

# Overview of Anguilla

Tranquility reigns supreme on the Caribbean island of Anguilla, where unspoilt beaches lie between discreet resorts and the crystal-clear sea. Small and covered in scrubby vegetation, the main island is surrounded by a collection of low islets and coral cays.

This British Overseas Territory boasts over 30 amazing beaches that many rate as the best in the world, and most certainly in the Caribbean. Each is special in its own way, from Shoal Bay East with its mile of soft sand, to the serene Little Harbor and the seclusion of Captain's Bay, which is only reachable by a narrow gravel track.

Some of the most popular beaches include Cove Bay, which offers waterside horseback rides and weekend barbecues with live bands; and Maundays Bay, home to some of Anguilla's premier resort hotels. The beaches, together with a set of stylish villas, resort hotels, and delicious cuisine served up in a large number of top-class restaurants, have made Anguilla a favourite hideaway for celebrities, particularly movie stars, as witnessed by the private jets often parked on the airport runway.

Anguilla is the perfect retreat for an indulgent, exclusive getaway for the discerning traveller dedicated to the simple pleasures of basking in the sun, taking sunset strolls, sailing on the azure waters, and snorkelling in the world-class coral reefs. It is also a popular venue for weddings and honeymoons.

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## Key Facts

**Language:**

English is the official language in Anguilla.

**Passport/Visa:**

All visitors require all documents needed for next destination, a return or onward ticket, and sufficient funds for the duration of their stay. As part of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), all travellers travelling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean region are required to present a passport or other valid travel document to enter or re-enter the United States. If departing from the USA, a valid passport will be required.

**Currency:**

The East Caribbean dollar (XCD) is the official currency of Anguilla, although US dollars are widely accepted, with prices on menus etc. generally quoted in American dollars. There are several ATMs throughout the island. Credit cards are accepted at most establishments.

**Electricity:**

Electrical current in Anguilla is 110 volts, 60Hz. Flat blade attachment plugs and flat blades with round grounding pin plugs are in use.

# Travel to Anguilla

## Overview

Anguilla is known for its sparkling white sand and crystal-clear water, and aquatic pastimes such as sailing, windsurfing and kayaking are popular among visitors.

Renowned as the wreck-diving capital of the Caribbean, there are a number of shipwrecks in the azure waters around the island for divers to explore. The wrecks provide a showcase for a variety of coral and marine animals such as angelfish, barracuda, sharks and turtles.

The waters around the island are calm without strong currents, with the surrounding reefs featuring both hard and soft coral. The setting provides a spectacular array of gorgeous colour for snorkelers, and is the perfect location for beginner scuba divers. Sport fishing is also serious business on Anguilla. A number of charter companies offer whole or half-day fishing expeditions for prizes that include dorado, sailfish, marlin, barracuda, and grouper.

On land, there are plenty of things to see and do in Anguilla. The island is well supplied with walking trails and birdwatchers will find more than 100 species of bird life. The island's salt ponds attract dozens of varieties, from herons to sandpipers.

## Climate in Anguilla

The island experiences average temperatures of around 80°F (27°C), with trade winds providing a constant warm breeze. There are no high mountains to block the sun's rays and the territory does not have the type of vegetation that attracts rain clouds, making it a sunny paradise. The average rainfall per year measures 35 inches (889mm), much of it arriving in short bursts. Hurricane season runs from June to November.

## Health Notes when travelling to Anguilla

Hepatitis A vaccinations are recommended for all travellers as well as polio and tetanus vaccinations. Mains water on Anguilla is chlorinated, but bottled water is available and recommended for visitors. All food on the island is safe to eat. Patients will find one small hospital, one private day-hospital, four functioning public clinics and several private clinics on the island. Those who need major surgery may need to be transferred to neighbouring islands or the USA mainland. Adequate medical insurance is strongly advised.

## Safety Notes when travelling to Anguilla

Visits to Anguilla are trouble-free. The crime rate is low, but it's wise to take sensible precautions with valuables. Hurricanes usually affect the island between June and November.

## Customs in Anguilla

Skimpy clothes are frowned on and beaches don't permit nudity.

## Duty Free in Anguilla

Travellers can bring 200 cigarettes or 225g of tobacco, and 1 quart of wine or spirits into Anguilla without paying duty.

## Doing Business in Anguilla

Business revolves around tourism and, as Anguilla is a zero-tax jurisdiction, financial services. Light suits or buttoned up shirts are sufficient for meetings because of the balmy climate; office hours are Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.

## Communication in Anguilla

The international dialling code for Anguilla is +1 264. Travellers can purchase local SIM cards for unlocked phones and reliable WiFi is available across the island.

## Tipping in Anguilla

A service charge of 10% is generally added to restaurant and hotel bills in Anguilla, and any tipping over and above this is discretionary.

## Passport/Visa Note

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## Entry Requirements

### Entry requirements for Americans:

A valid passport, USA birth certificate, voter's registration or a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, is required. There are no visa requirements for US citizens if they have an onward or return ticket, confirmation of accommodation, and can produce evidence of their ability to maintain themselves. Passports and other identification documents must be valid on arrival.

### Entry requirements for Canadians:

Canadian passports must be valid for at least three months beyond the date visitors expect to leave Anguilla. A visa is not required.

### Entry requirements for UK nationals:

UK citizens do not require a visa for a maximum stay of three months. Passport must be valid for six months from the date UK visitors arrive.

### Entry requirements for Australians:

Australian nationals do not require a visa for a maximum stay of three months. A valid passport is required.

### Entry requirements for Irish nationals:

Irish nationals do not require a visa for a maximum stay of three months. A valid passport is required.

### Entry requirements for New Zealanders:

New Zealand nationals do not require a visa for a maximum stay of three months. A valid passport is required.

### Entry requirements for South Africans:

South African nationals require a valid passport and a visa for Anguilla, unless holding a valid visa for the United Kingdom, the USA, or Canada for a maximum of three months.

## **Tourist Offices**

Anguilla Tourist Board, The Valley: <http://www.ivisitanguilla.com>

## **Foreign Embassies in Anguilla**

### **American Embassy**

United States Embassy, Bridgetown, Barbados (also responsible for Anguilla): +1 246 227 4000.

### **Canadian Embassy**

Canadian High Commission, Bridgetown, Barbados (also responsible for Anguilla): +1 246 429 3550.

### **British Embassy**

British Government House, The Valley, Anguilla: +264 497 2621.

### **Australian Embassy**

Australian High Commission, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (also responsible for Anguilla): +1 868 822 5450.

# Currency

The East Caribbean dollar (XCD) is the official currency of Anguilla, although US dollars are widely accepted, with prices on menus etc. generally quoted in American dollars. There are several ATMs throughout the island. Credit cards are accepted at most establishments.

## Exchange rate for 1 XCD - East Caribbean Dollar

<b>nan</b> BMD Bermudan Dollar	<b>inf</b> EUR Euro	<b>inf</b> USD U.S. Dollar	<b>inf</b> GBP U.K. Pound Sterling	<b>inf</b> JPY Japanese Yen	<b>inf</b> CAD Canadian Dollar
<b>inf</b> CHF Swiss Franc	<b>inf</b> AUD Australian Dollar	<b>inf</b> UAH Ukrainian Hryvnia	<b>inf</b> KZT Kazakhstani Tenge	<b>inf</b> LBP Lebanese Pound	<b>inf</b> LYD Libyan Dinar
<b>inf</b> BOB Bolivian Boliviano	<b>nan</b> NPR Nepalese Rupee	<b>nan</b> OMR Omani Rial	<b>nan</b> QAR Qatari Rial	<b>inf</b> SGD Singapore Dollar	<b>inf</b> SEK Swedish Krona
<b>nan</b> TTD Trinidad Tobago Dollar	<b>nan</b> VEF Venezuelan Bolivar	<b>inf</b> DOP Dominican Peso	<b>nan</b> HRK Croatian Kuna	<b>inf</b> MXN Mexican Peso	<b>inf</b> XOF West African CFA Franc
<b>nan</b> PGK Papua New Guinean kina	<b>nan</b> BSD Bahamian Dollar	<b>nan</b> FJD Fiji Dollar	<b>nan</b> HNL Honduran Lempira	<b>inf</b> DZD Algerian Dinar	<b>nan</b> MMK Myanma Kyat
<b>nan</b> BWP Botswana Pula	<b>inf</b> PEN Peruvian Nuevo Sol	<b>inf</b> CLP Chilean Peso	<b>inf</b> AMD Armenia Dram	<b>inf</b> CZK Czech Koruna	<b>inf</b> MDL Moldova Lei
<b>inf</b> ISK Icelandic Krona	<b>inf</b> UZS Uzbekistan Sum	<b>inf</b> ILS Israeli New Sheqel	<b>inf</b> JOD Jordanian Dinar	<b>nan</b> KWD Kuwaiti Dinar	<b>inf</b> UYU Uruguayan Peso
<b>nan</b> MUR Mauritian Rupee	<b>nan</b> NIO Nicaraguan Córdoba	<b>inf</b> NOK Norwegian Krone	<b>inf</b> PLN Polish Zloty	<b>inf</b> SAR Saudi Riyal	<b>nan</b> LKR Sri Lanka Rupee
<b>inf</b> THB Thai Baht	<b>inf</b> AED U.A.E Dirham	<b>inf</b> BRL Brazilian Real	<b>inf</b> RON Romanian New Leu	<b>inf</b> HKD Hong Kong Dollar	<b>inf</b> XAF Central African CFA Franc
<b>inf</b> VND Vietnamese Dong	<b>inf</b> ARS Argentine Peso	<b>nan</b> GTQ Guatemalan Quetzal	<b>inf</b> MAD Moroccan Dirham	<b>nan</b> BHD Bahrain Dinar	<b>inf</b> PAB Panamanian Balboa
<b>inf</b> AZN Azerbaijan Manat	<b>inf</b> COP Colombian Peso	<b>inf</b> KGS Kyrgyzstan Som	<b>inf</b> HUF Hungarian Forint	<b>inf</b> TJS Tajikistan Ruble	<b>inf</b> IDR Indonesian Rupiah
<b>inf</b> EGP Egyptian Pound	<b>inf</b> KRW South Korean Won	<b>inf</b> PYG Paraguayan Guaraní	<b>inf</b> MYR Malaysian Ringgit	<b>inf</b> CRC Costa Rican Colón	<b>inf</b> NZD New Zealand Dollar
<b>inf</b> PKR Pakistani Rupee	<b>inf</b> RUB Russian Rouble	<b>inf</b> ZAR South African Rand	<b>inf</b> TND Tunisian Dinar	<b>nan</b> BBD Barbadian Dollar	<b>inf</b> BGN Bulgarian Lev
<b>inf</b> TRY Turkish Lira	<b>inf</b> PHP Philippine Peso	<b>inf</b> TWD New Taiwan Dollar	<b>inf</b> NGN Nigerian Naira	<b>nan</b> XPF CFP Franc	<b>nan</b> GHS Ghanaian Cedi
<b>nan</b> JMD Jamaican Dollar	<b>nan</b> ANG Neth. Antillean Guilder	<b>nan</b> BND Brunei Dollar	<b>inf</b> RSD Serbian Dinar	<b>inf</b> CNY Chinese Yuan	<b>inf</b> DKK Danish Krone
<b>inf</b> TMT New Turkmenistan Manat	<b>inf</b> INR Indian Rupee				

## Port of Call - Blowing Point Harbour

Arriving in Anguilla during a Caribbean cruise is like stepping into a glossy postcard of the perfect island: beaches of powder-white sand, healthy coral reefs and crystal clear waters, then colourful, immaculate buildings fringing the welcoming harbour. Anguilla is a shining jewel of the Leeward Islands, in the Lesser Antilles. It is a 20-minute boat ride from its larger neighbour St Maarten, but a thousand miles away from the hordes of travellers and duty-free shopping of many popular cruise destinations. The beaches are regarded as the best in the Caribbean and there are plenty to choose from. Anguilla is also highly rated for its fine restaurants and excellent nightlife. Cruise ships dock in the bay outside Blowing Point Harbour, Anguilla's modest and attractive port.

### Shopping in Blowing Point Harbour

This is the wrong island for a shopping spree and there are few retail experiences to speak of; catch the ferry to nearby St Maarten for some of the Caribbean's best duty-free shopping. On Anguilla, it's worth visiting Anguilla Rums and picking up one of the celebrated Pyrat rum blends.

**Best Buy:** Locally made rum, body products and driftwood sculptures.

### Dining in Blowing Point Harbour

Blanchards Beach Shack - authentic, affordable and delicious Caribbean cuisine. Veya - fine dining in a romantic setting. Mango's - a beach side eatery that is not to be missed.

**Best Dish:** Shredded salt fish served with peppers and onions

## Overview of the Attractions in Anguilla

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# Public Holidays in Anguilla