

Visitor arrivals continued to show a healthy increase in February 2006; a total of 15,383 visitors came to the shores of Anguilla during this month recording an annual increase of 9%.

Persons come to Anguilla for both pleasure and business purposes. During this month, out of the 15,383 visitors that visited, 545 (4%) persons came for business purposes compared to 326 in February of last year and 14,838 (96%) came for pleasure compared to 13,811 during February 2005.

The U.S.A. continued the trend of being the country of origin from which most of the visitors to Anguilla originated during the period under review.



#### Passenger Movements Arrivals

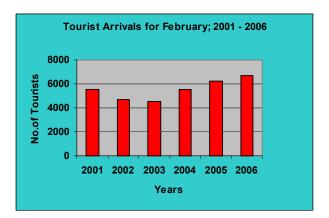
Arrivals, which include Anguillans as well as visitors, through the Wallblake Airport for this period were 3,986 compared to 3,925 during February 2005, while arrivals through Blowing Point Port were 16,530 compared to 17,713 in February of last year. Arrivals through Sandy Ground were 3,102 this February compared to 1,321 during February of 2005.

# <u>Departures</u>

Departures through Wallblake Airport during February 2006 were 3,978 compared to 3,594 in February 2005, while departures through Blowing Point Port were 15,775 compared to 16,531 for the same period in 2005. The port of Sandy Ground saw 3,061 departures during this month compared to 1,716 during February 2005.

### Tourists (Stay-Over Visitors)

Tourists accounted for 43% of the total number of visitors to Anguilla during February 2006. Over the period February 2006/2005, this type of visitor increased by 8% to reach 6,681 tourists for the month under review.



42% of the tourists that visited Anguilla during February entered through the Wallblake Airport. 2,835 persons came through this Port compared to 3,001 persons during the same period last year. The port of Blowing Point recorded a 20% increase in tourist arrivals passing through for this period over the same period in 2005. It was the port of entry to Anguilla for 3,830 persons compared to 3,196 persons during February 2005. Tourists passing through the port of Sandy Ground made up just under, 1% of overall tourists entering the island.

The average length of stay for tourists this month was 8.3 days compared to 8.6 days last February. The majority, (74%) of the tourists stayed in Anguilla for between 4-15 days 17%

This report along with other Tourism Data, are available at the Government of Anguilla's website: <u>http://gov.ai/statistics/tourism.htm</u>

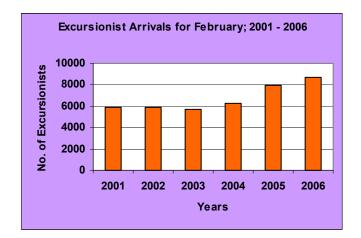
stayed for between 1-3 days and 9% spent 16 days or more on the island.

During February 2006, the majority of the tourists, 70%, originated out of the U.S.A., with annual (Feb06/05) arrivals from this country increasing by 2%. The Caribbean was the second largest market with 9%, followed by the U.K and Canada with 5% respectively. Arrivals from Other European Countries (*to include Switzerland and Austria*), accounted for 4% of the market share during February 2006.

## **Excursionists (Day-Trippers)**

Excursionists also continued to show an increase in arrivals during February 2006. They represented 57% of the overall visitor arrivals to the island. 8,702 excursionists visited this month, resulting in an increase over the year (Feb 06/05) of 10%.

As is the case with excursionists, Blowing Point was the main port of entry, with 63% of them using this port as the gateway to Anguilla. The Wallblake Airport accounted for 2% and Road Bay 35% of excursionist arrivals.



Most of the major tourist markets experienced increases in excursionist travels during this period. Day-trippers from the United Kingdom, Italy and the French West Indies recorded declines of 27%, 1% and 4% respectively.

# Cruise Passengers

6 small cruise vessels made a call to Anguilla during February 2006 with some visiting on more that one occasion. There was an overall passenger total of 927 with each vessel carrying on average a total of 155 passengers. This compares to the 5 vessels that made a call to Anguilla during the same period last year with an overall passenger total of 939.

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