



## **Preliminary Tourism Summary Data January – December 2002**

***Data from the port of Sandy Ground are not included for the year 2002 and 2001 in this release.***

***In 2001, there were 18,714 visitors through Sandy Ground.***

### **December 2002**

Data for December 2002 show a 15.9% increase in visitor arrivals over December 2001, with Anguilla's tourist season underway and with most tourist accommodation establishments recording between 75% - 95% occupancy. 8,872 visitors (which include Stay-over visitors and excursionists) came to Anguilla for this period. Visitor arrivals in December 2002 were the largest since December 1998 when there were 9,215 visitors to the island.

Excursionist arrivals for the month of December 2002 were up 31.6% compared to December 2001. Excursionists were recorded at 3,924 compared to 2,981 last year. The numbers arriving through Blowing Point for this period were 3,805 up 6.4% from December 2001, whilst excursionist arrivals through the airport were 119 an increase of 26.5% from 2001.

Tourist figures for third time only during the year have shown an increase. December 2002 saw 4,948 tourists visiting the island, a 5.9% increase over December 2001. 74.5% or 3,689 of the 4,948 tourists that visited the island during this period stayed for a period of 4-15 days. 510 stayed for 1-3 days and 749 stayed for 16-23 days. The average length of stay for December 2002 was 10.3 days compared to 10 days in December last year.

Tourist arrivals from the United States of America saw an 11.0% increase for this period compared to December 2001. This country accounted for 69% of the market share. The Caribbean accounted for 12.3%. Arrivals from this region increased marginally by 5.9% for December. Canada and the United Kingdom accounted for 3.9% and 6.5% of the market share respectively for this reporting period. Arrivals from Canada in December fell 10.2% from December 2001, while arrivals from the United Kingdom rose 21% in 2002 when compared to last year. Italy and Germany combined represented 3.4% of the market share for this period. Other Europe represented 3% of the market share.

## **Annual Data**

Visitor arrivals to the island of Anguilla for 2002 improved, after recording a 6.7% decline in 2001. The 2002 performance should be viewed against the background of the 9/11 tragedy, which greatly affected arrivals in the last quarter of 2001, causing dramatic declines in the number of visitors not only to Anguilla, but also to vacation destinations throughout the world.

Arrivals totaled 89,523 compared to 86,260 in 2001. The major source of increase was from excursionists rather than tourists. January and February 2002 averaged declines of 7.1% and April recorded the largest decline of 16.4%. The first and second quarters of 2002 saw declines of 2.4% and 1.6% respectively.

March and August had the largest number in arrivals in 2002. March recorded 9,953 in arrivals or a 5.7% increase over 2001, while during August, 9,706 visitors visited, an increase of 12.1% over 2001. The third quarter of 2002 visitor arrivals increased 7.0% compared to the same period in 2001, while for the fourth quarter 2002, visitor arrivals increased significantly by 16.4% when compared to 2001.

Excursionists which have been the dominant visitor of the overall visitor arrivals had a 19.4% increase in 2002 over 2001. This type of visitor did a complete turnaround for this year. In 2001 it was the main contributor to the decline in visitor arrivals. January and April were the only months that recorded declines of 6.4% and 0.1% respectively. For the remaining ten months of the year, excursionist arrivals significantly increased with May recording the largest with 47.8%. For 2002, 45,764 excursionists came to the shores of Anguilla compared to 38,316 in 2001.

Tourist arrivals (which are the more significant visitor as they make a larger contribution to the economy) in contrast to excursionists, performed sluggishly all year. This type of visitor saw an 8.7% decline in arrivals from 2001. April 2002 recorded the largest decline of 26.4% compared to last year. During the fourth quarter of 2002 arrivals to the island began to “pick up” recording an increase of 1.1% in October, 14.5% in November and 5.9% in December following the dramatic declines of 2001 compared to 2000. 43,759 tourists visited Anguilla in 2002 compared to 47,944 in 2001. Arrivals for this category of visitor have still not bounced back to pre 9/11 levels. The figures for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter portray a positive picture of the potential for the season to be a good one and to record significant growth. The looming war with Iraq and the still recovering economy could once again put a damper on the enthusiasm of persons wanting to travel.

Most tourists visited for 4-15 days, 17.0% stayed for less than 4 days and 8.8% stayed for 16 days and over. The average length of stay for 2002 was 8.2 days with 2001 having an average length of stay of 8.5 days.

Tourist arrivals from the United States of America declined 4.8% for 2002, after recording a 21.3% increase in 2001 and accounted for 65.4% of the market share. The Caribbean represented 16.8% of the market share for 2002 compared to 15.3% last year.

Canada and the United Kingdom accounted for 2.9% and 5.7% respectively, while arrivals from Italy, Germany and the Rest of Europe accounted for 1.5%, 1.2% and 3.7% of the market share.