

Escape to Anguilla

Swaying palms on peaceful beaches set the tone on serene Anguilla, where luxury is woven into hotel and villa vacations.

Talk about a tropical retreat. Only 35 square miles, with pristine powdery beaches and transparent blue waters, Anguilla is a true escape from the everyday world. Endless vistas are the draw, rivaled only by architectural wonders, fine dining and exceptionally friendly people. You'll find splendid outlets for boating, gallery hopping, spa treatments and diving, but all in all, it's the island's serenity – together with the finest amenities – that make Anguilla such a dreamy destination.

You'll find fresh flowers in your villa upon arrival at the **Carimar Beach Club**, and that's just the beginning of the pampering you'll receive. This villa-style resort has only 24 units, and the caring staff is careful to make every visitor feel welcome.

Each villa is either beachfront or beach view and is situated on gorgeous Meads Bay. When you're not strolling the mile-and-a-half stretch of pearl-white sand out your door or cooling off in the gentle turquoise water, you might be unwinding in your restful home away from home. Within a spacious 1,100 square feet, you'll find one or two fully furnished bedrooms and a comfortable living room with dining area. A newly remodeled kitchen comes fully stocked with all major appliances, as well as a blender, toaster, coffee maker, pots, dishes and utensils. You can whip up meals and snacks whenever the mood strikes. When you dine at Carimar, you'll be tempted to eat outdoors, as your private patio will have a dining table and chairs,

in addition to loungers. Of course, a wide range of restaurants, from barefoot-friendly to exquisite, can be found nearby.

Although residential in style, Carimar Beach Club provides hotel-like services. The housekeeping staff visits each unit daily. Beach towels, umbrellas and lounge chairs are always available. High-speed wireless Internet access is complimentary. Outdoor grills and tennis courts are on the premises.

If you'd like to rent a car or even plan a wedding, just ask. The staff is eager to help in any way possible. Perhaps that's why guests continue to return to Carimar year after year. 866-270-3764; carimar.com

Your luxurious stay at the intimate **Frangipani Beach Resort** starts with a rum punch, a chilled towel and a warm smile.

Located on the soft white sands of Meads Bay Beach, the Frangipani is an exquisite getaway. Spanish-Mediterranean in style, the 19-room resort is friendly and filled with extras. Each of the rooms and suites has a unique design, yet all are distinguished by cool limestone flooring and mahogany furnishings. In the bathrooms, glass mosaic tile and cave showers create a special feel. Cuddle up in the provided bathrobes and enjoy luxurious bedding complete with down comforters and pillows. Each room is equipped with central air conditioning, ceiling fans, flat-screen TVs and free wireless

Internet service. Nightly turndown service has you ending your day in ultimate relaxation.

Beyond the accommodations, guests are treated to continental breakfast daily at the award-winning Straw Hat Restaurant, which serves three meals a day. You can swim in the oceanfront infinity pool or in the larger freshwater pool, which is ideal for laps. Wherever you choose to lounge outdoors, oversized towels and bottled water are free for the asking. Beach palapas provide shade on the sand.

When you're feeling active, walk on the pristine white beach or take a yoga class provided on the deck twice weekly. Every day, snorkeling, tubing, wakeboarding, water skiing, sailing and kayaking are complimentary. Snorkeling trips and sunset cruises can be arranged on the resort's 34-foot boat. And who can resist a massage or facial in a private waterfront cabana? Landlubbers enjoy the resort's tennis court and are free to borrow flying discs and volleyballs.

The Frangipani Beach Resort has the intimacy and friendly service of a boutique resort yet activities and amenities that

surpass larger island properties. 877-593-8988; frangipaniresort.com

For a secluded romantic getaway or a relaxing family vacation, the **Bird of Paradise** villa is an incredible option. Set on a bluff above a crescent-shaped beach with calm swimming waters, this escape is a stunning four-building compound. Four suites, an office (that can be used as a fifth bedroom), three swimming pools and several alfresco dining areas make this a spacious retreat.

Bird of Paradise can also be surprisingly affordable. Guests can rent the villa only or can add on extras, including a chef, a butler, a nanny, spa treatments, a wedding, yacht excursions, grocery stocking, car rental and even wine selections recommended by a sommelier. Many find the optional all-inclusive plan the best value; expect a chef, a server, two meals a day, a stocked bar, a rental car and gratuities to be covered.

Renowned architects Wilson Associates designed Bird of Paradise, and its Asian-tropical style offers understated elegance. Stained-wood, peaked interior ceilings and


chiseled rock walls are the backdrop to the owners' enviable collection of Oceanic art. Frette linens and Bvlgari sundries are among the amenities.

Indoor-outdoor living predominates. In fact, the interior living room has foldout walls that open to a veranda, and one of the many outdoor living areas has a fireplace. Put aside time to nap or receive a massage on the large Indonesian *bale*, or daybed, hidden in a grove of palm trees with sea views. Every suite has a private entrance and veranda, as well as equal views of the sea and the islands of St. Barts and St. Martin. 414-791-9461; birdofparadisevilla.com

A stunning vacation home overlooking one of the world's most beautiful beaches: That's **Villa Azure**, a masterpiece on the shore of Shoal Bay and in the heart of the Anguilla's largest marine park.

Villa Azure is a 9,000-square-foot Mediterranean-style villa in an ideal location. With five air-conditioned bedrooms (you can rent as many as you need) on four levels, plus six decks and terraces and four dining

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Anguilla, BWI




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Carimar Beach Club, nestled on Meads Bay Beach on the island of Anguilla, featuring snow-white sands, and azure-blue waters, invites you to experience a beach like no other.

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areas – not to mention three romantic open-air showers – Villa Azure is a heavenly escape. The sought-after location and truly amazing architecture, amenities and value keep guests returning and have made the property one of Anguilla's top villas since its inception.

Begin your vacation by walking through hand-carved wooden doors from the 18th century. After you are taken aback by one of the most astonishing views in all the Caribbean, you'll discover a world of luxury, including imported tile, ultracomfortable furniture, a state-of-the-art media system with 3,500 songs, handcrafted 700-thread-count Egyptian-cotton linens, and plush Ralph Lauren Polo robes and towels.

Indoor-outdoor living is key, with sea views from every bedroom of this light and airy space. Spend your days on lounge chairs on the powdery sand or taking dips in your private infinity-edge swimming pool. Soak in a steaming alfresco whirlpool tub, and toast to each other under a private thatch-roof bar. After dark, take in the stars on a spacious rooftop sun deck.

Anguilla is renowned for fine restaurants,

but you'll be tempted to dine at home at Villa Azure. Alone or with the assistance of a hired chef, you can enjoy meals prepared in a gourmet kitchen. A Viking range and Electrolux Icon appliances make culinary adventures a pleasure. And you'll find a wine cooler to store your prized bottles and Riedel stemware to drink your vintages in classic style. Head outdoors to grill lobster and fish from surrounding waters on a gourmet barbecue. 631-771-4211; azurevilla.com

Anguilla vacations are known for their beauty. But affordability? You'll find both at **Shoal Bay Villas**.

Shoal Bay Villas is a family-friendly resort located directly on Shoal Bay Beach, which is recognized regularly as one of the world's best beaches. Its powdery white sand stretches for two glorious miles. It's protected by an offshore reef, meaning the clear, warm water is superb for swimming and snorkeling. Swaying palm trees line the shore, and trade winds keep the temperature comfortable at all times. You can also enjoy the resort's pristine swimming pool. The beach is never crowded, yet you'll easily

find vendors that offer fun on the water. Go on a glass-bottom boat ride, rent a sailboat, join a diving excursion or sign up for a day of fishing.

The resort itself is small and friendly. The staff is approachable and helpful. Lodging consists of 13 units – studios, one-bedroom apartments and two-bedroom apartments. No matter the abode's size, you'll have your own fully equipped kitchen with everything you'll need to whip up meals, from a stove to serviceware. The decor is delightfully Caribbean. Padded wicker furniture sets the relaxed tone, and vibrant West Indian colors such as aqua and coral bring in elements of the island's culture. All rooms have ceiling fans, and all bedrooms are air-conditioned. All villas have cable TV.

Shoal Bay Beach has a variety of beach bars, where a frosty cola or rum punch is always tempting. Several restaurants are a short walk away, including places with enticing names like Uncle Ernie's, Tropical Sunset, Gwen's Reggae Grill and Zara's. 264-497-2051; sbvillas.ai

No matter your budget, you'll find an appealing way to relax on this idyllic Caribbean island.



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The luxurious Frangipani Beach Resort is nestled on the sparkling white sands of Meads Bay Beach. The stunning Mediterranean style resort offers lavishly appointed beachfront one, two and three bedroom suites.

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renown Straw Hat Restaurant.

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