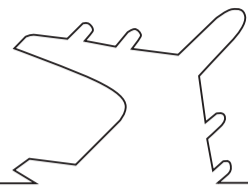


ESCAPE



TRAVEL // CULTURE // ADVENTURE



SKI FUN-DAY!

Get the après
vibe at home

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How's this for an office?

WITH WORKATIONS SET TO BE A GROWING TREND THIS YEAR, WHY NOT DO BUSINESS FROM THE BEACH IN ANTIGUA, SUGGESTS **LAURA MILLAR**



IF THERE'S one joy to come out of the new world of remote working, it's the possibility of a workation: imagine taking a whole month to immerse yourself in a fab new environment, playing *and* working to extend your time? Antigua has 365

beaches - one for every day of the year - so you won't be short of places to pull up a lounge and whip open your laptop. And if you want to just sunbathe, do it early, as the UK is currently four hours ahead and your office won't wake up till it's your

lunchtime. Even when travel restrictions are lifted again, you'll need to adhere to medical checks on arrival and supply a negative Covid test on your return. In the meantime, here are even more things things you plan in your extended downtime...

DO

At only 14 miles long and 11 miles wide, with 54 miles of coastline, you'll never be far from the ocean,

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THE HOT LIST MORE NEWS THIS WEEK



Holiday dreaming

Have you almost forgotten what a sandy beach, snowy slope or buzzing city look like? If so, prepare to jog your memory and scratch a bit of that wanderlust itch thanks to EasyJet, which has launched a series of three-minute travel films. Transport yourself to one of seven destinations, including Austrian mountains, Greek seaside or serene Venice. [instagram.com/easyjet/channel](https://www.instagram.com/easyjet/channel)



Happy Year of the Ox

Royal Museums Greenwich is marking Chinese New Year with an online festival. It's hosting events and performances online, including the story of legendary monster Nian, t'ai chi and qi gong demonstrations, and the chance to find out what life was like on the Cutty Sark as she sailed between Britain and China. From 4pm on Feb 13, [facebook.com/NationalMaritimeMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/NationalMaritimeMuseum)



Happy trails

Portugal's rugged island of Madeira, alongside its smaller neighbour Porto Santo, has launched a website for nature and outdoors lovers that offers visitors the chance to discover a range of running, hiking and canyoning opportunities. There are 61 beautiful trails across both islands currently listed, with plans to add more. [madeiraoceantrails.com](https://www.madeiraoceantrails.com)

ESCAPE TRAVEL // CULTURE // ADVENTURE

You'll be eager to work in Antigua



Port of call:
Capital St John's
and (left) Betty's
Hope sugar
plantation



Ray of hope: Meet the friendly inhabitants at Stingray City (above) and enjoy the colours of the annual carnival (below)



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meaning snorkelling, surfing, swimming and diving are a given. Want something a bit different? Stingray City (stingraycityantigua.com/) offers up an underwater experience you won't forget in a hurry. Antigua's southern stingrays are the brightest rays in the Caribbean – and friendly too (phew!)

For more aquatic action, don't miss Antigua Sailing Week (usually April/May, sailingweek.com), when yachts from all over the world arrive in English and Falmouth harbours to take part and race around the island. But if you're not a sailor, you can still get out on the water with Chase The Race, which will let you observe the action from the best vantage points.

On November 1 the island will mark its 40th year of independence from Great Britain but if you miss those celebrations, you'll find more during Carnival (antiguacarnival.com), a cultural fix usually held each summer.

EXPLORE

As part of the British West Indies, Antigua and its neighbouring island,



Barbuda, were ruled by Blighty for 350 years, which has inevitably left its mark, particularly in terms of architecture.

Nelson's Dockyard, the only remaining example of a Georgian fort, commissioned in

1755, is perhaps the most renowned landmark.

You can also visit Betty's Hope in Pares Village, one of Antigua's first full-scale sugar plantations (these were a major part of the island's economy from the 17th to 20th centuries, along with cotton and tobacco). Dating from 1651, it's been restored and is now a museum but you'll learn about its

history, as well as the sobering story of the Caribbean slave trade. Another unique site is 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.

If you're craving a little more adventure, take the rainforest canopy tour located in the heart of the Fig Tree Drive rainforest. The Antigua Rainforest Company (antigua-rainforest.com) is the island's only zipline and rope adventure operator, allowing you to explore this lush, green forest high among the treetops.

EAT

As this is a tropical island, you can expect an abundance of stonking seafood. You'll find lobster, red snapper, conch and more, as well as delicious, naturally grown fruit. Antigua's local highlights include the black pineapple (though its colour is the same as a normal one), which is known as the sweetest and rarest pineapple variety. There's also the soursop, which doesn't taste as bitter as its name. Its flavour is more like a creamy

blend of pineapple and strawberry.

No meal is complete without being doused in Susie's Hot Sauce, pleasing palates since 1960. Made with peppers, mustard, vinegar and spices, it will elevate any dish. And with all that sugar cane around, rum is practically the national drink. It's used liberally in cocktails as well as in traditional Antigua black rum cake.

GETTING THERE

Flights from London to Antigua from £398 return with British Airways, ba.com
For more details go to visitantigua-barbuda.com

STAY

Where's best to base yourself? The capital, St John's, is the island's main hub and is brimming with bars and restaurants, with access to several beaches. From here you can also take a ferry to neighbouring Barbuda or another nearby

island, Montserrat. English Harbour Town and Jolly Harbour are as delightful as they sound, with a range of historic sites, beach resorts, and nightlife.

More peaceful is Dickenson Bay, with its dazzlingly white sandy beach, turquoise waters and old sugar cane plantations, while Falmouth and St Philip are both small, gentle, quiet coastal towns. Just don't forget that laptop charger.



Admirable: Nelson's Dockyard is a renowned cultural heritage site in Antigua