



## **Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data March 2004**

Visitor arrivals continued to show healthy increases in March 2004 with an annual increase, March 2003 over 2004, of 13% slightly lower than that for the quarter, January to March 2004, as a whole which showed an increase of 14%. A total of 12,228 visitors came to the shores of Anguilla, the highest monthly number for the year.

The U.S.A continued to be the most important market from which visitors originated representing 54% of all visitors but the largest annual increase in terms of country of origin was from Canada which showed an increase of 35%. This may be due to the poor weather that Canada experienced in March.

### **Tourists (Stay-over visitors)**

Stay-over visitors were again the main source of increase in visitor arrivals in March. On an annual basis tourist arrivals increased 19% to reach 5,846 tourists. This was the highest number for any month since March 1999. Tourists from the United States increased 20% and those from Canada and the UK increased 37% and 20% respectively. The USA represented 72% of all tourists in March.

Of the 5,846 tourists, 39%, stayed in Anguilla for longer than a week, compared to 40% for the first three months of 2004.

Sandy Ground is growing in importance as a port for tourists. Sandy Ground received 11% of all tourists In March compared to 7% during the first two months of 2004.

### **Excursionists (Day Trippers)**

Excursionists also continued to increase in number in March, although the increase was not as strong as for tourists. There were 6,382 excursionists, which represented a 9% annual increase compared to an 11% increase for the first quarter as a whole.

Of the 6,382 excursionists 98% of them entered through one of the seaports, with Blowing Point registering 4,992 and Sandy Ground 1,292 of the arrivals respectively.

As with the tourists, the U.S.A was the country of origin from which most of the excursionists came. Italy showed the highest rate of increase of excursionists at 81% with Canada also showing strong growth for excursionists at 34%.

### **Cruise Ship Passengers**

Cruise ship passengers have increased significantly this year compared to 2003. Small sized cruise ships visit Sandy Ground. 11 vessels have visited each month in 2004 compared to a monthly average of 8 in 2003. Each vessel carried an average of 122 passengers compared to 42 in 2003. In March a total of 1,396 cruise ship passengers visited compared to 1,183 in January and 1,461 in February.