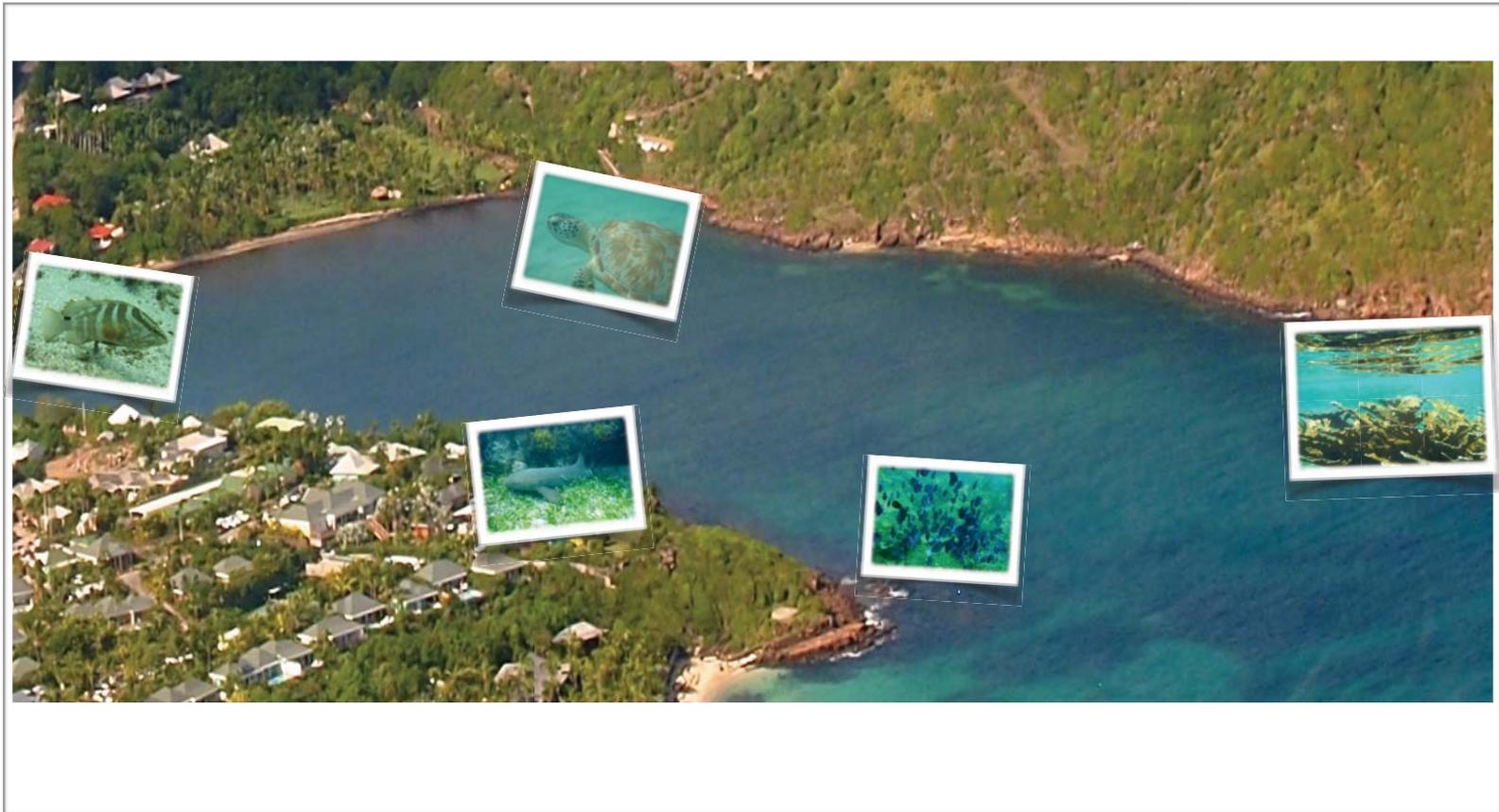


Le Guanahani

Marigot Bay Snorkeling Trail



Sea Turtle

At least 6 green and hawksbill turtles live in Marigot Bay. You find them feeding and resting on seagrass beds. Air breathers, they come to the surface periodically to take a breath, and from shore you may see their heads pop out of the water. Once on the brink of extinction the Caribbean turtles are making a recovery. At Le Guanahani we are helping to protect their nesting sites and marine habitats.



Schools of Blue Tang

These colorful fish cruise across the reef in large schools and usually in search of food. Sometimes they will let you swim along with them.

Grouper

One of the most important key stone species in the coral reef ecosystem. Grouper are key predators that keep a balance in the ecosystem. Once fished to near local extinction, thanks to protection in the waters around Le Guanahani the grouper has made a remarkable recovery and is now more sustainably harvested.



Nurse Sharks

Harmless and shy, these gentle sharks like to rest or swim in Marigot Bay. Four are regularly seen in the bay, and one is about 6 ft (2m) long. They feed on shellfish in the sand and do not bother humans, in fact they are quite scared of us.



Elkhorn Coral

This beautiful coral is a habitat for many reef creatures and it's unique shape is important in protecting the shoreline. Living coral absorbs 90% of a wave energy, keeping beaches calmer and sand on shore. This is the main coral on the fringing reefs around Le Guanahani.



Marigot is a reserve. Observe, enjoy, take pictures and memories only.

Le Guanahani Grand Cul de Sac



Snorkeling and Kayak Trail

Grand Cul de Sac lagoon is ideal for kayaking and shallow water snorkeling. Seagrass, sand, and small coral outcrops are scattered throughout the bay. Elkhorn and mound corals make up the barrier reef, keeping the waters calm and providing a gentle nursery ground for many sea creatures. Look for sea turtles swimming among the seagrass near the Morne, in the center of the bay and by the fishing boats. The marine life in the lagoon is constantly changing. From the annual coral spawning in August, to occasional visits by schools of Caribbean reef squid and puffer-fish, you can never be sure what sea creature will visit. Here are a few highlights of our regular visitors to the lagoon.



Seagrass is characteristic of lagoons like Grand Cul de Sac. The lush beds are a habitat or nursery for many species. This, in turn, attracts predators like this bar jack that is searching for small fish or invertebrates. Bar jacks are curious and harmless. They may come close, but it's usually in the hope that you have found them some lunch.

Conch thrive in seagrass. Once they were almost completely overfished here, but have made a remarkable recovery. It may seem like they don't move about much, but conch can literally "hop" across the seabed, and some will migrate to deep waters seasonally.



Grand Cul de Sac is filled with small juvenile lobsters that migrate onto the reef as adults. Look for small lobsters hiding under rocks and corals and in the edges of seagrass beds.

On the eastern side of the bay you will often find a school of mullet fish. Shy but curious too, they will come close and then swim in mesmerizing circles that are designed to confuse predators. These fish live in the lagoon but go to sea to spawn.



Remember, to stay inside the reef, and do not attempt to snorkel or kayak on the breaker waves. Share the bay with kiteboarders and windsurfers. Marine life is protected, take only pictures and happy memories.