

Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data September 2003

Visitor arrivals to Anguilla's shores during the month of September 2003 were 3,482 in comparison to 3,767 for the same period in 2002; this amounted to a 7.6% decline. This month's figure accounted for the third largest decline for the year thus far and the second smallest recorded figure for the month of September since 1999. While the overall number of visitors declined the more economically significant tourist increased in number indicating that the overall reduction was due to weakness among excursionists.

Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

967 tourists came to the island during September 2003 as compared to 787 in 2002, a 22.9% increase. This is the largest number of tourists during the month of September since 2000. This was particularly encouraging as the larger hotels in Anguilla were closed in September.

As is usually the case, tourist arrivals made the smaller contribution to visitor arrivals than excursionists, accounting for 27.7%. Of the 967 tourists, Wallblake Airport was the port of entry that registered the most arrivals this month, 629 came through this port and Blowing Point accounted for the remaining 338 tourists.

On average for this month, the length of stay was up slightly by 7.8 days compared to 7.7 days during September 2002. 37.5% of the 967 tourists spent 4-7 days, followed by 31.3% who spent 1-3 days, with the least percentage number of tourists 3.8% spending 16-22 days.

During the month of September 2003, most of Anguilla's tourists, 42.3%, originated out of other Caribbean territories, with the USA being the second largest market with 28.1%. This is unusual as the United States is Anguilla's largest market at other times of the year. The UK tourist market showed growth, recording a 6% increase over its corresponding September 2002 figure.

Excursionists

Excursionists accounted for the greater portion of visitor arrivals. 2,515 excursionists visited the island in September as compared to 2,980 in the corresponding 2002 period, a 15.6% decline.

32% of excursionists were from the USA, this country of residence proved to be the one from which the largest number of excursionists came. Anguilla's other main sources of excursionists during the month of September 2003 were The Dutch West Indies (St. Maarten) followed by Europe and the French West Indies (St. Martin) with 15.5%, 13.6% and 13.8% respectively.

Blowing Point, as was the case in the previous months of the year was the main port of entry for excursionists accounting for 91.6% of the 2,515 arrivals in the month of September 2003.