

Travel

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The intinerary

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The Jumby Bay resort in Antigua
Rosewood Hotels & Resorts

Don't head for the hills; go to the beach instead

Still hoping for a far-off summer escape? Rosewood Hotels & Resorts has two offers of interest: with "More Rosewood," guests at its hotels and resorts receive a complimentary night on their stay, and with "Rosewood Escapes," guests get special summer rates that include daily breakfast for two. For example, stay two nights and receive the third night free at Rosewood Hotel Georgia in Vancouver, or enjoy some of the lowest rates available at properties in the Caribbean, Atlantic, Mexico and Canada, such as the Rosewood San Miguel de Allende in Mexico or Jumby Bay in Antigua, among others. These Summer at Rosewood deals are available through Sept. 30. Get more information, including a complete list of destinations, at www.rosewoodhotels.com/en/offers/ or call 888-767-3966.

Find family-friendly specials at Austin resort

If your family is thinking more along the lines of a quick, fun getaway before school starts, check out the Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa, set in the hills of west Austin and only about a three-hour drive from Fort Worth. The resort is offering special rates for families who golf together, as well as a "Sunny Side Up" package with a rate of \$199 per night for a family of four, including daily breakfasts and milk and cookies. Mom and Dad won't get left out; the resort has on-site fitness classes and specials on spa services, including facials and massages, too. For more information, call 866-572-7369 or visit www.bartoncreek.com.



The course at Phoenix's Wildfire Golf Club
AP

If you can stand the heat, try Arizona

Just 20 years ago, many Phoenix-area resorts shut down for the summer because of the heat. That changed when resort operators realized they could get people to still come out by lowering the prices - a lot. Into September, rates at resorts drop precipitously, even at the higher-end places. The JW Marriott Desert Ridge in north Phoenix, for example, is offering the "Family Fling & Swing" package, which includes unlimited free golf, free meals for kids 12 and under with paying adult, no resort fee, daily \$50 resort credit, in-room Wi-Fi and free access to the Family Escape Center and more. It starts at \$149 per night and is good through Sept. 5. 800-835-6206; <http://www.jwdesertridgeresort.com> - The Associated Press

Fun fact

Who is taking what?

This goes beyond tiny soaps and shampoo bottles. Thirty-five percent of global travelers say they make off with hotel amenities, such as towels, lamps, robes and bedding, according to a recent survey by the hotel booking site Hotels.com. Also, Danish travelers are the least likely to pocket hotel property (88 percent said they had never taken hotel property); Colombian travelers came in at the bottom of the ranking (43 percent), according to the survey of 8,600 travelers from 28 countries and cities. Sixty-six percent of Americans surveyed said they stole hotel property, and when they did, it was linens and towels, the survey said.

- Los Angeles Times via MCT

The Caribbean



Anguilla is home to 33 white sand beaches, including this one at Cap Juluca.

Cap Juluca

A taste of paradise

The secret's out about Anguilla's tranquil beaches and fantastic food

By Debra Dunning Brouillette
Special to the Star-Telegram

ANGUILLA, British West Indies - I am in shellfish heaven. A super-size platter of Caribbean lobster and Anguillian crayfish sits before me, grilled and spiced to perfection with a secret sauce.

Sandra Wallace, co-owner and proprietor of Scilly Cay, a small restaurant off

Anguilla's north coast, reveals the ingredients - orange marmalade, roasted peanuts, curry, tarragon, Dijon mustard, orange juice, honey and olive oil - but not the measurements.

After devouring the delicately sweet meat, I settle back with another Ting, the grapefruit-flavored soft drink. My travel companions let me know I'm missing out

on the very strong rum punches served up by Sandra's husband, Eudoxie, known to most as "Gorgeous."

He loves to tell visitors, "Two of those will make you walk on water."

I think I'll pass.

Sandra, a Georgia native, met and married her Anguillian husband while both were living in Atlanta.

"After our son was born, we came to visit Eudoxie's family," she said. "We decided to stay when we learned that island officials had chosen to go with high-end rather than mass tourism, which ensured that the island would not have neon signs, billboards, time shares, casinos, massive cruise ships or fast-food restaurants. It seemed like a good place to raise a family."

In 1985, they purchased a 2-acre strip of sand, and Scilly Cay (pronounced "silly key") opened the following year, complete with a spot for helicopter arrivals from St. Maarten.

It has developed over the years into a lobster lover's lunch spot for regular folks and celebrities. Sandra Bullock rented out Scilly Cay for a birthday party, as did Robert De Niro a few years back, for 40 friends, including Robin Williams. Usher, Billy Crystal, Liam Neeson and celebrity couple Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick have all chowed down on lobster and crayfish here, not to mention

More on ANGUILLA, 13E



Cove Bay's beach is uncrowded, and its waters are clear and calm.

Special to the Star-Telegram/Debra Dunning Brouillette

Here, swimming with sharks is encouraged

The warm, shallow waters off La Jolla, Calif., draw hundreds of leopard sharks.

By John Marshall
The Associated Press

LA JOLLA, Calif. - Just beyond the breakers at La Jolla Shores Beach, hundreds of dark figures cruise through the sandy shallows like a scene in a horror movie.

In most cases, the sight of one shark, much less hundreds, would spark panic.

The leopard sharks of La Jolla induce a different response.

Instead of racing toward shore, visitors here head out toward the deeper water to get a closer look.

And for those who get the chance to swim with the sharks, the experience is unforgettable.

"I've been doing it for years and I still go out and swim with them," said Ezekiel Morphis of HBK Sports, which offers kayaking and snorkeling tours with the sharks. "I think it's awesome."

The leopard sharks come close to shore from June to early December, peaking between August and September, when hundreds congregate along a small stretch of



Peak leopard shark viewing is between August and September.

AP/Andrew Nosal

this beach north of San Diego.

The sharks are mostly pregnant females, and juveniles are rarely seen. Scientists say they believe that they gather here to help with the gestation process.

Because of a submarine canyon just offshore, the waves at La Jolla Shores tend

to be smaller, which keeps the colder water of the deep from mixing with the warmer water of the shallows. With the small waves and warm water, it becomes a perfect place for the cold-blooded leopard sharks to hang out before giving birth

More on SHARKS, 14E

Advertorial

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Take a short trip to BIG summer fun at Gaylord Texan, the grandest resort destination in the Lone Star State! Located on the shores of Lake Grapevine, Gaylord Texan delights visitors with four-and-a-half acres of lush indoor gardens, winding waterways, and waterfalls under its signature glass atrium. Kept at a comfortable 72-degrees all summer long, the resort features 1,511 luxury guest rooms, four award-winning restaurants, seven bars and lounges, a 25,000-square-foot European inspired spa, a 24-hour fitness center with a saltwater lap pool, unique retail shops, and much more.



Now through Labor Day, experience Gaylord Texan's 10th annual SummerFest event featuring fun activities, live entertainment, culinary programs, and happy hour specials. There is something for all ages to enjoy including caricature and balloon artists, strolling entertainers, and Friday night firework shows! Bring out your child's inner chef as they learn the basic kitchen techniques, recipes, and plating skills at Junior Chef Camps. Participate in exciting one-of-a-kind DreamWorks Animation themed activities including Rise of the Guardians scavenger hunt, character meet and greets, and breakfast with your favorite characters from Madagascar! New this year, experience Wind Down Wednesday happy hour at Glass Cactus Nightclub, embrace your creativity at "Create Your Canvas" art classes, find inner peace at poolside yoga, enhance your culinary abilities at adult cooking classes, explore the resort's atriums featuring original artwork created by local artisans, and much more.



Outside, make a splash at Paradise Springs, Gaylord Texan's 10-acre outdoor pool and lazy river playground named the #1 Top Aquatic Resort in the United States by Water Parks & Resorts Today. Explore a 600-foot long winding lazy river with entertaining water features and 6,000-square-foot family lagoon featuring a walk-in beach, a 27-foot tall waterslide, two horseshoe-shaped hot pools, water basketball, and a 25-foot long zip-line. In addition to the numerous water activities, Paradise Springs also features 1,200 chaise loungers, an outdoor game pavilion, and a full-service pool bar and grill. With so much to see and do at Gaylord Texan, it is the perfect destination for your summer stay-cation! For more information, visit www.gaylordtexan.com.



Pristine island has long had strong pull on resort pioneers

What do Richard Nixon and Giorgio Armani have in common? Anguilla.

By Debra Dunning Brouillette
Special to the Star-Telegram

When Robin and Sue Ricketts arrived in Anguilla in 1978, there were two small hotels and one restaurant.

The British-born couple's experience in the hotel industry around the world had brought them to the Caribbean to take charge of hotel start-ups first in Aruba, then in Martinique and Bonaire. While visiting friends on St. Maarten, an afternoon boat outing brought them to the neighboring island of Anguilla.

"All we could see were beaches, one after the other," Robin said. "We thought, 'My god, this is just heaven!'"

After meeting with government and tourism officials about their desire to start hotel projects, the Rickettses decided to settle on this beach-rimmed isle, at least long enough to give it a go.

"We had the expertise, but not the money," Sue Ricketts said. "We secured land rights to a prime 20-acre beachfront site overlooking Meads Bay and Turtle Cove, but needed to find the finances to proceed with building what would become the Malliouhana, Anguilla's first luxury resort."

Within months, Leon Roydon, an investor vacationing on St. Martin (the French side of St. Maarten), came looking for land to develop. "Lo and behold, we sealed the deal," she said.

Two luxury villas opened in 1981. The main 55-room hotel opened in November 1984.

"Giorgio Armani was our first guest in the villas," Sue said. "There were no credit cards, no 800 numbers and no computers; reservations came in by Telex." Other celebrities and well-heeled guests also found their way there, none more surprising than former President Richard Nixon, who swam ashore one day from his yacht, along with his Secret Service companions.

"We invited him in for a drink and discussed events in China with him - in the bathroom no less!"

Once the standard-bearer among Anguilla's luxury resorts, the hotel closed in 2011, an apparent casualty of the worldwide economic downturn. It is expected to reopen this year under new ownership.

The Rickettses left the Malliouhana shortly after its full opening in 1984 to help create and manage Cap Juluca, another



British natives and hoteliers Sue and Robin Ricketts were some of the first to recognize Anguilla's tourism prospects. Anguilla Tourist Board

other of the island's best-known hotels. Three six-bedroom villas opened in 1988, while construction continued all around them.

"Those days were much like what is portrayed in Herman Wouk's *Don't Stop the Carnival*," Sue Ricketts said. "We had telephones, but no electricity. Generators powered everything."

Within three years, the Rickettses, known throughout the Caribbean for their expertise as hoteliers, were lured away from Anguilla for the first time in 13 years.

"We left in 1991 to help start up Grace Bay Club in the Turks and Caicos, then spent about a year in England before returning to our home in Anguilla."

In 1997, they were asked to return to Cap Juluca, which by then had grown to an 18-villa, 98-room property. Sue oversaw worldwide sales and marketing while Robin sat on the management board. Before the couple left again in 2007 to handle luxury villa rentals, the resort was named No. 1 in the Caribbean by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler*.

It wasn't long, however, before they were back at hotel work. They took on ownership and management of the upgraded and revitalized 27-room Anacaona Boutique Hotel in 2010, an affordable alternative to Anguilla's luxury resorts.

"Anguilla has become our home, in every sense of the word," Sue said. "It's our world, and one in which we're very happy to have spent the majority of our lives."

STAR-TELEGRAM BRIDAL SHOW

Passports

Special arrangements have been made with the District Clerk's Passport Section to be at the show. Be sure to bring proof of U.S. citizenship, identification, front and back copy of identification, valid Social Security number, and two separate checks for application fees; \$35 (includes pictures) for the Tarrant County District Clerk and \$110 for the Department of State (Adult Fees). You must apply in person. For questions prior to the event, please call 817-884-2520.

Sunday, August 18, 2013
Gaylord Texan, Grapevine, TX
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www.star-telegramweddings.com

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Anguilla

Continued from 11E

Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston, who spent their last vacation together on Anguilla before their famous split.

To get there, make your way to the Island Harbor dock just off the north coast, park near the Scilly Cay sign and wave your arms. (You'll feel silly, no pun intended, but it works!) A boat will soon arrive for the three-minute ride to the island, which is decorated with thatched tiki huts and walls embedded with hundreds of conch shells. Except for special events, Scilly Cay is open for lunch on Wednesdays and Sundays only, so plan accordingly.

Arrive hungry

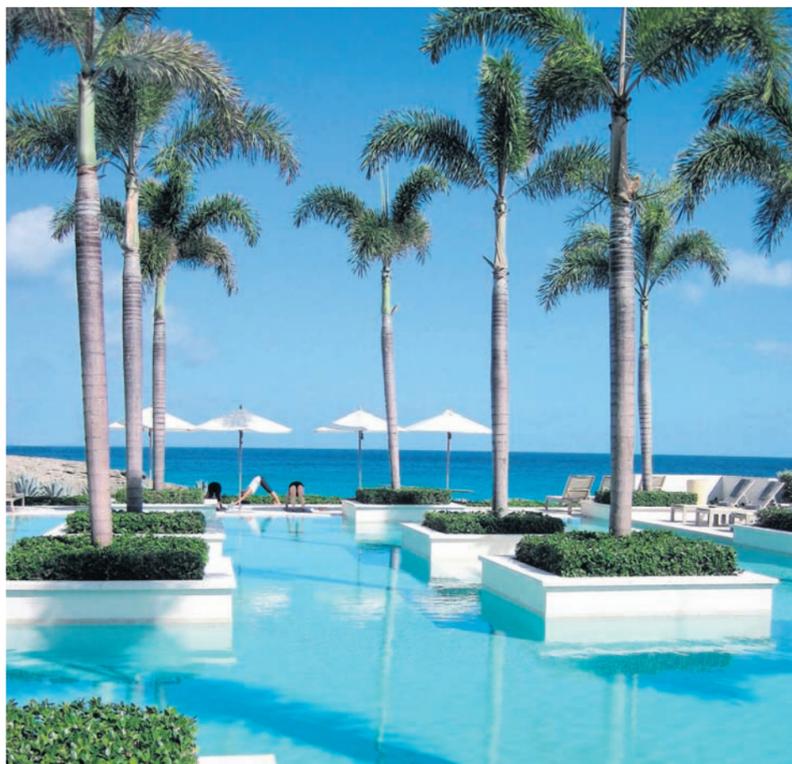
Although not quite the well-kept secret it was 20 years ago, Anguilla (rhymes with vanilla) remains a low-key destination compared with other Caribbean vacation spots. In 2012, Anguilla's stay-over arrivals numbered near 65,000; an equal number were day-trippers arriving by ferry. Contrast those numbers with those of its nearest neighbor. St. Maarten/St. Martin, the half-Dutch, half-French island less than 10 miles away, recorded nearly 457,000 stay-over guests last year and 1.75 million visitors arriving by cruise ship.

Anguilla is ringed by 33 spoiled white sand beaches fronting the Caribbean's multi-hued blue waters. There are a handful of upscale resorts and an increasing number of mega-luxury villas, sought out by A-listers and well-known figures from the world of entertainment, sports and politics. But there are plenty of less pricey accommodations, though with fewer amenities, located on beaches just as stunning.

The island boasts more than 100 restaurants, from upscale gourmet dining spots to barefoot casual beach bars, including those located on offshore islands like Sandy Island, Prickly Pear Cay and Scilly Cay. With only about 13,000 residents, Anguilla is similar to a big small town with enough dining choices to try a new place every week for two years.

My own introduction to Anguilla dates to 2000, when I read Melinda and Robert Blanchard's *A Trip to the Beach: Living on Island Time in the Caribbean*. It is the couple's story of leaving their home state of Vermont to build a small restaurant in Anguilla. A year after opening Blanchards in 1994, the restaurant was destroyed when Hurricane Luis devastated the island.

Blanchards reopened and has become an island institution, hailed as one of the Caribbean's best res-



Guests at the Viceroy hotel can begin the day with a yoga class overlooking the Caribbean.

Special to the Star-Telegram/Debra Dunning Brouillette

taurants. Most popular is the fixed-price menu, with three choices offered for each course, including several of the restaurant's signature dishes. It's a bargain, relatively speaking, at \$48 per person. In late 2011, Blanchards opened Beach Shack next to the main restaurant for lunch and dinner in a more casual setting.

Beaches and nightlife

The closest you'll find to a crowded beach is at Sandy Ground, where boats and yachts from around the world are docked. It's also the spot to watch boat races during Carnival, held the first week in August, and at other times throughout the spring and summer. Boat racing, a tradition dating to the early 1900s, is considered Anguilla's national sport.

Just when you think you've found your favorite strand of sand, you'll find another that's just as inviting, like Cove Bay, a long stretch of nearly deserted beach with calm, crystal-line waters where we stopped for lunch at Smokey's at the Cove. Located beachside on Crocus Bay is da'Vida Restaurant and Bayside Grill, where the menu tempts with intriguing items like shrimp pizza topped with Caesar salad.

Nightlife on Anguilla, albeit a bit subdued, isn't nonexistent; you just have to know where to find your musical match. Lovers of reggae music will want to spend an evening at the Dune Preserve restaurant and beach bar, situated on Rendezvous Bay near the



Shellfish lovers flock to Scilly Cay island restaurant for grilled lobster and Anguillian crayfish.

Special to the Star-Telegram/Debra Dunning Brouillette

CuisinArt Resort, where the island's most famous reggae entertainer, Bankie Banx, performs four days a week.

The Pumphouse in Sandy Ground Village and Elvis' Beach Bar next door are also among Anguilla's best places to party and mingle with locals, tourists and the occasional celebrity.

Thursday night at Anacaona Hotel's Firefly Restaurant is not to be missed for those who would like to experience a bit of Anguilla's culture. Come for the Caribbean buffet and stay for a musical floor show performed by the local Mayoumba folklore troupe.

A favorite spot to watch the sun slip into the sea with appetizers and drinks before dinner at Cobra or another nearby restaurant is the Sunset Lounge at the Viceroy hotel, straddling Barnes Bay and Meads Bay.

Sunday is perhaps the biggest day on Anguilla for local entertainment.

Everywhere you go, you're likely to find people sand mashing, the local term for dancing to the music Anguilla-style.

Even Scilly Cay gets into the act, inviting local reggae bands to perform. Have two of Eudoxie's rum punches, then try walking on water. Or, just take a swim.



A Mayoumba folklore troupe performs at Anacaona Hotel's Firefly Restaurant.

If you go

Where to stay

Anguilla resorts are not just for the rich and famous. While ultra-luxury villas and posh resorts like Cap Juluca, CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa, and Viceroy Anguilla helped place the island No. 2 among the Caribbean's most expensive destinations, according to a recent survey conducted by CheapHotels.org, packages and specials often bring these five-star resorts down to a more realistic range.

The Eastern Caribbean (E.C.) dollar is the official currency, but U.S. dollars are widely accepted on Anguilla.

■ **Viceroy Anguilla:** 166 rooms/villas. Rates from \$400; stay five, pay for four and other special offers available. (Kids' club programs are complimentary to guests. For \$50 per person per day, non-resort guests can have full use of the kids' club and most resort amenities.)

■ **Not-to-miss restaurant:** Cobra 800-578-0283; www.viceroyanguilla.com

■ **Cap Juluca:** 18 beachfront villas, each with five or six rooms/suites. Rates from \$495; includes buffet breakfast and activities.

■ **Not-to-miss restaurant:** Pimms 888-858-5822; www.capijuluca.com

■ **CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa:** 93 rooms and suites. Rates from \$333; stay seven, pay for five and other special offers available.

■ **Not-to-miss restaurant:** Tokyo Bay 800-943-3210; www.cuisinartresort.com

Plenty of mid-priced hotels front several of the island's best beaches, with starting rates lower than you'd pay at prime U.S. beachfront properties — great for families and others who'd rather save money on accommodations and splurge on gourmet meals.

■ **Anacaona Boutique Hotel:** 27 rooms/suites, with access to Meads Bay. Rates from \$160. 877-647-4736; www.anacaonahotel.com.

■ **Anguilla Great House:** 32 rooms on Rendezvous Bay. Rates from \$190. 800-583-9247; www.anguilla-greathouse.com.

■ **Frangipani Beach Resort:** 19 rooms on Meads Bay. Rates from \$295 (discounts on five-night stays). Includes Straw Hat restaurant. 877-593-8988; www.frangipaniresort.com.

Getting there

About 85 percent of Anguilla's visitors travel commercial into Princess Juliana International Airport (SXM) on the Dutch side of St. Maarten, then take a taxi to the Blowing Point Ferry Terminal to board a 20-minute ferry or chartered boat to Anguilla. Calypso Charters, calypsochartersanguilla.com, provides daily transfers between the airport and the ferry terminal. Rates, \$65 per person, include ground transportation on St. Maarten between the airport and boat dock.

American Airlines offers direct flights daily to St. Maarten from Miami and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Other U.S. carriers connect through Charlotte, Newark, Chicago, Atlanta, New York, Boston and Washington, D.C.

Country	Sell	Buy
Australia	1.035	.809
Canada	1.058	.872
England	1.647	1.397
Euro	1.424	1.220
Japan	.011	.009
Mexico	.092	.068
China	.187	.141
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