

GLI GLI'S LEEWARD ISLAND ²⁰⁰⁷ EXPEDITION 2007

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What started as a chance meeting between two Caribbean artists in 1994 in Dominica, developed into an epic cultural expedition that was to give the Carib people international recognition. Jacob Frederick, a Carib artist and activist, and Aragon Dick-Read, a BVI artist and student of tribal art, met on a bus. While on this journey they discovered that they shared a dream: to build a canoe and sail to South America. Jacob's desire to reunite his people symbolically matched Aragon's undying spirit of adventure. They built the biggest traditional dug-out Carib canoe in living memory – *Gli Gli* was named after the sparrow hawk, a totem of bravery for the Caribs. The thirty-five foot vessel transported ten Carib men and two Carib women on a historic journey in 1997 that re-connected the Carib descendants from Dominica to Guyana. The BBC film *The Quest of the Carib Canoe* documents the extraordinary adventure that revealed the Carib people to a global audience.

It's now ten years later, and the *Gli Gli* and its crew are preparing to sail again – this time up the Leeward Islands, from Antigua to the British Virgin Islands, stopping at Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Eustatius, St. Barts, St. Martin and Anguilla. This will be the first time a Carib canoe has sailed in these waters since the subjugation of the once great seafaring tribe by the European navies. The aim of the voyage is to draw attention to the importance of the Carib legacy in contemporary Caribbean culture and to continue the symbolic re-unification of the Carib people. During the trip the crew will be offering slide and film shows to the public as well as performances of traditional Carib music. The expedition will depart from Antigua in mid-April 2007, after the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. Contributions and sponsors are being sought and an invitation is going out to vessels that may want to accompany the group up the islands. For further information, visit their website: glicaribcanoe.com or contact John Francis and Aragon Dick-Read on (284) 495 1849 or at dreadeye@surfbvi.com.

