The port of Saint John’s has berths for four large cruise ships in center city and one berth at the commercial dock ~1 mile from center city.
1) Map cruise ship dock, 2) Walking tour St John’s shopping, 3) Map best beaches, 4) Bus tour St John’s to Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre, Blockhouse, Shirley Heights Lookout (Guard House), Nelson’s Dockyard, and 5) Using GPS coordinates to explore the beaches on Antigua.

Antigua and Barbuda is a Dual Island State in the Caribbean (map below).

Antigua (an-tee-gah) island is 108 sq mi. with dock space for 5 large cruise ships. Tourist activities include:
1. Near cruise ships in Saint John’s, enjoy duty free shopping at malls, markets, and craft shops. Stroll along the colorful streets and stop at the restaurants, cafes, bars, coffee, ice cream shops, etc.
2. With 365 beaches, Antigua is a paradise for swimming, sun bathing, snorkeling, wind surfing, etc. Choose from full service beaches next to high end resort complexes to meet your every need or seek a secluded, more private beach. There are also nude beaches.
3. Take a tour to restored historic, former British held areas around Nelson’s Dockyard.

Barbuda (62 sq mi) is 30 miles north of Antigua. It’s an unspoiled island with miles of pristine, pink-white beaches = a perfect location for swimming, diving, snorkeling, etc. There are caves to explore, a huge frigate bird colony, and lobsters breeding in the lagoons.


CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
Start your internet research at the official Antigua tourism website.

With 80% of their economy dependent on tourism, Antigua and Barbuda does it right. The “official” tourism website is outstanding. It covers every aspect of the islands with superb photos, descriptions, and links to other websites for more detail. Be sure to explore the tabs under the main menu of “Antigua” for information on Activities, Attractions, Beaches, Event Planning, Food & Drinks, Nightlife, Shopping, and Tours.


**GPS Coordinates**

In this guide, I provide GPS Coordinates for the main tourist sites and points of interest. You can use the coordinates with any Google or Microsoft Bing map format such as “road”, “satellite”, “birdseye”, “earth”, or “terrain” views to see details of the location at any map scale.

- **Create your own travel maps to take with you for walking or driving tours.** See my Google and Bing Map User guide on how to create maps [http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html](http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html)
- **Program your hand held GPS, tablet, or phone with GPS coordinates from this guide** so that you will always know where you are, where you are going, and the time to get there. For details and instructions, see my webpage [http://www.tomsportguides.com/world-gps-maps.html](http://www.tomsportguides.com/world-gps-maps.html)

The format for GPS coordinates in this port guide is Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds shown as ddd° mm' ss.ss" N ddd° mm' ss.ss" W

You can copy and paste GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Bing maps. You can also type the coordinates into Google maps without the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds. Replace the symbols with “spaces”: type letters, numbers and decimal points into the map.

For example: **Dickenson Bay Beach** has GPS coordinates of 17°09′35.3″ N 61°50′50.4″ W

Type 17 09 35.3 n 61 50 50.4 w into a Google map search box to see **Dickenson Bay Beach**.

You can learn a lot about beaches on Antigua Island by studying Google maps.

Use GPS coordinates to locate the beach on Google maps. Set the map to “Earth” view and enlarge the scale to see the roads and whether the beach has full services or is in a remote location with no services and no nearby resorts, restaurants, etc. At high magnification, you can even see the beach chairs and whether the water is calm or has waves. The Google “Earth” map view shows waves from the Atlantic on the beaches on the east, windward side of the island. The “Earth” view of beaches on the west side of the island shows calm water.

**VC Bird International Airport (ANU) [http://www.vcbia.com/](http://www.vcbia.com/) GPS 17°08′31.1″ N 61°47′25.3″ W**

**Where Cruise Ships Dock**

There are five berths for large cruise ships in Saint John’s harbor. Small ships may anchor or dock in English Harbor near Nelson’s Dockyard.
Saint John’s is the capital city of Antigua. There are 5 docks for large cruise ships in Saint John’s Harbour. Two large ships (1 & 2) can dock at Heritage Quay and two large cruise ships (3 & 4) can dock at Redcliffe Quay, a few blocks from Heritage Quay. A large or mega ship (5) can dock at the Deep Water Harbour Commercial Terminal. Small cruise ships can anchor or dock at English Harbour close to Nelson’s Dockyard. Popular beaches are shown on this map. Tourist sites near Nelson’s Dockyard include Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre, Shirley Heights, and the Blockhouse.
Ship #5 is at the commercial/cargo terminal, a mile from city center. Ships #1,2,3,4 are in the center of the city.

Heritage Quay and Redcliffe Quay are duty free shopping centers, with restaurants, bars, etc. There are several vendor stalls along the streets for purchase of souvenirs, craft products, artwork, clothing, T-shirts, etc. The Parking Lot is where we boarded our tour bus to Nelson's Dockyard.

Friday & Saturday morning is the best time to visit the Public Market for fresh fruits, vegetables, local drinks, etc. The Craft Market has locally made products and souvenirs including leather goods, soaps, sea shells jewelry, etc. See the Saint John’s Street Map on the next page.
Saint John’s Street Map

St John’s Antigua

There are coffee shops, cafes, bars, etc. along the boardwalk between the cruise docks.

Elevation above sea level (feet)
It’s a slight uphill walk from the harbour at 17’ elevation to St. John’s Cathedral at 66’ (feet) above sea level.
Points of Interest in center city St John’s near the harbour (See the map on page 5.)

A  Saint John’s Cathedral  GPS  17°07′21.8″N 61°50′31.1″W
In 2016, the cathedral is closed to the public renovation. The Cathedral dates back to 1847. It’s on the site of former churches. The pillars of the gate feature St. John the Divine and St. John the Baptist.

B  Museum of Antigua and Barbuda  GPS  17°07′19.8″N 61°50′38.1″W
http://www.antiguamuseums.net/
It’s in the former court house, one of the oldest buildings in St John’s. The museum covers 10,000 years of history. Exhibits include geography, geology, and past/present material culture on Antigua and Barbuda. The gift shop is a great place to purchase colour prints and etchings of 18th and 19th century Antigua, local hand made pottery, handicrafts and books. In addition to this museum, there’s a museum at Nelson’s Dockyard.
Admission is $ 3 USD or $ 8 EC (Eastern Caribbean Dollars)
Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm   Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm   Closed Sundays

C  Vendor’s Square  GPS  17°07′18.8″N 61°50′42.4″W
It’s a small area next to the Post Office where vendors sell a variety of products including souvenirs, T-shirts, arts and crafts products, pottery, ceramics, etc.

D  King’s Casino   GPS  17°07′17.6″N 61°50′46″W
It’s the largest casino in Antigua with gaming tables, slot machines, simulcast live horse racing, and they will accept bets on every sporting event in the world.

E  Heritage Quay  GPS  17°07′16.5″N 61°50′43.6″W
Heritage Quay is shoppers paradise with duty and tax free international brand name jewelry, fine crystal, china, designer clothing and footwear, fashion accessories, swimwear, specialty items, perfume and beauty products, linens, gifts, souvenirs, cameras, CD’s with Caribbean music, and more!!!

Stores at Heritage Quay Listed by Product

Jewelry, Watches (12 stores)
Abbott’s, Caribbean Gems, Colombian Emeralds, Diamonds International, Diamond Republic, First Diamond, JCM Jewellers, Jeweller’s Warehouse, Shree Jewellers, Silverado, Sterlings, Tanzanite International

Clothing & shoes (12 Stores)
Baobab, Cattleya, Champion, Fashion Dock, Gingerlilly, Makai (bikinis), New Gates, Piraña Joe, Sange, SunSeakers, Tropic Wear, Ziba

Fashion accessories (7 stores)
Bijoux Terner, LAND, Longchamp, Sange, Shades, Sunglass Hut

Linens, specialty items, gifts souvenirs (5 stores)
Cariloha Bamboo, Mimosa, One Love, Shipwreck, The Linen Shop

Liquor & tobacco (4 stores)
Quin Farara, Shoul’s, Spirits of the Caribbean, Tobacco Negro

Perfume, cosmetics, beauty products (5 stores)
Abbott’s, Lipstick, Shoul’s, The Body Shop, Yofi

Cameras (1 store)
Cameras Plus offers brand name cameras, binoculars, telescopes, cell phones and laptops. Additionally, we offer the largest selection of inexpensive sun and reading glasses on the island.
Food & Drink at Heritage Quay

Heritage Quay is primarily a high end shopping area. Three places of interest for food & drink are:

- Island B-Hive Sports Bar & Kennedy's Club Ltd
- Cheers Bar & Restaurant
- Heavenly Java, a coffee shop on the boardwalk

**F Hemingway's Caribbean Cafe  GPS 17°07'15.7"N 61°50'41.5"W**

Fun by day, Hemingways is a great place to relax for a cool tropical thirst quencher and offers a lunch menu of soups salads, sandwiches and Caribbean island seafood specialties including lobster.

Romantic by night, Hemingways transforms into the perfect venue for an intimate dinner for two, or a friendly get together with friends, featuring the best Creole cuisine, fresh Caribbean seafood dishes and choice U.S. Steaks on the 1st floor in a traditional West Indian styled wooden house in the historic area. It has a cool veranda terrace that overlooks the street and serves daily lunch and dinner specials and an excellent wine list with friendly and attentive staff.  [www.hemingwayantigua.com](http://www.hemingwayantigua.com)

Restaurants in Antigua

*There are some excellent eateries in Saint John’s. However, the majority of fine restaurants are far from the cruise ship docks. They’re near resort hotels, beaches, and marinas where people stay overnight and have the time to spend at dinner relaxing and savoring fine cuisine and libation.*

**G Vendor’s Mall  GPS 17°07'14.4"N 61°50'42.4"W**

Thames Street between St Mary’s and Redcliffe Quay Street is lined with vendors selling souvenirs, local arts and crafts products, T-shirts, pottery, ceramics, etc.

**H Redcliffe Quay  GPS 17°07'12.1"N 61°50'43.8"W**

Redcliffe Quay offers locally designed and produced products. The shops and boutiques have a special “flavor” showcasing the talent of local artisans, designers, and craftsmen. This is the place to buy unique, locally made jewelry, artwork, and crafts products. Spend some time exploring Redcliffe Quay and you’ll find the “perfect” item to take home.

Stores at Redcliffe Quay Listed by Product

**Arts, gifts, souvenirs, crafts, hand made pottery, unique design locally made jewelry (10 stores)**

- **Bella Vista**: local license plates, paintings from the Caribbean
  *All the Jewellery is handmade on the premise and designed by the owner, Hans Smit, who is world-renowned for his expertise. Hans studied at the Academy of Modern Art in Holland and has trained young, local apprentices in the skills and secrets of Jewellery making in Antigua since 1965. Black Opal, Imperial Topaz, Tanzanite, Namibian blue green Tourmaline and other rare and exotic gemstones are set in exquisite creations of 14 and 18 karat gold as well as argentium silver, often accentuated by a sprinkle of diamonds. Hans caters to your personalized tastes, creating individual items to enhance the natural beauty of the wearer.*
- **Isis**: antique souvenirs-African art
- **Miranda Askie Designs**: original jewelry and designs
- **Pottery Shop**:  [http://www.sarahfullerpottery.com/shop.html](http://www.sarahfullerpottery.com/shop.html)
- **Rasta Pasta**: crafts, souvenirs, clothing
- **The Jewelry Plaza**: gifts and souvenirs
Specialising in polished seashells set in Sterling Silver, every piece of jewellery is handcrafted, making each piece unique & truly natural. A wide variety of Pendants, Bracelets, Rings & Earrings are available. You will also find an elegant selection of seashell evening bags, small gifts, fashion jewellery & specimen seashells.

Toy Shop:  toys and souvenirs

Zeni:  original local arts and crafts

Clothing  (12 stores)
Banana Bay (custom T-shirt), Carib Bikini, Caribbean Magic Wallet, Opulence, Deshaun (original designs & specialty brands), Exotic Antigua, Footnotes (womens shoes and accessories), Inizio, Island Creation (sarongs), Noreen Phillips, Radical Design (Zeitgeist), The Breadfruit Collection (Noreen Phillips)

Liquor & tobacco (1 store)  Smoke & Booze

Food & Drink at Redcliffe Quay

Big Banana  http://www.bigbanana-antigua.com/pizzas.html
“Best” pizza in the Caribbean. Casual dining inside or on the patio.

A casual, but sophisticated wine bar. We only sell wines that we enjoy including wines from South Africa. We also offer many Brandies, Spirits, Fortified Wines, Light Snacks, and Great Coffee.

The cafe is popular with locals and frequent visitors to St John’s. Cuisine varies from French Creole to European with a twist of local, and is the perfect stop for breakfast and lunch Monday to Saturday.

Fred's Belgian Waffles & Ice Cream  http://www.antiguanice.com/v2/client.php?id=143
Ice cream, sorbets, waffles, teas, coffees, soft drinks, and hand made Australian Chocolate:
  Chocolate chip, pistachio, macadamia nut, banana, vanilla, chocolate, mocha, papaya, low fat, and diabetic vanilla ice cream. Made on site with fresh milk, fresh fruit, eggs and sugar. There is also ice cream made from yoghurt.
  Mango, passion fruit, pineapple, papaya, etc. sorbets made from 100% fruit, water and sugar – a beautifully refreshing alternative to ice cream and perfect for anyone who is lactose intolerant.
  Fresh baked waffles to eat with your sorbets and ice creams, plus a superb choice of coffees, mochas, chilled coffees, teas and soft drinks

Harbour View Bar & Cafe  Located on the boardwalk in front of the cruise ships
  A great location to relax and view the ships and the harbor while enjoying a drink or a meal.

I Parking Lot  GPS  17°07'11.4"N 61°50'41.4"W
This is where our tour bus was parked for our excursion to Nelson’s Dockyard.

J Fish Market  GPS  17°07'03.5"N 61°50'39.6"W
If you are interested in buying, seeing, smelling, or photographing (you have to ask permission) fresh fish, this is the place to stop.

K West Bus Station  GPS  17°07'01.5"N 61°50'40.1"W
If you are on a cruise ship, it’s unlikely you will use the buses. If you were traveling to the airport, you might use a bus. Most people on cruise ships use taxis or tour buses.

L Public Market  GPS  17°07'01.7"N 61°50'37.6"W
Friday and Saturday morning is the best time to visit the market to see fresh fruit and vegetables including
bananas, black pineapple, coconut, roots, local drinks, and prepared foods. Go early to avoid the crowds and to get the best selection.

**M Craft Market GPS 17°07'00.5"N 61°50'37.3"W**

The craft market is next to the Public Market. You’ll find a range of products by local artists and craftsmen including leather goods, jewelry, products made from sea shells, soaps, fragrances, and more.

**Visiting a Beautiful Beach on Antigua Island**

Antigua has 365 beaches. They are all beautiful, but they are different, so you may want to consider what is important to you in selecting a beach.

**Travel distance, method, time and cost to/from the beach?**

Bus service is limited. Taxis are popular. A taxi for up to 4 passengers from Saint John’s to Dickinson Bay, the most popular beach, is $12 USD. See the 2016 Official Taxi Fare list for Antigua is at [http://www.antiguanie.com/v2/documents/Taxi%20and%20tour%20fares%20-%20%20ABTB%20final.pdf](http://www.antiguanie.com/v2/documents/Taxi%20and%20tour%20fares%20-%20%20ABTB%20final.pdf)

**Facilities and Services at the beach?**

Some beaches are in remote locations with no services or facilities. There are also some nudist beaches. If you are interested in getting something to drink or eat, renting beach chairs, a small boat, etc., you’ll want a beach with full services/facilities. Several of the beaches have resort hotels.

**Note:** If you take a taxi to a beach in a remote location, how do you know the taxi driver will return in the afternoon to take you back to the ship? My friends arranged to be picked up by the taxi in the afternoon, but the taxi did not show. Fortunately, they were at a beach with a resort hotel. The hotel front desk called for a taxi.

**Calm waters Vs. rough surf and winds for wind and kite surfing?**

The predominant wind is from east to west. Beaches on the east side of Antigua exposed to direct force of the wind and waves are good for surfing. Beaches protected from the wind and beaches on the west side of Antigua usually have calm water.

**Use Google Maps to explore the beach you plan to visit.** If you are unfamiliar with how to use Google maps, see my map user guide at [http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html](http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html)

**Dickenson Bay Beach GPS 17°09'35.3"N 61°50'50.4"W**

Copy and paste these GPS coordinates from this guide into Google maps. Set the view to street map as shown at left. Location of the GPS coordinates appears as a down-pointing red arrow next to the Halcyon Cove by Rex Resorts.

Change the map scale so you read the names of the major resorts, restaurants, cafes, and bars. Click on a name e.g. “Coconut Grove Restaurant & Bar” to read reviews of this business.

Click on “Get Directions” and enter GPS coordinates of 17°07'11.4"N 61°50'41.4"W for the Parking Lot in St John’s (shown on page 5 of this guide). Google estimates it’s a 15 minute, 5 km (3.2 mile) ride from the parking lot in St Johns to Dickenson Beach.

Dickenson Bay Beach

**GPS 17°09'35.3"N 61°50'50.4"W**

Copy and paste these GPS coordinates from this guide into Google maps. Set the view to street map as shown at left. Location of the GPS coordinates appears as a down-pointing red arrow next to the Halcyon Cove by Rex Resorts.

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Switch the map view to “Earth”, increase the magnification, and move the map around to see the dock, buildings, and even the beach chairs and waves. The map at left is a close up of the northern section of Dickenson Beach. The level of detail is amazing. Using Google maps, you can preview the beaches you are considering, see what is near the beach, visit the websites for the hotels, restaurants, bars, etc., and determine travel time and distance to the beach from the parking lot in St John’s.

Dickenson Bay Beach is rated #1
GPS 17°09′35.3″N 61°50′50.4″W
It’s a mile long, soft sand beach with calm waters surrounded by a fully developed area with full service resorts, bars, restaurants, water sport rental equipment, etc. It’s perfect for everyone including families with children. The only complaint is that it is busy and can be crowded.

Runaway Beach  GPS 17°08′44.1″N 61°51′24.6″W
To avoid the crowds at Dickenson, some people go to Runaway Bay Beach directly south of Dickenson Beach.

Fort James Beach GPS 17°08′05″N 61°51′38.9″W
Fort James beach is located directly south of Runaway Beach. It’s popular with locals and cruise ship visitors. It’s a 10 minute ride from Saint John’s cruise ship dock.

Sources of Information on Beaches

• The official tourist website http://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com/listings/antigua/type-beaches/ I recommend that you review the descriptions of all the beaches to get an idea on which beach you may want to visit.

• Cruise Critic and Trip Advisor are good sources of information on the beaches.

Here’s a list of some of the most popular beaches on Antigua

Caveat: I could not find an “official” ranking of beaches. That’s not surprising because all of the beaches have a lot to offer. The beaches listed below appear frequently in the blogs as the most popular beaches. Also note that two of these beaches are used by cruise ships for their beach shore excursions. The bottom line is that the “best” beach for you is the one you choose to visit and enjoy.

Pigeon Beach is rated #2  GPS 17°00′35.2″N 61°46′32.6″W
It’s popular for snorkeling in shallow, calm water.

Note: Ffryes Beach and Darkwood Beach are next to one another.
Both beaches have powdery sand and beautiful green-blue water. The backdrop to the beaches is hills with tropical forests. The beaches are undeveloped except they do have nearby restaurant-bars. It’s ~ 850 feet from the south tip of Ffryes to the north tip of Darkwood Beach. Both beaches are used by the cruise ships for their beach shore excursions.

Ffryes Beach is rated #3  GPS 17°02′55″N 61°53′44.9″W
The Dennis Cocktail Bar & Restaurant is nearby.
Darkwood Beach is rated #4  GPS  17°02′23.1″N 61°53′37.9″W
The Darkwood Beach Bar and Restaurant is on the beach.

Half Moon Bay is rated #5  GPS  17°02′18.6″N 61°41′21.5″W
Some consider Half Moon Beach the most beautiful beach on Antigua. It has pink and white sand. It’s popular for surfing on the rough, Atlantic side of the island. (Photo Below)

Jolly Beach is rated #6  (Photo Left)  GPS  17°04′00.1″N 61°53′19.9″W
Jolly Beach is located in a fully developed area with shopping, hotels, restaurants, and watersports equipment nearby. There are palm trees along the beach.

Note: Jolly Beach, Valley Church Beach and Ffryes Beach are next to one another. (Photo Left)

When you are selecting a beach, consider beaches nearby as alternatives.

The map on page 3 of this port guide shows beaches around Antigua Island. I suggest you use this map to help locate beaches in an area that you plan to visit and then select the beach where you will spend your time on your shore excursion.

I hope you enjoy your “day at the beach” on Antigua.

Tom Sheridan
**Tour from Saint John’s to Nelson’s Dockyard**

We took the 3.5 hour ship’s bus tour ($65) from Saint John’s parking lot (near ship #4) to Nelson’s Dockyard. Our guide explained the history of the island and pointed out items of interest on the route. It was a good tour.

**Abandoned sugar plantation GPS 17°06'33.44"N 61°47'54.62"W**

(Photograph Right)

Beginning in 1674, sugar became the main crop production with ~150 windmill sugar plantations. Sugar remained the main source of income for Antigua until tourism was established. Today, tourism is 80% of the country’s economy.

**Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium GPS 17°06'2.85"N 61°47'11.68"W** (Photo Below)

**Windmill converted to a House GPS 17°02'35.20"N 61°47'41.60"W**

You’ll see remnants of old windmills from the sugar plantations around the island. This house uses the structure from an old windmill.  (Photo Right)

**Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre GPS 17°03'8.47"N 61°45'25.99"W**

The Interpretation Centre presentation is impressive and informative. It’s narrated using multi-media and colorful displays around the room to cover the history of Antigua. It celebrates the history of the island and discusses prominent figures from past through the present who have influenced growth and development. The building is in the former residence of the 18th-century Commander of the British Navy.
Entrance to the Interpretation Centre (Photo Below)

Historic ruins of Dow’s Fort Hill behind the Interpretation Centre. (Photo Below)

Colorful plants and scenic view down the hill to the east. (Photos Below)
View of the mountains to the northwest from Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre (Photo Below)

Google 3D Map View of Dow’s Hill Interpretation Centre looking northwest to the mountains

For a gorgeous 360º panoramic view from the ruins of Dow’s Hill Fort, see http://www.360cities.net/image/dows-hill-fort-antigua-caribbean
There are Two Important Historic Sites that are Part of Shirley Heights

1. The Blockhouse, and
2. The Lookout (Guard House)

The Blockhouse GPS 17°0'0.61"N 61°44'47.84"W

The Blockhouse was designed as the “last refuge” for the military if there was an invasion. It was built on a cliff 360 ft above sea level with great views of the south sea. The cliff served as a natural barrier to invading armies. The original plan was to surround the area with a moat for further protection, but the moat wasn’t built. Today, you’ll see the restored blockhouse (photo below) and the foundations of other buildings.

You’ll have excellent views of the mountains and the southern coast (photo below)
The cliff next to the blockhouse provides excellent protection against invading armies. (Photo below)

Remains of the Officer’s Quarters on the road between the Blockhouse and the Lookout  (Photo below)
The Lookout (Guard House)  GPS  17°0'9.13"N 61°45'17.29"W
It was built on a hill 390 feet above the sea with excellent views of Falmouth Harbour, English Harbor, and Nelson’s Dockyard. This is an excellent location for photos.
There are several buildings and you’ll be able to purchase food and drink. On Sunday afternoon, it’s a festive atmosphere with music, food and drink, souvenirs, etc. It’s a great place to relax and enjoy fantastic views of the harbour.

Guard House
The Lookout
1791

The occupants of the Royal Artillery Guard House were responsible for maintaining the four guns on the gun platform and the signal post above the building. The Guard House is flanked by a magazine and a kitchen. The Signal Station above, at 490 ft (150 m), is the highest point on Shirley Heights and the most southerly point on Antigua.
The Guard House (Photo Below)

Relaxing and enjoying the views (Photo Below)

For OUTSTANDING Aerial Views of of Shirley Heights, see this youtube video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHk3aZP8fGc
Nelson’s Dockyard was the nicest, most attractive place we visited on the bus tour. It has a beautiful harbor, sail boats, and many attractive buildings plus the grounds are well manicured. There are many historic, perfectly restored buildings used as shops, inns, restaurants, pubs, museums, art galleries, gift shops, and boutiques. There’s a lot to see and do, many places to relax, and photo opportunities are abundant.

It is named after Admiral Horatio Nelson of the Royal Navy. In 1725, it was the dockyard for supplies and repair of British warships patrolling a thousand miles along the British West Indies islands to protect the valuable sugar export business.
Entrance to Nelson’s Dockyard
From the entrance/information building, you’ll walk a short distance southeast along Dockyard Drive. Check out the tiny cannon in a recess area in the rocks. There are pillars at the entrance to the Dockyard. (Photo Right)

At the pillars, you’ll see the entrance to the Admiral’s Inn Complex on your left.
It’s an upscale hotel in refurbished, historic buildings dating back to 1788. It has two top rated restaurants, namely, the Pillars Bar & Restaurant near the harbor and the Boom Restaurant next to the pool. For spectacular photos of the hotel and the grounds, see http://admiralsantigua.com/
The souvenir shop next to A & F sails has some interesting wood carvings. (Photo below)

Seaman’s Galley is a boutique and restaurant. (Photo below)
The Dockyard Museum is in the former Naval Officer’s House (Photo Below)
Exhibits cover the history of people that toiled in this famous Georgian Royal Naval Yard. It also explains the 20th century return of sailing ships and the aims and aspirations of Nelson's Dockyard National Park. There is also a small "Nelson's Room" with a life sized portrait of Nelson.
The first floor has models of several ships. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.

Copper and Lumber Hotel and Restaurant  http://www.copperandlumberhotel.com/index.php
There’s a splendor and magnificence to the Nelson’s Dockyard National Park that has taken the breath away from the millions who have journeyed to Antigua to experience paradise. Viewed from the gentle rolling peaks of the land that hold the harbor area in protective embrace is beauty to behold.
In the centre of the Dockyard, stands the Copper and Lumber Store Hotel and Restaurant. It is more than a modern day masterpiece of restoration. Besides the 17 suites and studio rooms of the hotel, the Copper and Lumber is home to an excellent dining experience set against a country style ambiance that makes you feel wonderfully at home. Lunch favorites include grilled chicken, grilled mahi mahi, and fish and chips.
We didn’t have time for lunch so we stopped for a beer.
Cooper and Lumber Store Hotel (Photo Below)

Paymasters Office - shops and restaurants (photo below)
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

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Antigua-08-07-2016