



Branch Associations

Anguilla

Climate

The tropical marine climate is generally pleasant and healthy. July-October is the hot and hurricane season. September-January is the wettest season. In September 1995, Anguilla was hit by Hurricane Luis, which caused extensive damage to properties.



Capital – The Valley

Geography

Anguilla is the most northerly of the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean. It is 26km long and a maximum of 5km wide, with an area of 91km² and 61km of coastline. There are no rivers, but some salt ponds. The highest point is Crocus Hill at 210ft. Most of the land is privately owned.

History

Colonised by English settlers from Saint Kitts in 1650, Anguilla was administered by Great Britain until the early 19th century, when the island - against the wishes of the inhabitants - was incorporated into a single British dependency along with Saint Kitts and Nevis. Several attempts at separation failed. In 1971, two years after a revolt, Anguilla was finally allowed to secede; this arrangement was formally recognised in 1980 with Anguilla becoming a separate British dependency.

Economy

Currency is Eastern Caribbean dollar (EC\$), tied to the US dollar. Anguilla has few natural resources, and the economy depends heavily on luxury tourism, offshore banking, lobster fishing, and remittances from emigrants. The economy suffered a setback in late 1995 due to the effects of Hurricane Luis, but recovered in 1996. Increased activity in tourism has spurred the growth of the construction sector, and contributed to economic growth.

Government / Legal

The justice system is based on English Common Law as exercised by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. The Chief of State is the English monarch, who appoints a governor to represent the throne.

Transport / Travel Information

GMT minus 4 hours. About 65km of tarred road and 40km of gravel and earth public roads serve all parts of the island. Vehicles keep to the left. A temporary licence, valid for three months, is issued at the police headquarters in The Valley on presentation of a national driving licence. Taxis are available, but there is no public transport road system. There are two main seaports. The international airport is Wallblake, which is 1km from The Valley. There are connections with carriers in Antigua, St Kitts, and other Caribbean islands.

How Guiding Started

In August 1932, John Ramsay, a visiting Scout from Antigua told about the Guide Movement there. Mrs W H MacFadyen, wife of the Magistrate and Doctor of the island, was appointed as the first Commissioner and she formed the first Guide Company with seventeen members. On 5th March 1933, the 1st Anguilla Guide Company was registered at Guide Headquarters in the UK.

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| 1932 | Mrs W H MacFadyen registered as Island Commissioner. |
| 1933 | First Guide Company registered. |
| 1934 | Ranger Unit and Brownie Pack started – 1 st Anguilla held first camp at Road Point, for four days. |
| 1941 | A requiem mass was held for the World Chief Scout, followed by a memorial service. |
| 1961 | Opening of Scout and Guide Headquarters. |
| 1964 | World Chief Guide visited Anguilla accompanied by Miss Helen McSweeney. The Chief Guide planted two mahogany trees in the grounds of the Headquarters, and they are now fully grown. |
| 1977 | Two Rangers gained gold medals; a guide and a Ranger Company started at Island Harbour. A service was held at St Mary's Anglican Church in memory of the World Chief Guide. |
| 1982 | The Commissioner for Branch Associations, Mrs Margaret Banks, visited for the 50 th anniversary celebrations. |
| 1984 | The Commonwealth Chief Commissioner, Lady Baden-Powell, visited. A rally was held in the grounds of the Headquarters and Lady-Baden Powell planted a tree. |
| 1985 | Guides hosted Girl Scouts of America. They worked with the Guides for six weeks, and taught craft and other skills. |
| 1992 | 60 th Anniversary celebrations were attended by the Adviser for Branch Associations, Sheila Mathieson. |
| 1995 | Twelve girls and two leaders attended an international camp in Scotland. |
| 2002 | Two guides and a leader attended Ma Buyu at Waddow Hall, Lancashire, to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and the Queen's Golden Jubilee (July 24 to August 5). 70 th Anniversary celebrations included a Youth Seminar involving other Anguillan youth organisations. The Adviser for Branch Associations, Alison Robson, was in attendance. |
| 2003 | Eight senior guides and two leaders visited Anguilla from 18 July to 28 July, led by Ann Patterson and Jennifer Kennedy on an international visit from |
| 2006 | Branch Commissioner, Dr Oluwakemi Linda Banks, was elected chair of Caribbean Link of Guiding. |
| 2007 | 75th Anniversary celebrations were launched with a cocktail party, hosted by His Excellency the Governor, and Girlguiding Anguilla President Mrs Watanalak George at Government House, and included the adviser for Branch Associations, Mary Livesey. |

Guiding Today

The programme followed is to the same as that used in the UK. Uniform is the same as the UK, although only the lighter weight items are worn. Units also make a regular practice of visiting people who are unwell and who are elderly.

All Units join in the Queen's birthday parade.

There is a Caribbean Knowledge interest badge for both Brownies and Guides. Guide and Brownie Holidays usually take place in local schools as the lack of shade makes camping in tents difficult.