

Antigua Travel: A Taste of Britain in the Caribbean

Imagine an island retreat tempting visitors with relaxation and excitement, unspoiled natural beauty, sumptuous accommodations, and a British feel. Welcome to Antigua, travelers! The largest of the Leeward Islands, Antigua beckons visitors with the promise of exceptional luxury and enjoyment, spiced with a high level of civility. And when it comes to Antigua hotels and restaurants, you'll find no shortage of sumptuous accommodations.

An Ocean of Possibilities

If you're considering Antigua travel, you'll find comfortable temperatures year-round, ranging from winter's mid-seventies to summer's mid-eighties. An average of 45 inches of annual rainfall ranks Antigua as the sunniest of the Eastern Caribbean Islands. And Antigua travelers are treated to year-round low humidity and the refreshing northeast trade winds blowing in from the Atlantic. Travel to Antigua and you'll find that residents take pride in their nation's reputation for yachting, sailing and boating. Since 1967, Antigua Sailing Week has been held from the end of April to the beginning of May. As such, Antigua hotels and resorts line the coasts; this is prime real estate!

The Natural Wonders of Antigua Travel

Known as *Wadadli* ("our own") by the natives, Antigua is home to 68,000, although this includes both the small island of Barbuda to the north, and Redonda, an uninhabited island and nature preserve. Travel to Antigua, and you'll marvel at this nation's natural wonders, from Boggy Point, the highest point (1,319 feet), to its 365 dazzling white beaches, all of which are open to the public. And with its comfortable (80 degrees on average), calm and clear waters, as well as the amazing display of coral reefs, the coasts are ideal for diving, snorkeling and swimming. Antigua travelers will delight in the underwater beauty of Cades Reef and the submerged Wreck of the Andes, a three-masted merchant ship lying 30 feet down. For Antigua travelers, diving is encouraged for both newcomers and deep-sea daredevils (dive depths of up to 180 feet are available).

Local Antigua Hotels & Hospitality

Travelers to Antigua will sense a strong British connection. In fact, in 1784, Admiral Horatio Nelson established Great Britain's most important Caribbean base in Antigua. Today, the English sensibility is alive and well (it's the official language!). This English civility has made Antigua one of the most modernized Caribbean nations. Home to two prestigious medical schools, travelers to Antigua will find that it's also considered a pioneer in offshore banking AND online gambling. St. John's, the capital and largest city, offers countless attractions, including the world famous St. John's Cathedral.

There are many Antigua hotels and resorts catering to different preferences and budgets. The Carlisle Bay Resort, located on the island's southern end, beckons travelers with luxurious amenities and delectable amenities. Visitors will also delight in the full-service charms of the St. James Club, promising serenity on a private peninsula in southeastern Antigua. Most Antigua hotels allow both 110- and 220-volt electricity. At V. C. Bird International Airport (ANU), Antigua travelers can select from many major airlines. But upon arrival, set your watch for Atlantic Standard Time, which is one hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time. For Antigua travelers considering driving, licenses are required and are available for US\$20 at the airport. And while the official currency is the East Caribbean Dollar (ECS), the U.S. dollar is accepted.

Entry Requirements

Effective December 31, 2006, the U.S. Department of State and Homeland Security requires all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality. This information should be used only as a guideline and non-U.S. citizens should contact the airline they are traveling on, or their local consulate regarding the specific entry requirements that apply to their nationality.