



Stay on top of the day's big story
Get Breaking News Delivered right to your inbox

Web MSNBC

Search

Alerts Newsletters RSS Help

MSN Home Hotmail Sign In



MSNBC Home » Travel » Caribbean Travel

Sponsored by



CARIBBEAN TRAVEL

Beach lover's guide to Anguilla

The best beach destination in the Caribbean

Travel

- Hawaii Travel
- Caribbean Travel
- New Zealand Travel
- Active Travel
- Family Travel
- Road Trips
- Spa Getaways
- Luxury Travel
- U.S. & Canada
- Europe Travel
- Business Travel
- Cruising Vacations
- Budget Travel

U.S. News

World News

Business

Sports

Entertainment

Tech / Science

Health

Weather

Travel

Blogs Etc.

Local News

Newsweek

Multimedia

News Video

Most Popular

NBC NEWS

MSNBC TV



Bob Friel / Caribbean Travel & Life

By **Bob Friel**
CARIBBEAN
TRAVEL & LIFE

Updated: 2:35 p.m. ET July 25, 2005

Anguilla is the quintessential beach destination for CT&L readers—as well as its editors. We're not big fans of blaring boomboxes, buzzing waterbikes and naked volleyball. We want a soft beach to walk and lie on, clear water to swim and snorkel in and an authentic beach bar with icy rum drinks and fish sandwiches for lunch, grilled lobster for dinner. And when we're done for the day, we want to walk a few steps to a comfortable resort.

CARIBBEAN TRAVEL & LIFE [Subscribe now](#)

- Enter to win a Caribbean Vacation
- Caribbean Travel Specials
- Sign up for our free newsletter
- Try a free issue of Caribbean Travel & Life



RELATED STORIES | [What's this?](#)

- 40 Best bargain vacations
- Beach volleyball players drop boycott threat
- Beaching 101
- Beach bound? Try these tips for a safer trip




- Today Show**
- Nightly News**
- Meet the Press**
- Dateline NBC**
- MSNBC Classifieds**
- Shopping**
- Jobs**
- Personals**
with PerfectMatch.com
- Autos**
- Real Estate**
- Travel Booking**
with Expedia

Anguilla more than fits the bill. The water, filled with Crayola-colored tropical fish, is often so transparent it's like floating in air. The resorts range from clean, simple and on the sand to some of the world's best. As for the restaurants, you'd have to be a shark to get fresher seafood. And the beaches? Merely the finest collection you'll find on any single island in the Caribbean.

• Paris hopes flair, exper

Destination:
Eleuthera Island,
Bahamas



Save on flights, hotels and packages

Book now and save!

BEACH BY BEACH

Shoal Bay East

Anguilla's most famous beach, Shoal Bay East, has it all: a wide swath of creamy soft sand over a mile long; the island's most extensive buffet of beach bars and restaurants; a comfortable collection of small beach resorts; and an offshore reef that attracts colorful tropicals along with snorkelers, divers and glass-bottom boaters. It's also the only beach that, during high season, draws enough barefoot traffic to keep it interesting for devoted people-watchers.

The main road into Shoal Bay East dead-ends at Uncle Ernie's beach bar and barbecue, epicenter of all the action. In the shade between beach shacks, local entrepreneurs play dominos when they're not helping visitors arrange lounge chairs, umbrellas, snorkel trips, etc. Pick one place to plant your towel and then spend the day walking a few steps into the blue water and then a few the other way for fresh drinks. Or you can see it like a sea turtle, crawling from one beach bar to the next, maybe stopping to hook up with a water-sports operator for an offshore snorkeling excursion.

RESOURCE GUIDE

- Personals with PerfectMatch.com
- Buy Life Insurance
- expedia.com
- Shopping

SLIDE SHOW



Cool Caribbean
View photos of this easy, breezy, tropical paradise.

Day-trippers from St. Martin descend on the beach most afternoons, but anytime you're feeling cramped, simply walk east or west to find plenty of sandy space. Sundays are the biggest beach days, when most of the bars serve up live music.

Where to Stay: Madeariman Beach Club (264-498-3833; <http://www.madeariman.com/>) tucks four suites and one studio into a garden just steps from the beach. Only palms stand between the beach and Shoal Bay Villas' (264-497-2051;

<http://www.sbvillas.ai/>) studios, apartments and suite.

Where to Play: Uncle Ernie's (264-497-3907) classic spot serves up

everything from burgers to lobster; Elodias Beach Bar & Grill (264-497-3363) is great for West Indian beach barbecue.

Hot Stuff: Just to confuse first-timers, there are three Shoal Bays: East, Upper and West. All have excellent beaches. East is the widest and most popular, Upper offers similar attractions on a smaller scale, and West is simply beach, water and private resorts.

Upper Shoal Bay

Walk east along Shoal Bay East, go around the point where the beach elbows sharply south, and you'll come upon another mile of superb beach, Upper Shoal Bay. It's better to drive, though, because chances are you'll like this spot so much you'll want to stay (from Bay View Road, simply follow the signs for Gwen's Reggae Grill).



Bob Friel / Caribbean Travel & Life

It's at Upper Shoal Bay that you'll walk on the whitest sand on the island—and arguably the entire Caribbean. The dazzling, snow-white scene is the result of a high concentration of oatmeal-like calcareous algae flakes, halimeda, produced by the

extensive offshore reef and swept ashore here by currents.

The beach runs from the villa-dotted hills at the southern end, past Gwen's, then along a stretch of nothing but sand. Fine snorkeling is just a fin kick off the beach.

Where to Stay: Serenity Cottage (264-497-3328; <http://www.serenity.ai/>) has four cottages split into one- and two-bedroom studios; as well as a restaurant and tiki bar.

Where to Play: Gwen's Reggae Grill (264-497-2120; <http://www.gwensreggaegrill.com/>) is the coolest spot on the beach, with a full bar and barbecue; it's open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., showcasing live reggae on Sundays. Shoal Bay Scuba & Watersports (264-497-4371; <http://www.shoalbayscuba.ai/>) offers scuba, snorkeling and sailing trips.

Hot Stuff: Though Uncle Ernie's gets all the attention, Gwen's is the best choice when you want to spend the entire day at one place. Great

drinks (try her piña colada), superior food, easy snorkeling a few feet off the beach and, best of all, a palm grove—practically the only naturally shady spot on the entire island—complete with a fleet of hammocks.

Far Northeast

There are two notable beaches at the far end of the 16-mile long island: Captain's Bay on the Atlantic side, and Windward Point Bay just around the corner on the Caribbean coast. Both are prone to rough water and strong currents and have no facilities, but they're spectacular walking beaches if you're willing to make the trek. From Windward, you can hike on the ironshore at the very tip of the island, with views of offshore Scrub Island and its leeward-side beach, as well as St. Martin and St. Barts beyond.

Hot Stuff: If you plan on spending a lot of time exploring these and other remote beaches, rent a four-wheel drive.

Story continues below ↓

advertisement



RELATED LINKS FROM CARIBBEAN TRAVEL & LIFE

- [Places to Stay on Anguilla](#)
- [Anguilla: Low Key Luxury In The Leewards](#)
- [Uncle Ernie's Shoal Bay Beach Bar, Anguilla](#)

CONTINUED

1 | [2](#) | [3](#) | [Next >](#)

Rate this story **Low** ★★★★★ **High**

Current rating: **3** by **16** users • [View Top Rated stories](#)



Print this



Email this



Blog this

MORE FROM CARIBBEAN TRAVEL

Next →

Beaching 101: Sifting the sand

- Cool Caribbean
- Beach lover's guide to Anguilla
- Beaching 101: Sifting the sand
- 5 secret Caribbean bargains
- Flagships of the Caribbean
- 8 dream beaches of the Caribbean
- The best lodges of the Caribbean
- Cruising the Southern Caribbean
- Beach-lover's guide to St. Martin
- Anguilla: The height of island luxury
- Caribbean Travel Section Front

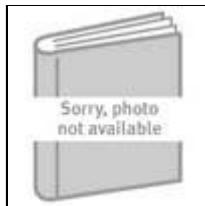
TOP MSNBC STORIES

- Shuttle begins pre-launch fueling
- WP: U.S. reliance on foreign oil growing
- N. Korea nuclear talks resume
- Electrical accident kills 4 Scout leaders
- Report: Iraq police need better screening

advertisement

MSNBC TV HIGHLIGHTS

- MSNBC-TV Question of the day
- Blog: Shuttle Discovery countdown
- Readers share space stories
- Blogging costs fashion editor her job
- Looking at new face of terrorism



Insight Guide Caribbean: Insight Guide Caribbean Scott, Caroline Radila

Amazon.com **\$16.47**
Overstock.com **\$24.95**

SPONSORED LINKS

[Get listed here](#)

Mortgage Rates Fall Again

Get a \$160,000 loan for only \$785/mo. Choose from up to 4 lenders and save \$1000s. No credit check. Bad credit ok.
www.lowermybills.com

New Car Price Quotes - Free

Save thousands on your new car with a free no-hassle price quote. See dealer invoice prices, rebates, incentives, reviews, and buying tips. It's fast, easy, and there's no obligation to buy.
www.automotive.com

Earn That College Degree in Just Months

Get your college courses from an accredited and well known university. Advance your

career with a powerful college education and reach your goals.
www.itt-tech.edu

Affordable Life Insurance

Quickly compare term life insurance rates and save up to 70%. Rated "Best of the Web" by Forbes. Apply online.
www.reliaquote.com

Mortgage Rates as Low as 2.9%

Up to four free quotes. Compare rates and choose the best offer! Refinance and save. No obligation. Bad credit OK!.
www.homeloantrust.com

Cover | U.S. News | World News | Business | Sports | Tech/Science | Entertainment | Travel | Health | Blogs Etc. | Weather | Local News
Newsweek | Today Show | Nightly News | Dateline NBC | Meet the Press | MSNBC TV

About MSNBC.com | Newsletters | RSS | Podcasts | Search | Help | News Tools | Jobs at MSNBC.com | Contact Us | Terms & Conditions | Privacy

© 2005 MSNBC.com