

Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data February 2003

The month of February is usually a month where increased visitor activity is experienced. While the number of visitors was greater in February compared to January by 11%, arrivals in February 2003 declined 3.5% from February last year. In fact February 2003 recorded the lowest visitor arrivals since 1999 when 10,671 visitors came. To date 10,838 persons have visited Anguilla, a 1.1% drop from the 11,018 visitors in 2002. The reality of the war with Iraq and the elevated security levels in the U.S and throughout the world are prompting persons to stay closer to home. In addition the slowing of economic activity in the U.S. Anguilla's main source of visitors is having an impact.

Excursionists, after increasing slightly in January 2003 fell 3.3% for February this year compared to 2002. This is the first time in the last 11 months that this type of visitor has declined. Coincidentally the same number of excursionists (3,706) arrived through Blowing Point in both February 2002 and 2003. Excursionists through Sandy Ground declined 9.5%.

A number of small cruise vessels have been making one-day calls to the port of Sandy Ground for some time now. Data for this type of visitor have not been recorded previous to 2003. In January 2003, four vessels made calls with a combined total of 453 passengers, while in February 3 vessels made calls with a total of 269 passengers.

Tourist arrivals in February also declined by 3.8% compared to the previous year. Arrivals totaled 4,501 compared to 4,677 in February of 2002. Just over half of the persons visiting stayed for a period of two weeks or more, while a third stayed 4-7 days and 12% stayed for 1-3 days.

Canada and Italy saw the largest increase in arrivals to the island. Visitors from these countries increased by 25.3% and 21.7% respectively compared to February last year. Canada was the only source country experiencing an increase in 2002 compared to 2001. February 2003 saw a 1.5% decline in arrivals from the island's major source market, which is the United States of America. Arrivals from this market have been slightly on the decline since 2001.

After recording a 16.8% increase in visitors in January, arrivals from the United Kingdom fell by 8.5% in February 2003 compared to February 2002. This country accounted for 4.7% of the market share. Meanwhile, the Caribbean represented 8% of the market share for February with arrivals from this region also falling by 16.7%. Germany and Other Europe represented market shares of 0.5% and 2.45 respectively.