



# Anguilla

## Includes »

Central Anguilla .....	93
The Valley .....	93
Sandy Ground .....	94
Blowing Point .....	96
Western Anguilla .....	96
Meads Bay .....	96
West End .....	97
Eastern Anguilla .....	99
Shoal Bay East .....	99
Far East .....	100
Understand Anguilla .....	100
Survival Guide .....	101

## Why Go?

Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue – wedding bells immediately come to mind, but what about Anguilla? As rabid consumerism devours many Caribbean hot spots, this little limestone bump in the sea has, thus far, maintained its charming menagerie of clapboard shacks (something old) while quietly weaving stunning vacation properties (something new) into the mix. Visitors will discover a melting pot of cultures (something borrowed) set along mind-blowing beaches (something very, very blue).

Anguilla is, however, not the place for a vacation ‘on a shoestring’ – authenticity comes at a premium here. Although the island has garnered somewhat of a reputation as St-Barth’s stunt-double, it really is anything but. Anguilla flaunts its down-to-earth charms to the jetset subset who crave a vacation off the radar.

## Best Beaches

- » Shoal Bay East (p99)
- » Meads Bay (p96)
- » Junk’s Hole (p100)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Lloyd’s (p93)
- » Ambia (p95)
- » La Vue (p95)

## When to Go

From late December to early January, Anguilla is a veritable star safari that gives St-Barth a run for its money. In March the holiday rush finally starts to die down – brilliant beaches are yours for the taking. From July to August prices drop to reasonable levels – capitalize on breezy weather before the humidity kicks in. The lightest rainfall is generally from February to April and the heaviest from October to December. Inflated high-season rates start around mid-December and go until mid-April. Many hotels shut down for the entire month of September and often October as well.

## Itineraries

### ONE DAY

After arriving either at the airport or the ferry pier, rent a car and head to the Valley for an early lunch at one of the local BBQ tents. Continue east and spend the afternoon basking in the turquoise waters at Shoal Bay East, and then, depending on your mood, finish the day with a romantic dinner along Meads Bay, or hit the quaint bar scene in Sandy Ground.

### THREE DAYS

Grab a hotel room along Shoal Bay East or in the west end (penny-pinchers should try the Valley) and spend your days slowly making your way across the island while sampling finger-licking Anguillian cuisine and testing out some of the world's best beaches.

### ONE WEEK

Try out a villa rental rather than a hotel room for the utmost in privacy. Divide your time between doing absolutely nothing and taste-testing the flavorful local cuisine. Spend a sun-soaked day at Prickly Pear, and do a day trip to St-Martin/Sint Maarten to remind yourself why quiet Anguilla is tops for relaxation.

## GETTING TO NEIGHBORING ISLANDS

A short boat ride connects Anguilla to St-Martin/Sint Maarten from where you can take a flight to a handful of island destinations. Direct connections to a few islands – such as Antigua – are possible from Anguilla's airport.

## Essential Food & Drink

» **Lobster & crayfish** Lobster (common spiny lobster sans claws, like the ones in New England) and crayfish are two of Anguilla's locally caught specialties. Crayfish, while smaller than lobsters, are reasonably sized creatures that have sweet, tender meat, and are commonly served three to an order.

» **BBQ tents** Popular weekend tents serving smoky ribs spring up on the side of the road.

» **Homegrown veggies** Keep an eye out on the side of the road for streetside vendors selling organic, locally grown produce.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC\$); US dollar commonly used
- » **Language** English
- » **Money** ATMs dispense local and US dollars
- » **Visas** Not necessary for most nationalities; see p103

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 35 sq miles
- » **Population** 14,750
- » **Capital** The Valley
- » **Telephone country code** 264
- » **Emergency** 911

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** US\$130
- » **Two-course evening meal** US\$60
- » **Rental of two beach chairs and an umbrella** US\$10
- » **Beer** US\$4
- » **Daily car rental** US\$50

## Resources

- » **AHTA** ([www.ahta.ai](http://www.ahta.ai)) Hotel and Tourism Association
- » **Anguilla Guide** ([www.anguillaguide.com](http://www.anguillaguide.com)) Accommodations, events, forums
- » **Anguilla Vacation** ([www.anguilla-vacation.com](http://www.anguilla-vacation.com)) Anguilla Tourist Board website