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**TAKE TO THE HIGH SEAS WITH MARQUEE NAUTICAL EVENTS IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA THIS SPRING**

 **(St. John’s, Antigua) –** Known for its 365 beaches, [Antigua](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com/) and Barbuda is a favorite Caribbean destination continually offering up world-class activities from its beautiful coastline and stunning harbors for locals and visitors, alike. With marquee annual events quickly approaching, there will be no shortage of activities this spring under the postcard-worthy Antigua sunshine. Utilizing the splendor of the renowned UNESCO world heritage site in Nelson’s Dockyard, visitors can participate, or simply observe and revel, in some of the region’s most thrilling nautical events.

“This is a fantastic time of year to visit and likewise a very important time for our destination,” says the Hon. Henry Charles Fernandez, Minister of Tourism. “Our nautical events do a wonderful job of not only showcasing our many offerings but also providing a great benefit to our economy.”

Antigua and Barbuda is a coveted destination for nautical events and throughout its history has maintained its reputation as one of the premier yachting destinations in the Caribbean. Due to its sheltered harbors, large number of anchorages and abundant natural beauty, the islands present a haven for visitors seeking adventures on the water.

“We are excited to be going into our high season with flagship nautical events like Sailing Week, and the Sport Fishing Tournament,” shares Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. “This time of year, Nelson’s Dockyard is buzzing with activity and full of beautiful, gleaming classic yachts. We look forward to hosting events that showcase our home, culture and traditions with activities to appeal to guests of all ages and backgrounds.”

Below is an overview of Antigua’s upcoming nautical events:

**Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta**

The magical combination of serious racing, laid-back Antiguan hospitality, plenty of rum, sunshine, and great camaraderie in a friendly relaxed atmosphere, places the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta in a class of its own. This international regatta brings together around 60 yachts to compete across four days of racing as people gather from all over the world to share the passion of sailing class, vintage and traditional yachts. Visitors to the regatta will enjoy a party atmosphere in English Harbour throughout the week. <http://www.antiguaclassics.com/>

**Antigua Sailing Week**

The ‘Sailing Capital of the Caribbean’, Antigua hosts one of the most prestigious sailing regattas in the world. Attracting over 100 yachts yearly, Antigua Sailing Week consists of five days of competitive racing off the rugged south coast of Antigua plus an optional day of racing around the island. This premier event is not just for sailors and offers up plenty for spectators who wish to observe from top destinations like Shirley Heights Lookout and also Chase the Race on water from a Wadadli Cats Catamaran. Vacationers can attend family-friendly events like Dockyard Day and the Wadadli Lay Day Beach Party. These on-shore events feature activities for all ages, live music, food and drink and more to entertain attendees. Antigua’s flagship event with a history of over 50 years takes place in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Nelson's Dockyard and other surrounding areas. www.sailingweek.com

**Antigua Bermuda Race**

This 935-mile race is one of the premier yacht races in the Caribbean. This year’s race promises a variety of yachts, including hi-tech ocean racers, luxury bluewater yachts and performance cruisers. In addition, Gosling Rum continues their support, ensuring a superb party in Nelson's Dockyard Antigua prior to the start, and a memorable Prize Giving at the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club. The Antigua Bermuda Race is unlike many other offshore races because at 935 miles it is longer than most and the majority of the course is away from the influences of land. <https://www.antiguabermuda.com/>

**Antigua and Barbuda Sport Fishing Tournament**

Sports-fishing enthusiasts and seafood lovers will enjoy this exciting tournament, departing from historic Nelson’s Dockyard, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The 52nd annual tournament is an Offshore World Championship Qualifying Event giving participants the chance to break the Blue Marlin Tournament record. With plenty of other prizes up for grabs in various categories, there is not a second of action to be missed by spectators. The atmosphere makes this a perfect weekend-long event for family and friends with nightly live music, food and drinks and a variety of other activities for attendees to take part in. Visitor will also have the chance to purchase some of the freshest seafood around after the tournament with whole fish for sale by the committee from the fish stall. [www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com](http://www.antiguabarbudasportsfishing.com)

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**ABOUT ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Antigua (pronounced An-tee'ga) and Barbuda (Bar-byew’da) is located in the heart of the Caribbean Sea. Voted the World Travel Awards 2015, 2016 and 2017 *Caribbean’s Most Romantic Destination*, the twin-island paradise offers visitors two uniquely distinct experiences, ideal temperatures year-round, a rich history, vibrant culture, exhilarating excursions, award-winning resorts, mouth-watering cuisine and 365 stunning pink and white-sand beaches - one for every day of the year. The largest of the Leeward Islands, Antigua comprises 108-square miles with rich history and spectacular topography that provides a variety of popular sightseeing opportunities. Nelson’s Dockyard, the only remaining example of a Georgian fort a listed UNESCO World Heritage site, is perhaps the most renowned landmark. Antigua’s tourism events calendar includes the prestigious Antigua Sailing Week, Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta, and the annual Antigua Carnival; known as the Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival. Barbuda, Antigua’s smaller sister island, is the ultimate celebrity hideaway. The island lies 27 miles north-east of Antigua and is just a 15-minute plane ride away. Barbuda is known for its untouched 17 mile stretch of pink sand beach and as the home of the largest Frigate Bird Sanctuary in the Western Hemisphere. Find information on Antigua & Barbuda at: [www.visitantiguabarbuda.com](http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com) or follow us on **Twitter**. <http://twitter.com/antiguabarbuda> **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/antiguabarbuda](http://www.facebook.com/antiguabarbuda); **Instagram**: [www.instagram.com/AntiguaandBarbuda](http://www.instagram.com/AntiguaandBarbuda)

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