

The positive growth trend in visitor arrivals experienced in the fourth quarter of 2003 and in to the first quarter of 2004 continues in to April 2004. As the official tourist season begins to taper off, visitor arrivals to Anguilla during the month of April, were, 12,292 up 26% from April 2003. This by far is the largest monthly total in arrivals over the last decade to the island. To date 46,824 persons have visited Anguilla, a 17% increase over the same period last year.



Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

In April this year, tourist arrivals were up 25% over April 2003. This increase can be attributed somewhat to the Moonsplash Annual Music Festival held during this month as well as the various Easter festivities (which included this year Anguilla hosting the Regional Inland Revenue Sports Clubs Games), which usually see a lot of persons visiting during that time. This month recorded the highest total in arrivals since April 2001(pre 9/11), which seem to indicate that perhaps the industry is starting to exhibit signs of recovery.

Blowing Point Port is beginning to rival the airport as the main port of entry for tourists. 49% or 2,965 of overall tourist arrivals entered through the airport for April this year, a 7% increase over the same period last year, while Blowing Point port received 44% of overall tourist arrivals, up 33% from April 2003 when 2,645 persons entered Anguilla through this port. Sandy Ground was the port of entry for 395 persons for this period compared to 18 persons last April.

23% of tourists visiting Anguilla during the month under review stayed for a period of 1-3 days. 47% stayed for just under a week and 30% stayed for a week or more. The average length of stay was 6.8 days compared to 8.7days in 2003.

For the first four months of 2004 tourists from Germany have almost doubled compared to the same period last year. To date 646 persons arrived to the island from this country compared to 328 for the period January to April 2003. This country is beginning to emerge as an important market for tourists to Anguilla. During April 303 persons arrived from this country compared to 72 persons last April. Arrivals from the U.S.A. went up 18.8% over April 2003 and this country accounted for 65% of the market share. Other countries experiencing increases were Canada with 2.3%, Other Europe (which includes Switzerland and Austria) with 73%, and the Caribbean with 14.3%. After recording increases during the first quarter of 2004, arrivals from Italy and the United Kingdom fell 8.4% and 7.1% respectively for the month of April.

Excursionists (Day-Trippers)

April 2004 to date has recorded the highest percentage increase in excursionist arrivals for 2004. During this month 6,287 day-trippers visited Anguilla (*for a couple hours to enjoy some of its sites*) up 27% over last April when 4,949 day-trippers persons visited.

Sandy Ground's port of entry saw a 62.5% increase in excursionists arrivals. 975 persons used this port as their main port of entry to Anguilla during this reporting period compared to 600 persons for the same period last year. Blowing Point is still the main entryway to Anguilla for this type of visitor. During April 5228 day trippers passed through this port compared to 4,240 last April, resulting in a 23% increase.

Excursionist arrivals from Germany more than tripled this April compared to April 2003. 115 day-trippers from this country visited Anguilla during this month compared to 33 day-trippers last April. Canadians and Caribbean nationals were the other major sources of excursionists to the island. These markets saw increases from April 2003 to April 2004 of 75% and 62% respectively. The U.S.A. market recorded a 19.2% increase and was the country from where the majority of excursionists originated.

Cruise Passengers

9 small sized cruise vessels visited Anguilla during the month of April 2004 with an overall passenger total of 906 persons and each vessel carrying on average a total of 101 passengers. This compares to the 242 passengers who arrived on 13 vessels for the same period last year, with each carrying an average of 19 passengers.

This report along with other Tourism Data, are available at the Government of Anguilla's website: <u>http://gov.ai/statistics/tourism.htm</u>