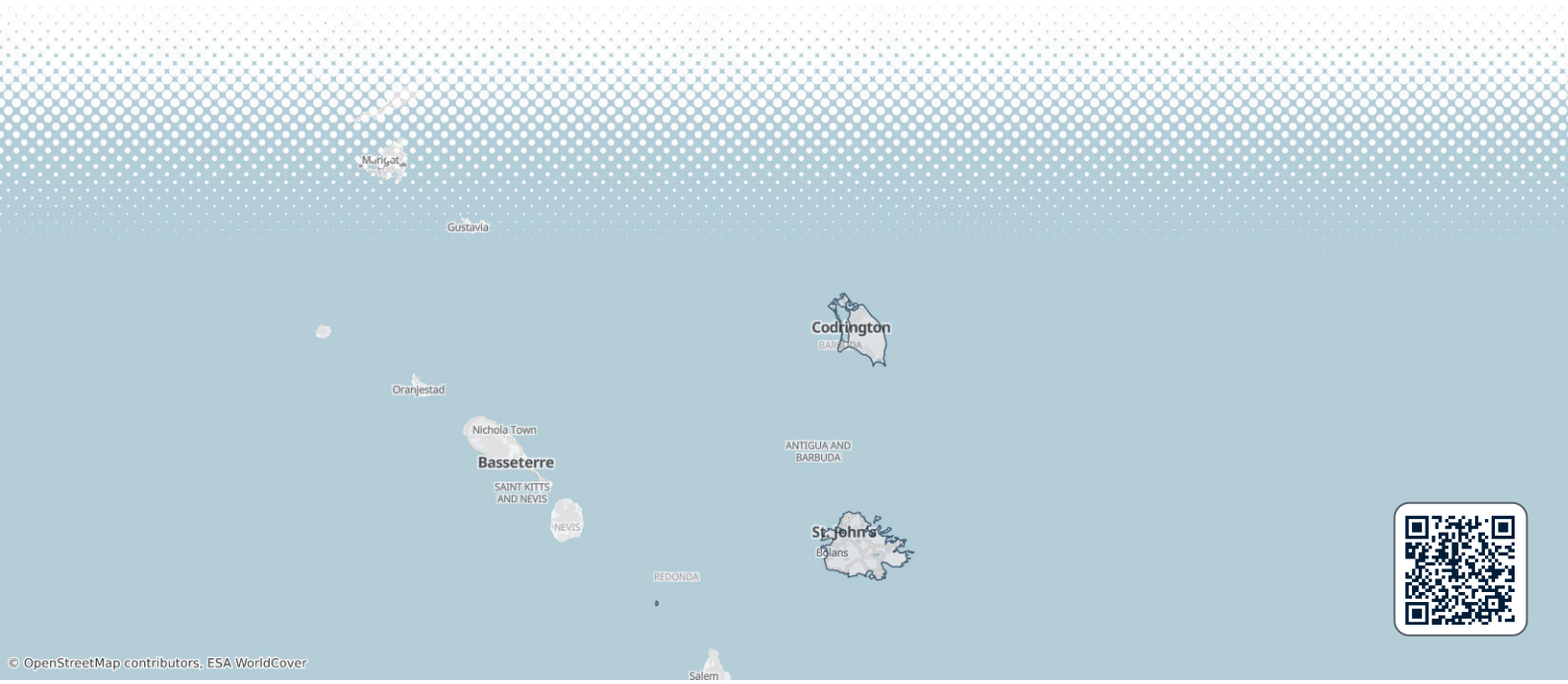


Antigua and Barbuda

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Antigua and Barbuda is a twin-island nation in the eastern Caribbean, known for its beaches, sailing, and laid-back pace. Antigua, the larger island, is said to have 365 beaches, one for every day of the year. Nelson's Dockyard in English Harbour is a restored 18th-century naval base and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, still used as a working marina today. Barbuda, the smaller and quieter sister island, has pink-sand beaches, the Frigate Bird Sanctuary, and far fewer visitors.

The country suits travelers who want beach time, sailing, and watersports rather than nightlife or budget backpacking. Resorts and restaurants lean upscale, and many beaches are lined with hotels rather than open to independent camping or budget stays. Couples, sailing enthusiasts, and families looking for calm water and warm weather will find the most to enjoy here.

When to visit

Antigua and Barbuda is warm all year, and the sea is good for swimming in every month. January to April is the driest time of year, and December to April is the most popular time to visit. Summer is hotter and more humid. The hurricane season runs from June to November, and September to November are usually the wettest months. Carnival fills late July and early August with parades and music.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good	26° / 27°	24° / 23°	Muggy, humid air
February	Good	26° / 27°	24° / 23°	Muggy, humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great	27° / 28°	24° / 23°	25 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme)
April	Good	27° / 29°	25° / 23°	Muggy, humid air · UV 11 (Extreme)
May	Good	28° / 29°	26° / 24°	Oppressive humidity · UV 11 (Extreme)
June	Good	29° / 30°	26° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
July	Fair	29° / 30°	26° / 25°	21 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Windy · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Fair	29° / 30°	27° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Poor	29° / 30°	27° / 25°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Fair	28° / 30°	26° / 25°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Fair	28° / 29°	26° / 24°	Oppressive humidity
December	Good	27° / 28°	25° / 24°	Oppressive humidity

Best months: March

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Money & payments

US dollars are accepted almost everywhere alongside the local currency. Change is often given in a mix of both, so carry small bills of each. Bring cash for local buses, small vendors, and Barbuda — card machines are less common there. ATMs are easy to find in St. John's and near major resorts, but scarce in rural areas and on Barbuda.

Currency

CURRENCY	1 XCD	1 XCD
EC$	**0.33 EUR**	**0.3694 USD**
XCD	1 EUR = 3.03 XCD	1 USD = 2.707 XCD

Cards accepted in major venues

Tourism prices here lean upscale, especially for resort stays and rental cars.

Typical costs

Rough prices in touristic areas, per person

Hotel (double room, per night) mid-range hotel, double room	250 – 600 EC$ €83 – €198
Dinner (mid-range restaurant) mid-range restaurant, one person	60 – 150 EC$ €20 – €50
Inexpensive meal	20 – 40 EC$ €7 – €13
Local beer	8 – 15 EC$ €3 – €5
Coffee	10 – 18 EC$ €3 – €6
Water	3 – 5 EC$ €1 – €2
Transit ticket local minibus fare	3 – 8 EC$ €1 – €3
Taxi (per km) taxis mostly use fixed zone fares, not meters	8 – 12 EC$ €3 – €4

Tipping

Tipping follows North American habits more than European ones. Restaurants often add a service charge automatically, so check your bill before adding more. Tour guides who go out of their way, such as snorkeling or hiking guides, appreciate a direct tip, since a service charge would not reach them.

Restaurant 10–15% (often already added as a service charge)	Optional
Hotel US$1–2 per bag or per day for housekeeping	Optional
Taxi round up the fare	Optional
Tour guide US$5–10 per person	Expected
Bar	Not customary

Electricity

Antigua and Barbuda uses 230 V / 60 Hz power, even though most sockets take North American Type A and B plugs. This voltage is unusual for this plug type. Most modern phone and laptop chargers handle it fine. An older 120 V-only appliance needs a voltage converter, not just a plug adapter.

ELECTRICITY



Type A

ELECTRICITY



Type B

230 V · 60 Hz

Language

English is the official language and used everywhere, including on menus and signs. Many locals speak Antiguan Creole among themselves, an English-based Creole that can be hard for visitors to follow, but everyone switches easily to standard English with tourists.

Staying connected

Prepaid SIM cards are available at the airport and in St. John's from the national carriers. Bring your passport, since registering a SIM card requires ID. Mobile coverage is reliable across Antigua but patchier on Barbuda and along some remote coastlines.

Safety & emergencies

Antigua and Barbuda is generally safe for tourists, and violent crime rarely targets visitors. The most common issue is petty theft from cars, beaches, and unlocked hotel rooms. Keep valuables out of sight and use a hotel safe when available. Use normal caution walking alone at night away from resort areas, particularly in parts of St. John's.

Emergency numbers

POLICE
911

AMBULANCE
911

FIRE BRIGADE
911

Health

Tap water is treated and technically safe to drink, but many visitors and locals prefer bottled or filtered water for its taste. Pharmacies are available in St. John's and near major resort areas, generally keeping standard business hours with limited weekend service. Smaller settlements and Barbuda have far fewer options. No special vaccinations are required for most travelers, though routine immunizations should be up to date. Pack mosquito repellent for the tropical climate.

Visas & entry

Most visitors, including citizens of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, can enter without a visa. The length of stay granted on arrival varies by nationality — commonly around 30 days, though some visitors receive longer — and can be extended at the immigration office in St. John's. A valid passport and proof of onward or return travel are generally required at entry. Citizens of some other countries need to arrange a visa in advance.

> Visa and entry requirements change frequently. Verify current requirements with the official immigration authority or your country's embassy before travel.

Etiquette

Beachwear belongs on the beach — cover up with a shirt or wrap when entering shops, restaurants, or town areas. Camouflage-patterned clothing is illegal for civilians to wear or carry in Antigua and Barbuda, including on children, and can be confiscated at customs. Greet shopkeepers and staff with a hello before starting a transaction; skipping the greeting can come across as rude. Ask before photographing individuals, especially in local neighborhoods.

Holidays & opening hours

Public holidays affect most banks, government offices, and many shops, while resorts and tourist-facing restaurants generally stay open. Carnival in early August effectively pauses the country for several days, with parades and events across Antigua.

Public holidays

Jan 1	New Year's Day
Nov 1	Independence Day
Dec 9	National Heroes' Day
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 26	St. Stephen's Day
movable — Aug	Carnival Monday
movable — Aug	Carnival Tuesday
movable — Mar/Apr	Easter Monday
movable — Mar/Apr	Good Friday
movable — May	Labour Day
movable — Sep	National Day of Prayer
movable — May/Jun	Whit Monday

Most shops keep standard daytime hours and close early or stay shut on Sundays outside resort areas, so plan grocery and pharmacy errands for weekdays.

Getting around

- **By bus**: Privately run minibuses connect St. John's with towns and villages around Antigua at low fares, though there is no fixed schedule or map — flag one down and pay the driver in cash. There is no bus service to Barbuda; reach it by ferry or a short flight.
- **By taxi**: Taxis wait at the airport, cruise port, and resorts, and charge government-set fixed fares by route rather than using a meter — confirm the price before getting in.
- **By rental car**: A local driving permit, bought from your rental company or on arrival, is required alongside your home license. A rental car is the practical way to reach beaches and sights that buses do not serve.
- **By ferry**: A passenger ferry connects St. John's with Barbuda, taking around 90 minutes each way; a short flight is also available.
- **Driving side**: Traffic drives on the left. Rental cars are set up to match, but stay alert at roundabouts and junctions if you normally drive on the right.

Driving

- **Speed limits**: Roads are mostly narrow and winding, with modest limits in towns and higher limits on the open road — there are no motorways.
- **Key rules**: Seatbelts are mandatory in front seats, and using a handheld phone while driving is illegal.
- **Parking**: Street parking is common and usually free outside town centers, where paid parking zones apply during business hours.
- **Fuel**: Stations are typically attended rather than self-service, and accept both cash and cards.

URBAN	RURAL	PETROL	DIESEL
40 km/h	60 km/h	Gasoline, Gas	Diesel

Drive on the left

No motorway vignette needed

Food & drink

Breakfast is often saltfish with johnnycakes or provisions like breadfruit and sweet potato, eaten at home or from small roadside stalls. Lunch and dinner center on fresh seafood, chicken, and one-pot stews, often paired with rice, peas, or fungee, a cornmeal side similar to polenta. The national dish pairs fungee with pepperpot, a spiced stew of pumpkin, spinach, and meat.

Street food and snacks include ducana, a sweet dumpling of grated sweet potato and coconut steamed in banana leaf. The Antigua black pineapple is another local specialty — a small, unusually sweet variety grown almost nowhere else. Locally distilled rum appears in punches and cocktails at beach bars, alongside the local lager.

Casual, open-air restaurants and beach bars are the typical setting for eating out, and a big Sunday lunch with extended family remains a weekly tradition for many households.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Saltfish
Salted, dried fish stewed with onions, peppers, and tomatoes, often served with johnnycakes or provisions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Ducana
A sweet dumpling of grated sweet potato and coconut, wrapped in banana leaf and steamed.

Johnnycake
A fried or baked cornmeal bread, eaten as a side with saltfish or on its own.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Antigua black pineapple
A small, unusually sweet and low-acid pineapple variety grown almost exclusively on the island.

DRINKS

Rum punch
A mix of local rum, fruit juice, and spices, served at beach bars across the islands.

Wadadli
The local lager, named after the Amerindian name for Antigua.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Fungee and pepperpot
A cornmeal side similar to polenta, served with a spiced stew of pumpkin, spinach, and salted meat. Widely considered the national dish.

Antigua and Barbuda – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Where to explore

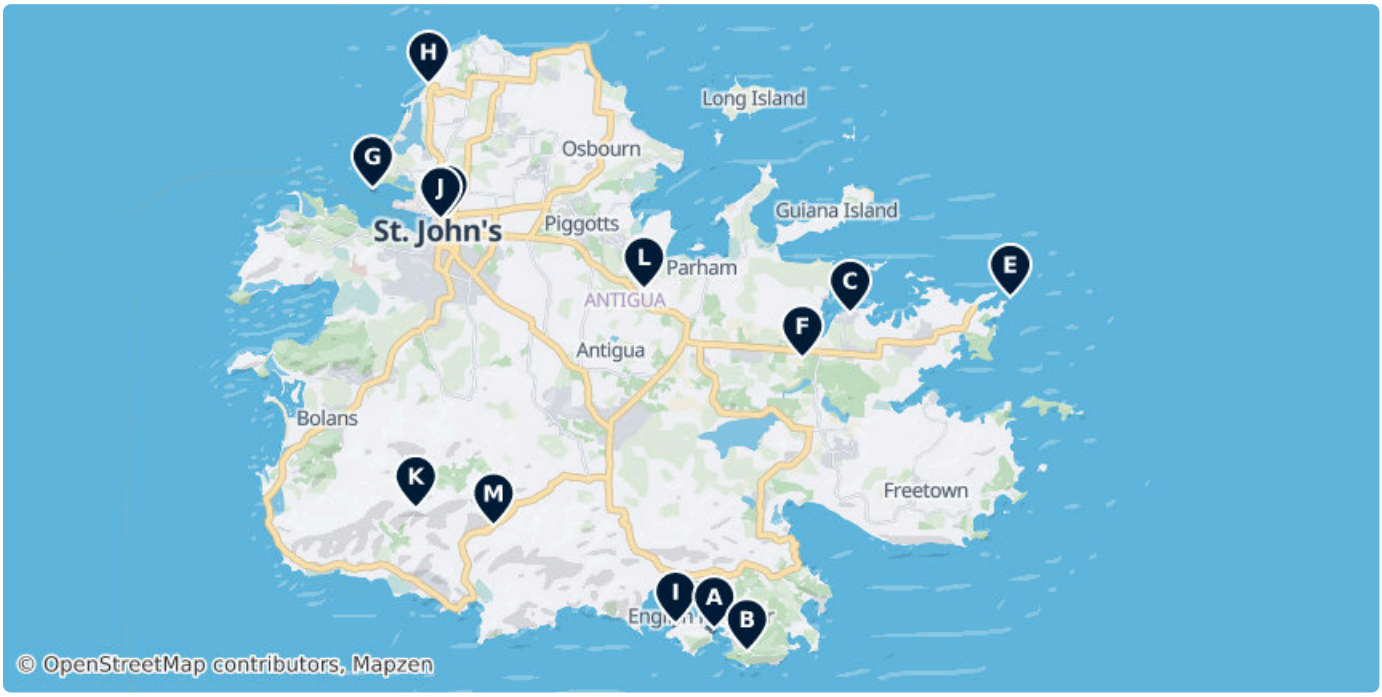
Barbuda sits about 50 kilometers north of Antigua and sees a fraction of the visitors. It is known for pink-sand beaches and a large frigate bird colony in its lagoon, reachable by ferry or a short flight from

Antigua. Its small population and slower pace make it a contrast to Antigua's resort coast.

On Antigua itself, the capital St. John's holds the main harbor, airport, and cruise terminal, while English Harbour and Falmouth Harbour in the south are the historic center of the island's sailing and yachting scene.

Antigua and Barbuda Essentials

Antigua and Barbuda's heritage is defined by the UNESCO-listed Nelson's Dockyard and the 18th-century fortifications of Shirley Heights and Fort James. Cultural landmarks include the baroque St. John's Cathedral and the historic Betty's Hope sugarcane plantation. Natural highlights range from the limestone formations of Devil's Bridge to the island's highest peak, Mount Obama. For recreation, the selection includes the white sands of Dickenson Bay, the cricket grounds of Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, and marine encounters at Stingray City.





A Nelson's Dockyard

Nelson's Dockyard is a cultural heritage site and marina in English Harbour, located in Saint Paul Parish on the Caribbean island of...

Antigua & Barbuda (17.00855, -61.76450)

nationalparksantigua.com, +1 268 481 5021



B Shirley Heights

The views of the ocean from these grassy hills are simply stunning. Go on a weekday as Sundays are a little touristy.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.00229, -61.75498)

shirleyheightslookout.com, +1-268-728-0636

C Stingray City

A magical experience for both kids and adults. Meet the local stingrays, give them food and hold one of these creatures.

Seaton's Village, St. John's, Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda (17.09618, -61.72503)

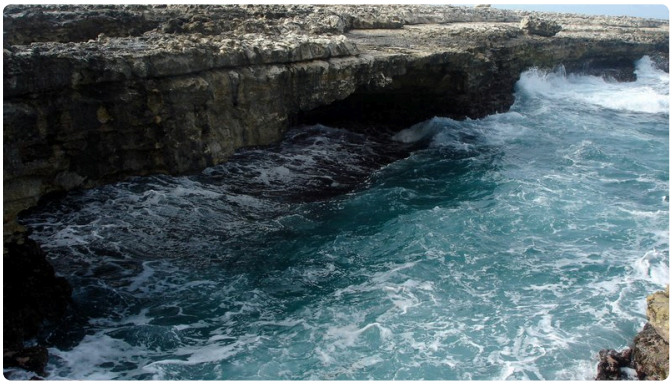
+12685627297



D St. John's Cathedral

St. John's Cathedral also known as the St. John the Divine, the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba, is...

Newgate Street, Antigua & Barbuda (17.12274, -61.84193)



E Devil's Bridge

Devil's Bridge is a natural rock arch in eastern Antigua. It is located on the Atlantic coast at 17°6′1.7″N 61°40′42.2″W, near Indian Town...

Antigua & Barbuda (17.10061, -61.67857)



F Betty's Hope

Betty's Hope was a sugarcane plantation in Antigua. It was established in 1650, shortly after the island had become an English colony, and...

Antigua & Barbuda (17.08365, -61.73887)



G Fort James

Built by the British in the 18th century to protect St. John's Harbour, this historic site retains its original cannons and foundation walls overlooking the Caribbean Sea.

St. John's, Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda (17.13068, -61.86363)



H Dickenson Bay

A lively beach lined with resorts. If the sun tires you out, there are plenty of restaurants and bars to stop by.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.15961, -61.84742)

I Pigeon Point Beach

Located near English Harbour, this sheltered beach features shallow, calm waters and shaded areas provided by sea grape trees. It serves as the primary public swimming spot in the southern district.

Pigeon Beach Road, English Harbour, Antigua and Barbuda (17.00990, -61.77568)

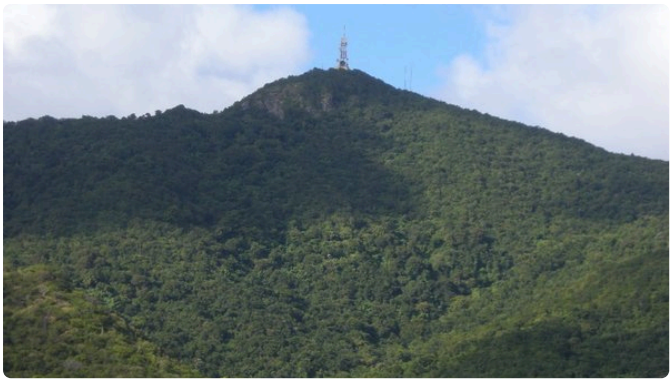


J Museum Of Antigua & Barbuda

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda is a museum in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Long Street, St. John’s, Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda (17.12214, -61.84391)

antiguamuseum.org, +1 268 462 1469



K Mount Obama

Boggy Peak, named Mount Obama from 2009 to 2016, is the highest point of the Shekerley Mountains on the island of Antigua.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.04194, -61.85111)



L Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium is a stadium in North Sound, Saint George, Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Ring Road, Gunthorpes, Antigua and Barbuda (17.10271, -61.78487)

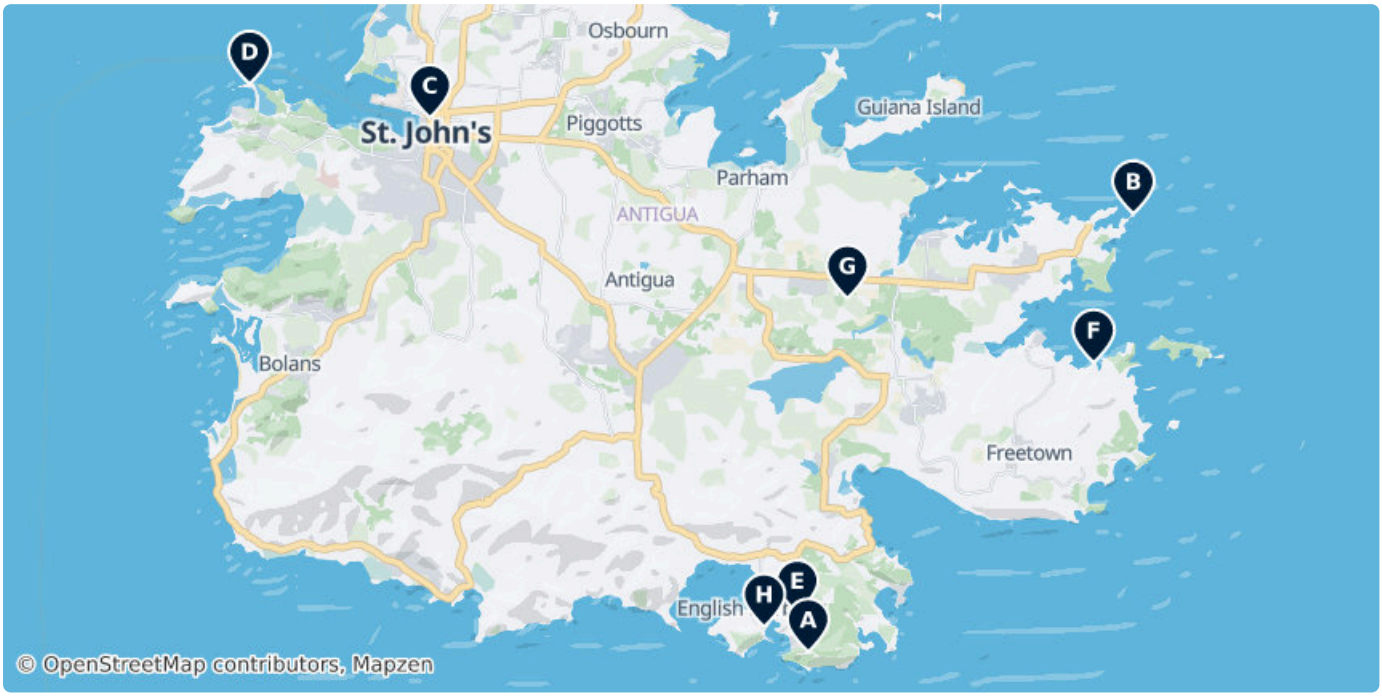
M Rainforest Canopy Tour (ZIP Lines)

An eco-adventure course located in the island's southern rainforest. It features a series of zip lines, suspension bridges, and ropes challenges through the canopy of Fig Tree Drive.

(17.03718, -61.82854)

Antigua’s Top Attractions

This collection highlights Antigua's colonial history and natural landscape. It includes 18th-century defensive sites like Fort Barrington and Shirley Heights, which overlook the harbor. Cultural landmarks include Betty’s Hope, a former sugar plantation, and the Dockyard Museum within the UNESCO-listed Nelson’s Dockyard. For natural features, Devil’s Bridge showcases limestone formations carved by Atlantic waves. The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda and Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre provide historical context on the island’s Arawak heritage and British naval era.



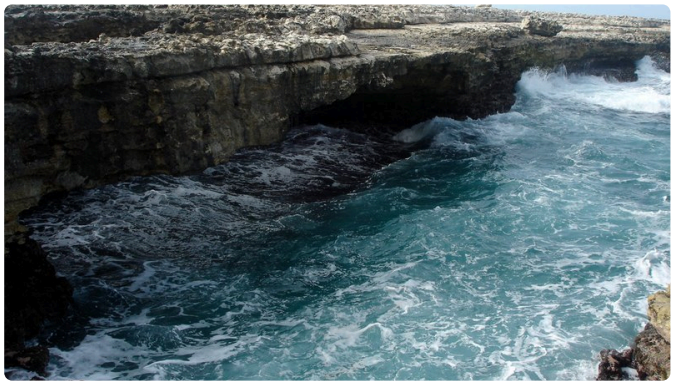


A Shirley Heights

The views of the ocean from these grassy hills are simply stunning. Go on a weekday as Sundays are a little touristy.

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shirleyheightslookout.com, +1-268-728-0636



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Antigua & Barbuda (17.10061, -61.67857)

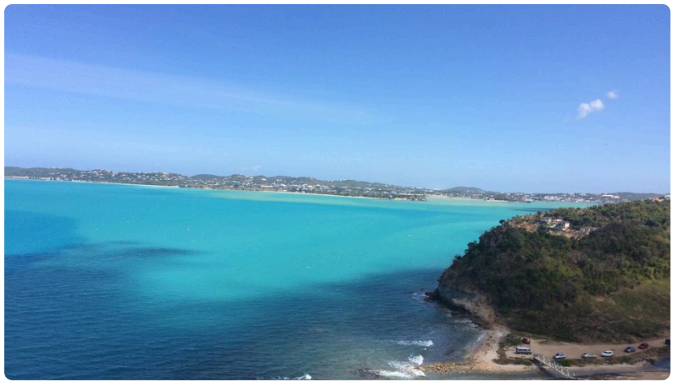


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Long Street, St. John’s, Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda (17.12214, -61.84391)

antiguamuseum.org, +1 268 462 1469



D Fort Barrington

Built in 1779 to guard Deep Bay and St. John’s Harbour, this fort features stone ruins accessible via a steep trail. It offers views of the coastline and the sunken shipwreck in the bay below.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.12971, -61.88627)

E Dow's Hill Interpretation Centre

Learn about Antiguan history in this brief 20-minute show. Housed in an old fort and with great views of the island.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.01093, -61.75754)

F Harmony Hall

Doubles as a restaurant and art gallery. Showcases artwork made by local artists and serves mostly seafood.

Brown's Bay, near Freetown, Antigua, Antigua and Barbuda (17.06718, -61.68792)

+1 268 460 4120

G Betty's Hope Museum

A former 17th-century sugar plantation featuring twin stone windmills. The museum displays tools and documents relating to the island's sugar production and the history of the enslaved people who worked the estate.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.08167, -61.74576)



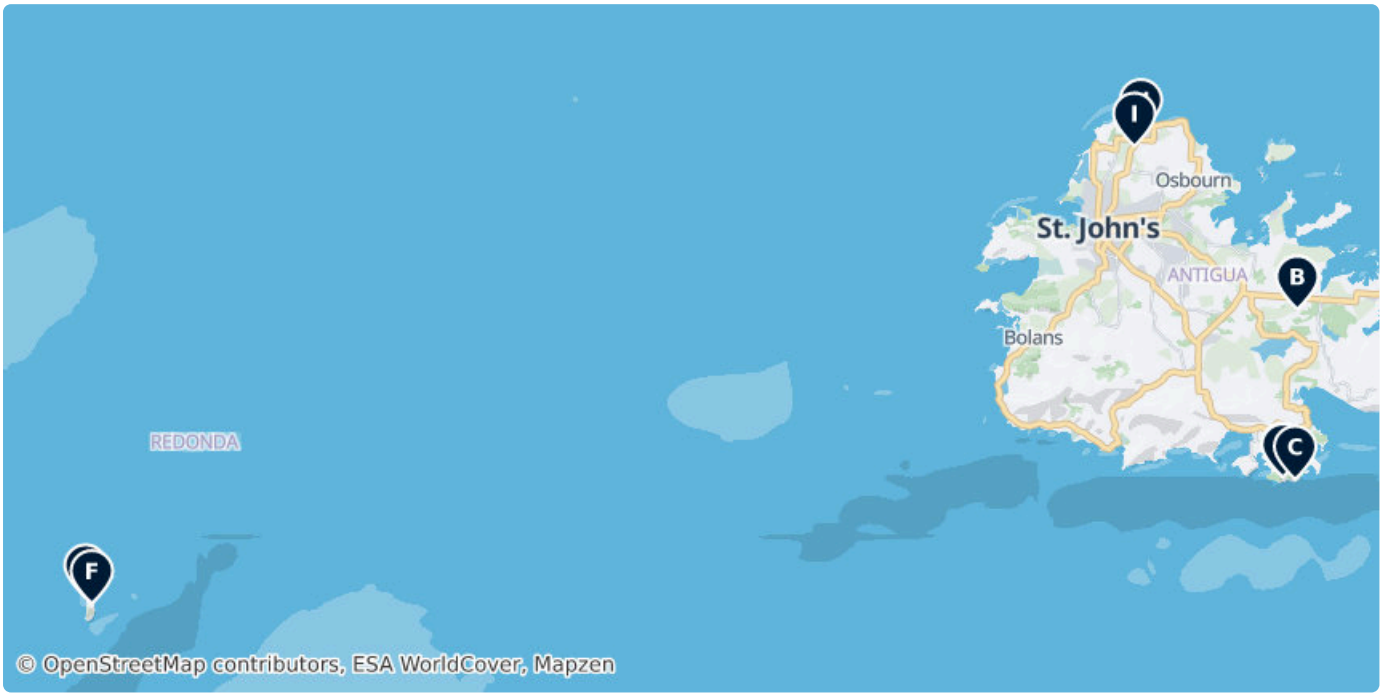
H Museum

Housed in the 1855 Admiral’s House at Nelson's Dockyard, this museum features archaeological finds, naval maps, and silver trophies. It documents the history of the British Royal Navy in the Caribbean.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.00789, -61.76535)

Hidden Ruins and Caves

Explore the architectural history of Antigua and Barbuda through its colonial-era sugar mills and military fortifications. This collection features the restored stone windmills of Betty's Hope, the island's first large sugar plantation, alongside the 18th-century military ruins of Shirley Heights, including the Blockhouse and Officers Quarters. The list also includes the remote sea caves of Redonda, such as Centaur's Cave and The World's End, offering a glimpse into the region's geological formations and abandoned industrial past.



A Betty's Hope Mill No. 1

Restored stone windmill at Antigua's first large-scale sugar plantation, established in 1674. It features functional sails and serves as the centerpiece of an open-air museum.

(17.08100, -61.74569)

B Betty's Hope Mill No. 2

The unrestored counterpart to Mill No. 1, this stone structure remains in its ruined state, illustrating the original condition of the plantation's industrial infrastructure.

(17.08079, -61.74570)

C The Blockhouse

Late 18th-century military ruins overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and Indian Creek. Originally built as a defensive lookout and barracks within the Shirley Heights fortification complex.

(17.00015, -61.74678)

D The Ridge and Artillery Quarters

Stone remnants of the 18th-century military garrison at Shirley Heights. These ruins once housed the artillery units responsible for defending English Harbour.

(17.00109, -61.75296)

E Officers Quarters

Ruins of the residential quarters for high-ranking military personnel stationed at Shirley Heights during the colonial era.

Antigua & Barbuda (17.00169, -61.75311)

F Centaur's Cave

A natural sea cave located on the rugged, uninhabited volcanic island of Redonda.

(16.94105, -62.34455)

G The World's End

A remote cave formation situated on the cliffs of Redonda, accessible primarily by boat.

(16.94383, -62.34763)

H Westcott Tower

A historic stone windmill base, a remnant of the island's extensive 18th-century sugar production infrastructure.

(17.16467, -61.82339)

I Longford Sugar Mill

Ruins of a colonial-era sugar processing facility, featuring the remains of the stone mill structure.

(17.15816, -61.82669)

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