



Go Green & Go Far: Win a \$16K St John Vacation & Break Free from Plastic!

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Good Morning, St. John! There's still time to purchase your tickets for Island Green Living's one-of-a-kind "EARTH MONTH Love City Grand Prize Raffle!" Take a chance on winning a St. John trip worth more than \$16,000 while supporting sustainability in the territory – it's a win-win! The Grand Prize features a seven-night stay for up to 10 at the five-bedroom beachfront Beach Villa by Artistic Villas, a true St. John oasis offering a private pool, garden and direct beach access. Additionally an airfare credit of up to \$2,000, Jeep Wrangler rental and private boat charter, select dining and more are included. Second Prize is an Island Adventure and Shopping Experience, valued at \$1,335.

Every dollar raised during the EARTH MONTH Raffle supports non-profit Island Green's critical sustainability endeavors. These include food security, greening education, advocacy, the Resource Depot reuse store, perfect for finding extra beach gear, towels, etc. for your trip and then donating items again before your departure, and of course RECYCLING.

EARTH MONTH Raffle entries, priced at \$50 a chance, 3 for \$125, 6 for \$250, or 30 "Golden Ticket" chances for \$1,000, are available at bit.ly/3O8Lckj through May 11, 2026.

So far Island Green has recycled 5.2 million aluminum cans and the equivalent of approximately 6.5 million plastic bottles, keeping these materials out of the landfill and away from our ocean, beaches and environs. This is a HUGE accomplishment, but the organization emphasizes that the very best way to keep plastic waste at bay is to avoid disposable plastics to begin with. This is imperative in the USVI, where space is so limited and the environment so fragile – but it is important at home as well. Island Green is proud of their efforts to educate and build awareness, which aided in the passage of the plastic bag ban and plastic straw ban in the USVI.

It is estimated that worldwide, plastic waste enters the ocean at a rate of about 12 million tons a year globally, injuring and killing marine life and destroying habitats. It damages the health and welfare of humans, plants and wildlife by spreading toxins, causing choking/suffocation hazards for animals, clogging waterways and disrupting the ecosystem. When plastic degrades, it sheds microplastics into the environment and those particles have even been found in our own bodies. Almost every piece of plastic ever produced still exists today.

But you can make a difference. Small swaps = big waves – Island Green offers these tips to help you be part of the plastic solution:

- Opt for a reusable bag when shopping.
- Bring a reusable to-go container for restaurant leftovers; look for opportunities at stores to use your own containers: “refill don’t landfill.”
- Bring a reusable cup to bars/restaurants and ask for refills vs a single-use cup.
- Opt for a reusable water bottle and refill instead of buying single-use plastic bottles.
- If you must have a straw, carry a reusable one, along with a spork (vs using disposable plastic eating utensils).
- Choose laundry detergent sheets or powder in a cardboard box vs jugs or pods.
- Choose dishwasher tablets vs jugs or pods.
- If you have a Keurig coffee machine, opt for reusable filter baskets vs single use.
- Switch plastic Tupperware for glass containers and avoid plastic wrap.
- RETHINK & REFUSE use of disposable plastics FIRST wherever possible; RECYCLE as the last resort.

And of course, another way to be part of the solution is to purchase your raffle tickets to support all of Island Green’s initiatives! The EARTH MONTH Love City Grand Prize

includes:

- Seven-night stay in St. John for up to 10 guests at The [Beach Villa from Artistic Villas](#), compliments of proprietors Deborah & Donald Schnell. This artfully designed beachfront masterpiece offers five bedrooms, a quaint pool in a garden setting, and a generous patio area for everyone to easily gather.
- Airfare voucher up to \$2,000, sponsored by the [US Virgin Islands Department of Tourism](#)
- 4-Door Jeep Wrangler rental for one week, compliments of [Seashell Vacations](#), a local family-owned company known for sharing the very best of St. John
- Private boat charter experience valued at \$900 (fuel not included), also compliments of the unmatched [Seashell Vacations](#)
- Rejuvenating 60-minute Swedish massage at [Crandall Massage](#), located within Mongoose Junction

Dining

- Private Chef Dinner in the Villa for up to 6 guests, prepared by celebrated Chef Vincent Alterio of [St. John Speakeasy](#) (alcohol and gratuity NOT included, but upgrades are available)
- \$150 at [Ocean 362](#), offering locally sourced, exceptional “island to table” cuisine and stunning sunset views, located in the heart of Cruz Bay
- \$100 at [The Longboard](#), serving Caribbean-inspired cuisine including local seafood and vegetarian dishes in the heart of Cruz Bay
- \$100 at [Morgan’s Mango](#), exceptional Caribbean Seafood restaurant offering a relaxed, seaside setting in Cruz Bay

Additional Activates (Grand Prize)

- Shopping at [Bamboula](#), located in Mongoose Junction, with a \$100 certificate good toward their eclectic inventory of ethnic art, music, instruments, home decor, clothing and accessories
- Voluntourism opportunity & private tour at [Island Green Living’s ReSource Depot](#)

The EARTH MONTH Second Prize Adventure & Shopping Experience, valued at \$1,335, includes:

- Zipline for 4, compliments of [Tree Limin' Extreme!](#) Perched high above Magens Bay on St. Thomas, the zipline tour takes guests on a one-of-a-kind journey through the rainforest of St. Peter Mountain
- Sailing credit of \$250 to be used toward any available sail on [Kekoa](#), recipient of Trip Advisor's 2020 Travelers Choice Award
- \$200 at [La Tapa Plage](#), serving contemporary Mediterranean cuisine with its own personal interpretation, located beachside in Wharfside Village, Cruz Bay
- \$100 gift certificate at [Salt and Strand](#), located next to the Cruz Bay Landing, offering women's clothing, home decor and local art
- [St. John Sailsack Co.](#) handcrafted bag, valued at \$229

To enter, visit Island Green's Earth Month Raffle page: bit.ly/3O8Lckj, and choose the number of tickets desired. Full restrictions are noted on that page. Entrants will receive a confirmation email following. The raffle period ends at 11:55 pm on Monday, May 11. The winner will be randomly drawn and announced via Facebook in mid-May and the winner will be notified by email.

Good luck and thank you for your support!

Local News

- < [Record Tourism Hits the USVI: What 303,000 Visitors Means For St. John](#)
- > [Record Sea Turtle Nesting Season on St. John and a May Membership Raffle from Friends of Virgin Island National Park](#)

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