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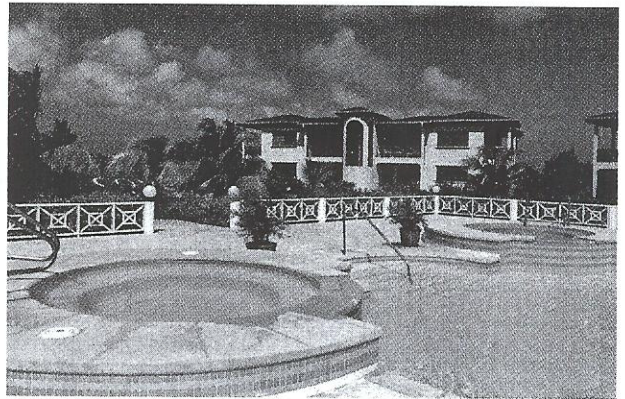
destination focus | SELLING ANGUILLA

# Affordable Anguilla

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Charming Escapes offers options for budget-conscious travelers

BY JENNIFER MICHELS



*The Paradise Cove Resort is set amid tropical gardens.*

There are more opportunities to sell vacations to the British West Indies island of Anguilla than many agents may realize. Although Anguilla is known as a private retreat for celebrities because of its secluded villas, it has many small properties that are more affordable, compared with the island's luxury condos and villas.

For example, Charming Escapes is a cooperative venture between the Anguilla Tourist Board and 16 hotels, villas and inns, some of which offer rooms

with breakfast for slightly more than \$100 per night. Many are small properties that feel more like country houses than hotels. Charming Escapes properties on Anguilla are quiet, intimate, almost sleepy if you will, where guests can unwind on a vacation that does not involve casinos or the bright lights and big city. The collection is working on a three- or five-day "dine around" that allows guests of one hotel to sample the restaurants of other hotels in the group, as well as try local dining spots.

One unusual property is Lloyd's (264-497-2351, [www.lloyds.ai](http://www.lloyds.ai)), a bed and breakfast that sits on Crocus Hill, a five-minute walk to Crocus Bay Beach. Lloyd's is known for its traditional afternoon tea with snack sandwiches and Johnnycakes. A long dining table allows guests to meet one another and perhaps even form lasting friendships.

The thick walls of this house seem to keep the cool air indoors, and large windows are always open. Lloyd's has the feel of a country house in the city.

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The rooms are all a bit different, and although the public areas aren't air conditioned, each guestroom has its own air-conditioning unit. Many have not been updated in some time, but they are clean and comfortable.

Lloyd's attracts repeat customers, and some return every year and stay longer than a month. In fact, the hotel is the sort of place where a repeat guest can request the same room that he or she stayed in on a previous trip and negotiate a price for a lengthy visit. Anyone staying about a month can negotiate the rate down to about \$65 a night. The hotel stores the belongings of repeat guests who stay for several weeks.

Of the nine guestrooms in this property, one has a king-size bed and goes for \$90 per night single or \$130 double, including breakfast. Other rooms start at \$75 single, \$105 double.

For something fun right on the beach, the Arawak Beach Inn (800-427-2925, [www.arawakbeach.com](http://www.arawakbeach.com)) is a collection of 17 buildings painted in pastels. The bar and restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and guests feel free to go behind the bar and serve themselves. They simply mark off what they have taken on their own bills, which are kept in a conch shell on the counter. The room is small but the views are great, and the friendly management makes the hotel seem like a private residence, if not a delayed Spring Break trip without the crowds.

## Charming Escapes properties on Anguilla are quiet, intimate, almost sleepy if you will.

Only a few guestrooms have air conditioning, but most guests find that the breeze is sufficient. The rooms, which offer rustic charm, are furnished in dark wood and contain small refrigerators.

The hotel is a long swim or rowboat ride away from Scilly Cay, which offers a restaurant and live music.

For the winter season, which runs Jan. 3 through April 8, 2007, rates start at \$225 per person, double.

Located away from the beach is Paradise Cove Resort (264-497-6603, [www.paradise.ai](http://www.paradise.ai)), set in tropical gardens, with 29 studio and one- and two-bedroom suites, including three penthouse suites with red cedar roofs, more upscale furniture, mosquito netting over the beds, marble bathrooms, sunken whirlpool tubs and separate showers. The penthouses are the only rooms situated high enough to see the ocean over the rest of the property. The regular suites are quite large, with tile floors and wicker furniture.

The hotel offers meeting space for up to 100 people. The pool area is basic, and the pool bar and restaurant seem to open whenever there is a crowd.

Nightly rates range from \$280 to \$450 during winter for a two-bedroom unit with a full kitchen, front and back terraces, and private balconies off of each bedroom. These suites feature large living rooms and washers and dryers. @

*For more information on all of the Charming Escapes properties, email [charmingescapes@yahoo.com](mailto:charmingescapes@yahoo.com) or visit [www.anguilla-vacation.com](http://www.anguilla-vacation.com).*