



News from the Nature Island of Dominica

23 June 2009

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1. Dominica to host its first ever ODI cricket matches in July

Dominica will host its first ever One Day Internationals (ODIs) on 26th and 28th July 2009 as the West Indies cricket team take on Bangladesh in the first ODIs of the Digicel Series 2009.

The two matches will be played at Dominica's new Windsor Park Stadium in the capital, Roseau. These are the first major international cricket matches to be staged in Dominica since the 1978 World Series Game between the Unofficial West Indies and Australia.

The Dominica Cricket Association (DCA) hopes these will be the first in a series of international matches to take place at the Windsor Park Stadium, which opened in late 2007. The stadium has a capacity of over 10,000, with modern, state-of-the-art facilities making it one of the most attractive and convenient centres for sports and cultural activities in the Caribbean. The Stadium is also used to stage Dominica's annual World Creole Music Festival, one of the island's biggest events, held over the final weekend of October each year.

For more information on the Digicel Series 2009, see www.DigicelCricket.com.

2. New memoirs unveil the ‘Bohemian life’ of cultural icon Elma Napier

The life of Elma Napier, a British emigrant to Dominica in the 1930s, who later became the only woman elected to a colonial parliament, is recounted in a new book being published this month.

Black and White Sands will be published by Papillote Press. The memoirs recount Elma Napier’s stories of bohemian house parties, war, death, smugglers, servants, and above all her love for the island of Dominica, its landscapes, culture and people.

Elma and her husband Lennox Napier made their home at Pointe Baptiste in the north of Dominica. The house became a focal point for visiting politicians, artists and writers, with notable visitors including Noel Coward, Somerset Maugham and even Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon, who visited whilst on honeymoon.

Nowadays, Pointe Baptiste is available as a holiday rental property, so visitors can share in its cultural heritage. The property consists of a Main House and a self-contained Small House, which can be rented together or separately depending on the number of visitors. Main House, sleeping up to six, is available from US\$1,620 per week, while Small House, sleeping two, is available from US\$540 per week.

Black and White Sands is available to buy from Waterstones, Amazon.co.uk and other major retailers from 30th June 2009. For more information on the book, see www.PapillotePress.co.uk.

For more information on Pointe Baptiste, see www.pointebaptiste.com.

3. Greenpeace applauds Dominica’s stance on whaling

International environmental protection organisation Greenpeace has released a video advocating travel to Dominica in light of the island’s decision not to support “Japan’s agenda of re-establishing commercial whaling”.

Dominica is known as the ‘whale watching capital of the Caribbean’, since whale species are present year-round in its waters. For the last two years it has abstained from voting at the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which has 70 member nations.

According to Greenpeace, “Japan’s lobbying has bought the votes of many Caribbean countries. Japan uses generous fisheries aid packages to entice small, cash-strapped nations to support them.” Greenpeace goes on to state that Dominica is now “the only East Caribbean IWC member country that does not support Japan’s drive to resume commercial whaling.”

The Greenpeace video encourages potential visitors to choose Dominica if travelling to the Caribbean, highlighting its natural attractions including the volcanic landscapes, waterfalls, natural hot springs and black-sand beaches.

To view the video, see www.Greenpeace.org/Dominica.

4. Special offers for Dive Fest in July

Dominica's Dive Fest, the Caribbean's longest running scuba diving festival, takes place on the island from 10th – 19th July 2009. Several of the island's watersports centres and hotels are offering special rates for people visiting during the event, including:

Dive Dominica and Castle Comfort Lodge

One diver travels free with each group of five paying divers. Packages start from US\$999 per person including seven nights B&B accommodation; airport transfers; 11 boat dives; unlimited shore dives; complimentary use of sea kayaks.

Valid – July, August and October 2009.

Nature Island Dive

Packages start from US\$820 per person including seven nights room-only accommodation and 10 boat dives.

Valid – July until the end of October

Sunset Bay Club

One diver travels free with each group of five paying divers. Packages start from US\$740 including seven nights B&B accommodation; 10 boat dives.

Valid – 1st – 31st July 2009

Fort Young Hotel

Packages start from US\$999 including seven nights B&B accommodation; 10 boat dives; airport transfers.

Valid – 10th – 19th July 2009

JC Ocean Adventures

10% off all fishing trips

Valid – 1st – 31st July 2009

For full details of all Dive Fest packages, see www.dominicawatersports.com/packages09.cfm.

Now in its seventeenth year, Dive Fest includes entertainment and events for both experienced and novice divers. The festival includes try-dive sessions, underwater photography competitions and treasure hunts, a whale watching excursion, beach party, sunset wine and cheese cruise and the climactic Kubuli Carib Canoe Race.

For full listings, see www.dominicawatersports.com/divest.cfm.

- **Ends** -

For further information on Dominica, please see www.discoverdominica.com or telephone 0800 012 1467.

For media information or images, please contact Kate Popham / Kylie Jenkins at The Saltmarsh Partnership on 020 7928 1600 or email kate@saltmarshpr.co.uk / kylie@saltmarshpr.co.uk.

Follow Dominica on Twitter at http://twitter.com/Nature_Island.