

GUIDEBOOK → WELL SPENT

# Anguilla, Affordably

**A**nguilla is among the most expensive destinations in the Caribbean, but enjoying it on a budget can be a cinch. Plan a visit from mid-April through mid-December, when room rates drop as much as 40 percent, and you can luxuriate to your heart's content on the island's ultimate asset: miles of white sand. Since there's no real public transportation and taxi fares can add up, an easy way to explore the outpost's 30-odd strands is by bike, for just \$10 a day (Exotic Plus; 264-497-8803). Then spend your savings at restaurants such as Smokey's at the Cove, where a lobster salad will set you back a cool \$28. 877-426-4845; [anguilla-vacation.com](http://anguilla-vacation.com)



**Save**  
~~FROM~~  
**\$150**

Anguilla's tourism pioneers Robin and Sue Ricketts — the pros behind the island's first resorts, Cap Juluca and Malliouhana — have

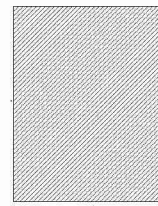
taken over the former Sirena Resort, reopening it as **Anacaona Boutique Hotel**. The couple have injected low-key chic and Anguillian heritage into the 27-room property, which offers Wi-Fi and flat-screen TVs, plus island art and evening entertainment by a local scratch band on Mondays and a folkloric group on Thursdays. The Fire Fly Restaurant serves Caribbean-inflected cuisine, including the traditional seafood stockpot. There are two pools, and a garden footpath leads to the sands of Meads Bay, just a few minutes away, where loungers, umbrellas and attentive beach service await. 877-647-4736; [anacaonahotel.com](http://anacaonahotel.com)

It doesn't get much better than this: Set on the mile-long white-sand strand at Meads Bay, **Anacaona Boutique Hotel** offers the Caribbean traveler's trifecta: a serene beachfront location, an accommodating and knowledgeable staff, and great value for the money on an island recognized as one of the Caribbean's priciest.

*Flights to Anguilla have risen to as much as \$300 more than those into the well-connected airport in neighboring St. Maarten. If you're traveling light, fly to St. Maarten, catch a bus to Marigot and ferry over. Bus: \$4. Ferry: \$15. Exit tax from St. Martin: \$5. Savings: around \$250. — DAVID SWANSON*

**OUR EXPERT SAYS**

Next door to the dock — and especially convenient for visitors ferrying over from St. Martin — the **Ferryboat Inn** has seven accommodations overlooking an uncrowded beach. Choose from two spacious one-bedroom apartments,



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**Splurge**  
 - FROM -  
**\$225**

Straddling one of Anguilla's most resplendent beaches at mile-long Meads Bay, **Carimar Beach Club** excels at summertime value. Its 24 condos — all of which offer sea views — wrap around lush, colorful gardens, and even rear apartments are just a few steps from the sand. Decor in the two-bedrooms (which also can be rented as one-bedrooms) is typically tropical, with wicker furniture, tile floors and sun-drenched hues. Each one features a well-equipped kitchen, and guests can stock up on supplies from the nearby grocery store. There's no on-site restaurant or bar, but five eateries await within a 10-minute walk. Work off your meals at the tennis courts across the street. 866-270-3764; carimar.com



plus four one-bedrooms in a two-story building. (With two bathrooms each, these larger retreats are beautifully suited to families.)

Best of all is a two-bedroom, two-bath cottage that's right on the sand; at night, enjoy the twinkling lights of St. Martin from the beachfront terrace. All have kitchens; maid service is daily except Sunday; and a summer special gives a

complimentary seventh night. A moderately priced (by Anguilla standards) restaurant serves tasty lunches and dinners five days a week (six in winter). There's no pool or water sports, but snorkel gear is available. From \$115. 264-497-6613; ferryboatinn.ai

➤ Some consider the lazily winding strand of Shoal Bay to be the island's loveliest

sandscape, dotted with beach bars and barbecue stands. Near the center is **Shoal Bay Villas**, a complex of 13 apartments ranging from one- and two-bedroom suites that open onto a pool to a studio and suites overlooking the beach. While the decor could be construed as retro, the rooms are comfortable, and most have porches or balconies; all have kitchens. Shoal Bay is toward the island's

less developed eastern end, but with water sports and restaurants within walking distance, it's a handy place to be on a short, carless, carefree visit. From \$210. 562-366-4813; sbvillas.ai

➤ Just east is the 16-room **Allamanda Beach Club**. All of its top-floor rooms have ocean views, and all but one have kitchens. (The larger rooms can accommodate a third person at no charge.) The club's enviable location — just a two-minute stroll from the staggeringly beautiful sands at Shoal Bay — makes Allamanda a great find. From \$110. 264-497-5217; allamanda.ai — DAVID SWANSON

OUT ABOUT

Anguilla's offshore islands offer seclusion and great snorkeling. Hop the \$10 round-trip ferry to Sandy Island, a flat of sand with its own beach bar (264-476-6534). Or for \$85, day-trip it to uninhabited Prickly Pear Cay for snorkeling and lunch at the offshore outpost of Johnno's restaurant. 264-476-5272

LEFT: PATRICE HANUSER/BETTY IMAGES