

NATURIST SNORKELING IN SAINT MARTIN



About the author
Preacher Joe Conway

Active nudist couple for years. Has traveled to many nudist resorts over those years from Florida to California. Internationally to Cap D'agde (The Naked City in France), Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands, Intima and Hidden Beach in Mexico, Couples resorts in Jamaica, Paya Bay in Roatan, Honduras and most recently two weeks at Vitromartis on the island of Crete, Greece. Members at Bluebonnet Nudist Park and The DFW Sunbirds, a non-landed club.

The echo of disappointment was probably heard through the world of nudists. The response to my email indicated that nude snorkeling trips were discontinued on the island of Saint Martin. While Orient Beach still remains host to the world's most well-known Caribbean destination for nudists, snorkeling from the beach has its limits. Other reef areas are somewhat out of reach. We took our snorkeling gear anyway.

While enjoying "happy hour" with the other guests at Kazanu, I mentioned our previous nude snorkeling experiences in Hawaii

and other parts of the Caribbean, secretly wishing someone knew of an alternative for Saint Martin. I was pleasantly surprised when five other couples volunteered they would join in such an adventure.

Wishes do come true. Our host (owner of Kazanu) whipped out his phone, spoke for a few minutes and then turned and asked if Wednesday morning (Valentine's Day) was good for all of us. A resounding "yes" and the trip was booked.





Promptly at 9:30 a.m. we parked and walked into the wonderful world of Captain Alan's boat charters. Captain Alan introduced himself, gave us the safety briefing, and after signing the paperwork and paying our fee we were off. But, not before he informed us that his wife would be serving as First Mate.

Coleen (or I should say Captain Coleen) had volunteered for the six-hour cruise. Our first mate made sure everyone had their swim fins, took our flip-flops and placed them in a bin, and welcomed us aboard. As we cruised out of the bay she informed us that as soon as we cleared the bay entrance we could disrobe. As the *C'est La Vie* cleared the final buoy, Coleen appeared with a large bag and collected everyone's textiles, put hers in the bag, and opened the bar. We were politely informed that we would get our things back when we approached Oyster Bay on our return.

Captain Alan had also abandoned the textile world and informed us that he was changing our itinerary so we would arrive at the island of Tintamarre as our final stop. Our first stop opened the door to snorkeling sans clothing in Saint Martin. The sand bar out from Orient Beach provided a place to rest or simply explore as we swam, snorkeled, and enjoyed the calm sunny day. From there we visited another reef with more species of fish, turtles, and rays.

Rum punch (the First Mate's secret recipe) flowed along with beer, soft drinks, and water. Snacks were served as we changed locations and then lunch was served. As we arrived at Tintamarre we could see other boats heading out for lunch elsewhere. After we anchored it was time for more snorkeling and another variation of undersea life.

Captain Alan shared with me that they ran multiple boats and that he and his wife are both certified boat captains. He furthermore

shared their story on how hurricane Irma and Covid has crippled their business and thus the nude snorkeling was no longer offered. However, he said they were seeing demand pick up and they were hoping to offer regular trips. In the meantime, private charters are available. The *C'est La Vie* is rated for 12 passengers and two crew. Check with Captain Alan (<https://www.captainalan.com>) to see if regularly scheduled nude snorkeling is being offered again. If not, find like-minded people, team up, charter with Captain Alan and have a blast. We did. And tell them we sent you. You might also check out www.sxmnnaturist.com for information on Captain Alan Charters. ●

