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The Island of Anguilla for Single Travelers

December 12, 2011
By [Devorah Ben-David](#)

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The snow-white sands of this Caribbean island offer a singles vacation spot for those who love the beach, turquoise water and escape from the winter cold.



Cap Juluca, Maunday's Bay, Anguilla, Caribbean


When travelers first fly over the eel-shaped island of Anguilla, and see the impressive array of luxury yachts bobbing in the turquoise blue water below, they know they're landing in one of the Caribbean's most exclusive tropical playgrounds. But adventure travel buffs are notorious for wanting to do more than return home with a fantastic tan and a potent recipe for rum punch. They aim to experience what's truly unique about any destination they're visiting.

Anguilla is the most northern of the Leeward islands and an internally self-governing British overseas territory. The low-lying island of coral and limestone, which is a mere 16-mile long by 3-miles wide, has roughly 13,500 sea-and-sun worshipping inhabitants — and two stop lights. Located just a few miles north of [Saint Martin](#), you can almost wave to your seaside neighbors, and watch them wave back, while taking a power walk on the beach.


While most islands offer an array of water sports, like sea kayaking, windsurfing and water skiing, each has its own delightful surprises. The soft adventure activities below are what give Anguilla her own unique flavor.



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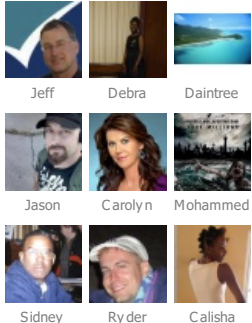
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Scuba Diving and Snorkeling Adventures

Deep within the Anguillian heart is an unrelenting love of the sea, which is no surprise given its rich nautical history. Of its 33 beaches, which come in a sugary array of white, pink and golden sand, Shoal Bay is the most famous. And for good reason. [Conde Nast Traveler](#) listed it as one of world's 10 most beautiful beaches.

Because Anguilla has little or no underwater current, scuba diving and snorkeling provides people new to the sport with the ideal environment. Everyone has equal opportunity to experience the bounty of the ocean either by land or by sea.

Another little known fact is that Anguilla has seven government-protected Marine Parks, all only a short sail boat away from its coral coastline. Travelers have easy access to such interesting places like Dog Island, Prickly Pear Cays, Seal Island and Scrub Island, which give their travel dollar additional value. There are ecologically important coral reefs to explore in waters that are 33-to-120 feet in depth. Mini wall dives expose the antics of spiny Caribbean lobsters and moray eels. Heritage dive sites also provide exceptional sea-centric visual treats, as evidenced by the growth of marine life lurking in Anguilla's nine (deliberately) sunken ships.



Anguilla has little or no underwater current making snorkeling in its gorgeous water, which ranges from aquamarine to cobalt blue, a true pleasure.

An Adventure in Cultural History

I was taking a guided tour of the Crocus Hill area, which is the island's highest point (213 feet), to catch a glimpse of Anguilla's boutique rainforest. But it wasn't the (former) alligator-infested watering holes that caught my attention. It was learning that the caves that lined the rainforest contained drawings from as early as 600-to-1500 AD. The [Arawaks](#) were Anguilla's first indigenous people and they created the magnificent petroglyphs. Historians speculate that they migrated to Anguilla because of its extensive reefs that offered prime fishing. They lived in homes close to the sea and salt ponds.

There are 42 Amerindian sites currently known in Anguilla, which the Anguilla National Trust is in the process of preserving. But visitors can arrange for a tour of Fountain Cavern, the most well-preserved collection of authentic petroglyphs in the Lesser Antilles. Among the most beloved images is of the Arawak rainbow spirit called "Juluca," who was thought to bring good luck to fishermen who spotted him at sea.



Travelers often include horseback riding, as one of their soft adventure activities, because riding along the blue water's edge at sunset is incredibly fun.

Anguillans love their horses, which makes a sunset ride on a deserted beach the perfect activity to say goodbye to the island. Well-groomed and well-trained horses, from [Sea Side Stables](#), leisurely clip-clop across the road that leads to Cap Juluca Beach, their water saddles in toe. Once the scenic ride is through, the horse will join you for a dip in the sea on his back. The area is so beautiful and the experience so surreal that you will never forget it.