



Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data December 2004

With the end of the year here, it is already clear that 2004 can possibly be recorded as a good year for tourism in Anguilla. Of course, this leap can be attributed to a reaction to last year's low figures due to the Iraq war, SARS and the weak U.S. economy. Nevertheless, compared to corresponding months of 2002, the previous record year, the increase still amounts to 8 percent.

With the tourist season in its second month and which is usually one of the busiest months of the season, visitor arrival totals during December 2004 recorded the highest number of visitors for the month of December to visit Anguilla over the last decade. 13,158 visitors arrived on the island during this month, which represented an increase of 14 percent compared to December 2003. To date 120,788 visitors have graced our shores either for leisure or visiting for business purposes representing an 11 percent increase over 2003 when 109,282 visitors arrived.

Passenger Movements

Passenger movements (arrivals, which includes Anguillans as well as tourists) through the airport for this reporting period totaled 2,206, with the airport being closed for a period of time during October and November arrivals through this port have just begun to get back to normal levels. During December 2003, 4,368 passengers passed through the airport.

Arrivals through Blowing Point port were 22,835 in comparison to 18,049 for the same period last year while arrivals through Sandy Ground were 1,246 this period, compared to 2,050 during last year December.

Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

6,049 tourists made Anguilla their vacation destination during December 2004. This month's arrivals were the largest ever in tourist arrivals over the last decade. When compared to December 2003, there was a 5 percent increase. For the year 2004, 53,987 tourists have visited resulting in a 15 percent overall increase over 2003.

The average length of stay for this month was 9.6 days, compared to 9.1 days in December last year. 73.4 percent of the 6,049 tourists spent 4 to 15 days on the island, 13 percent stayed for 1 to 3 days and the same stayed for 16 or more days.

Even with the Wallblake airport getting back to a state of normalcy, the majority of persons entering Anguilla came through the port of Blowing Point. 76 percent of this month's tourists entered through this port while, 23 percent of the tourists that visited entered through the Wallblake airport and the port of Sandy Ground accounted for just under 1 percent of tourists that visited.

During this period, most of the tourists, 70 percent, originated out of the United States of America, with the Caribbean being the second largest market with 10 percent. Arrivals from the U.S.A. grew by 8 percent for this month compared to December 2003.

The Canadian market experienced the largest increase in arrivals over the period December 2003/2004 recording a 65 percent jump in arrivals. This country accounted for 4 percent of the market share.

Arrivals from the U.K, Italy and Germany saw declines of 4 percent, 23 percent and 60 percent respectively. Arrivals from Other European countries markets increased by 6 percent over December 2003.

Excursionists (Day-Trippers)

Excursionists accounted for the greater portion of visitor arrivals during December 2004. 7,109 excursionists visited the island in December compared to 5,727 in the corresponding 2003 period, resulting in a 24 percent increase. January to December saw a total of 66,801 excursionists visiting the island, a 7 percent increase over the same period last year.

As is the norm, the port of Blowing Point is the main entryway to Anguilla for this type of visitor. The majority of the day-trippers to Anguilla originate out of St. Martin where they are vacationing and decide to take a day and explore a near-by island. During December 5,786 day-trippers passed through this port compared to 3,881 in December of 2003, resulting in a 50 percent increase. This port accounted for 81 percent of overall excursionists entering Anguilla. Wallblake airport accounted for 2 percent of excursionist arrivals during September while the port of Sandy Ground accounted for 17 percent of arrivals

During December, the majority of the visitors who spent less than 24 hours on the island live in the United States of America. 3,252 originated from this country. Other countries with large numbers in excursionists were the Caribbean and Other European Countries (*to include Austria and Switzerland*). However, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean showed the largest percentage increase in the number of excursionist arrivals to the island over their corresponding period in 2003 with 183 percent and 55 percent respectively.

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