



Anguilla: Tourism Summary Data May 2004

Visitor arrivals to Anguilla during the month of May 2004 were recorded at 9,683, resulting in a slight decline of 3% from May 2003. This is the first month for 2004 in which arrivals showed a decline from the same month in the previous year. The year to date total of all visitors, however, shows an increase of 13.2% compared to the first five months of 2003.

Persons come to Anguilla for both pleasure and business purposes. During this month 370 persons came to Anguilla for business purposes compared to 282 in May of last year. Both the Wallblake airport and the Blowing Point port are equal in importance for business travelers entering Anguilla.

Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

There was a record 5,130 tourist arrivals, during the month of May (*which is considered a slow month*), representing an increase of 31% over May 2003. This is by far the largest monthly total in arrivals over the last decade to the island. This increase can be attributed to the Anguilla Day Holiday weekend, when a number of activities were planned and the annual yacht regatta was held, which usually attract a number of persons to the island around this time. For the period January to May 27,124 persons have visited, a 22.5% increase compared to 22,151 in May 2003.

Just over half of the tourists that visited Anguilla in May this year entered through the Wallblake airport. 2,704 persons came through this port, a 9% increase over the same period last year. The port of Blowing Point recorded a 58% increase in tourists passing through for this reporting period over last May. It was the port of entry to Anguilla for 2,273 persons compared to 1,436 persons during May 2003 accounting for 44% of all tourist arrivals to Anguilla during May. Sandy Ground made up 3% of tourists entering the island.

23% of tourists visiting Anguilla during the month under review stayed for a period of 1-3 days. 49% stayed for just under a week and 27% stayed for a week or more. The average length of stay was slightly less than last year at 6.8 days compared to 7.9 days in 2003.

Tourist arrivals from Germany were again on the increase. During May arrivals from this country were up 58.1% compared to last May and accounted for 1% of the market share. Arrivals from Other European countries (*which includes Switzerland and Austria*) grew by 49.4% over the same period last year, accounting for 5% of the tourists during May. Anguilla's other main source market, the U.S.A. saw a 34.2% increase in arrivals and represented 68% of the market share during this period. Persons visiting from the Caribbean (*including French and Dutch St. Martin/St. Maarten*), grew by 32.7% in May.

During this time more visitors to the island are from around the region, when they come to Anguilla for the Anguilla Day Holiday weekend.

Other countries experiencing increases were the United Kingdom with 15.8% and Italy, with 17.5% over May of last year. There was a decline of 14.6% in Canadian visitors during May from the previous year.

Excursionists (Day-Trippers)

Arrivals in this category of visitor did not perform as well as during the first four months of the year. Excursionists fell 25% from 6,101 persons visiting during May 2003 to 4,553 persons visiting in May this year. The last time there were so few visitors was in May 1996 when 4,443 persons visited.

The port of Blowing Point was the main gateway for persons coming to the island. There was a 5.4% increase in traveler activity through this port over last year.

All the major tourist markets experienced declines in excursionist travels during this period such as; the U.S.A and Canada with 41.1% and 37.5% respectively, Europe (*which includes Italy, Germany, U.K., Switzerland and Austria*) with 25%, 79%, 5% and 13.8% respectively.

Cruise Passengers

2 small cruise vessels visited Anguilla during the month of May 2004 with an overall passenger total of 210 persons and each vessel carrying on average a total of 105 passengers. This compares to the 356 passengers who arrived on 15 vessels for the same period last year, with each carrying an average of 24 passengers.

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