



Anguilla: Tourism Summary Report March 2006

With the 'official' tourist season coming to a close, activity within the tourism sector continues to be robust.

The number of visitors to Anguilla during March 2006 was 18,046. This represented an annual (Mar 06/05) increase of 8%. The large number of arrivals during this month was the highest number for March over the last decade. This increase can be attributable in part to the Annual Moon splash Music Festival, which attracted a large number of persons to this island during this time. To date 48,885 persons have visited Anguilla, a 10% increase over the corresponding period in 2005.

Relaxation, beach and sun are the focal points for holiday motivation and the majority (97%) of persons come to Anguilla for all of the above, while a smaller percentage, (3%) visit for business purposes. During this month, out of the 18,046 visitors that visited, 595 persons came for business purposes compared to 331 in March of last year and 17,451 came for pleasure compared to 16,434 during March 2005.



Passenger Movements

Arrivals

Arrivals, which include Anguillians as well as visitors, through the Wallblake Airport for this period were 4,322 compared to 4,411 during March 2005, while arrivals through Blowing Point port were 19,050 compared to 20,500 in March last year. Arrivals through Sandy Ground numbered 3,868 this March compared to 1,599 during March of 2005.

Departures

Departures through Wallblake Airport during March 2006 were 4,584 compared to 4,465

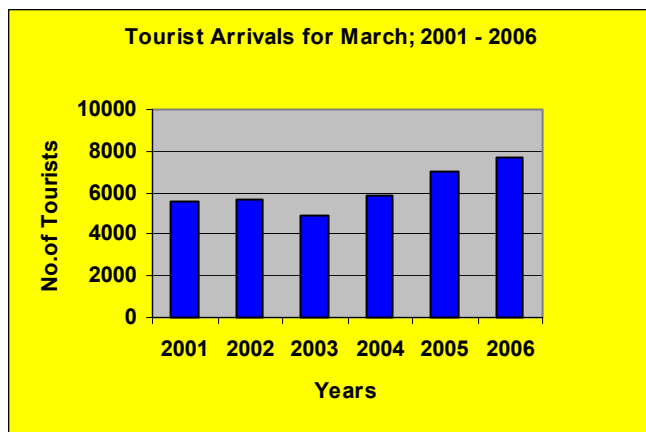
during the corresponding period of 2005, while departures through Blowing Point Port were 18,691 compared to 19,459 in 2005. The port of Sandy Ground saw 3,997 departures during March 2006 compared to 2,185 during March 2005.

Tourists (Stay-Over)

Tourists accounted for 43% of the total number of visitors to Anguilla during March 2006. 7,718 tourists chose Anguilla as their vacation destination during this period, resulting in a 10% increase over March 2005. For the year thus far, 20,441 tourists have visited the island, resulting in a 10% overall increase over the same period in 2005.

39.5% of the tourists that visited Anguilla in March entered through the Wallblake Airport. 3,056 persons came through this port compared to 3,393 persons during the same period last year. The port of Blowing Point recorded a 30% increase in tourist arrivals passing through for this period over March 2005. It was the port of entry to Anguilla for 4,629 tourists compared to 3,573 tourists during the same period in 2005. Tourists passing through the port of Sandy Ground made up just under, 1% of overall tourists entering the island.

Of the 7,718 tourists visiting, 47% stayed in Anguilla for between 4 - 7 days, while 19% stayed for 1 - 3 days, 30% stayed for between 8-22 days and 5% stayed for 23 or more days. On average, the length of stay for the month was 7.6 days compared to 8.1 days during March last year.



During March 2006, the majority of the tourists, 73%, originated out of the U.S.A., annually (Mar06/05) arrivals from this country increased by 7%. The Caribbean was the second largest market with 8%. The United Kingdom and Other European Countries, (to include Switzerland, Austria, France, Belgium and Luxemburg) accounted for 4% of the market share respectively. Arrivals from Canada accounted for 3% of the market share during March 2006.

Albeit, Italy accounted for 1% of the market share, arrivals from this country increased by 27% over March 2005.

The numbers, though small, of tourists arriving from the French and Dutch West Indies increased by 585% and 385% respectively. During March 2006, 178 persons visited from the FWI¹ compared to 26 during March 2005, while 148 visited from the DWI² in March 2006 compared to 34 during March 2005. These countries accounted for 2% respectively of the market share.

Excursionists (Day-Trippers)

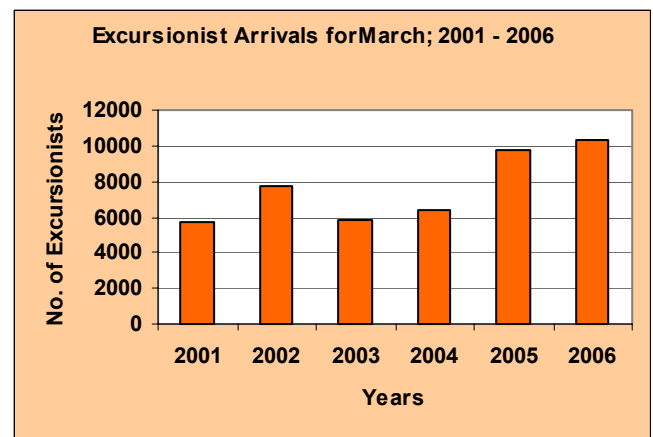
Excursionists also continued to show an increase in number during March 2006. They represented 57% of the overall visitor arrivals to the island. 10,328 excursionists visited this month, resulting in an increase over the year (Mar06/05) of 6%.

¹ French West Indies

² Dutch West Indies

The cumulative total for the period January to March 2006 of 28,444 day-trippers, is up 10% from the 25,753 arrivals recorded over the same period in 2005.

The port of Blowing Point was the main port of entry for persons coming to the island who were visiting for a day. 61% or 6,359 persons included Anguilla as part of their vacation for a day for the period under review compared to 8,063 in March last year. Sandy Ground accounted for 37% of the day-trippers entering Anguilla during March 2006. 3,828 persons entered through this port.



Most of the major tourist markets experienced increases in excursionist travels during this period. Day-trippers from Italy, Germany, French and Dutch West Indies recorded declines of 54%, 16%, 33% and 31% respectively.

Cruise Passengers

During March 2006, seven mid-sized cruise vessels made a call to Anguilla. Overall passenger total of the 7 vessels was 1,141 with each vessel carrying on average a total of 1636 passengers. This compares to the 7 vessels that made a call to Anguilla during the same period last year with an overall passenger total of 969.

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