

# Anguilla

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 blue).

One of the most intriguing things about little Anguilla is that it's hard to decide whether or not the island is grossly underrated or if it actually garners more buzz than it deserves. Supporters cite the refreshing lack of development relative to neighboring islands (no casinos, nightclubs etc), and an earnest local vibe that remains very much intact. But on the other hand, extreme price hikes have turned the island into St-Barthélemy's stunt double for jetsetters.

While the debate will no doubt rage for years to come, most agree that the island's best feature (besides the oh-so-blue sea) is its malleability – Anguilla is a blank canvas, allowing visitors to design any vacation they please. Those seeking opulence and privacy can rent one of the many rambling villas, while those looking to dive headfirst into the gritty island culture will be sated with cold beer, reggae beats and nightly gatherings around smoky BBQs. And what's more satisfying than discovering a hidden local haunt which serves fresh lobster and big smiles for half the price of those big-name joints down the street?

## FAST FACTS

- **Area** 35 sq miles
- **Capital** The Valley
- **Country code** ☎ 264
- **Departure tax** US\$20 airport & ferry terminal (\$5 if returning the same day)
- **Famous for** Perfect beaches
- **Language** English
- **Money** Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC\$); EC\$1 = US\$0.38 = €0.24 = UK£0.19
- **Official name** Anguilla
- **People** Anguillians
- **Phrase** Limin' (hanging out, preferably on a beach with a rum punch)
- **Population** 13,677
- **Visa** Not necessary for most nationalities; see p432



## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Beaches** (p430) Indulge in Anguilla's one true claim to fame – emerald waters and powder-soft sands ripped straight from the pages of your favorite travel magazine. Try the popular Shoal Bay East or the quieter windswept Junk's Hole
- **BBQ Tents** (p423) Devour succulent ribs with locals on their lunch break amid thick plumes of barbecue smoke
- **Live Music** (see boxed text, p424) Tap into Anguilla's nightly jam sessions at various hangouts around the island. The Dune Preserve draws in the big names, but don't forget to check out Sprocka's or the Pump-house to hear some gifted local talent
- **Prickly Pear** (p428) Hop on a sailboat or catamaran and make your way over to this super-secluded mini-Anguilla, with its 360 degrees of flaxen sands and mellow turquoise waves
- **Private Villas** (p430) Rent a rambling beachside villa for the ultimate in privacy and pampering

## 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 a place in the Valley) and spend your days worshipping the sun and evenings devoted to tracking down the nightly jam session – Sandy Ground's a good place to start.
- **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.

## CLIMATE & WHEN TO GO

The average annual temperature is 80.6°F (27°C), with the hottest weather occurring

during the hurricane season from June to November. June, July and August, however, are known to be quite lovely as the intense humidity only kicks in around September, when hurricane season is at its peak. The average annual rainfall is 35in. 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. Christmas or New Year's are crowded for obvious reasons, but surprisingly, February sees the most visitors.

## HISTORY

First settled by the Arawaks from South America over 3500 years ago, Anguilla was called 'Malliouhana,' which meant arrow-shaped sea serpent. The Arawaks settled the island for millennia, evidenced by many cave sites with petroglyphs and artifacts still visible today and studied by archaeologists.

Columbus sailed by in 1493, but didn't land on the island (probably because he didn't notice it since it's extremely flat compared to St-Martin/Sint Maarten next door). Britain sent a colony in 1650 to take advantage of soil that was hospitable to growing corn and tobacco. However, it wasn't hospitable to much else, and the plantation colonies that bloomed on nearby Caribbean islands, like St Kitts and Nevis, never defined Anguilla.

When the sugar plantations were abandoned due to a lack of viable soil and insufficient rain, small-scale industries, like sailing, fishing and private farming, began to crop up on the island. In 1834 Britain abolished slavery in its colonies, and many Anguillian ex-slaves took up positions as farmers, sailors and fishermen.

Soon after, Anguilla formed a federation with St Kitts and Nevis, which was disliked by most of the ex-slave population. Anguilla was allowed only one freeholder representative to the House of Assembly on St Kitts and was largely ignored, eventually culminating in the Anguilla Revolution in 1967. Anguilla Day marks May 30, 1967, the day Anguillians forced the Royal St Kitts Police off the island for good.

As a result of its revolt against St Kitts, Anguilla remains a British overseas territory. Under the Anguilla constitution, which came



into effect in 1982, one queen-appointed representative acts as the British governor and presides over the appointed Executive Council and an elected Anguilla House of Assembly.

## THE CULTURE

Anguillian culture is a blend of West Indian, British and African influences. As hockey is to Canada, sailboat racing is to Anguilla – the national sport and a vital part of everyday life. Races are a common occurrence and are a great way to hang out with the community. Upscale tourism drives the economy, and today, almost three-quarters of the island's inhabitants work in hospitality or commerce. Anguillians take pride in maintaining the balance between tourist development and the preservation of a thriving local society.

## ARTS

For a small island, Anguilla has an impressive arts and crafts scene that mostly focuses on inventive local artists rather than a rich textile history. There are currently about two-dozen resident artists on the island and 10 galleries displaying their work. A brochure for a self-guided tour is available from the tourist office (opposite).

## ENVIRONMENT

Anguilla lies 5 miles north of St-Martin/Sint Maarten, an arid island shaped like an eel (its namesake). Almost 30 white-sand beaches have prompted countless imaginations to linger over whether one could subsist on a diet of coconuts to take an early retirement here.

Over 100 species of bird can be spotted on the island, including Antillean crested hummingbird, frigate, brown pelican, snow egret and black-necked stilt. Endangered sea

turtles, like the hawksbill, can be spotted offshore in five protected marine parks: Prickly Pear & Seal Island Reef, Dog Island, Little Bay, Sandy Island and Shoal Bay Island Harbor Reef. The most commonplace creatures on the island are the many roaming goats and sheep. Hint: if you see a slightly fuzzier-looking goat with its tail down, not up, it's actually a Caribbean sheep.

Like many Caribbean islands, Anguilla desalinates much of its water. Be mindful of letting the water run needlessly.

## FOOD & DRINK

Food is pricey on Anguilla – there's no escaping it. Almost everything sold on the island has been shipped in (much like every other island in the Caribbean); however, it's the hefty import tax that drives prices north. Anguilla does not have income tax, so each item brought on shore is charged a monstrous fee. Fortunately, many hotel and villa rooms come with fully equipped kitchens, so consider cooking some meals at home to keep costs down, and remember, groceries are priced in EC dollars, so don't have a heart attack when you spot a little can of soup for \$6.

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

At local establishments, tap water usually comes from rooftop cisterns; however, most hotels run their rainwater through filters, and thus it should be fine to drink. Bottled water is readily available in grocery stores.

# CENTRAL ANGUILLA

Central Anguilla is devoted to function more than luxury. Here you will find the Valley (the island's capital) and Anguilla's airport.

## THE VALLEY

Although no part of Anguilla feels particularly urban, the Valley has the island's conglomeration of government buildings, which gives it a more conspicuous village vibe. The area was chosen as the colonial capital largely because of the abundance of arable soil; the

### HOW MUCH?

- **Taxi from the ferry terminal to the Valley** US\$16
- **Daytrip to Prickly Pear including lunch and snorkeling** US\$80
- **Smoky streetside BBQ ribs** US\$6
- **Two beach chairs and an umbrella for the day** US\$10
- **One gallon of gas** US\$5

island is mostly a limestone formation and thus there are only tiny pockets of viable land for farming. The main post office and most banks are located here, as are several large supermarkets.

## Information

**Anguilla Tourist Board** (☎ 497-2759; in USA 800-553-4939; www.anguilla-vacation.com; Coronation Ave, the Valley)

**Caribbean Commercial Bank** (CCB; ☎ 497-2571; www.ccb.ai)

**First Caribbean International Bank** (☎ 497-2301; www.firstcaribbeanbank.com)

**National Bank of Anguilla** (NBA; ☎ 497-2101; www.nba.ai)

**Post office** (☎ 497-2528; www.gov.ai/angstamp; 📧 8am-3:30pm Mon-Thu, 8am-5pm Fri)

**Princess Alexandra Hospital** (☎ 497-2551)

**Public Library** (☎ 497-2441; the Valley; per 30min EC\$5; 📖 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) Has internet access.

**Scotiabank Anguilla** (☎ 497-3333; bns.anguilla@scotiabank.com)

## Sights

Swing by the **National Trust of Anguilla** (☎ 497-5297; www.axanationaltrust.org; 📧 8am-4pm Mon-Fri) and sign up for one of its heritage tours. There's not much in the way of preserved local history, but it's a good way to get under the skin of the island. It's best to book your tour 24 hours in advance and expect an 8am departure time.

The Valley's most interesting building is the **Wallblake House** (☎ 497-2944; 📧 tours 10am-2pm Mon, Wed & Fri). Built in 1787, it's the oldest structure on Anguilla and the only remaining plantation house on the island. Get a double dose of Caribbean history and check out the interior of the adjacent **St Gerard's church**, which has a unique design incorporating a decorative stone front, open-air side walls and a ceiling shaped like the hull of a ship.

## Sleeping

All accommodation in the Valley is located in the northwest part of town towards Crocus Bay. Prices here are reasonable compared to the rest of the island because of its inland location.

**Casa Nadine Guest House** (☎ 772-2517; www.cas nadineguesthouse.com; r incl tax & service from US\$45) At first glance Casa Nadine looks a tad derelict; the faded peach paint is falling off in chunks and mangy cats meow from the crevices in

the eaves. But the rooms are sleepable and relatively clean, and no one dares to complain since it's the cheapest place on the island (by far). Room 5 is the 'swankiest' of the bunch (and we use term 'swanky' very loosely) featuring a large fridge, TV and views into the unkempt garden out back. The 10 other rooms are a mishmash of amenities and quirks, like doorless bathrooms and windowless suites (which the owner explained were quite popular for those who want to sleep in). Though it may not be paradise, this little fixer-upper is a mere 10-minute walk from town and the beach.

**Lloyd's** (☎ 497-2351; www.lloyds.ai; s/d incl breakfast & tax US\$99/135; 📧 📧) Charming Lloyd's is hands down the best bang for your buck on Anguilla. This charming plantation-style B&B is slathered in bright yellows and accented by lime green clapboard shutters. Rooms are on the small side and have a palpable farmhouse quality, but that's all part of the charm. There are no ocean views, but the elevated terrain offers glimpses of the intriguing architectural jumble in the Valley. Offers wi-fi access.

**Crocus Bay Inn** (☎ 497-3298; www.crocusbayinn.com; ste US\$145; 📧 📧) Teeny tiny Crocus Bay Inn is a simple two-family bungalow across the street from the churning emerald waters of Crocus Bay. Behind the white-and-pink facade lies spacious apartment interiors outfitted with clean beige tiles and simple wooden cabinets throughout. The only downside is the noisy GE processing plant across the street beside the beach.

## Eating

**Hungry's** (☎ 235-8907; mains US\$5-18; 📧 lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Opposite the post office under a large almond tree, this popular operation serves up hearty island faves from a colorful truck covered in Caribbean stencil art. Irad and Papy, the owners/chefs, cater to long lines of working locals who stop through on their lunch break to grab a bowl of delectable conch soup (US\$5) or unique lobster quesadillas (US\$10).

**Ken's** (ribs US\$6; 📧 lunch & dinner Fri & Sat) Every weekend, Ken's clan of spit-wielding cooks set up shop beside English Rose, near the corner of Carter Rey Blvd and Landsome Rd. Great puffs of smoke and steam billow out from underneath the large white tent as hungry customers gingerly smack their lips with anticipation. The juicy ribs are turned out by the

**TWIST MY ARM: THE SPOTS THE AUTHORS WANTED TO KEEP SECRET**

After 9pm on a Friday or Saturday **Fresh at Sprocka's** (☎ 497-0882; Airport Blvd; mains US\$10-17; ☺ lunch & dinner) is the top spot to tap into Anguilla's chill local vibe. Known simply as 'Sprocka's,' this hidden gem near the airport dishes out cheap eats, but the main attraction is the hangout's namesake – Sprocka, the charismatic owner and homegrown musician. During the week he regales hotel guests at various resorts around the island, but on weekend evenings he retreats back to his bar and treats his faithful local following to an impressive array of musical selections.

dozen, and the do-it-yourself sauce bucket allows you drench your platter with an unlimited amount of sweet barbecue goodness. Grab a flaky johnnycake for an extra \$0.50, and browse the collection of pirated DVDs to watch back at your villa while savoring your tasty meal.

**Til Last Flight** (☎ 497-5169; Wallblake Airport; mains from US\$8; ☺ breakfast & lunch) Who woulda thunk it – a restaurant at the airport that actually has delicious food for a reasonable price! Enjoy flavorful Anguillian favorites at this decidedly local haunt, and contemplate the bizarre phenomenon of going to the airport without taking a plane. Oh, and you guessed it, it's open 'til the last flight.

**English Rose** (☎ 497-5353; Carter Rey Blvd; lunch from US\$8.95, dinner mains US\$10-15; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) Lunches are served cafeteria-style as locals line up to choose between savory goat stew, jerk chicken, and a selection of delectable side dishes like garlic pasta and creamy mashed potatoes. Make sure to get there on the early side – only one round of food is made for the day, and once its gone, they close until dinner-time. In the evenings, this casual spot retains its local vibe; small groups hunker down to watch the cricket match as the background thrums with island gossip and belly laughter. When in Rome...

**Koal Keel** (☎ 497-2930; Coronation Ave, Crocus Hill; mains \$US24-30; ☺ dinner Mon-Sat) Housed in the original warden's quarters (one of the oldest structures on the island), the Valley's most romantic spot serves fusion Caribbean fare on crisp white tablecloths. You'll have to place your order 24 hours in advance for Koal Keel's specialty: 'rock oven chicken.' The in-house patisserie adds a certain French twist to the otherwise upscale West Indian atmosphere. Stop by on weekend evenings for some local live music.

If you're thinking about picking up groceries, the Valley has the largest selection at the lowest prices. All groceries are priced

in EC dollars but US dollars are accepted everywhere. Try **JW Proctor** (☎ 497-2445; [jw-proctors@anguillanet.com](mailto:jw-proctors@anguillanet.com); The Quarter; ☺ 8am-8:30pm Mon-Fri, to 9:30pm Sat) or **Albert Lakes Marketplace** (Stoney Ground; ☺ 8am-8pm Mon-Fri, to 9pm Sat), which also has a great little hut in the parking lot called **Fat Cat** (☎ 497-2307; mains from \$5; ☺ lunch & dinner), specializing in takeaway meals of various shapes and sizes. Call ahead for a picnic lunch prepared in a handy hamper. Fresh produce imported from St Lucia and Dominica is also available at the People's Market, a small green stall opposite the Anglican Church.

**SANDY GROUND**

Although Sandy Ground isn't tops for ocean vistas, it's a worthy sleeping spot for those who only want to be a short stumble away from Anguilla's 'bar scene' (and we use that term loosely – true partiers should head one island over to Sint Maarten). The quaint cluster of bars and restaurants sits between the impossibly clear waters of Road Bay and a murky salt pond out back, which was commercially harvested until the 1970s, when it became economically unfeasible.

**Sights & Activities**

As you come down the hill into Sandy Ground, check out **Pyrat Rums** (☎ 497-5003; [www.patronspirits.com](http://www.patronspirits.com); ☺ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat). Nothing will wake you up in the morning quite like the sharp tang of locally made brew. Call ahead for a complimentary factory tour.

Friendly Dougie, the divemaster at **Special 'D' Diving** (☎ 235-8438; [www.dougcarty.com](http://www.dougcarty.com); Sandy Ground), can practically call each fish, shark and turtle by name. And they'll come. He doesn't have an office so it's best to book ahead by phone or email. Boat tours are also on offer.

**Sleeping**

Sandy Ground has a couple of options on the cheaper side of the spectrum; those searching

for a true beach holiday should look elsewhere. There are several private villa options in the area as well, see p430 for information on rental agencies.

**Sea View Guest House** (☎ 497-2427; [www.inns.ai/seaview](http://www.inns.ai/seaview); 1-1/2-bedroom apt US\$60/110) Across from the beach, both apartments are outfitted for a longer stay with full kitchens and maid service every other day. You'll be downstairs from a local Anguillian family who can help arrange diving and sightseeing adventures.

**Syd-An's Apartments & Villas** (☎ 497-3180; [www.inns.ai/sydans](http://www.inns.ai/sydans); Sandy Ground; r from US\$95; ♿ ♻️) On Sandy Ground's main strip, across from the beach, Syd-An's has 10 pleasant apartments with separate bedrooms, full kitchens and cable TV situated around a convivial courtyard. Rooms with air-con cost a tad more.

**Ambia** (☎ 498-8686, in USA 203-699-8686; [www.ambia-anguilla.com](http://www.ambia-anguilla.com); r US\$295, ste US\$495; ♻️ ♻️) Perched on the side of a scrubby hill, Ambia's unassuming facade opens onto a large Zen space flanked by smooth wooden balusters and shade-bearing trees. The four rooms incorporate Asian stylistic elements (namely minimalism), and offer views of the distant moorings on Road Bay. There's wi-fi.

## Eating & Drinking

The undisputed top spot on Anguilla to get your drink on, Sandy Ground is chockablock with pub-style hangouts. On any given night of the week, at least one establishment offers up an enticing deal, whether it's live music, discount dinners, or two-for-one happy hours.

### SANDY GROUND ROAD

**Johnno's** (☎ 497-2728; meals US\$7-14; ☎ noon-midnight, closed Mon) No shirt and no shoes will still get you service at this happening beach shack. Johnno's offers casual fare and tropical drinks to a blend of locals and travelers. Happy hour is from 5pm to 7pm, and there's live jazz on Sunday afternoons. Try the second location out on Prickly Pear island (see p428)

**Pumphouse** (☎ 497-5154, 497-5498; mains from US\$13; ☎ dinner) At the far end of Sandy Ground, this former saltworks plant is now one of Anguilla's most chilled hot spots. The food is traditional pub grub with an international twist (like Korean quesadillas). Everyone gathers around on Thursday night for cheap drinks and live music. It offers wi-fi access.

**Ripples** (☎ 497-3380; mains US\$15-25; ☎ lunch & dinner) The hip and happening spot for locals and travelers alike, Ripples serves staples like burgers and salads, but also Caribbean fusion dishes like Cajun fish with pineapple and lime salsa. It's open till midnight. Offers wi-fi.

**Roy's Bayside Grill** (☎ 497-2470; mains US\$18-38; ☎ lunch & dinner) On the south end of Sandy Ground, Roy's feels a bit like a British pub along the beach. The conch chowder (US\$10) is a must, but the pièce de résistance is the battered fish and chips (US\$22). Stop by for Friday-night happy hour and take advantage of the discounted meal and drinks. It's a wi-fi hot spot.

**Elvis' Beach Bar** (☎ 461-0101, 772-0637; drinks from \$3; ☎ until late) Affable Elvis, with his PhD in mixology, stirs up some serious island ale that'll make your lips pucker. His clique of loyal local patrons sits along log benches and barstools around the colorful bar – a beached wooden ship.

### SOUTH HILL

The following restaurants are located up the hill from Sandy Ground, along the main road connecting the Valley to the west end of the island.

**Geraud's** (☎ 497-5559; mains US\$5-12; ☎ 5:30am-2pm Tue-Sat, 11am-2pm Sun) At the far west end of South Hill, just before entering the West End of the island, this quaint *boulangerie* bounces in the wee hours of the morning as the chefs hustle to bake the daily bread. By 2pm everything's been devoured including the tasty smoked-salmon sandwiches and quiche Lorraines.

**E's Oven** (☎ 498-8258; mains US\$10-29; ☎ lunch & dinner, closed Tue) E's earns top marks across the board for great local food and competitive prices. Try the sweet potato lobster pancake (US\$12), the chef's signature appetizer. Choosing the main course is a real nail-biter – should it be the Creole conch or grilled crayfish? Either way you can't go wrong.

**Tasty's** (☎ 497-2737; mains US\$18-33; ☎ breakfast, lunch & dinner, closed Thu) A tad less expensive than the other island favorites of the same caliber, Tasty's offers creatively fused dishes, such as grilled tuna steak with orange Creole sauce or coconut-crusting fish fillet with spicy banana rum sauce. The bright teal and purple walls are smothered in shells and kitschy tropical paraphernalia.

### A ROYAL STAMP OF APPROVAL

Allan Ruan is the self-proclaimed (and widely acknowledged) BBQ king, postmaster general and mayor of Prickly Pear.

**How has Anguilla changed in the last five years, and where do you see it heading in the future?**

In the last five years Anguilla has grown immensely – it's no longer being confused with Angola and Antigua! However, we can only hope that it does not get ahead of itself by growing too quickly. Anguilla is loved and revered because it's still quiet, and I sincerely hope it remains that way – it would be a shame if casinos started to emerge.

**What's the best advice for someone visiting Anguilla?**

According to my wife, Sue, the best advice would be to unpack half the things you were going to bring and be prepared to stay an extra week because chances are you will fall in love with the island and one week won't nearly be enough.

**What do you like to do on Anguilla to unwind?**

Days off are few and far between! But when Sue and I find time off, we love to sit and have a beer at Shoal Bay East by Uncle Ernies or Ku, and watch the sunset.

## BLOWING POINT

If you're coming to Anguilla by ferry, little Blowing Point will be the first community you encounter. Centered around the tiny pier, this little village consists of a small grocery, several parking lots full of rental cars and one quiet place to stay.

**El Rancho del Blues** (☎ 497-6164; Blowing Point) offers trail and beach rides on horseback.

A quick walk from the ferry pier, the seven apartment-style suites at the **Ferryboat Inn** (☎ 497-6613; [www.ferryboatinn.ai](http://www.ferryboatinn.ai); ste from US\$200; 📶) offer stellar views of the jagged volcanic peaks of St-Martin/Sint Maarten nearby. The in-house restaurant with the same name spins delicious island cuisine.

## WESTERN ANGUILLA

As the island snakes in a westerly direction, lavish resorts unfurl along thick stretches of sand.

### MEADS BAY

Beautiful Meads Bay has a fat beach with thick dunelike sand. A row of resorts straddles the sea, although it feels significantly less crowded than Shoal Bay East. At the time of research, an enormous condo construction project was underway, which will undoubtedly change the face of this quiet, unpretentious cove.

### Activities

The Dutch-run **Anguillian Divers** (☎ 235-7742, 497-4750; [www.anguilliandivers.com](http://www.anguilliandivers.com); Meads Bay) center operates on the west end of the island.

### Sleeping

**Sirena** (☎ 497-6827; [www.sirenaresort.com](http://www.sirenaresort.com); r from US\$230; 📶 📺 🚿) This is as good as it gets on Anguilla for less than US\$300: two pools, a stylish on-site restaurant, up-to-date rooms, and a private spot on the sand with comfy beach chairs and umbrellas. Although you probably won't have a beach view from your room, Sirena's still a steal. During the summer months, prices drop around 50% depending on the type of room. Offers wi-fi access.

**Frangipani** (☎ 497-6442, in USA 866-780-5165; [www.frangipaniresort.com](http://www.frangipaniresort.com); r US\$350-475, ste \$675-1800; 📶) This rambling Italian villa sits along a splendid stretch of perfect powdery sand punctuated by charming thatched umbrellas. Although decidedly Mediterranean in style, Frangipani incorporates a dash of Caribbean flair noticeable in the vibrant floral print bedspreads and hanging watercolors. Cheaper rooms face the gravel parking lot, while the large suites offer sweeping views of the sea and come with brand spankin' new kitchens. A small continental breakfast is included in the price.

**Carimar Beach Club** (☎ 497-6881, in USA 800-235-8667; [www.carimar.com](http://www.carimar.com); 1-/2-bedroom ste from US\$390/515; 📶) Each bougainvillea-draped Spanish-style apartment is equipped with a kitchen, living and dining rooms, and a balcony or patio. Ask the lovely staff about discounted low-season rates and special honeymoon packages.

**Malliuhana** (☎ 497-6111, in USA 800-835-0796; [www.malliuhana.com](http://www.malliuhana.com); r from US\$770; 📶 📺 🚿) On a low cliff at the east end of Meads Bay, Malliuhana



is one of the island's most fashionable luxury hotels. The rooms are gracefully appointed with Italian tile floors, marble baths, rattan furnishings, original artwork and large patios. Just strolling through the 25 acres of Mediterranean-style architecture and gardens will instill instant relaxation, and that's before you stroll to one of three adjacent beaches or get a massage at the top-notch spa. Offers wi-fi access.

## Eating

Almost every hotel along Meads Bay has a decent restaurant offering upscale fare and ocean views. There are also a couple of standout operations right along the smooth coral sand.

**B & D's** (☎ 497-6670; Long Bay; ribs US\$7; ☺ lunch & dinner, Fri & Sat) Just around the corner from the majestic Malliouhana, this tented BBQ shack gets rave reviews from locals and tourists alike; vacationing celebs have been known to stop through for some down-to-earth cookin'. Stock up on smoky barbecued perfection and don't forget to top off your ribs with the bread pudding and rum sauce. The hours tend to fluctuate – sometimes it's open on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons as well.

**Bananas By The Sea** (☎ 497-1208; lunch mains US\$14-24, dinner mains US\$28-39; ☺ lunch & dinner Mon-Sat) This lovely option strikes the perfect balance between an upscale romantic atmosphere and chilled out sociable feel. You'll go bananas for the unobstructed ocean views and the wide selection of main courses, like the sesame-drenched tuna steak, the rack of lamb, and the inventive piña colada chicken. A charming linen tent on the sand can be arranged for a particularly romantic dinner.

## WEST END

Anguilla's rugged west end is largely the domain of wealthy vacationers who drop a thousand dollars per night on luxurious, butler-serviced suites. The pearly white sand at **Rendezvous Bay** beckons one to stroll its full 1.5-mile length. **Cove Bay** is next to Rendezvous Bay, within easy walking distance; **Seaside Stables** (☎ 235-3667; [www.seaside-stables.com](http://www.seaside-stables.com)) is located here, offering horseback rides along the beach. Further along, **Shoal Bay West** isn't as stunning as its eastern namesake, but it's got fabulous snorkeling and a few nearby dive sites.

Stop by the ridiculous **Temenos Golf Club** (☎ 222-8200; [www.temenosgolfclub.com](http://www.temenosgolfclub.com); green fee \$400), an 18-hole, 7100yd course designed by Greg Norman, to witness the fastest way in the world to drop a cool US\$400 on a round of golf (we kid you not, that's \$US22 per hole). The upside to playing at Temenos? You'll probably be the only one on the course.

## Sleeping

Most of Anguilla's celeb-seducing resorts are located along the milky sands of the island's secluded west end. All the options reviewed here (except Anguilla Great House) offer wi-fi.

**Paradise Cove Resort** (☎ 497-6603; [www.paradise.ai](http://www.paradise.ai); Cove Bay; ste US\$280-625; ☺ ☑) A popular choice for those without a bottomless bank account, Paradise Cove is a comfy enclave featuring spacious rooms stocked with light Caribbean furnishings. The only downside is its inland location, although the ocean is only a 12-minute walk away.

**Anguilla Great House** (☎ 497-6061; in USA 800-583-9247; [www.anguillagreathouse.com](http://www.anguillagreathouse.com); Rendezvous Bay; ste US\$290-340; ☺) Although the name is a bit of a misnomer (it's more like the Anguilla Not-So-Great House), the rows of dated West Indian cottages offer ocean views at a smaller price tag than most of the other resorts on the island.

**CuisinArt** (☎ 498-2000, in USA 800-943-3210; [www.cuisinartresort.com](http://www.cuisinartresort.com); Rendezvous Bay; ste from US\$705; ☺ ☑ ☑) Although the name sounds more like a food processor than a top-notch resort, this expansive whitewashed paradise has so many perks and quirks that you'll probably never want to leave the grounds. Tag along on a detailed tour of the hotel's 18,000-sq-ft hydroponic greenhouse, which provides almost all of the fresh produce served in the on-site restaurants.

**Cap Juluca** (☎ 497-6666, in USA 888-858-5822; [www.capjuluca.com](http://www.capjuluca.com); Maunday's Bay; r from US\$825, ste from US\$1670, villa from US\$5245; ☺ ☑ ☑) One of Anguilla's sexiest resorts by far, Cap Juluca's long row of exclusive beachfront villas boasts idyllic views of the sea. If you're the type of traveler who likes to take home hotel mementos (soaps, slippers etc), you should consider bringing along an empty suitcase – each suite is loaded with designer fragrances, sandals, bathrobes. You name it, they have it.

**Covecastles** (☎ 497-6801, in USA 800-223-1108; [www.covecastles.com](http://www.covecastles.com); Shoal Bay West; villa from US\$895; ☺ ☑)

**PRICKLY PEAR**

Lonely Prickly Pear sits off the coast of Anguilla just far enough to feel like a tiny colony in its own right. This windswept limestone bump above the waves features nothing but creamy beige sand ambushed by curls of rolling turquoise waves. The island is easily accessible by catamaran or sailboat on a day-trip tour from either Anguilla or St-Martin/Sint Maarten.

The curiously shaped villas at Covecastles look like the space-shuttle capsule that washes ashore during the opening credits of *I Dream of Jeannie*. While the exteriors are noticeably modern, the 20-year-old interiors are fairly sedate, sporting loads of sturdy wicker. The property was once owned by Chuck Norris, although fortunately (or unfortunately) only the dark mission-style terracotta tile harkens any flicker of a *Walker, Texas Ranger* theme.

**Eating**

**Smokey's** (☎ 497-6582; Cove Bay; lunch from US\$8, dinner from US\$10; 🍷 lunch & dinner Tue-Sun) Occupying a great spot right on the beach and open until the last person stumbles home, Smokey's offers a selection of local creations and typical American fare. Pizza and burgers are available for lunch, and dishes like curried goat are the mainstay of the dinner menu.

**Picante** (☎ 498-1616; mains US\$10-18; 🍷 dinner, closed Tue) A Caribbean taqueria? Why not. This unassuming roadside restaurant on the far west of the island's Albert Hughes Rd is a popular spot for a cheap nosh. A Californian couple runs the open-air, tin-roofed casual Mexican space, which seats about 30 on wood benches. Try the homebaked tortillas, enchiladas and fish tacos, and wash it all down with a salty margarita.

**Zurra** (☎ 222-8300; Temenos Golf Club, Rendezvous Bay; lunch US\$12-30, dinner US\$35-50; 🍷 lunch & dinner) Owned and operated by the same folks who run Blanchard's restaurant on Meads Bay, this modern, whitewashed venue operates out of the opulent Temenos Golf Club. Gourmet dishes are served in a serene, Arabesque atmosphere dotted with vibrant Cubist-like paintings.

**Lucy's** (☎ 497-8875; Long Bay; mains from US\$14; 🍷 lunch & dinner, closed Wed) Specializing in

Anguilla home cookin', Lucy, the owner and chef, whips up scrumptious island faves like curried seafood, steaming stews and Creole goat.

**Entertainment**

**Dune Preserve** (☎ 772-0637; [www.dunepreserve.com](http://www.dunepreserve.com); 🍷 whenever) Imagine if a reggae star was given a huge pile of driftwood and old boats, and got to build his very own tree house on the beach. The result would be this, one of the grooviest places on the planet. Hometown star Bankie Banx has jammed and limed here for two-dozen years. Live music takes the stage on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (plus Tuesday and Sunday during high season), and if you're lucky, you'll hear Bankie himself. Even if you aren't into the jammin' music scene, it's still worth stopping by for the delicious lunches created by Dale, the popular chef from Tasty's (p425). Try the Dune shine: fresh ginger, pineapple juice, white rum and bitters. Take the road past the Cuisinart resort (a dirt road) and make the first left turn down a seemingly impossible rocky road. This is also the home of the Moon splash festival (p431).

**EASTERN ANGUILLA**

The quiet eastern end of Anguilla features loads of rambling villas set along some of the island's most stunning beaches.

**SHOAL BAY EAST**

Close your eyes and imagine the quintessential Caribbean stretch of white-sand beach. You've just pictured Shoal Bay East, a 2-mile-long beach with pristine sand, thoughtfully placed reefs ideal for snorkeling, glassy turquoise water and a remarkable lack of tourist development. Although during our visit, a few of the older hotels were being knocked down to make room for a gargantuan complex of million-dollar vacation villas...so come quick before the distinct Anguillian charm starts to vanish!

**Activities**

**Shoal Bay Scuba** (☎ 497-4371, 235-1482; [www.shoalbay-scuba.com](http://www.shoalbay-scuba.com); Shoal Bay) is an ultraprofessional diving operation with high-quality equipment, good boats and a staff of well-trained divers. Matthew, the owner, has been living

### BEST ITUNES DOWNLOAD FOR ANGUILLA

If you're bringing your iPod along for some easy listening while relaxing in the sand, consider downloading 'Still In Paradise' by Jimmy Buffett. Recorded during a live concert at the Dune Preserve (see opposite), the song features local artist Bankie Banx.

on Anguilla for 20 years and knows all the ins and outs of every dive spot around (and can offer some great dining tips postdive).

### Sleeping

**Elodia's** (☎ 467-3363; [www.elodias.ai](http://www.elodias.ai); r US\$192, ste US\$222-346; ♿) Little Elodia's occupies two cubes of apartment-style hotel rooms about 100yd from the beach along a clump of thick green grass. The suites could use a little sprucing up, but they get the job done, especially since there are sea views from every unit.

**Serenity Cottage** (☎ 497-3328; [www.serenity.ai](http://www.serenity.ai); incl service charge r US\$275, ste US\$385-495; ♿ ♿) Sparkling after a fresh renovation, Serenity has charming suites that give Malliouhana a run for their money (and these rooms are half the price!).

**Kú** (☎ 497-2011, in USA 800-869-5827; [www.kuanquilla.com](http://www.kuanquilla.com); ste US\$315-420; ♿ ♿ ♿) Kú's strongest suit is its prime slice of beachfront sand in the center of Shoal Bay East. The rooms are covered in coats of sterile white paint with nary a wall hanging in sight. It all feels a bit institutional and it doesn't help that the air-con is borderline cryogenic. However, the outside hangout spots foster an excellent social vibe, and there's a cool fountain at the entrance, which gushes with water while bursting with flames.

**Shoal Bay Villas** (☎ 497-2051; [www.sbvillas.ai](http://www.sbvillas.ai); r from US\$370, ste US\$385-555; ♿ ♿) A splendid beachfront location, this place has 15 large, comfortable units with prim, tropical decor. All have ceiling fans, a kitchen, and a patio or balcony. Some rooms literally step onto the sandy stretch of perfection that will be your front yard. Baby-sitting available.

### Eating & Drinking

**Uncle Ernie's** (☎ 497-2542; mains US\$6-10, ☺ breakfast, lunch & dinner) The cheapest place on Anguilla to buy a Coke (US\$1), this bright green and purple shack teems with beachaholics loung-

ing on the wobbly plastic patio furniture while taking a break from the Caribbean sun. The food is far from tops, but hey, what do you really expect for US\$6 on one of the most expensive islands in the world?

**Zara's** (☎ 497-3229; mains US\$20-29; ☺ dinner) Located at the Allamanda Beach Club, Zara's serves up a hearty mix of seafood and 'rasta pasta' created by Shamash, the iconic local chef who gleefully sings his heart out while preparing your meal. Catch him in the winter months because during the summer he closes up and heads to the Hamptons to spread his Caribbean joie de vivre to cynical New Yorkers.

Sundays are a must along Shoal Bay East; hit **Elodia's** (☎ 497-1257) around sunset for its excellent live reggae band.

### FAR EAST

After Shoal Bay East, the quiet eastern seascape is a narrowing strip of breezy coves dotted by casbah-like villas and hidden eateries. **Island Harbour** is a working fishing village, not a resort area, and its beach is lined with brightly colored fishing boats rather than chaise longues. There are another half-dozen semisecluded beaches in the area, of which **Junk's Hole** is tops. This silent stretch of windswept sand gently forms a curving bay flanked by crooked palms – it's the perfect place to live out your castaway fantasies.

### Sights

Anguilla's only museum, the **Heritage Museum** (☎ 235-7440; adult/child US\$5/3; ☺ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat), is set within a small bungalow and details the island's history through an impressive assortment of artifacts. Amble through the different rooms while experiencing a cleverly curated timeline of events from the settling of the ancient Arawaks to a recent visit from the queen.

### Sleeping

**Arawak Beach Inn** (☎ 497-4888; [www.arawakbeach.com](http://www.arawakbeach.com); Island Harbour; r from US\$245; ♿ ♿) Colorful Arawak Beach Inn sits on the far west side

### BOOBY TRAP

British law requires all beach bums to wear appropriate bathing attire. Topless sun worshippers are subject to government fines.

of picturesque Island Harbour. Stacks of hexagon-shaped rooms stretch across the rock-strewn coast, and feature weathered wooden furnishings.

### Eating

**Smitty's** (☎ 497-4300; Island Harbour; meals US\$12-25; ☺ lunch & dinner) The owner, Smitty, as he's known to his friends (and they are many), runs this casual beachside bar and restaurant offering fresh lobster and barbecue chicken and ribs as if he were having a barbecue party in his backyard.

**Palm Grove** (☎ 497-4224; Junk's Hole; lobster salad US\$20; ☺ 11:30am-6:30pm) As you careen down the treacherous dirt road to Junk's Hole, you'll feel like you've made a wrong turn; fear not, a tasty lunch is soon in store. No doubt the only beachside shack ever featured in *Bon Appetit* magazine, Palm Grove magically churns out tasty seafood despite having no electrical power. Put your order in with chef-owner Nat – be it lobster or crayfish – and head down to the beach for the hour (or two) wait.

**Silly Cay** (☎ 497-5123; mains US\$25-40; ☺ noon-4pm, bar 11am-5pm, closed Mon & Sep-Oct & in rough weather) Pronounced 'silly key,' this unique lunchtime experience occupies a teeny atoll all to itself. Wave at the island and they'll send a boat over to the Island Harbour pier (behind Smitty's) to pick you up. Sunday afternoon's reggae band lures locals and tourists alike, and there's live music on Wednesday and Friday. Reputedly serves the best rum punch on the island.

**Hibernia Restaurant & Art Gallery** (☎ 497-4290; [www.hiberniarestaurant.com](http://www.hiberniarestaurant.com); mains US\$27-39; ☺ lunch Tue-Sun, dinner Tue-Sat winter, lunch Wed-Sat, dinner Wed-Sun summer) The owners of Hibernia travel to Asia every year during low season and bring back an assortment of exotic spices and flavors, which they incorporate into their ever-growing repertoire of fusion recipes. The adjacent art gallery features purchasable paintings and trinkets from their unusual journey. Hibernia is located about half a mile east of Island Harbour; follow the signs. Reservations advised.

## DIRECTORY

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Anguilla has a reputation as an expensive destination because...well, it is. You'll be hard-pressed to find any semblance of a lux-

ury vacation for under US\$300. Most hotel rooms and villas around the island have kitchens or kitchenettes. Consider picking up some groceries in the Valley to reduce the costs of your vacation.

High-season rates usually run December 15 to April 15, but it's around Christmas and New Year's when prices rise astronomically. Most hotels charge significantly less in the low season.

Hotels charge a 10% government tax and 10% service charge.

One of Anguilla's many charms is its plethora of villas, available for every taste and budget. Prices range from around US\$1000 per week for a studio during summer to US\$35,000 per night for a seven-bedroom mansion at Christmas.

The following rental agencies can hook you up with a variety of properties fitting all different price ranges:

**Anguilla Luxury Collection** (☎ 497-6049; [www.anguillaluxurycollection.com](http://www.anguillaluxurycollection.com)) Highly recommended.

**Island Dream Properties** (☎ 498-3200; [www.islanddreamproperties.com](http://www.islanddreamproperties.com)) Also highly recommended.

**Keene Enterprises** (☎ 497-2544; [www.keenevillas.com](http://www.keenevillas.com))

**Kokoon Villas** (☎ 497-7888; [www.koovillas.com](http://www.koovillas.com))

**Professional Realty Services** (☎ 497-3575; [www.profgroup.com/provillas](http://www.profgroup.com/provillas))

**Sunset Homes** (☎ 497-3666; [www.sunsethomesonline.com](http://www.sunsethomesonline.com))

Or make plans yourself by checking the website <http://villas.ai>. Part of the ever helpful [www.news.ai](http://www.news.ai) website run by resident Bob Green, this website lists each villa and its direct reservation information.

Note: roosters don't pay heed to quiet-hour signs posted at hotels or villas, no matter the level of luxury. Bring earplugs.

## ACTIVITIES

### Beaches & Swimming

The pure white-sand beaches are high on most Anguillian visitors' lists as a must-see, must-relax destination. The most prized beaches are Shoal Bay East and Rendezvous Bay, although Junk's Hole and Kartouche Bay are tops for quiet sun worshipping.

### Diving & Snorkeling

Although it doesn't hold the allure of nearby dive havens, such as Sint Eustatius or Saba, Anguilla has clear water and good reef for-

## PRACTICALITIES

- **Newspapers & Magazines** The weekly Anguillian newspaper comes out on Friday.
- **Radio & TV** Radio Anguilla is at 1505AM and 95.5FM. Cable TV is available with local programming on Channel 3.
- **Electricity** The current on Anguilla is 110V (60 cycles); standard American plugs are used.
- **Weights & Measures** Imperial system.

mations. In addition, a number of ships have been deliberately sunk to create new dive areas, bringing Anguilla's total to almost two-dozen diverse sites. Offshore islands popular for diving include Prickly Pear Cays (p428), which has caverns, ledges, barracudas and nurse sharks; several wrecks, including the 1772 natural sinking of the Spanish galleon *El Buen Consejo*, 109yd off Stoney Bay; and Sandy Island, which has soft corals and sea fans.

There are three diving operations on the island, located in Sandy Ground (p424), Meads Bay (p426) and Shoal Bay (p428).

Prickly Pear has excellent snorkeling conditions. Four boats leave Sandy Ground for Prickly Pear at around 10am, returning around 4pm; the cost averages US\$80, including lunch, drinks and snorkeling gear. Try **Chocolat** (☎ 497-3394) or if there's no answer check at Ripples restaurant (p425) in Sandy Ground. Shoal Bay East, Sandy Island and Little Bay are other popular snorkeling spots.

## Horseback Riding

There are operators offering horseback rides in Blowing Point (p426) and Cove Bay (p427).

## Golf

Anguilla's ultraflat terrain makes it one of the best islands in the Caribbean for golfing; unfortunately the green fees are laughably overpriced. Try the Temenos Golf Club (p427) if you want to pay US\$400 a round.

## BUSINESS HOURS

In general, the government offices are all open from 8am to 3pm from Monday to Friday. Grocery stores are usually open from around 8am to 9pm on weekdays and Saturdays, with

shortened hours on Sundays. The rest of the establishments on the island pretty much run according to island time, meaning that they open and close as they please. Breakfast hours are usually 7am to 10am, lunch falls around 11:30am to 2:30pm and dinner starts around 6pm and goes until 9pm. Food service after 9pm is limited to a couple of beach bars in Sandy Ground and a smattering of Chinese grub huts and BBQ stands.

## EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

There are no official embassies on the island. However, those seeking consular services can get in touch with the **Anguilla Tourist Board** (☎ 497-2759, in USA 800-553-4939; www.anguilla-vacation.com; Coronation Ave, the Valley), which has a list of local contacts that represent foreign nations.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

**Moonsplash** (www.dunepreserve.com) The hippest of Anguilla's festivals, Bankie Banx invites all his old reggae friends to the Dune Preserve (p428) in March for some late-night jamming. Guests have included Third World, the Wailers, and Toots and the Maytals.

**Anguilla Summer Festival** (www.festival.ai) Anguilla's carnival is its main festival, which starts on the weekend preceding August Monday and continues until the following weekend. Events include traditional boat racing, Carnival costumed parades, a beauty pageant, and calypso competitions with continuous music and dancing.

**Tranquility Jazz Festival** (early November; www.anguillajazz.org) This jazz festival attracts big names as well as talented local musicians, who play to an international audience of jazz aficionados in various hotels and other locations. The event culminates in a free beach jazz concert in Sandy Ground.

## HOLIDAYS

Anguilla has the following public holidays:

**New Year's Day** January 1

**Good Friday** Late March/early April

**Easter Monday** Late March/early April

**Whit Monday** Eighth Monday after Easter

**Anguilla Day** May 30

**Queen's Birthday** June 11

**August Monday** (Emancipation Day) First Monday in August

**August Thursday** First Thursday in August

**Constitution Day** August 6

**Separation Day** December 19

**Christmas Day** December 25

**Boxing Day** December 26

## INTERNET ACCESS

The **Public Library** (☎ 497-2441; the Valley; per 30min EC\$5; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, to noon Sat) in the Valley has internet access.

## INTERNET RESOURCES

**Anguilla News** ([www.news.ai](http://www.news.ai)) A thoroughly researched website written by a local, but can be lacking in updates.

**Anguilla Tourist Board** ([www.anguilla-vacation.com](http://www.anguilla-vacation.com))

The official tourism website for Anguilla is easy to navigate and lists all accommodations by type and price.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

The island's small **Princess Alexandra Hospital** (☎ 497-2551) is in the Valley.

## MONEY

There are four international banks on Anguilla; all are located in the Valley, and have ATMs dispensing US and EC dollars; see p423 for details.

A 15% service charge is added to most restaurant bills and no further tipping is necessary.

## POST

Anguilla's only **post office** (☎ 497-2528; [www.gov.ai/angstamp](http://www.gov.ai/angstamp); ☎ 8am-3:30pm Mon-Thu, 8am-5pm Fri) is in the Valley. Anguilla's zip code is AI 2640.

## TELEPHONE

Anguilla's area code is ☎ 264 and is followed by a seven-digit local number. If you are calling locally, simply dial the local number. To call the island from North America, dial ☎ 1-264 + the local number. From elsewhere, dial your country's international dialing code + 264 + the local number. We have included only the seven-digit local number in Anguilla listings in this chapter.

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Anguilla Tourist Board** (☎ 497-2759, in USA 800-553-4939; [www.anguilla-vacation.com](http://www.anguilla-vacation.com); Coronation Ave, the Valley)

## TOURS

Taxi drivers provide two-hour tours of the island for US\$50 for one or two people, US\$8 for each additional person, although we highly recommend renting your own car, grabbing a map and exploring the island under your own steam. Even with the cost of gas it will be cheaper than hiring a guide.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- **Ambulance** ☎ 911
- **Fire** ☎ 911
- **Police** ☎ 911

## VISA

Citizens of many African, South American and former Soviet countries need to obtain visas.

# TRANSPORTATION

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Entering Anguilla

Visitors entering Anguilla must carry valid ID in the form of a passport and must declare the date on which they will be departing.

### Air

Anguilla's **Wallblake Airport** (AXA; ☎ 497-2514) accepts mostly smaller aircraft and will require a transfer before arriving from most international destinations (unless you are coming on your private jet).

The following airlines fly to and from Anguilla from within the Caribbean:

**American Eagle** (☎ 497-3131; [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)) San Juan

**LIAT** (☎ 497-5002; [www.liatairline.com](http://www.liatairline.com)) Antigua, St Thomas

**Transanguilla** (☎ 497-8690; [www.transanguilla.com](http://www.transanguilla.com)) Charters from Anguilla.

**Winair** (☎ 497-2748; [www.fly-winair.com](http://www.fly-winair.com)) St-Martin/Sint Maarten and Antigua

Air France and KLM also run connecting flights through St-Martin/Sint Maarten; see p451 for details.

### Sea

#### FERRY

FERRIES make the 25-minute run from Marigot Bay in St-Martin to Blowing Point in Anguilla an average of once every half-hour from 8am to 6:15pm. From Anguilla to St-Martin the ferries run from 7:30am to 7pm. As ferry companies change frequently, call the **dispatch center** (☎ 497-6070). The ferry terminal is 4 miles southwest of the Valley in the small village of Blowing Point.

The one-way fare per person is US\$12 (US\$15 on the last boat of the day) plus the US\$20 departure tax when leaving. The fare for the passage is paid onboard the boat.

## YACHT

The main ports of entry are at Sandy Ground in Road Bay or Blowing Point. The **immigration and customs office** (☎ 497-2451; 🕒 8:30am-noon & 1-4pm Sun-Fri, 1-4pm Sat) can be contacted on VHF channel 16.

## GETTING AROUND

There is no official public transportation on Anguilla. Visitors will either need to rent a car or rely on pricey taxi drivers. You may see bus-stop signs in various spots – there is a private company on the island that drives a shuttle around; however, there is no set schedule.

## Car

### DRIVER'S LICENSE

Visitors must buy a temporary Anguillian driver's license for US\$20 cash, which is a small pink paper issued on the spot by the car-rental companies. Make sure each person driving has a valid license, as hefty fines are imposed on unlicensed drivers.

### RENTAL

Compact air-conditioned cars rent for about US\$40 a day (usually US\$5 cheaper in summer). Petrol prices are extremely high on the island: US\$5 for 1 gallon of gas. Do not fill your tank up to the brim, especially if you are staying on the island for less than a week. The island is very flat and there is rarely traffic – it takes quite a while to go through a tank of gas. If you're arriving by ferry, there are car-rental operations right at the pier. From the airport, most rental services are just a short ride away. It's best to book in advance during high season.

Try the following rental agencies:

**Apex/Avis** (☎ 497-2642; avisaxa@anguillanet.com; the Valley)

**Boo's Cars & Cycle Rentals** (☎ 497-2361; bass\_car\_rental@hotmail.com; Rock Farm)

**Carib Rent A Car** (☎ 497-6020; caribcarrental@anguilla.net.com; Meads Bay)

**Connor's Car Rental** (☎ 497-6433; mauricec@caribserve.net; South Hill)

**Island Car Rental** (☎ 497-2723; islandcar@anguilla.net.com; Airport Rd)

**Triple K Car Rental** (☎ 497-2934; hertztriplek@anguilla.net; Airport Rd)

**Wendell Connor Car Rental** (☎ 497-6894, 235-6894; wendellconnor@caribcable.com; South Hill)

## ROAD RULES & CONDITIONS

Unlike the other islands in the region, on Anguilla, you drive on the left-hand side of the road. Steering wheels can be either on the left or right. The main roads around the island are well paved but the streets in the Valley are bumpy and riddled with potholes.

The island has six gas stations, all well marked on the tourist maps and our own Anguilla map (p421). Most close on Sundays.

## Taxi

Taxi fares have been standardized across the island. Taxis are readily available at the airport and ferry; there is a small taxi booth in both locations that can organize your transportation needs. From the airport, a taxi will cost US\$8 into the Valley, US\$12 to Sandy Ground and US\$16 to Shoal Bay East. From the ferry, it's US\$12 to Sandy Ground and US\$16 to the Valley. Figure US\$32 to cross the island and US\$25 for an hour of service. Rates are for one to two people, with an additional person paying US\$4, and service between 6pm and midnight costs an extra US\$2 (service between midnight and 6am is an additional US\$5). See opposite for taxi tours.

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