

Anguilla

Slip into stealth mode on this sexy, sybaritic sliver of a Caribbean isle

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THE *TODAY* SHOW THREW ITS 2004 DESTINATION wedding here. Courteney Cox and David Arquette honeymooned here. And when stressed-out celebs need a break from the glamour grind they, too, hole up on Anguilla. The draw? Blissful beaches, gourmet cuisine and total seclusion. Honeymooners seeking low-key luxury won't find a more perfect setting.

Soak up the peaceful vibe Literally. In 1967, when Anguilla seceded from St. Kitts and Nevis, the action prompted an invasion by Great Britain—one that never actually materialized. As British troops landed, locals lined the shore in greeting, applauding the troops' arrival. Today, Anguillans remain happily under the Queen's crown, with even their national bird—the turtledove—evoking peace.

Luxuriate in exclusivity Granted, there are posh, super-sized villas, but there's no overdevelopment along Anguilla's pristine coastline. In fact, there's not much development at all. By law, only small hotels, resorts and private villas are permitted to build upon this 16-mile-long isle, dotted with powder-soft sand and crescent-shaped bays and home to nearly as many goats as people. And with more than 30 beaches, it's never hard to find a cove for two for an incognito skinny dip.

Eat your way around the island Dining in-villa with your own personal chef, or out at one of the surprisingly numerous top-notch restaurants, is one of the island's most popular sports. For haughty gourmet, not to mention a fab sunset view, try Blanchard's. But for a truly romantic night, book a torchlit table in the sand at Cap Juluca, where white Moorish archways rise behind you and chef George Reid serves up a fantasia of fresh seafood, tapas and first-rate chevre, produced from his own herd of 80-something goats.

Do nothing (and don't feel guilty) There's not much to do on Anguilla. No mountains to scale. No extreme sports. Not even good shopping. And that's exactly the point. Mornings are spent lingering in bed over fresh-squeezed juice and croissants, afternoons are best enjoyed on the beach or by your private plunge pool. Nightlife is nonexistent, with the exception of Johnno's Beach Stop (a favorite of all who visit), known for its great music and dancing under the stars. The hottest activity, by far? Spa-going. Malliouhana

Hotel & Spa, home to Anguilla's largest and most luxurious spa, offers "Ultimate Bliss," a side-by-side, four-handed (that's four for *each* of you) massage in a relaxing oceanfront suite. Equally decadent is Cap Juluca's Lulur Royal Ritual, a turmeric-yogurt scrub, flower-petal bath and exotic oil massage for two delivered on your private veranda.

Count your lucky stars If your timing's right, you can catch astrologer Hubert Delamotte, a Frenchman from nearby St. Barths who visits Cap Juluca once a month. He'll create a couple's "astrological biography chart," which tells you how your past and current paths interrelate and what you've come together to do in this lifetime. Simply divine.

Plan your next visit Couples tend to return to Anguilla. It's like their own little Caribbean secret, a spot that delivers a sense of luxurious isolation. In fact, Anguilla is one of those places that when you tell people you honeymooned there, they often ask, "Where?"

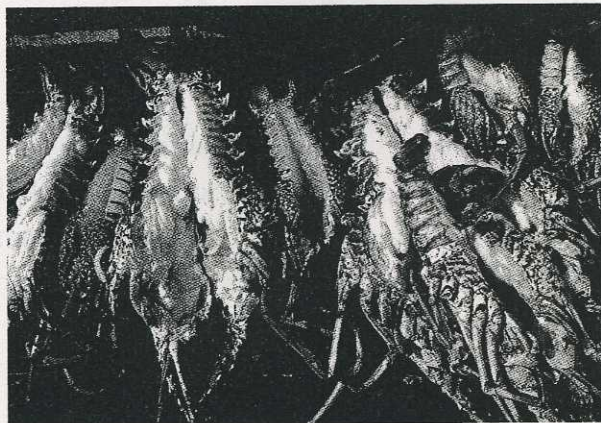
REAL HONEYMOONERS REPORT Karissa and Brian O'Reilly, of Connecticut (now living in London), spent a week at Rendezvous Bay Hotel and Villas: "We loved the peace and quiet—there were days when we were the only ones on the beach," says Karissa. They

enjoyed: exploring the island ("to get a taste of Anguillan culture by talking to locals and eating where they eat—the johnnycakes at Nat's Palm Grove are delicious!" says Karissa); chilling on the beach for hours on end; taking the ferry to St. Martin for shopping.

—Shari L. Mycek

(For more info, call 800/553-4939 or see anguilla-vacation.com.)

VOTED A TOP SPOT FOR:
beaches • food
romance • seclusion
up-and-coming locale



romance

1. Hawaii
2. Tahiti
3. Italy
4. Fiji
5. Bali
6. France
7. Anguilla
8. St. Barths
9. St. Lucia
10. Greece

beaches

1. Hawaii
2. Tahiti
3. Turks & Caicos
4. Anguilla
5. Fiji
6. Mexico
7. Cayman Islands
8. U.S. Virgin Islands
9. Bermuda
10. British Virgin Islands

seclusion

1. Fiji
2. Tahiti
3. Cook Islands
4. Nevis
5. Bali
6. Anguilla
7. St. Barths
8. Turks & Caicos
9. British Virgin Islands
10. Belize

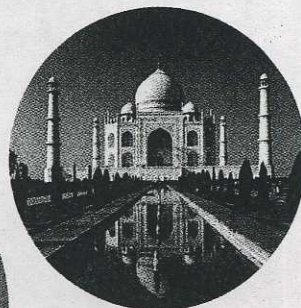


food

1. Italy
2. France
3. New York
4. California
5. Las Vegas
6. Hawaii
7. St. Barths
8. Anguilla
9. Spain
10. Thailand

up-and-coming locale

1. Costa Rica
2. South Africa
3. Belize
4. Turks & Caicos
5. New Zealand
6. Fiji
7. Vietnam
8. Anguilla
9. Dominican Republic
10. Australia



affordability

1. Mexico
2. Las Vegas
3. Jamaica
4. Dominican Republic
5. Costa Rica
6. Florida
7. Hawaii
8. Bahamas
9. Canada
10. Belize

culture

1. Italy
2. France
3. England
4. New York
5. Greece
6. Thailand
7. South Africa
8. India
9. Japan
10. Mexico

nightlife

1. Las Vegas
2. New York
3. France
4. Mexico
5. Brazil
6. Italy
7. Puerto Rico
8. Spain
9. Florida
10. Hawaii



adventure

1. Costa Rica
2. Ecuador/Galapagos
3. South Africa
4. Kenya
5. New Zealand
6. Australia
7. Alaska
8. Belize
9. Chile
10. Hawaii

sexy ambience

1. Tahiti
2. St. Barths
3. Hawaii
4. Bali
5. Italy
6. Jamaica
7. Fiji
8. Brazil
9. Las Vegas
10. France

winter sports

1. Colorado
2. Switzerland
3. Canada
4. Austria
5. Chile
6. France
7. New England
8. Italy
9. New Zealand
10. Alaska

snorkeling & diving

1. Cayman Islands
2. Belize
3. Australia
4. Turks & Caicos
5. Fiji
6. Tahiti
7. Mexico
8. Hawaii
9. U.S. Virgin Islands
10. British Virgin Islands

