

TRAVEL

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THE ITINERARY

Compiled by Sandy Guerra-Cline



Bolongo Bay Beach Resort Bolongo Bay Beach Resort/Gary Felton

No passport required

Fans of Texas Christian University's men's basketball team can get discounts when they head to the U.S. Virgin Islands for the annual NCAA Paradise Jam tournament, hosted by the University of the Virgin Islands. Here's the deal: The family-owned Bolongo Bay Beach Resort is offering 20 percent off ocean-view and beach-front room rates during the tournament, Nov. 18-21. With the discount, room rates start at \$224 per night for two people staying in an ocean-view room, plus tax and service charges. The rates include gear for nonmotorized sports, such as Hobie Cat sailing, windsurfing and snorkeling, as well as a complimentary "discover scuba diving" in-pool lesson. For reservations, call 800-524-4746 or visit www.bolongobay.com. For more information about the tournament, visit www.paradisejam.com.



Cirque du Soleil's new Michael Jackson-themed show AP

A 'Thriller' of a Cirque show

Cirque du Soleil's "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour" made its U.S. debut last week at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, only a handful of miles away from the old Motown Records headquarters where Jackson got his start as a member of the Jackson 5. The eye-popping high-wire acrobatics and elaborate costuming that are a hallmark of any Cirque show are of course present, but there are a multitude of Jackson-specific touches, including the moonwalk. The show has performances scheduled through July 2012, with more dates to be added. A Dallas-Fort Worth run is not on the schedule yet. Texas stops include Houston on Feb. 10, Austin on June 15 and San Antonio on June 23. The tour will next move to Europe. www.cirquedusoleil.com

— The Associated Press

Destination: festivals

As the days continue to cool off, it becomes the season of the outdoor celebration. Here are two to put on your travel calendar:

San Diego Beer Week, Nov. 4-13

A relatively new event that celebrates San Diego's craft-beer culture, Beer Week is a popular 10-day festival with more than 400 events meant to inspire people to drink local craft beer. The Brewers Guild Festival kicks off

the events, and the Chef Celebration closes the festival by challenging chefs to pair their food with beer. There are plenty of opportunities for mug chugging and sipping in between. Events for 2011 are still being finalized, but a highlight of 2010 was the Rare Beer Breakfast, with a jazz band and 40 beers on the morning menu. Details: www.sdbw.org.

Beavers Bend Folk Festival & Craft Show, Nov. 11-13, McCurtain County, Okla.

You'll hear the banjos wailing as you take in more than 70 exhibits and vendors demonstrating turn-of-the-century crafts such as knife making, quilting, candle making and mule logging at this annual low-tech festival. Kids can make their own puppets and put on a puppet show, pet animals, and listen to storytellers. A cappella singers, mandolin players, guitarists and jig dancers will add to the old-fashioned atmosphere. This is a chance to remind yourself of what people did with their time before computers and smartphones. Details: www.beaversbend.com.

— Jan Schroder, McClatchy-Tribune

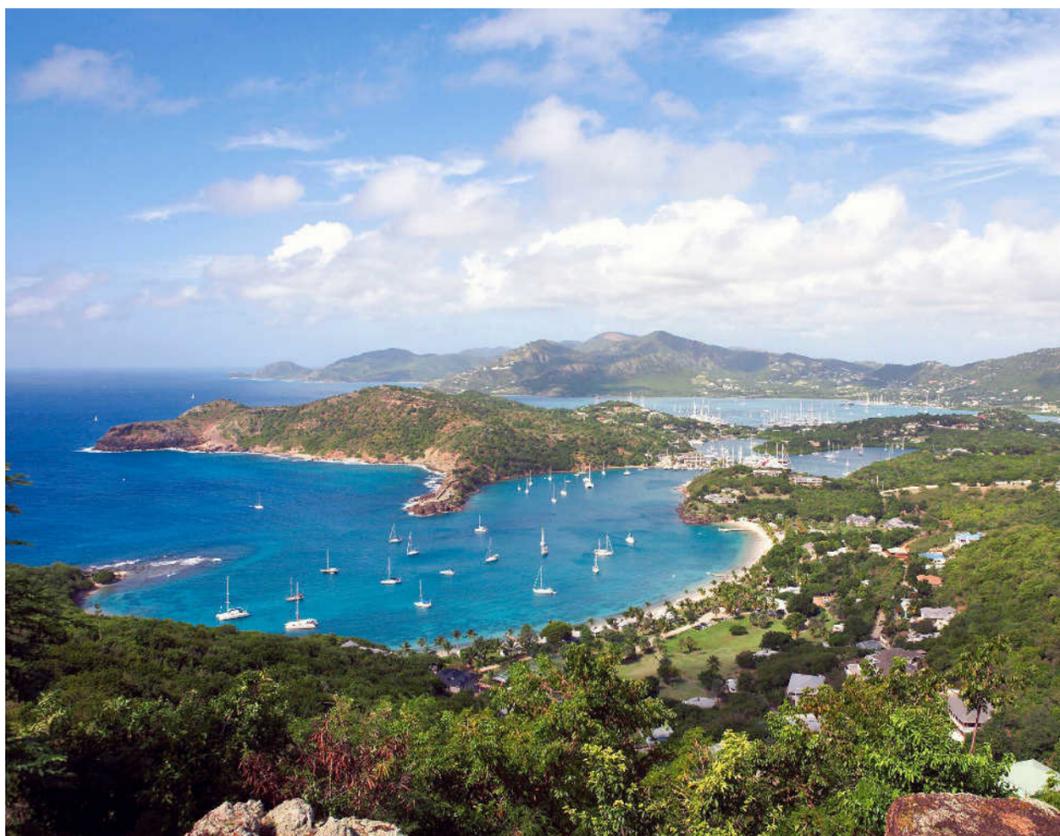
FUN FACT

Just plane crowded

Where are the nation's skies the most crowded? The 10 busiest airspaces in the U.S., according to Matthew Van Dusen, writing for the website Txchnologist.com:

1. Southern California
2. New York
3. Washington, D.C./Potomac
4. Northern California
5. Atlanta
6. Chicago
7. Dallas-Fort Worth
8. Houston
9. Miami
10. Denver

— www.txchnologist.com



Take in Antigua's best panoramic views of English and Falmouth harbors from Shirley Heights, a restored military lookout on the island's southeastern coast. Elite Island Resorts

Beaches for days

Antigua's many stretches of sand host Caribbean resorts tailored to the retreat you seek, from family-friendly fun to a vacation meant for two

By Debra Dunning Brouillette
Special to the Star-Telegram

ANTIGUA, British West Indies — Getting away from it all to an all-inclusive resort in the Caribbean was my self-prescribed antidote to stress after weeks of preparing for a cross-country move. Soon I'd be strolling along one of Antigua's 365 stretches of sea and sand — one for each day of the year, as locals have claimed for years.

Taking into account its bays, coves and more than 50 offshore islands, Antigua (pronounced an-TEE-ga) may indeed be the beach capital of the Caribbean, popular with beach-lovers and honeymooners. It is also a haute hide-away for celebrities and the mega-rich. Oprah escapes to her vacation home on Long Island, two miles off the north coast of Antigua. And according to a 2010 *Forbes.com* list of billionaire playgrounds, she named it her No. 1 choice for crystal-clear Caribbean water and perfect palm trees.

Robin Leach, former host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, is among the celebrity owners of Long Island's multimillion-dollar homes. The rest of the private island is shared with the paparazzi-free



Tropical flowers cover Galley Bay's 40-acre property. Debra Dunning Brouillette

Jumby Bay resort and villas, where Paul McCartney, Mariah Carey and Hilary Swank have been among the A-list guests. Others who have homes on Antigua include Morgan Freeman, Whitney Houston and Eric Clapton, who opened an alcohol and drug treatment center on the island in 1998.

But there are plenty of resorts for the rest of us. While Antigua cannot lay claim to having the most all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean (Jamaica and the Dominican Republic vie for that distinction), it has its share, numbering in the double digits. They range from the super-tony Sandals resort and a num-



Beachfront rooms at the couples-only Galley Bay open directly onto a perfect stretch of pale sand facing the Caribbean. Elite Island Resorts

ber of others that vary in ambience and amenities.

During my time on this largest of the British Leeward Islands, I stayed at two of three Elite Island Resorts-affiliated properties (St. James's Club, Galley Bay and The Verandah), each of which caters to a slightly different clientele and is located on different sides of the island's 108 square miles.

For families

My first two nights were spent at St. James's Club & Villas, on its own 100-acre peninsula on the southeastern coast. It is the largest and liveliest of the Elite resorts, due in part to its family-friendly atmosphere.

The Just for Kids Club, offering adult supervision and activities for children ages 4-11, is a superb choice for families.

I was happily ensconced in one of 48 new royal suites overlooking Mamora Bay, part of a recent multimillion-dollar renovation that included two new pools, a fitness facility and a beachside game room for teens.

The majority of the 251 guest rooms at the resort front Coco Beach on the Atlantic Ocean; each has its own private balcony or terrace. Two-bedroom hillside villas with full kitchens overlook the bay, ideal for families and groups.

More on ANTIGUA, 14E

Japanese camp art is brought to light

The works were preserved by a teacher at the relocation center.

By Chuck Bartels
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Inside a storefront in downtown Little Rock's busy River Market district is an art exhibit that brings to the surface the emotions felt by the victims of a dark chapter in U.S. history — paintings, sculpture and drawings by inmates of a Japanese internment camp.

The works were created at the Rohwer Relocation Center in southeast Arkansas, one of 10 camps set up to hold Japanese detainees who were forced from their homes after the U.S. entered World War II.

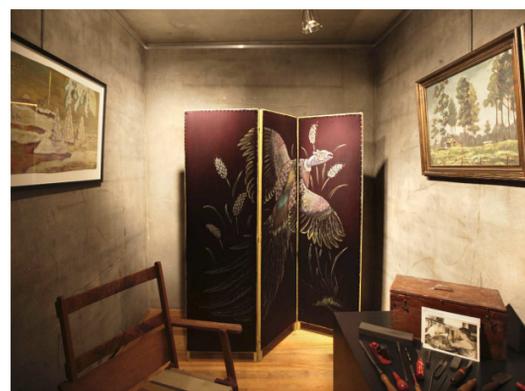
The pieces, on display through Nov. 26, evoke a range of emotions. Some

focus on fences and watchtowers. Others are propaganda posters for the U.S. war effort. Others are fashion sketches, showing the shoulder pads and thin waists that were in vogue at the time. The exhibit is called "The Art of Living: Japanese American Creative Experience at Rohwer."

The works were preserved by Jamie Vogel, a teacher at the Rohwer camp. Vogel died in 1994 and willed her collection to a friend, Rosalie Gould, who last year donated the works to the Butler Center.

The approximately 125 works on display represent a fraction of what's in the trove that Gould donated.

People entering the gallery space first see photographs of the camp, including murals depicting camp life that were painted



Artwork created by Japanese-Americans at the camp and tools that they used are part of the exhibit. The Associated Press/Danny Johnston

by inmates, proudly standing by their work. Then comes the rest of the art. The camp, now a National Historic Landmark, held more than 8,000 people, and the works illustrate the diversity that comes with a group that large, even if its members

have a common story. On the walls are portraits, landscapes and still life paintings. In display cases are small painted birds carved from scrap wood, art from cypress knees, sandals fashioned from fabric and wood, and

More on ART, 15E

Antigua

Continued from 13E

And while the majority of St. James's Club guests book the all-inclusive plan, a European plan, which covers the room only, is also available.

With four restaurants and five bars spread throughout the resort, there is plenty of variety. Piccolo Mondo is the resort's fine-dining restaurant, where we ordered Caribbean lobster.

Couples only, please

While couples can easily find secluded spots to sun and swim at St. James's, the romance quotient is higher at the couples-only Galley Bay Resort & Spa, a 40-acre hideaway on Antigua's northwest coast, facing the calmer waters of the Caribbean Sea.

TripAdvisor.com recently named Galley Bay among the top 10 best resorts for romance in the Caribbean, and it has appeared on lists of the top 100 resorts in the world by both TripAdvisor and *Condé Nast Traveler*.

Most of Galley Bay's 98 rooms are beachfront, opening directly onto a perfect stretch of pale sand beach or affording fabulous views from second-floor terraces. Palms and sea grape trees provide shade when you've had enough sun. Snorkeling sites are easily accessed from the shore.

The only accommodations not on the beach side are the Gauguin cottages, nestled near the lagoon at the edge of a bird sanctuary. Two thatched roofs connected by a sheltered breezeway separate the bedroom from the dressing room/bathroom. Each has its own plunge pool and sundeck concealed by tropical foliage, making these unique cottages popular with honeymooners and privacy-seekers.

Also on the lagoon side is Indulge spa, where I had a soothing massage in an open treehouse, with white gauze curtains blowing in the breeze. Tropical birds in the trees provided nature's background music.

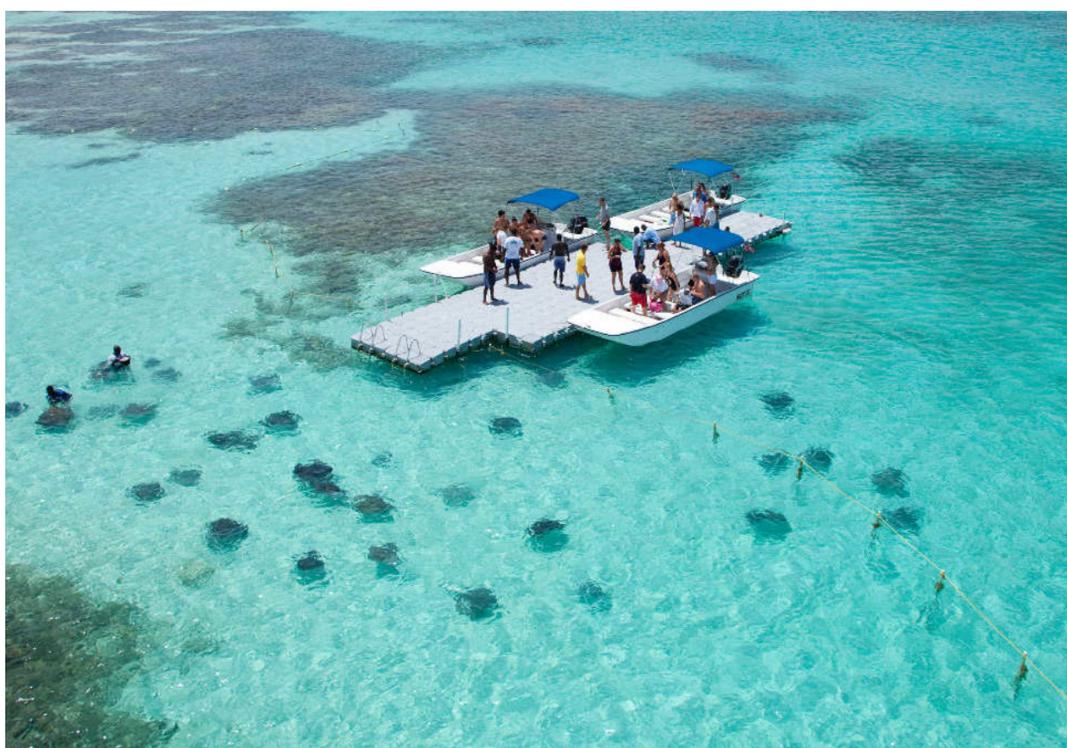
My favorite of Galley Bay's three restaurants was the Gauguin, serving Caribbean-influenced dishes at lunch or dinner in South Pacific-style thatched huts, sized for intimate oceanside dining. Later in the evening, diners often gravitate to the TeePee bar, where they may find the bartender entertaining the crowd with bar tricks while serving up the local Wadadli beer or fruity frozen cocktails.

During my late-August visit, several guests were fortunate enough to participate in a very special experience: helping newly hatched leatherback turtles find the way from their nest to the sea by shining flashlights on the sand until they reached the water.

Nesting sites of leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles, both endangered, were marked along Galley Bay's beach and are closely monitored by the staff. I was on the "turtle watch" list for the remainder of my stay, in case another "hatch fest" occurred, but, regrettably, no late-night call came to interrupt my sleep.

Besides hoping for a turtle sighting, guests at Galley Bay may sometimes find themselves sharing a walk along the beach with Italian fashion designer Giorgio Armani or guests at his hillside estate, which overlooks Galley Bay's three-quarter-mile strand. Armani purchased the home in 2006 after years of visiting aboard his yacht.

Complimentary non-motorized watersports are offered at Galley Bay and at St. James's Club, and St. James's has an on-site scuba shop available to schedule dives to nearby reefs. Staff can schedule activi-



Visitors can swim with the "puppy dogs of the sea" at Stingray City, where rays come to be fed and interact with human playmates.
 Stingray City Antigua

ties and excursions off the resort property. One of my travel companions returned from her all-day circumnavigation tour of the island aboard one of Wadadli Cats' catamarans, proclaiming it a must-do. After seeing the island from the water, she opted for a bird's-eye view of Antigua and nearby islands from a helicopter.

Kissing stingrays

I chose instead to swim and snorkel with stingrays at Stingray City. We received a short briefing about how to safely interact with the rays before a short boat ride whisked us to a shallow area where we entered calm, chest-deep water surrounded by a coral reef.

Soon, the rays, known as the puppy dogs of the sea, were swimming among us, eager for a snack and attention. Although first-timers found the curious creatures to be a bit intimidating, by the end of our excursion, most were touching, petting and even kissing the rays as photos were snapped.

The Antigua Paddles eco-tour is another excursion not to miss. It includes kayaking among the mangroves; stopping at uninhabited Great Bird Island, home to several endangered species; and snorkeling on nearby reefs.

To truly get away from it all, book a day trip via a 90-minute high-speed ferry or 15-minute flight to Antigua's small sister island, Barbuda. One of its pristine pink-tinged beaches was recently renamed Princess Diana Beach, to commemorate the time she spent on Barbuda with her young boys.

If you need a break from the sun, take a taxi tour of Antigua's landmarks. It's a great way to see more of Antigua's most popular beaches, do a little shop-



A treehouse in the midst of a bird sanctuary is the setting for a stress-relieving massage at Galley Bay's Indulge spa.
 Debra Dunning Brouillette

While couples can easily find secluded spots to sun and swim at St. James's, the romance quotient is higher at the couples-only Galley Bay Resort & Spa.

ping in the capital of St. John, and visit the island's most intact sugar mill, Betty's Hope, and the natural limestone arch called Devil's Bridge.

Nelson's Dockyard and Shirley Heights

Make sure you visit Nelson's Dockyard, the most historically important attraction on the island. During the late 18th and early to mid-19th centu-

ries, long before Antigua gained its reputation as a tony island address, English Harbour on the southeastern coast became a refuge for the British Navy.

As Britain competed for naval supremacy in the Caribbean with Spain, France and others, the harbor was developed into Britain's main naval base; it was the only harbor in the Eastern Caribbean large enough for naval ship repairs. Adm. Horatio Nelson served as a young captain in the Caribbean Leeward Islands fleet from 1784 until 1787, when the naval yard was greatly expanded.

Abandoned by the British Navy in 1889, restoration efforts began in 1951 and it was reopened in 1961 as Nelson's Dockyard, part of a national park. Today, tour guides make history come to life as visitors walk among the dockyard's 18th-century restored buildings, which include a museum, gift shops, restaurants and a hotel.

Its marina now hosts yachts from around the globe, as does the nearby Falmouth Harbour, site of the Antigua Yacht Club Marina. Yachters and sailing enthusiasts will arrive in the spring for the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta, one of the top five regattas in the world, set for April 19-24, 2012, followed by the Antigua Sailing Week, April 24-29.

A short drive away is Shirley Heights, a restored military lookout overlooking English and Falmouth harbors; it's the best place to take in panoramic views.

A beach for every day

Whether escaping the paparazzi or just seeking a sandy beach you can call your own, Antigua offers more than enough reasons to consider this island for your next holiday.

Antiguans would say there are 365 of them.

If you go Antigua

■ **Travel deal:** Book an all-inclusive getaway to Antigua's Galley Bay Resort & Spa, St. James's Club & Villas, or The Verandah Resort & Spa by Nov. 30 for travel by April 15, 2012, to receive up to 30 percent off, plus credit for up to \$636 toward a companion ticket on American Airlines. To get the ticket credit, call 800-858-4618 or go to www.eliteislandresorts.com. Recent prices for a mid-November, seven-day trip start at \$2,891 per couple, not including airfare.

■ Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Board: www.antigua-barbuda.org

■ The official currency is the Eastern Caribbean (EC) dollar, but U.S. dollars are widely accepted.

Do you need travel insurance?

Hurricane Irene had just passed through Antigua as I left DFW Airport for Miami in late August. A cancelled Miami-Antigua flight led American Airlines to reroute me through San Juan, Puerto Rico, where I was able to catch the last flight out, landing in Antigua nearly eight hours after my originally scheduled arrival time. A just-married couple seated next to me on the DFW-Miami flight was not able to book the afternoon flight to San Juan and would miss out on at least one day of their five-night all-inclusive honeymoon. So, what should travelers do to protect themselves, especially during hurricane season, which runs June 1-Nov. 30?

■ First, check your resort's policy before booking. The hurricane policy for properties affiliated with Elite Island Resorts allows the client to rebook or cancel the vacation without penalty if the hotel or the client's departure city is under hurricane watch or warning. If clients choose to rebook, the rate will be protected for up to one year for any arrival date from April 1 to Dec. 15. Cancellations based on the forecast track of storms or the possibility of a hurricane approaching are not covered. (See www.eliteislandresorts.com for full details.)

■ If the resort does not offer coverage, travel insurance can help — if you get a "Cancel for Any Reason" policy. Unless the destination accommodations are made uninhabitable by a hurricane, flood or other natural disaster, or weather causes all flights to be cancelled for 24 consecutive hours, most travel policies do not provide coverage. Some do cover trip interruptions and delays, however, so read the fine print and know what you are purchasing.

■ You may wish to buy travel insurance for reasons other than weather, such as to be reimbursed for lost, stolen or delayed baggage, or to cover medical care for illness or injury. Check Travel Insurance Review (www.travelinsurance-review.net) for tips to find the best policy.

— **Debra Dunning Brouillette**

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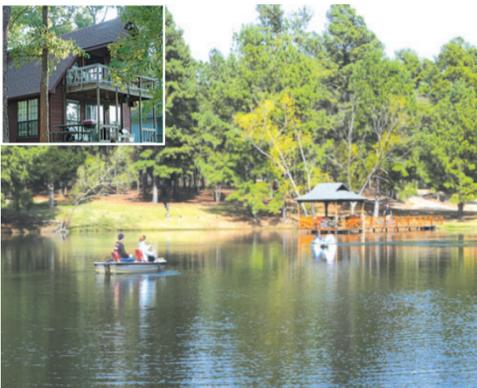
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