

Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data May 2003

May 2003 saw 10,016 visitors to Anguilla, up slightly, by 1.8%, from May 2002 after recording annual declines during the period February to April 2003. May this year recorded the highest number of arrivals for the month of May since May 1998 when 9,867 person visited Anguilla. This increase can be attributed to the Anguilla Day Holiday, when a number of activities were planned and the first annual yacht regatta was held during May which brought a number of persons to the island, The year to date total of all visitors, however, shows a decline of 7.2% compared to the first five months of 2002.

Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

The increase in May visitor arrivals, was primarily driven by tourist arrivals. There were 3,915 arrivals during this month, representing an increase of 3.5% from May 2002. However, only 27,766 tourists have visited Anguilla during the period January – May 2003 compared to 31,287 for the same period in 2002.

77% or 3,024 of the 3,915 tourists that visited the island during this reporting period stayed for a period of 4 – 15 days, 657 stayed for 1 – 3 days and 234 visited for 16 – 23+ days. On average for this month, the length of stay was up slightly to 7.6 days compared to 7.2 days during May 2002.

Tourist arrivals through the port of Blowing Point for May were 1,436 up 12.4% from May 2002 while arrivals through the airport were down slightly by 1.1% to 2,473 compared to 2,500 in May of last year. The airport is the gateway to Anguilla for most tourists but St. Martin is growing in importance as visitors are able to get more choice in their flights to St. Martin.

Arrivals from Anguilla's source markets, continue to show some growth during this period compared with last year. Even though Italy represented only 1.1% of the market, it saw the largest increase in arrivals of 38% from May 2002 and 9% from 2001. Arrivals from this country have been on the increase since the beginning of 2003 to date compared to the same period in 2002.

The United Kingdom represented 5.3% of the market and saw an 18.3% increase in arrivals over 2002. Meanwhile, the Canadian market, which has been performing well over the past months, saw a 2% drop in arrivals for May 2003 from last year. This market represented 2.8% of the market share. The United States of America which is Anguilla's major market had a 7.8% increase over 2002 and represented 71.5% of the market share.

10.8% of tourists to Anguilla during May came from the Caribbean and 1.6% and 3.1% respectively came from Germany and other Europe respectively.

Excursionists (Day Visitors)

Excursionist arrivals, after being the dominant growth segment among visitors in 2002, saw declines during the first four months of 2003 and increased a mere 0.7% in May 2003 over May last year. 6,101 excursionists visited during this period compared to 6,058 in May 2002.

Excursionists through the port of Blowing Point (*the main port of entry for this type of visitor*) dropped slightly by 1%. 3,974 excursionists visited in May this year compared to 4,018 in May last year. Meanwhile 2,063 excursionists came through the port of Sandy Ground during May compared to 1,975 last year. This represented a 4.4% increase. Excursionists through Sandy Ground tend to be visitors to the offshore cays and yachtsmen .

Excursionist arrivals for May from the U.S.A, Italy and Germany declined 3.2%, 37.5% and 1.1% respectively from May 2002. Canadian, U.K. and Caribbean excursionist visitors were up 8.5%, 3.2% and 7% respectively. Arrivals from other European Countries were also up 13.4%.