



STATE OF THE INDUSTRY REPORT

# A FOCUS ON

# THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR


Contributors:




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The upcoming winter tourist season signals continued growth for the industry in Antigua and Barbuda. These projections come on the heels of a dynamic 2022/2023 season that saw a growth in GDP of 7.5% the highest in the region after Guyana. In every pillar of tourism, we are continuing the post Covid rebound despite major global financial events.

## CRUISE

The addition of the 5th berth will enable us to accommodate more cruise vessels than any other Caribbean destination and homeporting will increase to over 55,000 passengers in 2023/2024 season with calls from P&O Arvia, Emerald Sakara, SeaDream 2 and Star Clipper.



### Hon. H. Charles Fernandez


Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investment

## AIR

The first quarter of 2023 has already seen a 5% increase over 2019 which is still our marquee year prior to the Covid 19 pandemic.

## HOTELS

The room stock is expected to increase significantly over the next coming months. The Hawksbill Hotel will re-open with 111 rooms after refurbishment just in time for the 2023/2024 season. The Curtain Bluff Resort is also being refurbished and will be adding a wellness area to be completed in October 2023. Moongate will be a new addition to the hotel plant in 2024 with 40 units and construction will commence on the Nikki Beach Project in the 4th quarter of 2024. In the 1st quarter of 2024, the new Royalton Chic development will open phase one of its project with 230 rooms.



Over on the sister isle of Barbuda, there are 1st class additions to be made to the tourism product. The Peace Love and Happiness Resort will see 60 luxury homes totaling 240 rooms being added to the island's accommodation capacity, and construction on the Nobu Hotel will commence in the first quarter of 2024 with its world class restaurant already opened.

And in what we see as a rapidly growing market, there are over 1200 Air BnB rooms now registered in Antigua and Barbuda.

Our vision for the tourism industry, simply put, is for all partners inclusive of the citizens and residents of our twin island nation to buy into the policies and plans set forth that would keep the industry on this positive trajectory.

A key component to this is Vision 2032 - Vision 2032 strives through partnership to actively contribute towards ensuring that the industry is sustained while benefiting all.

There are five specific focus areas that will require effort on all our behalf; sustainability, the creation of authentic local experiences, a strong legislative and policy framework, a highly qualified labour force, and the creation of an industry that is beneficial to all citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda through economic linkages. The Ministry of Tourism will spearhead these efforts through planning, training, and continuous consultation to achieve maximum results.

**It is up to us all to do our part!**

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association has undertaken a significant mission for the upcoming year - re-imagining the hospitality sector. This re-imagining entails reigniting interest in hospitality as we continue to overcome the challenges of the past few years.

As industry leaders, we bear a significant responsibility to ensure that our sector remains in focus and that we inspire the interest of the next generation.

This interest will thrive through growth, and growth will only transpire when we set our sights on the future. For us, the future signifies a commitment to education and training, product development, and the exploration of new avenues for growth in both our established markets and emerging ones, such as Latin America.



## Craig Marshall

Chairman, ABHTA  
Regional Commercial Director -  
Eastern Caribbean, Royalton

Our vision of the future also encompasses the integration of technology into our operations to prevent us from falling behind. Key areas of focus for our future endeavors include:



**1. Airlift Expansion:** Expanding airlift to Antigua and Barbuda is a pivotal strategy for realizing our true potential and fostering economic growth. To fully harness our potential, we must invest in enhancing air connectivity to our islands from key source markets and expanding our reach into new markets like Latin America.

Ensuring sustained airlift during the summer months (May - October) is critical, as we observed a decrease in overall occupancy during the summer of 2023 due to reduced lift, primarily from the UK market. It is imperative that the government takes proactive measures to prevent a recurrence in 2024.



**2. Infrastructure Investment:** Priority must be given to local infrastructure development, particularly our heritage sites and the city of St. John's. We draw inspiration from the exceptional example set by the National Parks Authority and their preservation work as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Looking ahead, we must prepare our city for the demands of an aggressive cruise environment, exemplified by future projects of the Antigua Cruise Port.



**3. Local Community Engagement:** Recent focus group discussions hosted by ABHTA revealed a clear message: we must launch an internal marketing campaign to raise awareness among Antigua and Barbuda residents about the sector's significance and how they benefit from tourism revenue.



**4. Safety and Security:** Ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to our shores is paramount. The ABHTA proudly sponsors the Crime Stoppers Antigua Barbuda program and looks forward to increased government investment in law enforcement, emergency response systems, and public awareness campaigns to enhance security.



**5. Diversification:** Over-reliance on a single type of tourism, such as sun and beach, can leave our sector vulnerable to economic downturns or natural disasters. We should continue to encourage diversification into cultural, adventure, medical, and niche tourism segments.



**6. Sustainable Tourism Development:** Sustainability should be central to our tourism planning. The success of the Redonda project and the achievements of the Environmental Awareness Group should guide our approach. We must prioritize eco-friendly practices, conservation efforts, and responsible tourism to protect the natural beauty and resources of our region for future generations.



**7. Collaboration:** Sustained collaboration among all stakeholders within the hospitality sector is essential. We are interconnected, and discussions about sector growth must include all parties.



**8. Digitalization:** Embracing new technology, such as electronic entry forms, digital marketing, and smart destination management, can enhance the visitor experience and streamline operations.



**9. Cultural Preservation:** Preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Antigua and Barbuda remains essential. The expanded promotion of key festivals and initiatives like the recently introduced Art and Restaurant Week should remain a priority.

While we have much work ahead, we possess the knowledge and capabilities on our islands to facilitate growth and position our sector as a clear leader within the Caribbean.

# ABWU's VISION FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

More than half of the membership of the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union comprises workers in the Hospitality Industry. For almost 60 years, our institution has proudly represented these workers and has played a pivotal role in improving their lives and the general state of the industry. Our vision for the tourism industry is built on three enduring principles: Tripartism, Shared Prosperity and Sustainability.



## Senator David Massiah

General Secretary  
of the Antigua and  
Barbuda Workers Union

## TRIPARTISM

In Antigua and Barbuda, we have conjured a slogan that proclaims: "Tourism is everybody's business." If indeed this is to be the case, we contend that workers must have a powerful voice in shaping the future of the industry. Employers and Governments must see workers and the Unions that represent them as equal partners in the development of the tourism industry.

## SHARED PROSPERITY

Equally important is the principle of shared prosperity. Early this year, ABWU General Secretary, Sen. David Massiah underscored this point at the ITF Global Tourism Conference. According to the General Secretary, the wealth that tourism generates must be shared with the workers who deliver the experience. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we saw firsthand the critical role ordinary workers play in sustaining tourism. Hundreds of workers navigated the risk to keep many hotel properties open during and immediately following the worst stages of the Pandemic, ultimately facilitating a quick return to normalcy in the industry.

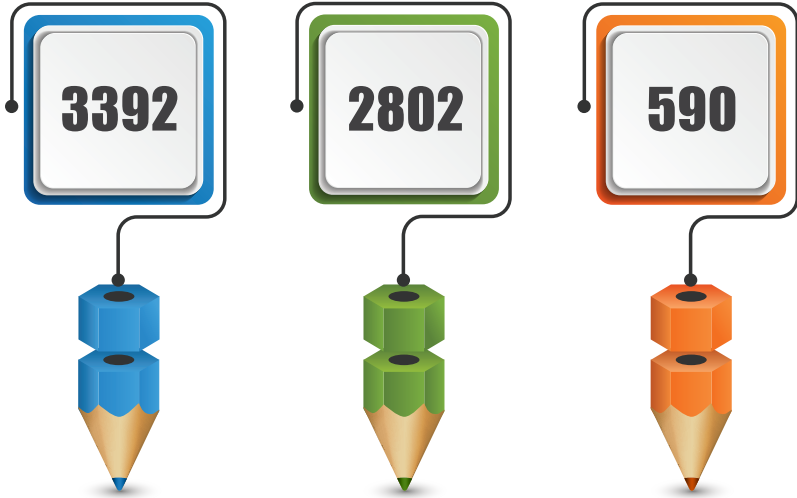
# SUSTAINABILITY

We believe that a sustainable approach that empowers workers is critical for the survival of the tourism industry. Profits must not be pursued at the expense of workers or the environment. As such, all stakeholders must work together with a strategic plan that revolves around people, power and planet to win a sustainable industry with good jobs for tourism workers.





# HOTELS - ROOMS AVAILABLE IN THE DESTINATION



ROOMS AVAILABLE	3392
OPEN	2802
CLOSED	590

In the upcoming second quarter of 2024, we will witness the addition of 230 more rooms to our inventory with the grand opening of Royalton Chic. Additionally, we anticipate the development at Moon Gate to bring around 40 more rooms into our portfolio by 2024/2025. Notably, there are still 264 rooms at the Jolly Beach Resort that have not yet been made available for sale.

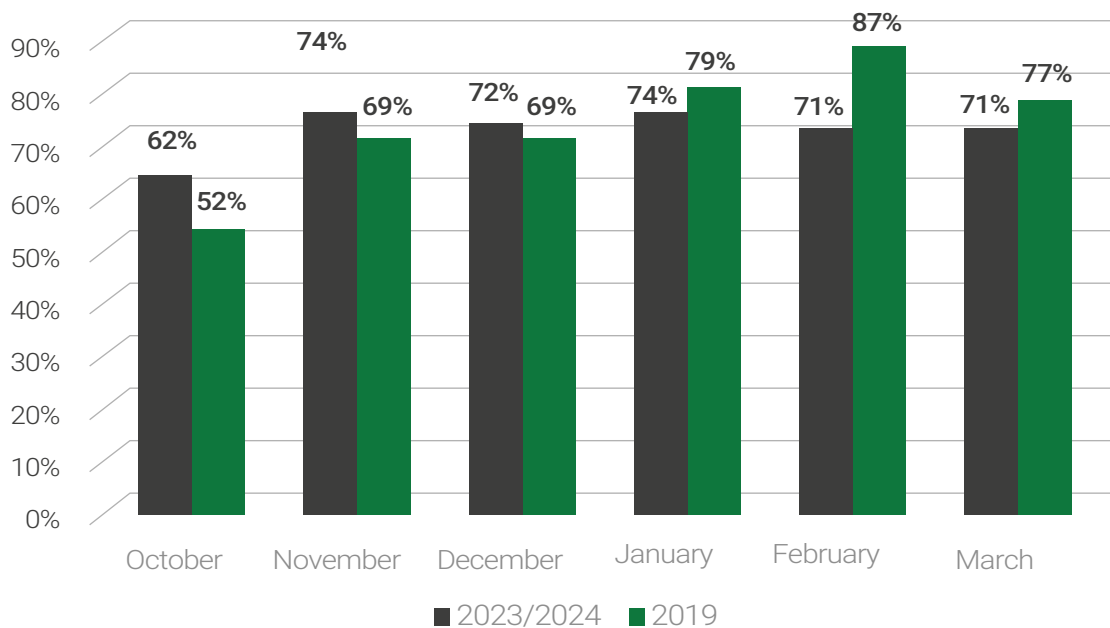
Our valued members have been consistently upgrading their experiences with us, and we're excited to share that significant renovations are underway at the Hawksbill Resort, which is set to open on October 29, 2023, and the Verandah Antigua will be welcoming guests on November 17, 2023.

**The destination features a significant number of rooms in the Villas/Guesthouses market. It is essential to establish effective regulation mechanisms to ascertain the total number of rooms available for sale, provide adequate marketing support, and ensure full compliance with regulatory and taxation requirements.**

# HOTELS - PROJECTIONS FOR WINTER 2023/2024

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association conducted an analysis by sampling nine properties within its membership to assess projections for the upcoming winter season in 2023/2024. The graph below illustrates these findings, benchmarked against the most successful year for stay-over arrivals, which was 2019.

## Antigua & Barbuda Stay-over occupancy projections Winter 2023/2024



### The success of the destination for the 2023-2024 season hinges on several key factors:

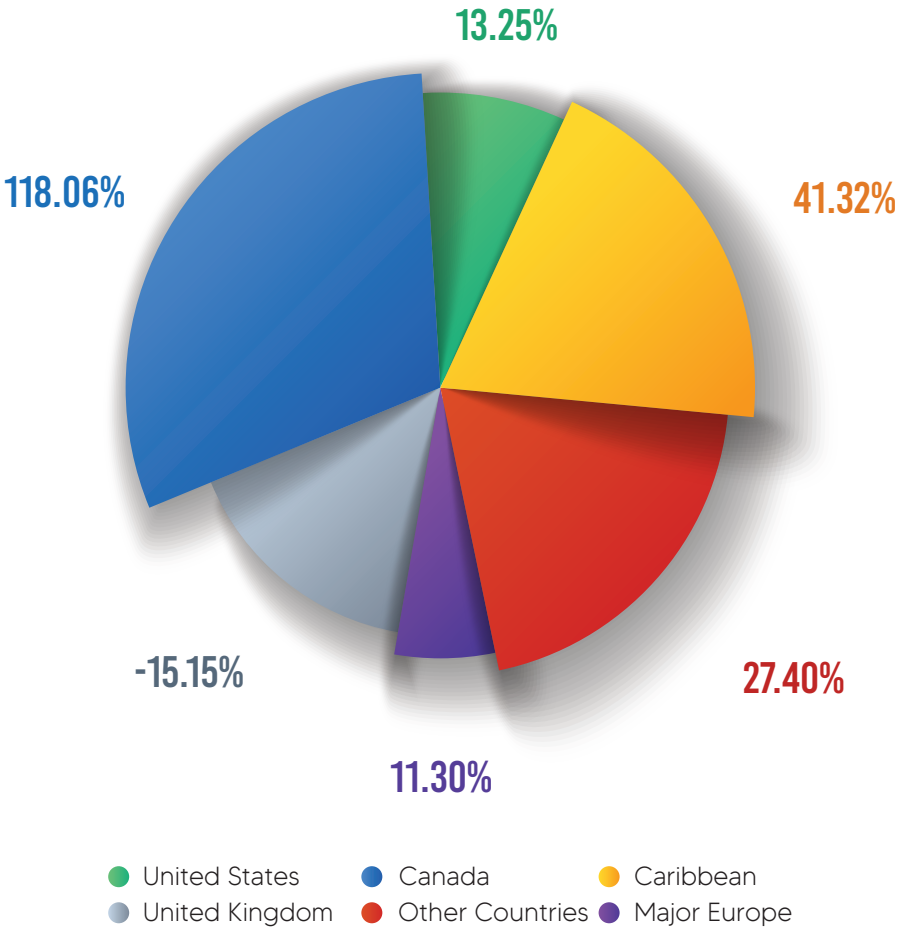
- Maintaining competitive pricing strategies to ensure profitability. Hotels are grappling with rising operational costs, including those associated with Food & Beverage services, wage increases due to collective bargaining agreements, and fuel expenses, among others.
- Strong performance from the UK Market, with support from airlines such as BA Holidays and Virgin Holidays.
- The persistence of cost barriers in travel may deter last-minute bookings.
- There has been an observed trend of earlier booking patterns, with reservations for March 2024 already showing positive momentum for most properties.

# AIRLIFT PROJECTIONS

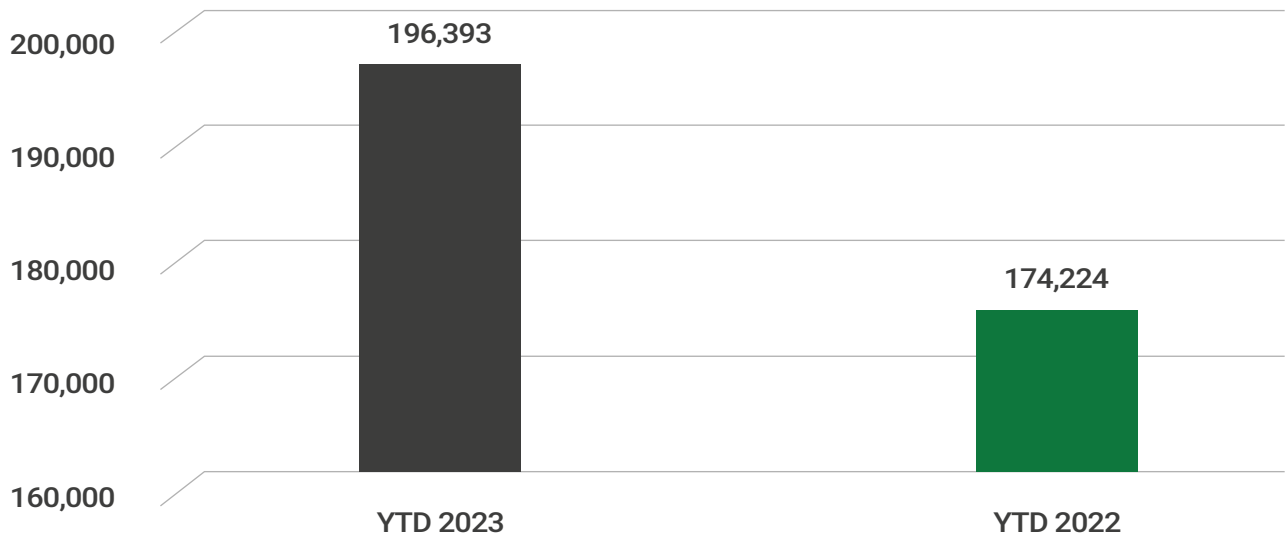
The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism product continues to rebound with strong airlift to the destination. Increased service out of the USA, Canada and Caribbean, alongside new flights can be expected for the 2024 Winter Season.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority continues to engage in airline conferences at regional and global levels to actively participate in route development discussions.

MAJOR SOURCE MARKETS



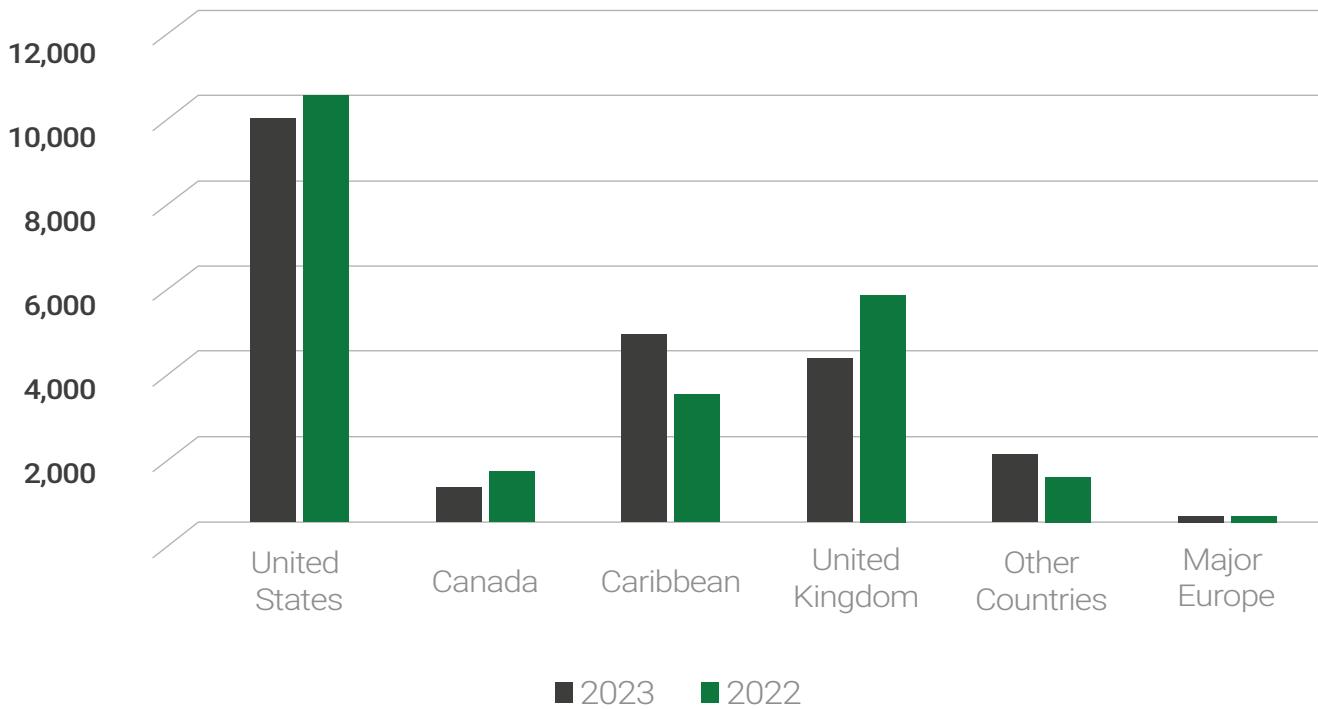
## YTD AUGUST COMPARISON FROM 2022- 2023



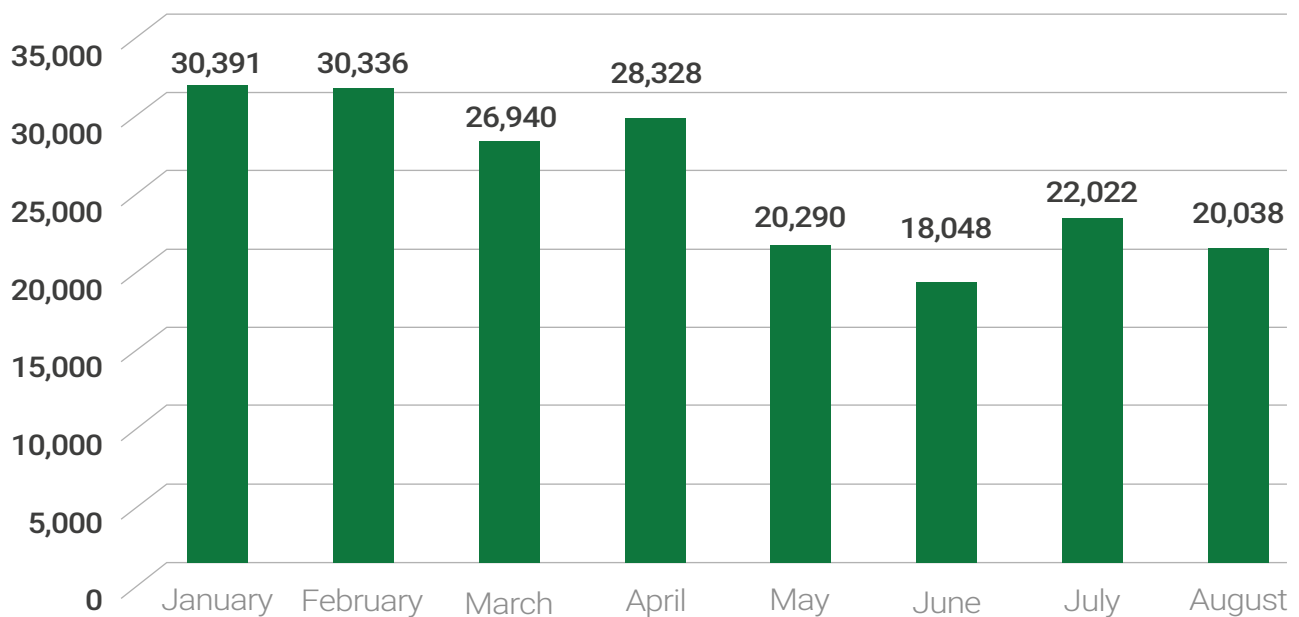
- 📍 UK Arrivals Jan - August 2023 at 46,261 **down - 15.15%** from 54,524 in 2022
- 📍 US Arrivals Jan- August 2023 at 97850 **up +13.25%** from 86,398 in 2022
- 📍 Canada Arrivals Jan- August 2023 at 19,595 **up +118.06%** from 8,986 in 2022
- 📍 Caribbean Arrivals Jan- August 2023 at 20,393 **up +41.32%** from 14,430 in 2022



## AIRLIFT BY SOURCE MARKET AUGUST 2023 VS 2022



## AIR LIFT BY MONTH 2023



- AA Daily JFK service to year end\*
- BA daily service to year end

## FROM THE USA:

### American Airlines:



American Airlines continues to dominate the airlift out of the US Market. The airline is still constrained by shortage of crew and pilots, restricting expansion of existing service or new routes at this time.

- ✈ Miami, FL/MIA: Currently daily (twice daily during Nov-April)
- ✈ New York, NY/JFK: Currently on Saturdays-only (Daily, Nov 2023-April 2024)
- ✈ Charlotte, NC/CLT: Currently on Saturdays-only

### United Airlines:



Antigua and Barbuda will benefit from new daily service with United Airlines starting 23 December 2023.

Newark, NJ/EWR: Currently on Saturdays-only (Daily in Dec 2023), then resume to SAT-only Jan/Feb 2024, then twice weekly Mar/Apr 2024

### JetBlue:



- ✈ New York, NY/JFK: Currently on Saturdays-only (3x weekly, Nov 2023-April 2024)

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA AIR MONTHLY TOTAL TRIPS

Month	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	Total # of Trips	Total # of Trips	Total # of Trips	Total # of Trips	Total # of Trips
January	235	286	190	283	301
February	215	223	146	240	287
March	246	235	174	267	315
April	211	-	158	265	273
May	163	-	184	223	324
June	163	30	174	220	306
July	161	44	238	234	401
August	164	64	231	176	
September	104	49	170	224	
October	120	62	186	225	
November	162	138	237	235	
December	219	172	306	267	
<b>End of year Total</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>2,859</b>	

## FROM THE UK:

### British Airways and Virgin Atlantic:

British Airways intends to maintain service to the destination six times per week from October 31 23 through to March 31 2024. Virgin Atlantic will operate flight three times per week, from November 2nd 2023 – May 11 2024

With a loss of airlift within the UK, ABTA is assiduously working with other Airline partners to source flights out of the UK.

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
British Airways (Oct 31 '23 – Mar 31 ' 24)	X	X	X	X		X	X
Virgin Atlantic (Nov 2 '23 – May 11 '24)			X		X		X

## FROM CANADA:

Going into the Winter Season we will have a flight from Canada every day.

### Sunwing:

- 🕒 weekly Sat departures from Nov 04th thru end of Apr 2024

### Air Canada: YUL-ANU:

- 🕒 starts on Dec 22, 2023. 1 time weekly on day 5 (DOW = day of week)5 is the Friday.



### Air Canada: YYZ-ANU:

- up to 4 times weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Lots of different lines in the schedule since we are rotating between a Rouge 319 and Rouge 321 plane.

Air Canada is still in recovery but Antigua and Barbuda is seeing an increase in demand is the only Caribbean destination with raised in capacity.

### WestJet:

- ANU - Toronto starting October 29 '23 - April 27 '24, 2 times weekly - Wednesday and Sunday. WestJet has been a steady partner for the destination.

## FROM THE CARIBBEAN:

New Services for Winter Season

### Anguilla Air Services (AAS) - starting November 3

HI - Operating two (2) daily regional flights from/to Anguilla on Tuesdays; Fridays; Saturdays.

### Silver Airways - starting November 16

3M - Operating four (4) weekly flights from/to San Juan, Puerto Rico on Mondays; Tuesdays; Fridays; Saturdays.

### InterCaribbean (JY):

- InterCaribbean continues to dominate airlift to Antigua and Barbuda. InterCaribbean increased frequency this year, with
- JY - Operates 2 x daily regional flights from/to Tortola (EIS).
- JY - Operates 2 x daily regional flights from/to Barbados (BGI).
- JY - Operates one (1) daily regional flight from Providenciales (PLS) with onward service to Barbados (BGI) on Tuesdays; and Saturdays.
- JY - Operates one (1) daily regional flight from Barbados (BGI) with onward service to Providenciales (PLS) on Mondays; and Fridays.

### Caribbean Airlines (BW)

Caribbean Airlines has increased frequency to Antigua and Barbuda from twice to six times per week and expanded its route with POS-ANU, ANU-ST KITTS and ANU-DOMINICA

### Caribbean Airlines (BW): 6 days x per week

- BW - Operates two (2) weekly regional flights to/from Kingston (KIN), including a Shuttle Service from/to Barbados (BGI) on Thursdays, including a Shuttle Service from/to Trinidad (POS) on Sundays.
- BW - Operates three (3) additional weekly regional flights from/to Trinidad (POS) with onward service to/from St. Kitts (SKB) on Mondays; Tuesday; and Fridays.
- BW - Operates two (2) additional weekly regional flights from/to Trinidad (POS) via Dominica (DOM) on Wednesdays; and Sundays.

### LIAT (LI):

LI - Operates weekly regional flights, on Mondays; Thursdays; Fridays; Saturdays; and Sundays.

### Sky High Aviation Services (DO):

DO - Operates three (3) weekly flights from/to Santo Domingo (SDQ) on Tuesdays; Thursdays; and Saturdays.

### WinAir (WM):

WM - Operates two (2) daily regional flights from/to St. Maarten (SXM) on Mondays; Wednesdays; Fridays; and Saturdays.

### British Airways:

BA - Operates five (5) weekly flights, from/to London Gatwick (LGW). Including a turnaround service on Mondays. Including Shuttle Services to/from St. Kitts (SKB) on Wednesdays and Saturdays and new route launched in March 2023 Aruba (AUA) on Thursdays and Sundays to Antigua.



## ANTIGUA YACHTING AND EVENTS CALENDAR.

### 2023

- 1 NOV**  
Salty Dawg Rally
- 4 NOV**  
Best in the West  
Fishing Tournament
- 16 - 17 NOV**  
ABYMA Industry Showcase
- 17 - 19 NOV**  
Jolly Harbour Yacht  
Club Annual Regatta
- 3 - 8 DEC**  
Antigua Charter Yacht Show
- 12 DEC**  
World's Toughest Row
- 16 - 17 DEC**  
Jolyon Byerly Series (Hightide Series)
- 25 DEC**  
Nelson's Dockyard Christmas  
Day Champagne Party
- 26 DEC**  
Boxing Day Barrel
- 31 DEC**  
Nelson's Pursuit Race  
Nelson's Dockyard Old  
Year's Night Party

### 2024

- 14 JAN**  
Oyster World Rally
- 20 JAN**  
Antigua Yacht Club  
Round The Island Race
- 9 - 11 FEB**  
Jolly Harbour  
Valentines's Regatta
- 13 - 16 FEB**  
RORC Inshore Races & Antigua 360
- 19 - 23 FEB**  
RORC Caribbean 600
- 13 - 17 MAR**  
Superyacht Challenge Antigua
- 23 - 24 MAR**  
Antigua Yacht Club Annual Laser Open
- 17 - 22 APR**  
Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta
- 27 APR**  
Peters & May Round Antigua Race
- 28 APR - 3 MAY**  
Antigua Sailing Week
- 4 MAY**  
Dockyard Day
- 16 - 19 MAY**  
Antigua & Barbuda Sport  
Fishing Tournament
- 17 MAY**  
Mikie Pigott Jr.  
Memorial Classic
- 27 - 28 SEP**  
Francis Nunes Jr.  
Fishing Tournament

### EVERY WEEK YEAR ROUND

- Seafood Friday,**  
Nelson's Dockyard
  - Saturday Sailing**  
Jolly Harbour Yacht Club  
Antigua Yacht Club
  - Sunday Sunset Party**  
Shirley Heights Lookout
- For more information  
visit [www. Abyma.ag](http://www.Abyma.ag)



# CRUISE PROJECTIONS:

- Antigua Cruise Port will recommence homeporting operations with the largest vessel to visit the country, Arvia, on November 18th. The vessel which is a part of P & O Cruises, will make a total of nine (9) calls for the season.
- Luxury mega yacht Emerald Sakara will begin homeporting on November 18th when it makes its inaugural visit. The vessel is expected to be stationed at the Nevis Street Pier while Arvia will be homeporting at the Fifth Berth on that date. ACP will conduct simultaneous homeporting operations with both vessels in the upcoming season.
- SeaDream II will begin homeporting January 14th and make three homeporting calls for the season.
- Star Clipper and Royal Clipper will also do turnarounds.
- Please note that the inaugural call of an Oasis Class ship from Royal Caribbean, is tentatively scheduled for January 2, 2024.

## CRUISE CALL TO ANTIGUA FROM 2019 TO 2024

	2019	PAX	2020	PAX	2021	PAX	2022	PAX	2023	PAX	2024	PAX
Jan	83	157,392	61	108,611	0	0	64	50,794	68	115,964	75	181,782
Feb	69	119,720	58	101,342	0	0	59	44,710	61	107,254	71	153,749
Mar	68	108,913	28	49,473	0	0	74	60,816	57	109,432	68	140,755
Apr	25	46,696	0	0	3	0	24	30,815	24	56,930	32	83,727
May	5	15,343	0	0	1	0	3	3,881	9	19,347	9	25,536
Jun	5	13,509	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	4,382	6	18,069
Jul	4	10,628	0	0	7	1,006	1	3,145	5	11,787	4	11,335
Aug	2	9,617	0	0	8	1,906	0	0	3	7,350	4	9,785
Sept.	3	11,148	0	0	3	1,628	2	4,913	0	0	1	2,435
Oct	13	31,039	0	0	4	720	4	7,610	6	15,518	8	25,244
Nov	51	89,686	0	0	22	23,367	40	64,272	51	97,257	29	64,846
Dec	71	119,835	0	0	74	52,768	74	109,216	82	158,922	51	105,812
TOTAL	399	733,526	147	259,426	124	81,395	345	380,172	368	704,143	358	823,075

Source: Antigua Cruise Port

**Express des Isles (Guadeloupe Ferry) –** The Express des Isles ferry returns to Antigua for the last of their 2023 visits on December 9. The day charter service to Antigua and Barbuda going into 2024 increases with ferry service at least once monthly from March – August, with three times in May, and once again in December. ( March 23, April 27, May 4, May 25, May 27, June 1, July 6, August 7 and December 7)

# EMPLOYMENT & HOSPITALITY

In 2021, the World Travel & Tourism Council/WTTC stated that the sector has a tremendous social impact on local communities and the lives and livelihoods of people touched by Travel & Tourism. Through the revenues and jobs that it provides, Travel & Tourism helps reduce poverty and improve health, housing, education, and overall well-being. It supports diversity and inclusion, employing and offering opportunities to people from all walks of life, including minorities, youth, and women. Travel & Tourism has a unique ability to further protect and engage vulnerable groups and communities, while fostering innovation and preserving local heritage and culture.

Recent research conducted among current and prospective employees in the sector has indicated a prevailing belief that earning a competitive and progressive wage or salary within the industry is relatively limited. In response to these findings, the ABHTA initiated a comprehensive study to compare salary and benefits packages across different industries. The data presented below is substantiated by the findings of a local four-star resort and information provided by the office of the Labour Commissioner.

Below is a comparison between similar roles across four varying industries in Antigua & Barbuda.



INDUSTRY	POSITION	WEEKLY WAGE	NOTES	ADDITIONAL BENEFITS
Tourism	Food & Beverage Server	\$807 - \$1,409	The wages offered are derived from data collected from properties rated three, four and five stars. It's important to keep in mind that the weekly wage can fluctuate depending on the property's seasonal rates. The wages analyzed also encompass both a foundational rate and a service charge component.	Meal/ Meal Allowance, Thrift fund, Group Health & Life Insurance, Transportation/ Traveling Fee, Uniforms, Paid Annual Leave, Maternity and Paternity Benefits season.
Education	Teacher (Private School)	\$844.85		Pension, Professional Advancement Leave, Training/ Workshop
Utilities and Manufacturers	Clerk	\$715.15		Meal Allowance
Wholesale & Retail	Administrative Assistant	\$799.85		(License Renewal- Company Drivers ONLY), Meal Allowance, Medical Insurance,

Source: ABHTA four-star hotel member. The Antigua and Barbuda office of the Labour Commissioner.

# UNVEILING HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONALS

Her occasional visits to Jolly Beach further sparked her interest in the industry. The way Michelle felt being greeted by reception on arrival, the chef carefully crafting omelets at a live station and the intuitive warm nature of the pool staff was enough to keep her hooked. The atmosphere was full of joy and energy. It was with these visits that Michelle knew she wanted to be a part of the Hospitality industry.

After years of study and employment in various roles Michelle now holds the position of Deputy General Manager, her most senior position to date. She is responsible for 6 departments: Reception, Housekeeping, Reservations, Beach and Gardens, Maintenance and House Rentals.

Michelle prides herself in being a living example of what one can achieve with hard work and perseverance. You can follow Michelle's journey @antiguahotels and @antiguahoteljobs on all digital platforms.



**Michelle Seaforth**

Deputy General Manager,  
Mill Reef Club

Over the next 12 weeks, we will embark on a journey to celebrate the inspiring stories of individuals engaged in various sectors such as hotel operations, taxi services, yachting, tours, and vendor businesses. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on these remarkable success stories within the hospitality industry here in Antigua and Barbuda.



**Franklyn Brathwaite**

A & F Sails  
President ABYMA  
Commodore,  
Antigua Yacht Club



**Maria Blackman**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Tourism Authority



**Andre Friday**

Dre's Bus &  
Luxury Car Service



**Joyan Davis-Baptiste**

Tropical Adventures



**Julene Harrigan-Thomas**

Vendors Mall



**Shannoy Roberts,**

Carlisle Bay



**Sherrian Phillip,**

Jumby Bay Island



**Andre Norton,**

Antigua Cruise Port



**Samoya Kirby**

Ministry of Tourism,  
Civil Aviation,  
Transportation and Investment



**Natasha James**

Charmed Tours



**Patrice Skerritt**

British Airways PLC



**Anreka Geness**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Tourism Authority



# EDUCATION & HOSPITALITY

## ABHTI'S VISION AND PROGRAMMES OFFERED

The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) has set its sights on becoming the premier institution for hospitality and tourism within the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the wider Caribbean. This vision is driven by a commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration with industry partners.

The institute offers a diverse range of programmes, designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in the dynamic and competitive world of hospitality and tourism. These include, (4) four Associate Degree programmes and (2) two certificate programmes. Culinary Arts, Food and Beverage Management, Hospitality Management, Tourism Management, Front Office and Restaurant Operations and Basic Cookery.



**Shirlene Nibbs Chairperson**

**ABHTI Board of Directors**

ABHTI's pursuit of excellence is evident in the remarkable strides it has taken in recent years. One notable achievement is the continuous improvement of the programmes offered. The institute is committed to staying up-to-date with industry trends, ensuring that students receive the most relevant and practical education.

Moreover, ABHTI's reach has expanded beyond the shores of Antigua and Barbuda. The institute has embraced a regional perspective by welcoming students from across the Caribbean, particularly from Dominica, St. Vincent, Jamaica, and Guyana. This regional approach fosters cultural diversity and collaboration among students, preparing them for a global industry where cross-cultural communication is paramount.

As ABHTI continues its journey towards becoming the premier hospitality and tourism training institute in the OECS and wider Caribbean, our commitment to excellence remains unwavering. By nurturing the talents of the next generation of professionals, we are poised to play a pivotal role in elevating the region's standing on the global hospitality and tourism stage.

# TOURISM CADET PROGRAMME

## Programme Description

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Cadet Corps is a non-profit youth organisation supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, aimed at exposing senior secondary school students to appropriate and effective tourism education, training and awareness programmes. It is considered an integral programme to ensure that Antigua and Barbuda possesses a cadre of creative, capable and qualified nationals who can contribute to a sustained and competitive tourist industry.

## Primary Objectives

- ❖ To develop a cadre of young people knowledgeable of the tourist industry, its opportunities and challenges.
- ❖ To provide on-the-job training and temporary employment opportunities to members, in order that they can learn the skills and knowledge required by the industry.
- ❖ To assist personal development of members through the provision of skills training in such areas as leadership, public speaking, interpersonal and social skills, and model behaviour.



# THE SCHOOL'S TOURISM AWARENESS PROGRAM

The School's Tourism Awareness Program started in 1999. There was a break for a few years, and it resumed in January 2020. The main reason for the visits to the primary schools is to sensitize the students of their role in the tourism industry. As young minds, primary level students should be taught to nurture our tourism product and also to choose a career in the industry to ensure its growth and development. All private and government primary schools are involved in the program (over 60 schools)



## GOALS OF THE PROGRAM:

- Enhance the awareness of tourism through formal and informal education.
- Ensure that each student is totally aware that tourism is our main industry and even as students we all must nurture and grow the product.
- Ensure that students have a zero tolerance for littering - we must always keep our country clean.
- Strive to ensure that our visitors have a positive visitor experience.
- Ensure the students have civic pride in their environment to include Barbuda (school, church, community).
- Encourage students to be knowledgeable about our twin island state. First for their own edification and also to be able to assist visitors when necessary.
- Encourage students to choose a career in tourism in order to contribute to and grow the industry.
- Students should exhibit national pride in themselves first and ultimately for their country.
- Teach students that they should always obey the rules and laws of the state of Antigua and Barbuda.
- Encourage each student to experience a product firsthand. Visit the beaches, historical sights, restaurants and hotels as often as they can with family members.

The program continues to be a success and school visits will commence in the current school term.

## Target Group

Secondary school students, both males and females, between the ages of 15 - 18 who are interested in exploring the opportunities tourism provides as a viable career option.

## Sessions

Regular bi-weekly, Friday afternoon sessions will take place at the Multi-purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre from 2:30p.m. to 4:30p.m.

## Programme Activities

- Discussions on international, regional and local tourism news
- Informative Films or videos
- Competitions
- Debates on Tourism Topics
- Specialty Speakers
- Quizzes
- Tourism Work Experience/Internship Programme
- Destination Tours (Getting to know Antigua and Barbuda: sites, attractions, tourism infrastructure, history, etc.)

# Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Cook-off Competition

The Ministry of Tourism and Investment in Partnership with Antigua & Barbuda Hotel and Tourism Association will be hosting the first annual national young chef competition – Taste of Wadadli Jr. Chef Cook Off. During this culinary event, aspiring young chefs of varying secondary and vocational schools will be competing in their quest for gastronomic excellence.



The aim of this competition is to promote the culinary talents of our youth in Antigua and Barbuda, with the hope of inspiring a new generation of chefs and students. This exciting culinary competition promises to be a fantastic opportunity for your school to showcase its culinary talent and creativity.

## Event Details:

**Date:** December 4th, 2023

**Venue:** Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI)

The Taste of Wadadli Jr Chef Cook Off is not only a fun and engaging competition but also offers substantial rewards. The winning school will receive a grand prize to upgrade their Home Economics facility, giving your students the chance to enhance their culinary skills in a state-of-the-art environment. Additionally, the victorious chef from your school will have the honor of joining the prestigious Antigua & Barbuda Chef Team for the Taste of the Caribbean competition in 2024.

This event is an excellent opportunity for your students to gain valuable experience, showcase their culinary talents, and potentially launch a career in the culinary arts. It also promotes teamwork, creativity, and a passion for the hospitality industry.

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DESTINATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS (2024)

AS OF 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Antigua Hash House Harriers:

Every other Saturday  
[www.facebook.com/HashHouseHarriers](http://www.facebook.com/HashHouseHarriers)

### Antigua Yacht Club

#### 'Mini Dinghy Regattas':

every second Sunday  
[www.antiguayachtclub.com](http://www.antiguayachtclub.com)

### Jolly Harbour Yacht Club 'Saturday Sailing':

weekly on Saturdays  
[www.facebook.com/Jolly-Harbour-Yacht-Club](http://www.facebook.com/Jolly-Harbour-Yacht-Club)

### Copper and Lumber Seafood Fridays:

Every Friday, Nelson's Dockyard  
[www.facebook.com/clseafodfriday](http://www.facebook.com/clseafodfriday)

### Shirley Heights Lookout 'Made with Pride in Antigua':

Every Thursday from December – April  
[www.shirleyheightslookout.com](http://www.shirleyheightslookout.com)

### Shirley Heights Lookout Sunday Sunset BBQ Party:

Every Sunday  
[www.shirleyheightslookout.com](http://www.shirleyheightslookout.com)

### Rum in the Ruins: History, Archaeology and Conservation Talk

Every Friday, Dow's Hill Interpretation Centre  
[www.nationalparksantigua.com/tours](http://www.nationalparksantigua.com/tours)

## JANUARY

**Antigua and Barbuda Wellness Month**  
[visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://visitantiguabarbuda.com)

**Oyster World Rally**  
14th January 2024

**Antigua Yacht Club Round the Race Island Tour:**  
20th January 2024  
[www.antiguayachtclub.com](http://www.antiguayachtclub.com)

**Talisker Whisky Atlantic Rowing Challenge:**  
(Rowers begin arriving in January)  
[www.taliskerwhiskeyatlanticchallenge.com](http://www.taliskerwhiskeyatlanticchallenge.com)

## FEBRUARY

**Jolly Harbour Valentine's Regatta:**  
9th – 11th February 2024  
[www.jhycantigua.com](http://www.jhycantigua.com)

**Antigua 360° Race:**  
16th February 2024  
[www.antigua360race.com](http://www.antigua360race.com)

**Royal Oceanic Race Club (RORC) Caribbean 600 Race:**  
19th – 23rd February 2024  
[www.caribbean600.rorc.org](http://www.caribbean600.rorc.org)

## MARCH

### Music in the Ruins

5th March, 2024

Presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Kanneh Mason Family

### Music to Inspire, A Concert for Students

6th March, 2024

(venue TBC)

Presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Kanneh Mason Family

### Playing to Inspire 6

9th March, 2024

Presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Kanneh Mason Family  
SJPC House of Restoration

### 13th Superyacht Challenge:

13th – 17th March 2024

[superyachtchallengeantigua.com](http://superyachtchallengeantigua.com)

### SOOTHE: A Night of Neo-Soul, Jazz Rhythms, and Spoken Words:

16th March 2024

[www.facebook.com/soothelounge](http://www.facebook.com/soothelounge)

### Antigua Yacht Club Annual Laser Open

23rd – 24th March 2024

## APRIL

### Antigua and Barbuda International Kite Festival:

1st, April 2024

[www.facebook.com/CPKites](http://www.facebook.com/CPKites)

### GARD Center Farm to Table Fund-raising Luncheon:

20th April 2024

[www.gardc.org](http://www.gardc.org)

### Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta:

17th– 22nd April 2024

[antiguaclassics.com](http://antiguaclassics.com)

### Antigua Sailing Week:

27th April – 3rd May 2024

[www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com)

## MAY

### Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week:

4th May – 19th May 2024

[www.antiguabarbudarestaurantweek.com](http://www.antiguabarbudarestaurantweek.com)

### Dockyard Day:

4th May 2024

[www.sailingweek.com](http://www.sailingweek.com)

### Antigua to Bermuda Race:

8th May 2024

[www.antiguabermuda.com](http://www.antiguabermuda.com)

### The 56th Annual Antigua & Barbuda Sports Fishing Tournament:

16th – 19th May 2024

[www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com](http://www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com)

### Mikie Pigott Jr. Memorial Classic

17th May 2024

### Run in Paradise:

26th May 2024

[www.runinparadise.com](http://www.runinparadise.com)

### **Barbuda's Caribana:**

20th- 24th May 2024

[www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com)

## **JUNE**

### **Antigua and Barbuda Romance Month:**

[visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://visitantiguabarbuda.com)

## **JULY**

### **Antigua Carnival Season**

#### **Antigua Carnival:**

25th July – 5th August 2024

## **AUGUST**

#### **Carnival Monday:**

5th August 2024

[www.antiguacarnival.com](http://www.antiguacarnival.com)

#### **Carnival Tuesday:**

6th August 2024

[www.antiguacarnival.com](http://www.antiguacarnival.com)

#### **Urlings Seafood Festival:**

11th August 2024

PiAngo Fest:

[www.facebook.com/Piangofest](http://www.facebook.com/Piangofest)

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Francis Nunes Jr. Memorial Fishing Tournament & Seafood Festival:**

27th- 28th September 2024

## **OCTOBER**

### **Antigua and Barbuda's 43rd Anniversary of Independence Celebrations begin**

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Antigua and Barbuda's Independence Day:**

1st November 2024

#### **Independence Food Fair:**

1st November 2024

#### **The Best in the West Fishing Tournament:**

2nd November 2024

[www.facebook.com/BestInTheWestSportFishingTournament](http://www.facebook.com/BestInTheWestSportFishingTournament)

#### **ABHC Holistic Health and Wellness Expo:**

9th November 2024

[www.abholisticcoalition.org](http://www.abholisticcoalition.org)

#### **Jolly Harbour Yacht Club Annual Regatta:**

23rd – 25th November 2024

[www.jhycantigua.com](http://www.jhycantigua.com)

#### **Antigua and Barbuda Art Week:**

27th November – 3rd December 2024

[visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://visitantiguabarbuda.com)

#### **Gemonites Moods of Pan Festival:**

29th November – 1st December 2024

[www.facebook.com/gemonitesmoods](http://www.facebook.com/gemonitesmoods)



## DECEMBER

Antigua Charter Yacht Show:  
4th- 9th December 2024  
[www.antiguayachtshow.com](http://www.antiguayachtshow.com)

**Ana's Restaurant and Art Gallery  
Christmas Souk:**  
[www.anas.ag](http://www.anas.ag)

**Nelson's Dockyard Christmas Day  
Party:**  
25th December 2024  
[www.nationalparksantigua.com](http://www.nationalparksantigua.com)

**Nelson's Dockyard Old Year's Night  
Party:**  
31st December 2024  
[www.nationalparksantigua.com](http://www.nationalparksantigua.com)

## SEASONAL EVENTS

- 🕒 Tourism Week: December 3 – 9, 2023
- 🕒 Cricket Season: January – July
- 🕒 Netball Season: January – July
- 🕒 Volleyball Season: January – December
- 🕒 Horseracing Season: January – December
- 🕒 Basketball Season: February – July
- 🕒 Cycling Season – February – November
- 🕒 Turtle Watching Season – July – October
- 🕒 Football Season: August – February
- 🕒 New Exhibitions at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda: throughout the year

