene in the Caribbean

honest. Most of the locals don't have the education to know that this is harmful to the environment and that plastic will never ever disappear!

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Popo (a lovely local man from Carriacou who sometimes brings me papayas and coconuts): "Do you have a black paper for me?" I brought Popo some **Callaloo** which I bought for him in 'town' (one street). Me: "I don't have paper." Popo: The one with the handles which they give you in town." I now realize he refers to a plastic bag so he could carry it easier: 'a black paper.' Since I brought my own reusable bag to town and said no to the plastic ones, I couldn't give him 'a black paper.' Many islanders simply may not know what the difference is between paper and plastic and why the latter may be harmful.

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Eyebrows are raised when you refuse a plastic bag. I must admit, I littered when I was a kid: ignorant and unaware. The awareness level of the impact of trash is still low amongst the general public in most tropical destinations. Disposable waste alternatives and waste disposal facilities in the Caribbean are limited. The islands do not have big landfills. Waste is often dumped near the road or burned. We can't blame them and point fingers. We must do what we can with the knowledge and resources we have.

It's therefore worth, or actually a responsibility, to make your first port of arrival on an island with a waste recycling system in place. I reached out to Greening the Caribbean (GTC), a local Caribbean organisation taking care of waste disposal in the Caribbean. The only marina they are aware of, that has a recycling and waste management policy and practice, is the IGY Rodney Bay Marina in St. Lucia. Antigua and Barbuda is one of the places most affected by yachters dumping waste because there are no facilities in place. This is "despite the fact that Antigua and Barbuda have more marinas than any of the other small Caribbean island states, which means that their sailing sector is generating a catastrophic amount of recyclable waste—especially electronic waste and plastic and glass bottles, which are all being dumped in their landfill and compromising their ecosystem."—stated Wayne of Greening the Caribbean.

From my own observations and explorations, Dominica, Martinique, Antigua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Maarten, the BVI, USVI, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico do *not* have a recycling system in place. The same for Trinidad and Tobago. Saba island does have an outstanding recycling facility, but the island itself is tiny, and not suitable for a regular influx of yachts with waste to discard. St. Lucia, then, is the only suitable island for disposing of your recycling waste in the least harmful way. If this isn't your first landing, keep your recyclables on board until you reach the island.

What and how to dispose of recycling waste at the recycling and waste facility in Rodney Bay (St. Lucia)?

- Plastic bottles. Remove the caps, crush the bottles, and keep it all in the same transparent bag.
- Glass bottles.
- Tin and aluminium cans. Crush them.
- Cardboard (must be flattened).
- Scrap materials (batteries, any e-waste items that used electricity, mechanical/or parts containing metal).
- Food waste and general waste (can be put in a non-transparent garbage bag).
- Rodney Bay Marina also has a storage facility for waste oil. Non-hazardous chemical waste can be set aside next to the waste oil storage container.



By following these suggestions, you help to make the on-island sorting and processing more effective. In St. Lucia they pre-process cardboard, aluminium and tin cans; and disassemble e-waste on the island. Once sufficient quantities are collected, it is shipped to recycling manufacturers abroad. Certain glass bottles are passed on to micro-businesses like bee farmers. Note that plastic bags and film foil is non-recyclable. This is a different type of plastic. Above all, try to arrive with as little recyclables and waste material as possible in the first place.