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**sites of interest in Antigua & Barbuda**

From the capital city of St. John’s, the 108 square miles of Antigua can be easily explored Antigua offers a wealth of activities and attractions for visitors interested in exploring beyond the island’s beautiful beaches. With its relatively flat landscape, the island’s 365 picturesque beaches, attractions and activities are no further than a 45 minute taxi-ride. Some of the most scenic areas of this destination can be found in Antigua’s National Parks and heritage sites. Some of the major tourist attractions include:

**Nelson’s Dockyard, English Harbour,** a UNESCO’s World Heritage Site is the only remaining example of a Georgian fort and perhaps the most renowned landmark in Antigua. The Dockyard, houses a museum, bakery and gift shop, while the surrounding area of English Harbour is filled with a variety of quaint restaurants, lively bars and marinas.

**The Nelson’s Dockyard Museum** is laid out within the Naval Clerk’s House in the Centre of Nelson’s Dockyard, highlighting its history and serving as a centre for archaeological environmental and historical research in Antigua. There is a gift shop in the museum stocked with interesting items relevant to Dockyard and Antigua’s history and there is a research library which holds books on the navy and old accounts of Antigua. There is also an archaeological library available to researchers.

**Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre, English Harbour** provides a historic overview of six periods of Antiguan history through a multimedia presentation.

**Shirley’s Heights, English Harbour,** is arambling array of gun emplacements and military buildings is best known today for the absolutely breathtaking views that it offers. From the Heights one can look far out over English Harbour, and on Sunday afternoons the view is accompanied by the sounds of steel band, soca and reggae music. The site is named for General Shirley, Governor of the Leeward Islands when the area was fortified in the late eighteenth century.

**Fort Berkeley**- (1704 - c.1850) - Fort Berkeley is one of two forts that was placed on the peninsula forming the entrance to English Harbour and the Nelson’s Dockyard. It was started in 1704, or 21 years before the Dockyard was built. Its defences were later extended in the 1740’s with the placing of 27 cannons along the fort.

**Clarence House**- This Georgian country house was built as a residence for Prince William Henry. He later became the Duke of Clarence, and from 1830 King William IV of England. It was also home to the past governor generals of Antigua & Barbuda, and with restoration completed in 2017, plans are now in place to turn the location into a museum and event venue.

**Fort George, Monk's Hill-(1689-c. 1850)-** Monk’s Hill is high table hill (588 ft. 204 m.) behind the village of Falmouth. It was here that in 1689, the English settlers established a large fort that defended Antigua’s first town and harbor. The fortress was built as a place of last refuge in case of invasion by the French.

**The Bust of Sir V.C. Bird Senior,** Antigua and Barbuda’s first Premier and Prime Minister, is displayed within the area of the St. John’s Market.

**St. John’s Anglican Cathedral,** visible from around the capital is regarded as one of Antigua’s national monuments. The St. John’s Cathedral is dominated with twin towers at the west end which provides a distinct baroque flavor. At the southern main entrance are two figure-statues, one of St. John the Baptist and the other of St. John the Divine. These statues were salvaged off of a French galleon destined for Martinique.

**Museum of Antigua and Barbuda,** Originally opened in 1985 in the old St John’s Court house, the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda holds exhibits which tell Antigua’s story from its geological origins to its political independence. The Museum which is operated by the Historical and Archaeological Society is dedicated to “preserving and expressing the island’s heritage” and welcomes the input of all those interested in doing so. It is also dedicated to education and research of the nation’s heritage.

**The Botanical Gardens - Victoria Park**, is located in Victoria Park at the top of St. John’s.  It borders the Queen Elizabeth Highway and Independence Avenue. The original Garden was created in 1893, and its eight acre site became the only real park in St. John’s. As you enter the historic Garden you are immediately captivated by the unfolding majesty providing open space for family get-togethers.

**Prince Klass Monument- 1993-**  Built in honor of an African rebel slave who rebelled in 1736, with aspirations for freedom of his fellow slaves. He was betrayed by a fellow slave and was beheaded. Prince Klass is now one of our national heroes.

**Fort Barrington**- (1779- c. 1850) - Like a toy fort without its tin soldiers! It is a giant semi-circular gun emplacement dominating the approaches to St. John's Harbour. It is placed upon a hill on the harbor’s south side. The lower interior is interesting to explore, for found there are dungeon-like rooms and a powder magazine. The ruin is also worth a hike for the magnificent view.

**St. George’s Anglican Church** is located in Fitches Creek in the north eastern part of the island. The first English settler was interred in the sanctuary in 1695.

**St. Peter’s Anglican Church**, was built by Rev. Francis Bell Grant in 1842. It was designed by Thomas Weeks an English architect in 1920. This church is known for its octagonal shape with its sides not of equal dimensions.

**Betty's Hope** was the first large sugar plantation on Antigua, and its success led to the island's rapid development of large-scale sugar production. The twin towers at Betty’s Hope are the only twin towers on the island, which has about a hundred stone windmill towers dotting the landscape. These two restored examples at Betty's Hope provide a dramatic sense of the way these mills must have dominated the island during the hundreds of years that sugar production was the dominant industry. Betty's Hope was built by Sir Christopher Codrington, who came to Antigua in 1674 from Barbados, and was named after his daughter. It has been developed as an open air museum and visitor centre.

**Devil’s Bridge**, located at the eastern tip of the island in Indian Town National Park, where Atlantic breakers have carved out a natural limestone arch. Devil's Bridge, offers one of the most spectacular sights on the island. At high tide, the rougher waves of the Atlantic force enormous geysers of water through boreholes in the rocks near the bridge. Guided tours of the site are available.

**Bethesda Tamarind Tree** - In 1951, when the Antigua Trades & Labour Union was in its infancy, Union field officers went to the estates and stated that no crop would start until the workers were told their rates of pay. Sugar cane cutters had already been on strike for three months and both the workers and the Antigua Sugar Estates were losing money. Meetings were arranged between the workers and Moody-Stuart, One of these was under the old Tamarind Tree in the cane fields near Bethesda.

**Barbuda Lagoon Frigate Bird Sanctuary** -The shallow lagoon west of Codrington holds several aspects of Barbuda's heritage. The oldest is the large frigate bird colony and there are no more than 25 colonies in the Caribbean today. Each bird has a wing span of about 8 ft. and each weighs 3 lbs and they fly at about 22 mph. The colony is the a most valued asset to Barbuda.

**Green Castle Hill** - Situated between the villages of Jennings and Emanuel about 3 miles due south of St. John’s. This rounded grassy hill stands 565 feet above sea level and is the remains of an isolated volcano. The area with its unusual stone works is also considered the Stonehenge of the Caribbean. At the very top of the Green Castle hill, visitors will find the ashes of Leeward Islands Governor, Baldwin Spencer, who requested to be buried there.

**Gunthorpes Sugar Factory** (1904 -1972) - The remains of this sugar factory is an important part of Antigua's history. Before the 21st century all sugar mills were owned by individual planters scattered over the island. Then when sugar cane output began to fail a central factory was built at Gunthorpes Estate in 1904.

**Fort James**-, (1706- c. 1850) - This military heritage site is perhaps the most spectacular in Antigua as it still has its full complement of canons in place. The guns in all other forts were all sold for scrap at sixpence/cwt in 1869, thus making Fort James unique. When St. John’s became larger than Falmouth and Parham about 1703, the northern entrance of St. John’s Harbour was fortified. The foundation stone for the present fort was laid with full Masonic honors in 1739. This inscribed stone may still be seen on the easterly corner. Much later, the inscription on this stone was nearly obliterated by some mischievous treasure-hunters, who had hoped to find coins behind it.

**The Green Corridor -** The Green Corridor is a designated area of Antigua where the businesses that are directly and indirectly related to tourism have agreed to a set of principles based on respect for local culture, positive influence on the local community, environmental stewardship and economic viability while maintaining all of these, are highlighted and promoted. The Green Corridor, stretches along the south-west coast from the village of Bolans to the village of John Hughes in Antigua. Visitor experiences will range from farm-to-table dining at award-winning and locally owned restaurants and beach bars, to sugar mill tours organized by the local community, turtle watching, zip-lining and hiking adventures as well as stays at hotels with environmental best practices.

**Wallings Forest & Reservoir**- One of the finest mixed evergreen deciduous forest walks may be had at Wallings. 13 acres of the reservoir catchment area were sown with tree seeds with a view to reforestation, as the area had become denuded after the turn of the century. In recent years some attention has been focused for both watershed protection and forestry products. The forest now boasts some of the most beautiful trees and plants in the Eastern Caribbean. The area is also now named the Wallings Nature Reserve.

**Fig Tree Drive** is where sightseers can explore the lush vegetation of the rainforest, and sample fresh fruit and the Antigua Black Pineapple at fruit stalls on the journey

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