

BARBUDA FACT SHEET

  

**Location** Barbuda, which lies 27 miles northeast of its sister island Antigua, has a land area of 62-square-miles (or 14 miles by 8 miles in size). A low lying coral island, known for its untouched pink coral and white sand beaches, its highest point is only 125 ft above sea level.

**Capital** The capital of Barbuda is Codrington.

**Climate** Sunny and warm all year with soothing trade winds, the average temperature ranges from the mid-seventies in the winter to the mid-eighties in the summer. Annual rainfall averages only 45 inches, making Antigua and Barbuda the sunniest of the eastern Caribbean islands and the northeast trade winds are nearly constant, flagging only in September.

**Language** English is the spoken language.

**Population** A majority of Barbuda’s over 1,500 inhabitants live in Codrington.

**Getting Here** BMN Air operate flights between Antigua and Barbuda. Private Charters are also available with Caribbean Helicopters. The flight takes 15 minutes. Passports are not needed as the point of entry for both islands is Antigua. Visitors may also opt to take the daily Barbuda Express, a 90-minute ferry operating between the islands or the Lady Caroline Barbuda Ferry that operates Monday - Saturdays. Once on the island, taxis and bikes are available.

**Accommodation** The newest luxury property, Barbuda Belle, re-opened following Hurricane Irma on November 3, 2018. The Barbuda Ocean Club, a 125-room resort is scheduled to open in December. Barbuda also has a selection of guest houses and B&B’s. Small properties include: The Island Chalet, Barbuda Cottages (due to re-open in December), Simply the Best and Gerald’s House.

**Dining**There is a small selection of restaurants and snack bars on the island offering traditional Barbudan cuisine and seafood specialties including lobster.

**Activities & Sights** Swimming, diving, snorkeling, shipwreck exploring, deep sea fishing, bird watching, turtle-watching hiking in and up the caves, horseback riding, and beachcombing are most often the activities of choice on the island. Sights, other than the beaches, most often visited include:

* **Frigate Bird Sanctuary**, accessible by boat, is home to 170 species of birds including the Magnificent Frigate Birds.
* **Dark Cave**, a low, boulder-hung passage that leads 400 feet underground to (almost) fresh-water pools teeming with rare blind shrimp and certain species of crustacean found nowhere else in the world.
* **Darby’s Cave** featuring a large sink hole, about 350 feet in diameter and 70 feet deep that contains a small but lush rainforest.
* **Martello Tower**, built in c.1745, is an old fort used both for defence and as a look-out along the south coast
* **Indian Cave** is one of the most interesting prehistoric sites in Barbuda. Located at Two Foot Bay the caves have several chambers where bays can be found hanging and small Amerindian petroglyphs (rock carvings) can be seen.
* **Low Bay and Palmetto Point** are two of the best beaches to witness the pink sands of Barbuda. The pink shells cover the beaches in abundance from November – April.
* **Barbuda’s pink sand beaches** are covered with an abundance of pink shells from October – May.

Sight-seeing tours with lunch are available at prices starting at US$80 per person.

**Transportation** Individuals must have a valid driver’s licence. Visitors must obtain a temporary Antigua and Barbuda driver’s licence which can be obtained from the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board or the Licence Office in Barbuda at a cost of US$20 or EC$50 and is valid for three months. Vehicle rentals are US$60 or EC$165 per day.

**Cuisine**  Foods that are indigenous to Barbuda include: venison (deer meat), lobster, conch, fish, land crap, land turtle, hermit crab, fungee, ducana, white beans and pigeon peas.

**Fishing** Fishing vessels need a special aerial permit to fish within a certain mile ob Barbuda waters

Closed Seasons are as follows:

Lobster: May 1 – June 30

 Conch: July 1 – August 31

 Grouper: January 1 – March 31

**Barbuda Tourism Office Contact:** **BarbudaIslandCouncil@gmail.com**