



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Scubaqua & Golden Rock Dive & Nature Resort Participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Tourism Webinar**

**St. Eustatius, May 9, 2023**—On April 19<sup>th</sup>, travel agents from the United States and Canada attended part two of a webinar, hosted by Statia Tourism office.

Charles Lindo, Director of the St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation, started the discussion with a review of topics from the first webinar that was held in March, including ways to get to the island, its geography, diverse cuisine, and history.

The spotlight shifted to diving, one of the most sought-after activities in Statia. Mike Harterink, the owner of Scubaqua, a dive shop on the island, enthusiastically shared the incredible experiences that await divers: vibrant coral, sponges, sharks, and other sea creatures in the reef, as well as historic dive sites with notable shipwrecks. Their deep dives take adventure seekers to the depths where the island's dormant volcano, the Quill, was formed. Following their time underwater, tourists often unwind by enjoying a beverage on the terrace of Scubaqua's Dive Center, which is situated in a beautifully restored 17th-century building. This building was once occupied by the Dutch West India Trading Company and is located on Orange Bay where locals and tourist alike come together for a daily swim.

The topic of accommodations on St. Eustatius was also covered during the session. Tessa Boerboom, representing the Golden Rock Resort, provided an overview of the 40-acre boutique resort that is committed to eco-conscious practices. The only luxury resort on Statia, Golden Rock, opened a year ago and is situated on the Atlantic side of the island, at the base of the Quill. The resort offers deluxe rooms, suites, villas, and lodges that are surrounded by lush greenery and flowers. Accessible rooms and a villa are also available for guests with disabilities. Dining options include the Breeze restaurant, which serves international and Caribbean mixed cuisine for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In addition, Bobby's Beach Club, a new dining venue that features a manmade lagoon fed by the sea, will be opening soon. A big yellow school bus, painted by local schoolchildren, was deliberately sunk in the lagoon for divers to explore. While the resort does not



have a sandy beach, guests can enjoy two pools and the lagoon. Golden Rock also offers a variety of activities, such as a multi-purpose sports court, bicycles, a gym, a miniature golf course, and a playground for children. Wellness classes, including meditation, sip and paint, and yoga, are also available. The resort operates its own solar park, which generates most of the power used by the resort. It grows its own crops, produce, and herbs in its greenhouse, and produces its own drinking water using reverse osmosis, a process similar to the one used throughout the island.



At the conclusion of presentations, many questions were asked by the very engaged group of travel agents. Following the webinar, some of these agents have now reached out to the tourism office to request additional information.

Statia Tourism is pleased with the turn-out and participation of travel agents during this two-part webinar. They are optimistic that visitor arrivals will be positively impacted as a result. Based on this, the intention is to host two additional webinars highlighting the big thrills of little Statia.

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**About Sint Eustatius:**

Known as the Golden Rock, Sint Eustatius (known affectionately as Statia), is an open-air museum and diving haven. It is surrounded by a beautiful marine reserve with 7 distinct dive ecosystems and a wealth of coral reef habitats. An island of only 8.1 square miles with a population of 3,500, Statia offers no mass tourism, but intimate experiences await visitors to this sleepy Dutch Caribbean island.

For more information:

Visit the official Statia Tourism website at [www.statia-tourism.com](http://www.statia-tourism.com)

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