

CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

& BARBUDA



CONTENTS

Antigua & Barbuda at a glance	3
Location	5
Economic Citizenship	7
Two Options for Citizenship	10
Antigua Real Estate	15
History & Government	_24
Education	26
Explore	27
NTL Trust	35
NTL Immigration	35



Although Antigua is volcanic in origin, the island is quite flat with the highest point at 402 meters. The wind blows through it, creating a pleasant breeze, carrying away a flotilla of soft white clouds. Also referred to as Waladli or Wadadli by the natives, Antigua is the main island of the country of Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua is best know for its amazing gold and white sand beaches, turquoise and clear water, shady palm trees and the very special Caribbean atmosphere.

Beaches are not the only attraction of the island. The capital and largest city of Antigua and Barbuda, St. John's, is located on the north-west and has a deep harbour that is able to accommodate large ships. Nelson's Dockyard, a restored British colonial naval station, is also a popular attraction among tourists. Antigua is proud of being a home to the famous British Admiral, Lord Horatio Nelson, and carefully preserves many legends from the time when he lived there.

If a life on Antigua is the life on the beach, the neighboring island of Barbuda is a beach by itself. This low lying coral island, located 30 miles north of Antigua, is sparsely populated and encompasses an expansive lagoon, which is bound by a long undeveloped beach.

Antigua, the largest of the English-speaking Leeward Islands, has been a tourism hub in the Caribbean since the 1970's. This West Indies tourist center features some of the world's best beaches, and with a new airport terminal scheduled to open within the year, these twin islands can accommodate daily flights from Europe and the Americas.

Capital City______St. Johns

Total Area_____440 km²/170 mi²

Population_____90,000

GDP______U\$\$1.2 Billion

Language_____English

Independence from UK____1981

Main Island____Antigua



LOCATION

Antigua and Barbuda lie in the eastern arc of the Leeward Islands of the Lesser Antilles, separating the Atlantic Ocean from the Caribbean Sea. Antigua is 650 km southeast of Puerto Rico; Barbuda lies 48 km due north of Antigua and the uninhabited island of Redonda is 56 km southwest of Antigua.

Antigua is easily accessible from the United States, Canada and Great Britain. The new terminal of VC Bird International Airport (ANU), opened in 2015, accommodates non-stop commercial flights from Toronto, Miami, New York City, Charlotte, Atlanta, San Juan and London-Gatwick, as well as regional commuter flights from within the Caribbean area. Visitors wishing to continue on to the sister island, Barbuda, have a short trip by inter-island flight to Cordington Airport, or can travel by ferry line.



WEATHER

Average high temperature 82f/28c

Average low temperature 76f/23c

Temperatures on Antigua and Barduda normally range from the mid 70's in winter months, to the mid 80's in the summer. The tropical climate of the islands is fairly moderated due to the constant northeast trade winds, with velocities ranging between 30 and 48 km/h. There is little precipitation, with average rainfalls of 45 inches per year, making the islands the sunniest of the Eastern Caribbean Islands





ECONOMIC CITIZENSHIP

When political instability in your own country can:

- · make obtaining travel visas difficult,
- affect your freedom to work.
- affect your ability to purchase real estate,
- limit investments opportunities,
- subject you to punitive tax burdens or currency controls, or
- your current passport makes you a target for hostile groups when traveling abroad, a second passport can provide peace of mind in a sea of insecurity.

Through a programme of Citizenship by Investment, it is possible to legally purchase a second passport, provided you can meet certain qualifications and pass a background check.

In early 2013, the Senate of Antigua and Barbuda voted to establish a Citizenship by Investment programme to spur growth on the islands.

Gaining citizenship through investing in a country's financial future is a viable, legitimate way in which to address these challenges, and provide professionals, investors, global entrepreneurs and their families newfound freedom and security.

Presently there are three programmes available to qualify for Citizenship by Investment: contribution to the National Development Fund (NDF), acquiring government-approved real estate, or though investment in approved business enterprises. All programmes offer lifetime citizenship, which can also be passed on to descendants, and access to extensive visa-free travel.



ADVANTAGES OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA CITIZENSHIP

- Quick processing 3-4 months;
- •Inclusion of dependent children under *26 years, and dependent parents or grandparents over 65 years;
- No requirement to travel to Antiqua and Barbuda during the application process;
- •No interview, education or managerial experience required;
- Extensive visa-free travel;
- •No taxes on international revenue, wealth or inheritance tax.

*restrictions apply

VISA-FREE TRAVEL

An Antigua & Barbuda passport allows visa-free travel to more than 130 countries, including all European Union countries, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Caribbean and Commonwealth Nations. It is the only Caribbean CIP providing visa-free entry to Canada.

Albania	Egypt
Anguilla	■ El Salv
Antigua	■ Estoni
0 Daylanda	• Fiji
Α Ι	• Finland
Andorra Armenia	• France
Aruba	■ French
Aruba Austria	(Franc
Bahamas	■ French
Bangladesh	
- D-::	(Franc
Barbaaco	French
Belgium	West I
■ Belize	Gambi
■ Bermuda	 Georgi
Bolivia	Germa
Bonaire,	Gibralt
St. Eustatius	Greece
& Saba	Grenad
Botswana	Guade
Brazil	(Franc
Bulgaria	Guater
Burundi	Guinea
Cambodia	Guyan
Cape Verde	Haiti
 Cayman Islands 	Holy S
 Centro African 	(Vatica
Republic	Hondu
Chad	Hong I
Chile	(SAR (
 Colombia 	Hunga
 Comoros Islands 	Iceland
Cook Islands	Ireland
 Costa Rica 	Italy
Croatia	Jamaio
Cuba	Jordar
Curacao	Kenya
Cyprus	Kiribat
 Czech Republic 	Korea
 Denmark 	Kosove
 Diibouti 	Laos
Dominica	Latvia
Dominican	Leban
Republic	Lesoth

Egypt	Luxembourg	Singapore
■ El Salvador	■ Macao (SAR	 Slovakia
Estonia	China)	Slovenia
• Fiji	 Macedonia 	Solomon Islands
■ Finland	(FYROM)	South Africa
France	 Madagascar 	Spain
■ French Guiana	Malawi	Sri Lanka
(France)	Malaysia	St. Barthelemy
■ French Polynesia	Maldives	(France)
(France)	■ Mali	St. Kitts
• French	Malta	and Nevis
West Indies	Martinique	St. Lucia
Gambia	(France)	St. Maarten
Georgia	Marshall Islands	(Netherlands)
Germany	Mauritania	St.Martin
Gibraltar	Mauritius	(France)
Greece	Mayotte (France)	St. Vincent
Grenada	Micronesia	& The Grenadines
Guadeloupe	(Federated	Suriname
(France)	States)	Swaziland
Guatemala	Monaco	• Sweden
Guinea-Bissau	Montserrat (UK)	Switzerland
Guyana	Mozambique	Tanzania
- Guyana - Haiti	Nauru	Timor-Leste
Holy See	Nepal	■ Togo
(Vatican City)	Netherlands	Trinidad
Honduras	New Caledonia	
		<u>& Tobago</u> • Tunisia
■ Hong Kong	(France)	
(SAR China)	Nicaragua Nicaragua	Turkey
 Hungary 	• Niue	■ Turks & Caicos
• Iceland	Norway	Islands (UK)
Ireland (Rep.)	■ Palau	 Tuvalu
• Italy	 Palestinian 	Uganda
Jamaica	Territory	 Ukraine
Jordan	Panama	 United Kingdom
Kenya	■ Peru	 Vanuatu
■ Kiribati	Philippines	 Venezuela
Korea (Rep.)	Poland	Vietnam
Kosovo (Rep.)	Portugal	Virgin Islands —
Laos	Reunion (France)	British (UK)
Latvia	 Romania 	 Zambia
Lebanon	Samoa	Zimbabwe
Lesotho	 San Marino 	
 Lithuania 	Seychelles	

8 9

Ecuador

TWO OPTIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The National Development Fund (NDF) is a non-profit fund established for the purpose of funding government sponsored projects, including public/private partnerships and approved charitable investments.

In order to qualify for this programme, the investor makes a designated non-refundable, per-person NDF charitable donation. Before transferring the funds, applications are submitted with due diligence fees for the applicant and all dependents over the age of twelve. The entire process takes 3 to 4 months to complete.

NDF DONATION AMOUNTS	
DONATION AMOUNT	US\$ 200,000
PROCESSING (PER PERSON):	
INVESTOR	US\$50,000
SPOUSE	US\$50,000
CHILD 0-17 Y.O.	US\$25,000
CHILD 18-25 Y.O.	US\$50,000
PARENT 65+ Y.O.	US\$ 50,000
US\$ 50,000 additional proces	sing fee for each

dependent over 18 years.

Process of obtaining citizenship of Antigua & Barbuda through donation to the NDF

- The investor signs the NTL agreement, fills in all application forms, pays due diligence in full, and 10% of processing fees and professional fees.
- 2. The application is submitted to the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU).
- **3.** The due diligence process starts and usually takes up to 90 days.
- Once due diligence checks are complete, approval from the CIU committee is received.
- 5. Investor pays the balance of processing fees and contribution amounts to the government designed account.
- **6.** The CIU procures the Certificate of Citizenship and passes it to NTL.
- NTL submits the Certificate of Registration and the passport application to the Immigration Department.
- 8. The documents are issued and sent to the investor via a reputable courier service.

INVESTMENT AMOUNT

Family of 4 with 2 children (11 years and under)

CONTRIBUTION	US\$200,000
DUE DILIGENCE INVESTOR	US\$7,500
DUE DILIGENCE SPOUSE	US\$7,500
APPLICATION PROCESSING INVESTOR	US\$50,000
APPLICATION PROCESSING SPOUSE	US\$50,000
PROCESSING CHILDREN (US\$ 25,000 × 2)	FREE**

Total Investment

US\$ 315,000*

*Professional fees for citizenship processing are payable for all applications and will vary depending on the number of dependents and application complexity.

REAL ESTATE OPTION

Antigua has been the regional tourism hub since the 1970's, and tourism is one of the pillars of the country's economy. In a move to increase tourism-related development, the Citizenship by Investment programme allows for real estate purchase in approved developments.

To qualify, the investor must enter into contract to purchase real estate worth US\$400,000 or more on either Antigua or Barbuda. Once the purchase contract has been signed and the developer has received his initial deposit (typically 10–20 percent), the investor may apply for citizenship. It is important to note that the real estate contract can be made contingent upon citizenship acceptance.

Once citizenship has been accepted, the real estate purchase will be completed. The only stipulation is that the property may not be sold within five years or citizenship can be revoked.

Real estate developments in Antigua & Barbuda cater to those utilizing the Citizenship by Investment programme and make every effort to ensure ownership is a hassle-free experience.

Process of obtaining citizenship of Antigua & Barbuda through government approved real estate investment

- The Investor signs the NTL agreement, enters into Real Estate Purchase/Sale Agreement with the approved real estate development, fills in all application forms, and pays the initial deposit to the developer and a portion of the professional fees and processing fees.
- 2. The application is submitted to the Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU).
- **3.** The due diligence process starts and usually takes up to 90 days.
- Once due diligence checks are completed; approval from the CIU committee is received.
- Investor pays the balance of processing fees to the designated government account and the remainder of the real estate purchase amount to the developer.
- **6.** The CIU procures the Certificate of Citizenship and passes it to NTL.
- NTL submits the Certificate of Registration and the passport application to the Immigration Department.
- The documents are issued and sent to the investor via a reputable courier service.

INVESTMENT AMOUNT

Family of 4 with 2 Children (11 years and under)

REAL ESTATE PURCHASE	US\$400,000
DUE DILIGENCE INVESTOR	US\$ 7,500
DUE DILIGENCE SPOUSE	US\$7,500
APPLICATION PROCESSING INVESTOR	US\$50,000
APPLICATION PROCESSING SPOUSE	US\$50,000
APPLICATION PROCESSING CHILDREN (US\$ 25,000 × 2)	US\$50,000

Total Investment

US\$565,000*

^{**} Special offer for NDF donation

^{*}Professional fees for citizenship processing are payable for all applications and will vary depending on the number of dependents and application complexity.

A. APPLICATION PACKAGE FORMS

- 1. AB1 Application Form
- 2. AB2 Photograph and Signature Certificate
- 3 AB3 Medical Certificate
- 4 AB4 Investment Confirmation Form
- 5. AB5 Agent Form
- AB6 Representatives and Services Providers (not for the applicant)
- 7. AB7 Agent's License Form (not for the applicant)
- Application for Antigua and Barbuda Passport for Applicants 16 Years and Older (FORM L)
- Application for Antigua and Barbuda Passport for Applicants Under 16 Years (FORM M)

B. APPLICANT (S) DOCUMENTS

- Passport Forms 2 certified copies for each family member. If individual has more than 1 passport, include 2 certified copies of each passport;
- 11. Birth certificate 2 certified copies for each applicant family member;
- 12. National ID card 1 certified copy of the cards listed in Sections A15 and A16 of the Form AB1, for each applicant family member. If the applicant is a citizen or resident of more than one country, include the ID card of each country;
- 13. Marriage certificate 4 certified copies if both spouses are included in the application or; 2 certified copies if only 1 spouse is included in the application;
- 14. Divorce certificate (if applicable) 1 certified copy of the document evidencing the divorce;
- Military Records If applicable Evidence of Service must be provided;
- 16. Photos Eight (8) passport-size, color photographs for each applicant:
 - a. No head covering or glasses;
 - b. Show full face, eyes, ears and forehead hairline:
 - c. Head should cover 70-80% of the photo;
 - d. No expression (not smiling or frowning) with mouth closed;

- e. 35x45mm, on good quality photo paper, plain white background without shadow;
- f Less than 6 months old:
- q. All 8 photos must be the same;
- h. Only one photo to be certified by the same person who certified AB2. They should hand-write on the back of the photo: «Certified a true likeness of (full name).» Signed/Dated Do not sign or stamp the back of other photos;
- i. Ensure you follow these specific requirements (See Section G of form AB1 as well):
- i. Attach one of the 8 photos to form AB2 and AB3.
- 17. Medical HIV test must be less than 3 months old (including children):
- Professional/character Reference Letter (Main applicant only).
 - a. Must be current (within the last 6 months).
 - b. Issued by an attorney, notary public, or chartered accountant.
 - c. The reference must be on official letterhead and the following details should be included:
 - i. Main applicant's full name, date of birth and passport information;
 - ii. Period/length and type of relationship (should be longer than two years);
 - iii. Conduct of the client:
 - iv. Contact information;
 - v. It must be signed and dated;
 - vi. The referrer's title and his/her name must be clearly indicated.
- 19. Bank reference letter:
 - a. Issued by an internationally recognized bank, on their letterhead:
 - b. Typewritten, signed by a senior bank official, stating the period/length of relationship. It should not be older than 6 months.
- 20. Evidence of residential address (Main applicant only) a. It should be not older than 3 months.
 - b. Acceptable documents: utility bill, bank statement, credit card, or invoice showing applicant's full name and address:

21. Police clearance certificate:

- a. All applicants aged 18 and older
- b. Must provide a certificate from any country where they applicant has lived for more than 6 months over the past 10 years, as well as countries of citizenship.
- c. The only exception is if the applicants can provide satisfactory evidence that they have did not reside in a country of citizenship.
- d. Police certificates must be less than six months old at the time application is submitted e. If a police certificate is not available, a separate statutory declaration must be provided, detailing the attempts made to obtain a police certificate. It should also state whether the applicant (and any accompanying family members have been found guilty, convicted of, or charged with offences against the law in that country). The statutory declaration should be supported by other information attesting to your character f. **Application can be submitted to the CIU without this document but proof the request has been made must accompany initial application (receipt, photocopy of completed application forms, etc). **

22 Source of funds:

If applicant has accumulated wealth from employment/business:

- a. If employee: Letter of employment or notarized copy of employment contract; include employment date, title, and salary/bonus;
- b. If business owner: Proof of business and ownership (if business owner):
 - i. Current business registration (or equivalent);
 - ii. Shareholder's register (or equivalent to show ownership);

If applicant has accumulated wealth through specific transactions such as sale of a property, inheritance, gifts, etc. include supporting documents.

23. If applicable:

a. Proof of name change, if applicable (other than marriage);

- b. For children age 18–25, university letter and school transcripts showing continuous, full-time studies:
- c. Main applicant must submit an affidavit of support for each over-age dependent (children 18 to 25, parents and grand-parents over 65), confirming the dependent child is unmarried, still in school, and financially dependent;
- d. When a single parent is applying with children, an affidavit of consent and knowledge from the other parent, and a notarized, signed copy of the other parent's photo ID must be included;

24. Forms:

- a. AB1 Application Form:
- b. AB2 Photograph and Signature;
- c. AB3 Medical Certificate:
- d. AB4 Investment Confirmation Form:
- e. AB5 Agent Form;
- f. AB6 Representative and Service Providers;
- g. AB7 Agent's License Form;
- * The AB5, 6 and 7 are not usually to be completed by the investor.

NOTE: The list is not exhaustive and other documents may have to be provided by the applicants, depending on their particular situation. These documents may include company incorporation and good standing documents, ownership or title documents in support of SOF explanations, or any other type of document in support of the applicant's statements made on the application forms.

C. OTHER DOCUMENTS

- 1) Professional Services Agreement to be executed by the client and NTL.
- Power of Attorney granted by the Investor in favour of NTL (wording provided by NTL)



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA REAL ESTATE

In order to qualify for the Citizenship by Investment real estate option, one must enter into a contract to purchase real estate in an authorized development. Although there are multiple authorized projects on Antigua & Barbuda, NTL currently recommends the developments highlighted here.

In order for NTL to confidently recommend a development, we take into consideration the following items:

- Quality of product: construction, amenities and services provided;
- Re-Sale potential and ROI: most clients plan on selling after 5 years;
- Developer history: financial backing and development progress;
- Operations: management company, quality and experience.





TAMARIND HILLS



Set on a sunset-facing bluff on Antigua's glorious west coast between Darkwood and Ffreye's, two of the island's most beautiful beaches, Tamarind Hills Resort takes five star extravagances to new heights. This stunning collection of freehold beachfront villas and apartments is beautifully designed for contemporary and stylish Caribbean living.

Each property offers generously sized interior and exterior living spaces, grand finishes including European designed kitchens and bathrooms, and private floating infinity edged pools, perfectly placed to take in the spectacular views of the Caribbean Sea. A fully managed and flexible rental programme is available providing an income stream when not in residence.

The completed resort will feature a spa, beauty salon, gym, pilates and yoga studios, and superb sports facilities including tennis, water sports and running tracks. A shopping galleria will boast a delicatessen and convenience store, library, business centre and more.

NONSUCH BAY RESORT

Nonsuch Bay Resort is one of the Caribbean's best-kept secrets. The resort is a lavish, private resort comprised of beach cottages, villas and apartments, located at the southeast corner of Antigua on what is arguably the island's most exclusive bay.

The resort opened its doors in 2010 and has been successfully operating for the past 5 years. Phase 1 saw the construction of 62 one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments, 19 villa plots and 15 three-bedroom townhouses.

Phase 2, Marina Residences, is in the early stages of construction and will consist of 188 apartment units.

The introduction of the Nonsuch Bay one-bedroom suite with a plunging pool is a unique opportunity to own your own beautiful property on the existing Nonsuch Bay Resort. The 600 square foot suite has been designed with comfort, elegance and island living in mind.

Both phases are approved by the government for the Citizenship by Investment programme.





HODGES BAY RESORT



Set on nine acres of lush tropical gardens and sandy beaches, Hodges Bay Resort & Spa is scheduled to open spring 2016. This exclusive beachfront resort spa and residential development is located on the north shore of Antigua. Hodges Bay Resort & Spa is set to assume iconic status as a flagship development for Antigua. Blending a contemporary style with the charm and character of the island, Hodges Bay Resort & Spa will offer sophisticated hotel accommodations, a unique collection of residential villas, penthouses and executive residences, innovative dining options and extensive leisure facilities. Hodges Bay Resort & Spa is a multi-million dollar development that will bring the island right back to the forefront of contemporary extravagance, not just in the Caribbean but throughout the world.

It's one thing to be a guest at Hodges Bay Resort & Spa, but for those lucky few that have the chance to be an owner of one of our luxury residences, it's another world. But it's a world that is shrinking, as there are a limited number of residences left available for ownership opportunities. Discover your opportunity to be a part of the new definition of island living in Antigua.

Papaya

With breathtaking views throughout, Papaya Hotel & Spa will be the centrepiece of the exclusive Rendezvous Bay community. Offering exquisite villas, an expansive health spa, wellbeing experiences, and unrivalled entertainment and dining spaces, Papaya is to be operated by Angelo Zaragovia, the creative mind behind three award-winning boutique hotels. These include Nayara Hotel, Spa & Gardens in Costa Rica currently ranked No. 2 Hotel in the World on TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel web site.

Papaya Hotel's 55 one- and two-bedroom villas are the perfect opportunity to own a five-star property with all the benefits of a world-class resort in one of the most stunning locations in the world.

Each villa combines effortless ownership with added advantages:

- freehold ownership of newly constructed, fully furnished properties,
- · elegant design, highest quality finishing,
- impeccable service and amenities,
- one month's use per year for free,
- no outgoing costs for the first five years, and
- a share of hotel profit.

The Papaya Hotel & Spa Villas are the first opportunity for property ownership at Rendezvous Bay and are approved under the Antigua & Barbuda citizenship programme.





DANIEL BAY



LUXURY GATED COMMUNITY
ANTIGUA | WEST INDIES

Surrounded by spectacular waters and secret coves, Daniel Bay is the perfect setting for a luxury, gated development comprising of five stylish homes.

The homeowners will enjoy private, direct access to the sea and uninterrupted views of the crystal blue waters of Willoughby Bay.

Each home will occupy half an acre of prime, beach-front land, encompass approximately 6,500 square feet of impressive indoor and outdoor living spaces, and will boast a contemporary designed infinity pool and split level sun terrace.

Daniel Bay provides absolute privacy, exclusivity and security, while also being just a few minutes drive from English Harbour and Nelson's Dockyard.

The Daniel Bay villas comprise of six bedrooms and eight bathrooms. All finishes, fixtures and furnishings are to a five-star standard. Homeowners and their guests will enjoy the very best in modern coastal living.

Nelson's Retreat

LUXURY WATERFRONT APARTMENTS
ENGLISH HARBOUR | ANTIGUA

Situated within English Harbour, Nelson's Retreat delivers 'picture postcard' views of historic Nelson's Dockyard on the southeast of the island. This boutique style development comprises of six ultra modern apartments with unrivalled dockyard views!

Overlooking turquoise waters and historic forts, Nelson's Retreat employs contemporary design, in order to facilitate modern-day coastal living. Each apartment will feature impressive indoor/outdoor living spaces, a contemporary designed infinity pool, and a sun terrace that sits between the six luxury apartments.

All fixtures and fittings will be of the highest international standards, bringing the epitome of high quality living to the Caribbean.

Owners and guests will have the option of a 24 hour concierge service and the grounds will be impeccably maintained at all times.

Nelson's Retreat consists of six ultra-modern apartments:

- Four, 1,610 square feet/150m², two-bedroom apartments
- Two, 1,250 square feet/115m², one-bedroom apartments

In addition to the spacious and impeccably designed indoor- outdoor living spaces, owners and their guests will enjoy a private sun terrace and infinity pool... All surrounded by lush tropical landscaping. Nelson's Retreat offers both fractional and whole ownership of the luxury apartments.





PLEASURE COVE RESORT & SPA



The very first thing you will notice when you arrive at Pleasure Cove on Dickenson Bay, the north-west corner of Antigua, is the white-sand beach overlooking clear blue waters that stretch to the horizon. With 47 rooms, this will be a delightful boutique resort – one with some of the best personalized service in all of Antigua.

Pleasure Cove Resort & Spa is unlike any other development being offered through the Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP).



A competitive model was developed to compare similar CIP investment options, and the Pleasure Cove Resort & Spa development is the front-runner in terms of location, amenities and pricing. The project was created by a reputable, dedicated team of professionals to attain optimum investment performance and provide investors with the best real estate value and operational return on investment.

Pleasure Cove Resort & Spa is exclusively marketed though NTL and Citizenship Real Estate investments, CREI.





Christopher Columbus made the first European connection with the islands in 1493 during his second Caribbean voyage. Columbus sighted the bigger island, Antigua, in passing and named it after Santa Maria la Antigua, the miracleworking saint of Seville. However, European settlement didn't occur for over a century, largely because of Antigua's lack of fresh water and the determination and resistance of the Carib. In 1632 it was colonized by a group of Englishmen and a successful sugar era was established

By the end of the eighteenth century Antigua had become an important strategic port as well as a valuable commercial colony. Known as the "gateway to the Caribbean," it was situated in a position that offered control over the major sailing routes to and from the region's rich island colonies. Most of the island's historical sites, from its many ruined fortifications to the impeccably restored architecture of English Harbourtown, are reminders of colonial efforts to ensure its safety from invasion.

Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson arrived in 1784 at the head of the Squadron of the Leeward Islands to develop the British naval facilities at English Harbour, commanding the British fleet. Nelson became unpopular with the locals merchants by enforcing strict commercial shipping laws, known as the Navigation Act.

This resulted in the construction of Nelson's Dockyard, now a cultural heritage site and marina, one of Antigua's finest physical assets. Nelson's Dockyard is now home to some of Antigua's sailing and yachting events such as, Antigua Sailing Week and the Antigua Charter Yacht Meeting.

The islands achieved independence from the British in 1981, becoming the nation of Antigua and Barbuda. The islands remained part of the Commonwealth of Nations, and remains a constitutional monarchy, with Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of Antigua and Barbuda.

During elections in March 1994, power passed from Vere Bird to his son, Lester Bird, but remained within the ALP which won 11 of the 17 parliamentary seats. The United Progressive Party won the 2004 elections and Baldwin Spencer became Prime Minister, removing from power the longest-serving elected government in the Caribbean.



Nelson's fame extends beyond the island of Antigua. In 1785 Nelson landed at Nevis and met Frances Nisbet, a 25-year old widow of a planter, and a mother to a 5-year old son. The couple became engaged, and on March 11, 1787 became married at Fig Tree Church, St. John's Parish, Nevis.



EDUCATION



The education system in Antigua and Barbuda is heavily influenced by the British system, a legacy of British rule for so many years. Both public and private schools are available, and education begins as early as age three in one of the many kindergartens across the country. Primary school is offered for ages five through twelve, and secondary education commences for four or five more years.

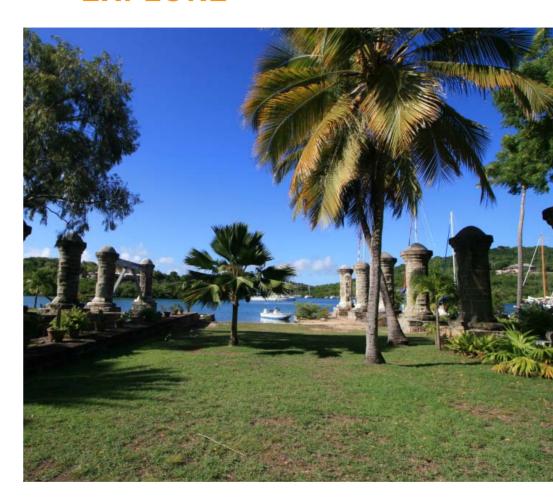
It is required for children in Antigua and Barbuda to attend school between the ages of 5 and 16. There are over 70 schools spread across the country and most of these are state run. Class size averages around 20 students and Antigua has one of the highest literacy rates in the Caribbean.

The country also has three colleges, which includes the University of Health Sciences, University of the West Indies (which also has branches in other parts of the Caribbean) and the Antigua State College, which provides technical and teacher training. Students who wish to study for degrees that are not available in the country opt for universities in Europe or North America.

There are several private schools available if you prefer not to use state run institutions. It is worth noting that the fees for these can be quite high and there may be waiting lists, depending upon the location and cost of the school.

School curriculums in the country are similar to those in the UK and the US. Students cover the basic core subjects such as English, math, science, history and geography, with some schools making the study of a second language mandatory, usually Spanish.

EXPLORE



Explore the Islands

Antigua is an exemplary Caribbean island—sun-drenched, fringed with dazzling white sand and located next to a warm aquamarine sea. Featuring excellent hotels and villas, this island has a long tradition of sailing, both in historic association and in modern form. (Horatio Nelson was stationed here and Antigua serves as the venue for the Caribbean's major regatta). However, it's the easy life and friendly islanders, as well as the wide variety of beaches that drive people to visit.



BEACHES

Dickenson Bay

Considered the premier beach on the island, Dickenson Bay is one of the more easily accessible beaches. Lie in the warm sand, take a tour on a glass-bottomed boat or enjoy a multitude of watersports. Dickenson Bay is a mile of west-facing golden sand with lively sports and beach bars. A popular beach, this location is usually heaving with people.

The extension of Dickenson Bay to the south, officially called Runaway Bay, is also a lovely stretch of sand and much quieter.

Pigeon Point Beach

A cracking stretch of sand at the mouth of Falmouth Harbour, Pigeon Point is the main public beach on the south coast. Backed by sea grape trees and the occasional palm, it has calm and shallow water, making it a great beach for families with children. It is popular with the locals and often quiet during the week, with a just a few bathers from nearby hotels. Antiguan families enjoy weekends and holidays here, bringing their picnic baskets and stereos.

Three wonderful stretches of sand—Ffrye's Bay, Darkwood Beach and Crab Hill Bay/Johnson's Point, can be found on the southwest corner of the island. They are remote by Antiguan standards and relatively undeveloped, with only a few beach bars and a couple of small hotels, but the sand is stunningly white and the sunset views are superb.

Visited mostly by independent travelers who want to escape the crowds, these beaches grow popular with cruise ship passengers, who occasionally turn up on excursions. Go late in the afternoon to avoiding these crowds, at which time they will normally be back on board their ship.



Jolly Beach

A magnificent mile-long stretch of white sand, backed with palms, set in a huge bay with jade water, and enclosed by massive headlands.

There are a handful of hotels in the bay, causing the beach to become busy. But don't mind the crowd, there are businesses on the beach who rent kayaks and pedalos (British paddle boats). Jolly Dive also offers daily scuba trips.



Half Moon Bay

This lovely curve of light pink and white sand is found on the east coast of the island. A reef protects it from the full force of the Atlantic.

Half Moon Bay is certainly not undiscovered, but normally it is deserted. Island tours and locals visit occasionally, but often times you'll have the place to yourself.

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS



Nelson's Dockyard

Nelson's Dockyard, the largest of Antigua's National Parks, is still used today as a working dockyard. The fully restored buildings of the Dockyard contain shops, hotels and marina businesses. Enjoy the scenic trails and natural beauty of the park and visit the historic forts. There are endless opportunities to capture the beauty of the parks. With many glorious boats in the dockyard, the beautiful harbour, the historic sites and the unforgettable views from places such as Shirley Heights, bring your camera or you'll have regrets.



Shirley Heights Lookout

The reason they chose this location is easy to understand. Shirley Heights has spectacular view over English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour, the scene that is often used as the iconic image of Antigua. A visit to Shirley Heights is considered one of the must do events in Antigua. The buildings have been adapted to function as a bar and restaurant, and its infamous Sunday evening party is always a hit.

Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

The Museum, located in downtown St. John's, provides an interesting background of the nation's history from 10,000 years ago. Learn how the islands were formed and who lived here. Discover how the lives of the Arawaks and Caribs influenced life on the island. Lively displays include ancient tools and artifacts, shells, various flora and fauna and the island's naval and slavery history. The gift shop includes colour prints and etchings of 18th and 19th century Antigua, locally handmade pottery, handicrafts and books.



Betty's Hope

The first efficient large-scale sugar estate in Antigua, Betty's Hope is now a popular tourist attraction that features two sugar mills. Restoration of one sugar mill is completed, with funds being raised by The Betty's Hope Trust to continue restoration.

Devil's Bridge

Composed of limestone rock, the rugged terrain of Devil's Bridge is the result of millions of years of ancient reef formation. For hundreds of thousands of years, the Atlantic's waves have crashed into the east coast of Antigua creating a natural arch, or bridge. Numerous geysers and blowholes surround the arch as waves continually break against the coastal rocks.

Stingray City

A short boat ride takes you to Stingray City, where you can pet and feed stingrays in their natural environment. Learn all about these amazing creatures from an experienced guide. Snorkel on colourful coral reefs where the calm, clear, shallow water makes it easy and fun for everybody!

FOOD & DRINKS

Antigua offers a wide variety of restaurants, bars and nightly entertainment. Some of the best restaurants are found in the island's hotels; Carmichael's at the Sugar Ridge Hotel above Jolly Bay; East at Carlisle Bay in the south of the island; Sheer at Cocobay, and The Cove at Blue Waters offer some of the best dining experiences. These hotel restaurants offer a great setting to enjoy a meal, whether on the beach or with a hilltop view.

Before venturing out, please check the hotel schedules as some of the hotels close over summer months.



Papa Zouk Fish 'n' Rum

Referred to by locals as 'The Rum Shop' for offering the largest rum selection in the Caribbean, this rustic creole styled seafood restaurant offers a selection of chicken and meat dishes by request.

Le Bistro

Located on Hodges Bay, north of St. John's, known as one of the most elegant restaurants on the island, tables at Le Bistro are located between a scenic villa and a plant-filled veranda. The menu is French, with some concessions to the climate and the region. Dishes include a bouillabaisse of Caribbean fish, and smoked marlin carpaccio with lime and fresh herbs. YUM!

Harmony Hall

Harmony Hall is located on a hilltop overlooking Nonsuch Bay. It is surrounded by gardens and sits next to a restored stone windmill, making the views from this hillside dining deck superb. An art gallery next door is a great place to admire after lunch. The cuisine is Mediterranean and Italian with fresh pasta and Caribbean fish prepared daily.

Catherine's Café Plage

Now set at the far end of Pigeon Point Beach, Catherine's Café Plage offers elegant lunches with fresh ingredients and a French touch. Here you can enjoy lobster cakes, snapper papillote and tartiflette.

Trappas

Set behind a white picket fence in the heart of the English Harbour, Trappas is a fun and lively restaurant with tables nestled under parasols. The menu, written on a huge moveable board, is extensive and eclectic, featuring everything from calamari and grilled shrimp, to smoked salmon pizza and spicy Thai fish.

Hemingway's Caribbean Cafe

Located in St. John's, inside a white and lime green creole house with a tin roof and plantation shutters, you'll find the charming Hemingway Café. This lively café features indoor seating, as well as tables outside on the veranda overlooking the street. The food is a nice mixture of Caribbean cuisine with an international flare. For example, one can expect to find Antiguan fricassee of saltfish, or calypso chicken with a vanilla cinnamon sauce on the daily menu.

Jacqui O's Beachhouse

With a chic rustic interior and an amazing beach setting, this iconic restaurant bar has become a favourite among tourists and locals. Jacqui O's has restored the relaxed lifestyle and expected 'good time' when visiting the Caribbean. With a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere, it truly is a unique experience.

Sheer Rocks Restaurant Bar Lounge

Sheer Rocks is Antigua's hidden gem, perched atop a rocky cliff that overlooks one of the most jaw-dropping views the island has to offer. The Mediterranean-inspired menu is created with an emphasis on fresh, local and seasonal produce. Sheer Rocks is infamous for its tapas lunches, custom-made cocktails and infinity plunge pool. As the sun sets, the restaurant transforms into a romantic retreat where you can choose from the A la Carte or tasting menuwith optional wine pairing, to make your experience even more memorable. Sheer Rocks was voted third best restaurant in its class in the entire Caribbean Region in the 2014 Travelers choice awards by Tripadvisor.

NIGHTLIFE

There are so many fun things to do after dark in Antigua, the choices are endless. Dance clubs, nightclubs, and discos play the best local and international music. Local music consists of soca, reggae, dancehall and calypso featuring the best hits in both the U.S. and Europe. You can also find great live music in smaller intimate bars and other venues. Feeling lucky?? Try gambling at the Casino!



ABRACADABRA RESTAURANT & DISCO-BAR SINCE 1985 is located in English Harbour. Abracadabra has all the right ingredients for a magical night out on Antigua..

KING'S CASINO in the heart of St. John's, is Antigua's largest casino. King's features 16 different table games including Blackjack, Roulette and Texas Hold'em Poker. It also has the latest slot machines, simulcasts live horse racing, and accepts wagers on every sporting event in the world.

SUGAR CLUB is located in the Sugar Ridge Hotel, across the street from the entrance to Jolly Harbour. This restaurant and bar are informal and have a buzzy, busy feel with great food.





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