ANTIGUA & BARBUDA INFORMATION SHEET

Location

Antigua located in the North Eastern Caribbean is a 108-square mile island recognized for its numerous 365 white sandy beaches. The sister island of Barbuda (Bar-byew’ da) lies 27 miles northeast of Antigua with a land area of 62 square miles.

Capital

The capital of Antigua is St. John’s with two distinctive waterfront areas and a selection of shops and restaurants.

Climate

Sunny and warm all year with soothing trade winds.

Language

English is the spoken language.

Transportation

Renting a car is an ideal way to discover more of Antigua. A valid driver’s license and an EC$50 fee are required to obtain a permit to drive in Antigua. Taxis are also available throughout Antigua. Fares between the airport, harbour, and many hotels and destinations are fixed and can be obtained upon arrival. While there is an easily accessible public bus transportation service, the most popular mode of transportation is by car, or taxi.

Sights

From the capital city of St. John’s, the 108 square miles of Antigua can be easily explored. With its relatively flat landscape, the island’s 365 picturesque beaches, attractions and activities are no further than a 45 minute taxi-ride.

Nelson’s Dockyard, English Harbour featured on UNESCO’s tentative listing as a World Heritage Site is the only remaining example of a Georgian fort, and perhaps the most renowned landmark in Antigua. The Dockyard, houses a museum, bakery and gift shop, while the surrounding area of English Harbour is filled with a variety of quaint restaurants, lively bars and marinas.
**Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre** provides a historic overview of six periods of Antiguan history through a multimedia presentation.

**Shirley Heights Lookout** offers visitors a panoramic view of Nelson’s Dockyard, one of Antigua’s iconic landmarks.

**The Bust of Sir VC Bird Senior**, Antigua and Barbuda’s first Premier and Prime Minister, is displayed within the area of the St. John’s Market.

**St. John’s Anglican Cathedral**, visible from around the capital is regarded as one of Antigua’s national monuments.

**The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda** housed in the old St. John’s Court House provides a wealth of information and insight into the history of Antigua and Barbuda.

**Betty’s Hope**, is the site of one of the first full-scale sugar plantations on Antigua, and offers a chance to step back into time by visiting the only twin restored sugar mills in Antigua.

**Fig Tree Drive** is where sightseers can explore the lush vegetation of the rainforest, and sample fresh fruit and the Antigua Black Pineapple at fruit stalls on the journey.

**Devil’s Bridge**, located at the eastern tip of the island in Indian Town National Park, where Atlantic breakers have carved out a natural limestone arch.

### Beaches

All beaches are open to the public. Popular spots along the west coast of the island include Fort James, Beach, Dickenson Bay, Galley Bay, Fryes Beach, Darkwood Beach, Turners Beach and Morris Bay. The shoreline along the east side of the island includes Half Moon Bay and Long Bay.

### Dining

Antigua’s diverse culinary scene is on display at award-winning restaurants with menus consisting of, native and Caribbean dishes, French, Italian, and other International cuisine. Local seafood specialties include spiny lobster, fish, and conch. Innovative chefs can be found at more than 60 restaurants across the island.

Among some of the restaurants on the island are:

**Carmichael’s Restaurant**
Sugar Ridge, Tottenham Park, Bolans, St Mary’s Tel: 484-3703

**Sheer Rocks Restaurant**
Coco Bay Resort, Valley Church Tel: 562-4510

**Al Portos Restaurant**
Jolly Harbour Tel: 562-7848
Dennis's Cocktail Bar & Restaurant
Little Ffryes & Ffryes Bay Tel: 728-5086

Turners Beach Restaurant
Johnson's Point Tel: 462-9133

OJ's Bar & Restaurant
Crabbe Hill Tel: 460-0184

Jacqui Os Beach House
Crabbe Hill Tel: 562-2218

The Larder
Royal Palms Place, Friar’s Hill Road, St. John's
Tel: 562-7880

C&C Wine Bar
Redcliffe Quay Tel: 460-7025

Papa Zouk Fish n' Rum
Hilda Davis Drive Tel: 464-0795

Ana's on the Beach
Dickenson Bay Tel: 562-8562

Harmony Hall Restaurant and Art Gallery
Brown’s Bay (Near Freetown),
Tel: 460-4120/ 463-8657

Le Bistro French Restaurant
Hodges Bay, St. John’s
Tel: 462-3881

Sheer Rocks Restaurant
Coco Bay Resort, Valley Church
Tel: 562-4510

The Bay @Nonsuch
Hughes Point, Freetown
Tel: 562-8000

Shopping

Two charming shopping areas of Antigua are located in downtown St. John’s close to the waterfront at Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay. Duty-free shopping is available in the Heritage Quay, where purchasers need only show their valid departure details, to purchase duty-free items from internationally recognized brands. The nearby Vendors mall offers a selection of local arts and crafts, straw goods, pottery and jewellery, while the boutiques at the historic Redcliffe Quay provides artisan products, trendy wine bars and cafes. Most shops are open Monday through Saturday from, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Activities
A variety of land and sea activities await the adventure-seeker. Water sports abound from sailing, kayaking, boat cruising, day trips to Barbuda, scuba diving, Swimming with the Stingrays and snorkeling. The island also offers the unforgettable Antigua Rainforest Canopy Tour, a high wire course through the verdant forest, high above the trees. For land lovers, an 18-hole golf course is accessible and open to the public. In addition, the island offers other popular recreational activities such as horseback riding, helicopter tours, walking tours, visits to historical sites and museums, hiking and biking.

Entertainment
Entertainment hubs in Antigua can be found in St. John’s City and along stretches of Dickenson Bay, Jolly Harbour and English Harbour. A relaxed nightlife includes entertainment by steel bands, calypsonians, jazz groups, limbo dancing and moonlit cruises at most major hotels and restaurants. Several nightclubs operate on the island, while there are two cinemas, and two major casinos. On a Friday evening, there is a weekly ‘Seafood Fridays’ in Nelson’s Dockyard, while on Sunday evening, visitors to the Shirley Heights Lookout Point in English Harbour can enjoy steelpan and live band music at the longest running party in the Caribbean, the Shirley Heights Sunset Party and BBQ.

Currency
The unit of currency is the Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC$) although U.S. dollars are widely accepted on the island. Traveller’s checks and major credit cards are accepted and ATM’s are available around the island. The exchange rate is USD$1 = EC$2.70. Most Banks are open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Mondays – Thursdays and until 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Taxes
An 8.5 percent government tax is added to all hotel rates. Most hotels and restaurants also add a 10 percent service charge in lieu of tipping. There is no departure tax payable for Antigua & Barbuda.

Tipping
Usually 10-15% depending on the level of service - some restaurants and hotels will automatically add a 10% gratuity. If in doubt, just ask. Porters and bellboys should receive US$1 per bag and taxi drivers expect 10-15% of the fare.

Medical Facilities
Medical services are provided by the Mount St. John Medical Centre, Tel: 484-2700, as well as several general practitioners and specialists on the island operating privately. There are also community clinics and a private clinic.

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda: www.visitantiguabarbuda.com or contact The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority on 562 – 7600 email: info@aandbtourism.com