

Historical Churches

- 1 - Spring Gardens Moravian Church
- 2 - St. John the Divine Anglican Church
- 3 - St. Joseph Catholic Church
- 4 - Ebenezer Methodist Church
- 5 - St. George's Anglican Church
- 6 - St. Peter's Anglican Church
- 7 - St. Stephens Anglican Church
- 8 - Gilbert's Memorial
- 9 - St. Phillips Anglican Church
- 10 - Bethesda Methodist Church
- 11 - St. Barnabas Anglican Church
- 12 - St. Paul's Anglican Church
- 13 - Methodist / Moravian Compound Church
- 14 - St. Mary's Anglican Church
- 15 - Sea View Farm Catholic Chapel

Introduction

Antigua and Barbuda has had a long and rich history and culture of religious activities and development. From the early days of settlement, colonization was linked with religion and among the first buildings to be erected for social services and administration were churches. With the establishment of Parishes, churches soon followed to provide the social and religious needs, such as marriages, burials, and the keeping of the related records and documents. Churches and the "church halls" were the first schoolrooms and the centers of festive and social life. The first and official church of Antigua was the Anglican or Church of England. It was the Planters' church and did not provide service for blacks, slaves, colored people or Catholics.

Historical Churches of Antigua & Barbuda HERITAGE MAP MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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In the mid-18th century, Quakers, Methodists and Moravians began to settle on Antigua. Their numbers were small, but their religions dedication, anti-slavery doctrine, and policy of education for all had much appeal to the poor and enslaved. These "newer" unofficial religious groups, particularly the Methodists and Moravians were the first to educate the slaves and to ultimately revolutionize the education systems of the region.

Several of these early churches remain standing but a few have been expanded, modernized and the tombstones in their cemeteries devastated. Regardless, there are valuable cultural heritage resources that were built by enslaved Africans. This document will only focus on them in an effort to create an educational tour into the religious history of Antigua, its associated architecture and social development.



1 *Spring Garden Moravian Church*

The Moravians arrived in Antigua in the 18th century at the heart of the period of sugar and slavery. They immediately embarked on a mission to educate and improve the lives of the enslaved Africans. Spring Garden was the site of their largest church and mission close to St. John's.



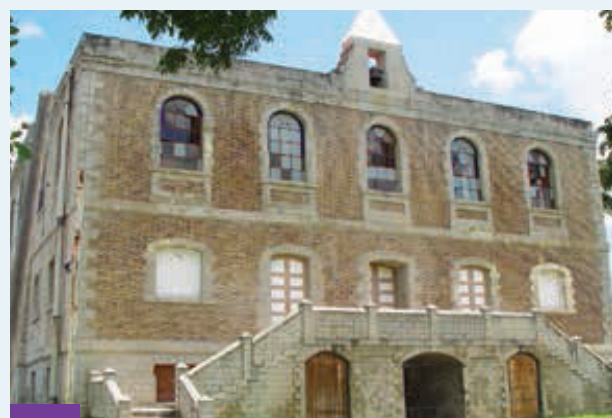
2 *The St. John's Cathedral*

The St. John's Cathedral dominates the landscape of St. John's. At one time it was the largest and most imposing structure on the cityscape. It carries the names of St. John the Divine and at the south gate on Temple Street, statues of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Divine. It is classic and Baroque in architectural style. The original was a wood structure that was built shortly after the time of settlement in the 1680s. The second was a small stone and brick building (1720) that was completely destroyed by the Great Earthquake of February 8th 1843. The new structure was a unique building of stone that completely encased a wooden building, on its inside. This was intended to protect the worshipers should another major earthquake occur when the cathedral was in use.



3 *St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Catholic Church*

This small Catholic Church was built in the early 20th century by the wealthy planter A. J. Camacho. Antigua, a British colony, was at the time predominantly protestant. Post emancipation, a number of migrant groups were introduced, including the Portuguese who were financially successful and within a generation were among the top merchants, planters and businessmen on Antigua. The Portuguese were Catholics, and as there was no place for them to worship, the small chapel of St. Joseph and St. Patrick was built.



4 *Ebenezer Methodist Church*

Ebenezer Methodist Church on upper St. Mary's Street in downtown St. John's is an architectural gem of Antigua. It was designed in stark simplicity typical of Methodism. It is essentially a brick structure with stone corners and a low hip roof set behind parapet walls. Ebenezer dates to the mid 19th century and succeeds the original church that once existed on Temple Street.



5 *St. George's Anglican Church*

St. George's Anglican Church was built as the Parish Church on Fitches Creek about 1687, of brick and limestone. The hurricanes of 1950 were particularly destructive and St. George's had to be extensively repaired. It was again repaired and expanded in the 1980s to create the church we see today. The oldest tombs are on the eastern side of the property closest to the sea. The church also contains the tomb of the first English settler to be interred within the sanctuary of a place of worship on Antigua; William Barnes in 1695.



6 *St. Peter's Anglican Church*

St. Peter's Anglican church is located in the town of Parham, and is the Parish church for St. Peter's Parish. It is a unique octagonal building dating to 1840. It replaced the older church that had been built at Vernon's in early 1700s. The structure is of white limestone and a masterpiece of Georgian ecclesiastic architecture built in "a Palladian manner" and a roof framed like the hull of a ship. It was designed by an English architect Thomas Weekes and built by black enslaved stonemasons. It was the first building in Parham to be lit with electricity.

7 *St. Stephen's Anglican*

St. Stephen's Anglican was built on the main road that once traversed Antigua in a straight line from East to West. It is located at the crossroad of the main road from Pares to Willikies at the intersection leading to Seaton's. Much like St. Peter's, it is built of white limestone, some of which were taken from the old plantation structures at Betty's Hope Estate nearby.



8 *Gilbert's Memorial*

Gilbert's Memorial Methodist Church is one of the most beautiful small churches of Antigua. It was built of the cream-colored limestone typical of the northeast limestone region of the island. It was named after Nathaniel Gilbert one of the first preachers of Methodism on Antigua who owned the nearby Gilbert's Estate. Gilbert's Memorial Church and its outer buildings are located near Glanville's Village in the Parish of St. Phillip.

9 *St. Philip's Anglican*

St. Philip's Anglican is a picturesque limestone building at the entrance to St. Philip's Village. This community developed after the waterfront settlement of Bridgetown was abandoned in the mid 19th century.

10 *Bethesda Methodist Church And Schoolroom*

The Methodist church in Bethesda Village is not the most scenic or picturesque site on Antigua, not the most interesting in architecture or style, but historically it is one of the most important sites on Antigua and in the Caribbean for it was the first place built by slaves, for slaves and dedicated to their education and religious instruction.



11 *St. Barnabas Anglican*

St. Barnabas is a small picturesque church set directly on the main road to English Harbour, on a scenic hilltop in Liberta village. It is built of the local green stone found in the area, and bricks imported from England. St. Barnabas is a popular attraction for tourists on the way to English Harbour. There is an old story that a small meteorite came through the roof and embedded in the floor behind the altar but this has never been confirmed. It is a popular photo spot for tourists and others admiring the green volcanic stone.

12 *St. Paul's Anglican*

St. Paul's Anglican Church was likely the first church built on Antigua shortly after colonization by the English in 1632, in the first town, Falmouth. The original church was a small wood building that also served as the courthouse and official place of government or island's council until St. John's was established. The building of today was built on the same spot as a replacement for the original wooden building that was destroyed by fire. Several historic military persons were buried in the churchyard, including Capt. James Charles Pitt of the British naval sloop HMS Hornet. In the grounds of the church rectory, a short distance away, is a large "baobab" tree that likely dates to before Emancipation.

14 *St. Mary's Anglican*

St. Mary's Anglican is built on a small rise on the west coast of Antigua. It is has a scenic mountain backdrop and from the church, a view of the Jolly Beach area.

15 *Sea View Farm Catholic Chapel*

Sea View Farm Catholic Chapel is a small stone chapel in the western section of Sea View Farm village. It was built partially of the brown flint stone that is abundant in the area, which is known for its clay and fossilized wood.

Historical Churches

In Antigua



1. Spring Garden Moravian Church



2. The St. John's Cathedral



3. St. Joseph and St. Patrick's Catholic Church



4. Ebenezer Methodist Church



5. St. George's Anglican Church



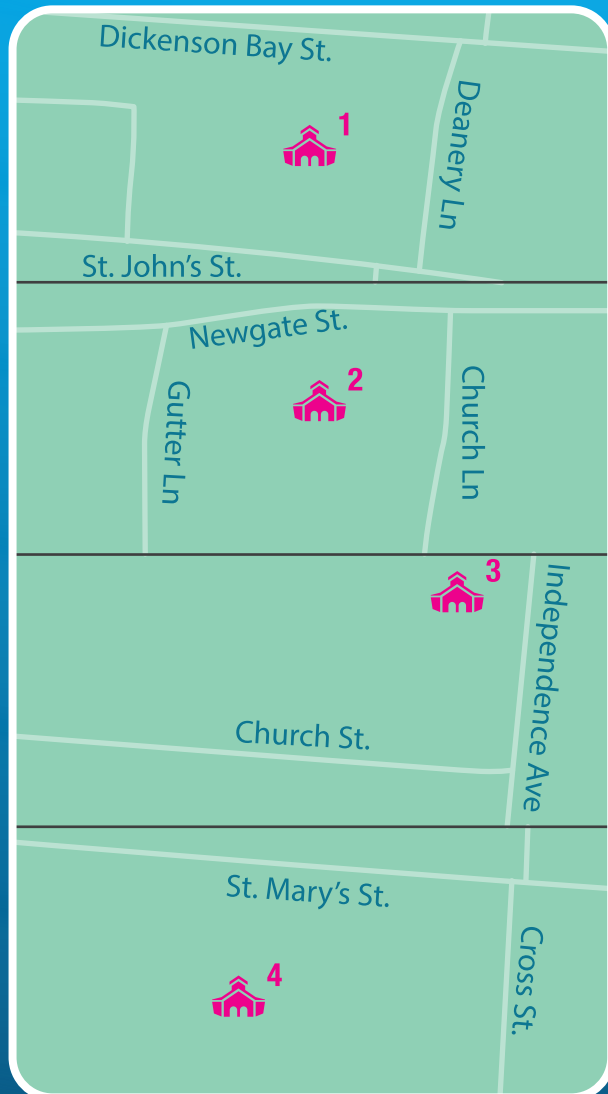
6. St. Peter's Anglican Church



8. Gilbert's Memorial



11. St. Barnabas Anglican



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Slave Routes

- 1 - Prince Klass Monument
- 2 - Betty's Hope Windmill
- 3 - The Methodist School Room at Bethesda
- 4 - The Middle Ground
- 5 - Orange Valley Slave Dungeon

Sugar Estates

- 1 - Green Castle Estate
- 2 - Betty's Hope

Introduction

It would be difficult to overestimate the impact on Antigua's history of sugar and slavery. It began on that fateful day in 1684 when Sir Christopher Codrington arrived. An enterprising man, Codrington had come to Antigua to find out if the island would support the sort of large-scale sugar cultivation that already flourished elsewhere in the Caribbean. His initial efforts proved to be quite successful, and over the next fifty years sugar cultivation and slavery on Antigua exploded. By the middle of the 18th century the island was dotted with more than 150 cane-processing windmills—each the focal point of a sizeable plantation. The majority of enslaved Africans worked on sugar plantations or in support of that industry. Relations were often uneasy and uprisings of the Africans were cruelly put down. The sugar industry was to continue for over three hundred years when tourism took over. Today over a hundred stone sugar mill towers dot Antigua's landscape in mute evidence of bygone days.

Slave Routes & Sugar Estates of Antigua & Barbuda HERITAGE MAP MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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1 Prince Klass Monument

In 1736, Prince Klass, an enslaved Coromantee of noble birth, organized the first large scale slave revolt in Antigua. Klass was recognized as a leader by the enslaved Africans on Antigua and was publicly respected by them. The insurrection was set to begin during the coronation ball for King George I. On the sound of the explosion, all slaves were to rise, kill all whites encountered then capture the Arsenal of weapons and other fortifications. The plot was revealed and all involved promptly arrested. The subsequent trial and investigation (by torture) led to a frenzy of further arrests and mass executions. Prince Klass is a National hero of Antigua and his monument is sited near the believed area of the executions.



2 Betty's Hope Windmill

Betty's Hope was the first large scale sugar plantation on Antigua. Colonel Christopher Codrington established it in 1667 immediately following the Treaty of Breda and the return of the island by the French, to the British. Many workers considered Betty's Hope as the "workplace of choice" in the post emancipation era. It was well managed and workers were afforded opportunities for learning new trades and skills that was not possible on smaller estates.

The site is now used as a public park and place for learning. There is also an active archaeological project on the site during the summer months. The site is managed by a non-profit, non-governmental organization, the Betty's Hope Trust. It is a popular tourist destination and easily accessible by vehicle and public bus.



3 The Methodist School Room at Bethesda

Bethesda is located at the foot of Willoughby Bay. It is perhaps one of the most important historical sites on Antigua and in the West Indies. In 1817, Mr. Charles Thwaites a former employee at the naval dockyard in English Harbour and a staunch Methodist, often rode to Lyon's Estate to preach to the slaves and their children. Thwaites and his wife, a woman of mixed race, decided to build a school room halfway between English Harbour and Lyon's Estate. The site chosen was a breezy hilltop where the village of Bethesda now located. The schoolroom opened on 29th May 1813. The school was named Bethesda, which means hallowed. It is likely that Bethesda was the first school that was built specifically for the education of enslaved people in the Caribbean.



4 The Middle Ground

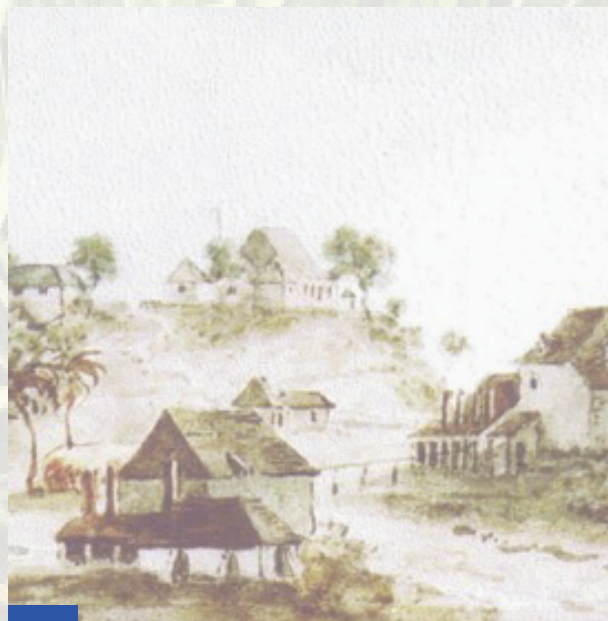
At the height of the Napoleonic Wars, Great Britain at times stood alone against French territorial and military conquests. Large numbers of soldiers were needed to fight in the Caribbean and to defend the British sugar colonies and the naval dockyard on Antigua. Almost half of these soldiers would never return due to the frequent epidemics of yellow fever, malaria and other infectious diseases. Several West India Regiments of African and free black soldiers were stationed at Middle Ground. On a rocky outcrop at Middle Ground, three grinding holes that are similar in all respects to those of northern Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria, can be observed. It is not known if the hollows were the work of the African soldiers or African domestics and tradesmen attached to the military, but they are a rare and interesting feature of important cultural significance.



5 Orange Valley Slave Dungeon

The "dungeon" or confinement space is a simple single wall structure. It was built of stone and lime mortar enclosing a small rock shelter on a small hill in the heart of the Orange Valley Sugar Estate. The dungeon front wall has a small single entry door and a small narrow slit for ventilation. The sugar estate is located close to the western end of the Shekerley Mountains, near to the Dark Woods Beach in the Bermudan Valley trading area of colonial Antigua. In those early days of colonization, the Sherkeley Mountain provided the only place of refuge for maroons, or escaped slaves.

Photo of Orange Valley dungeon by Reg Murphy.



1 Green Castle Estate

It is located Northwest of the village of Bendals and due north of Antigua Masonry Products on the road that connects Bendals with Big Creek, is the site of Greencastle Estate.

Current Status: Nothing remains of the once grand structures and factory complex with twin windmills, great house and slave village. Unless one is accompanied by an archaeologist, it will be difficult to locate the site. It is however, easily accessible from the main road. There is a small wooden house on the hill where the southern windmill once stood and a new concrete residence is being built where the other mill was located.

Greencastle Estate was the property of Samuel Martin. It is situated on fertile lands with several reliable streams and receives a high rainfall, on the foothills of the Sherkeley Mountains. On December 27, 1701, Martin was killed by his slaves for refusing to give them their Christmas holidays. Twenty years

later, his son Colonel Samuel Martin took over the estate. Martin Jr. made several observations on the current practices and agricultural policies of the sugar estates. He published his observations and recommendations in his "Essay on Plantership" that recommended major changes greatly improved the lives of the enslaved people. His recommended changes included granting them good lands for growing their own provisions, more humane treatment, more time for rest and self improvement, better accommodations and medical care. He believed that a better treated worker would be more content and productive. Although it has not been proven if his essay actually made a difference in the lives of the enslaved, it was widely distributed, read and debated.



2 Betty's Hope

It is centrally located due East of Pares Village on the main road to Glanvilles and Willikies Villages. The estate is situated about a half kilometer on south side, along a dirt road; follow the sign.

Currently, Betty's Hope is no longer a working estate and today lies mostly in ruin. The windmill has been restored to workable condition and the former store rooms and stables have been converted into an interpretation centre. The site is used as a public park and place for learning. It provides a unique educational visitors experience. The ruins are interesting and interpretative panels provide information for visitors. There is an active archaeological project on the site during the summer months. The site is managed by a non-profit, non-governmental organization, the Betty's Hope Trust. It is a popular tourist destination and easily accessible by vehicle and public bus.

Betty's Hope was the first large scale sugar plantation on Antigua. It was established in 1667 by Colonel Christopher Codrington. Codrington served as the senior military officer on the island and the governor of the Leeward Islands. His descendants continued to develop Betty's Hope into the largest and most productive sugar estate on Antigua. They ultimately acquired an additional six estates and leased the entire island of Barbuda. All correspondence between the Codrington's who resided mostly in England and their managers on Antigua were kept and this archived material is a valuable primary source of information. Betty's Hope was considered by many workers as the "workplace of choice" in the post emancipation era. It was well managed and workers were afforded opportunities for learning new trades and skills that was not possible on smaller estates.

Slave Routes & Sugar Estates

In Antigua



1. Prince Klass Monument



2. Betty's Hope Windmill



3. The Methodist School Room at Bethesda



4. The Middle Ground



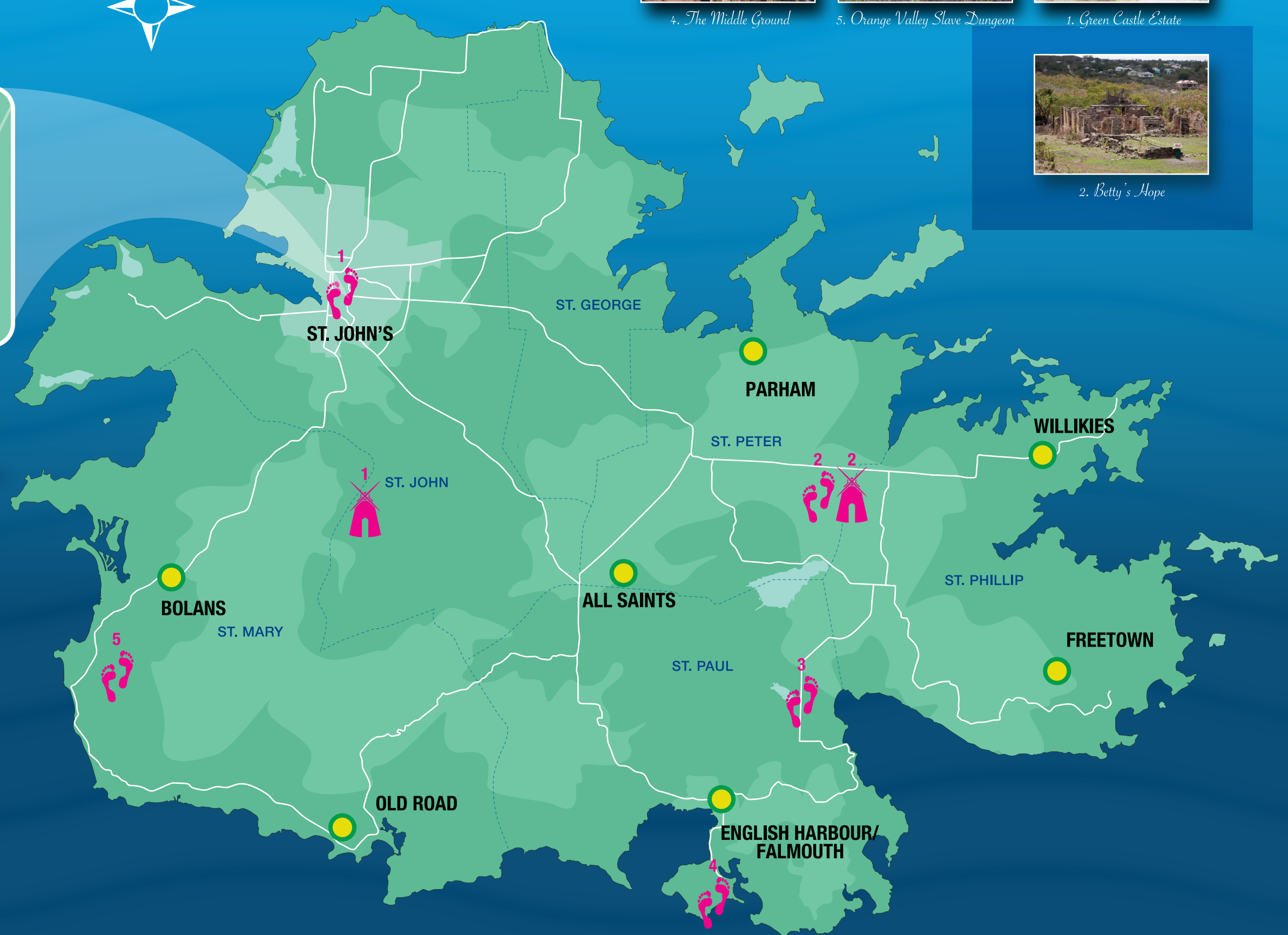
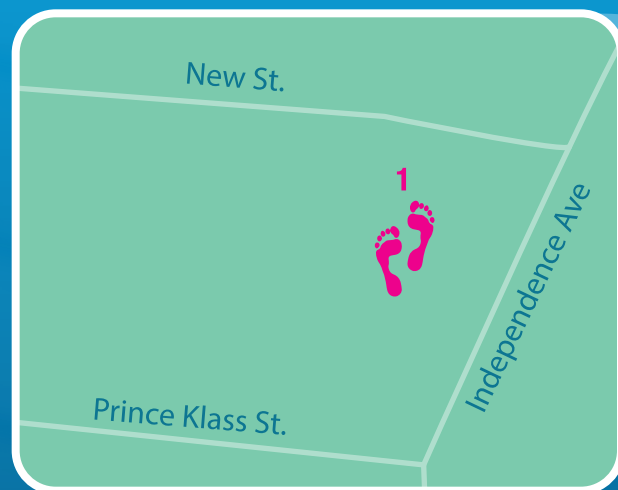
5. Orange Valley Slave Dungeon



1. Green Castle Estate



2. Betty's Hope



Unusual and Mystical Sites

- 1 - Deep Bay Beach & Lagoon
- 2 - Sleeping Indian
- 3 - Hell's Gate Island
- 4 - Devil's Bridge
- 5 - Half Moon Bay Natural Arch
- 6 - Bats Cave
- 7 - Carpenter Rock
- 8 - Pillars of Hercules
- 9 - Faces in Stone
- 10 - Greencastle Hill & its Megaliths

Unusual and Mystical Sites

These are unusual places and sites with rare geological natural formations. Most will require hiking and some walking, a bit of rock scrambling, but for the adventurous, it will be well worth the effort. This tour is for the fit and will require a local guide.

Sites include:



1 Deep Bay Lagoon and Beach from Fort Barrington



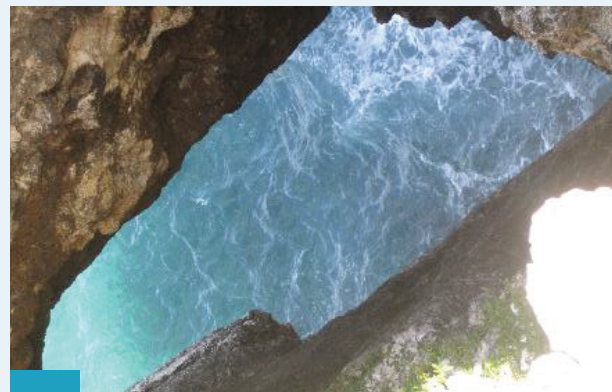
2 The Sleeping Indian, viewed from the road to Galley Bay



3 Hell's Gate Island



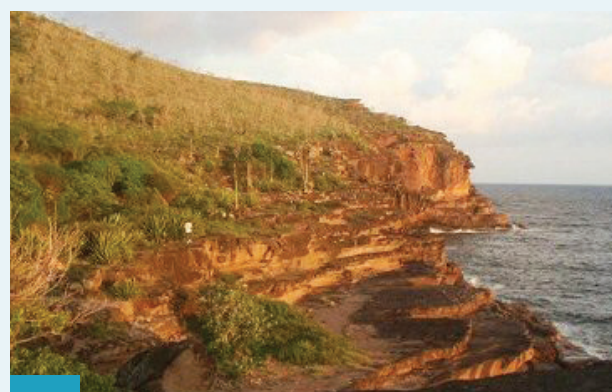
4 Devil's Bridge



5 The natural arch and ancient blow hole at Half Moon Bay



6 Bat's Cave



7 The Lookout Trail to Carpenter Rock



8 The Pillars of Hercules



9 The Faces in the rocks at Maul Bay viewed from the beach in Falmouth



10 Greencastle Hill and its megaliths

Ancient and Unusual Trees

Trees are the oldest living things on Antigua and Barbuda. Some date back to the time of enslavement and are therefore living monuments. Others are unusual and served in a social cultural capacity. They are widely dispersed and this will provide a scenic drive around the island.

These include:



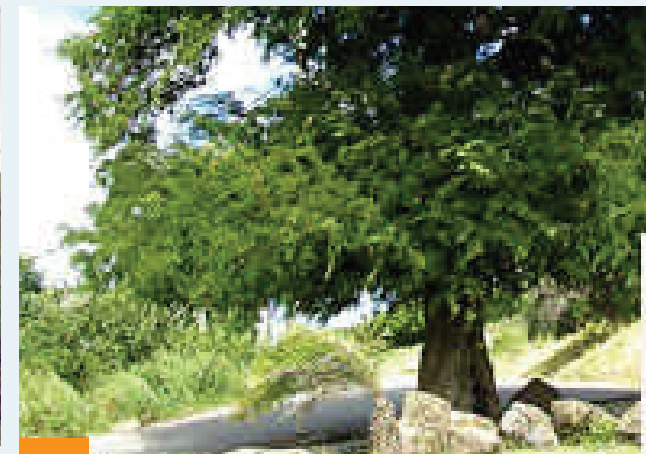
1 Baobob Tree



2 Rubber Tree



3 Pain Tree



7 Tamarind Tree



9 Sandbox Tree

Scenic Landscapes

These are some of the most breathtaking views of Antigua and are well worth the visit.

- View from Fort Barrington
- View from Monk's Hill
- View of Falmouth from Horsford Hill
- View of English Harbour and the Dockyard from Hospital Hill
- View of English Harbour and South coast of Antigua from Shirley's Heights
- View of Darkwood and West Coast from Crab Hill and Hills from above
- View of South Coast and East Coast from Blockhouse
- View of Antigua from Dow's Hill
- View of Willoughby Bay from the road above Bridgetown past Montpelier Estate
- View of Antigua from Boggy Peak (Mt. Obama)
- View of the Body Pond and Greencastle Valley from Buckley's
- View from the hill above Galley Bay on the road to Hawksbill
- View of the north coast islands from Bird Island
- View from Signal Hill

Ancient Trees

- 1 - Baobob tree at Spring Gardens Moravian
- 2 - Rubber tree in Botanical Gardens
- 3 - Pain tree at North Sound
- 4 - Baobob tree at Sir Viv. Richards Stadium
- 5 - Baobob tree in Parham
- 6 - Tamarind trees in Bettys Hope
- 7 - Tamarind tree near Bethesda (1949 workers strike)
- 8 - Baobob tree at Falmouth Anglican Rectory
- 9 - Sandbox tree in Falmouth

Unusual and Mystical Sites, Ancient Trees of Antigua & Barbuda

HERITAGE MAP
MINISTRY OF TOURISM



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Unusual and Mystical Sites, Ancient Trees And Scenic Lands

In Antigua



Forts

- 1 - Fort Barrington
- 2 - Fort James
- 3 - The Arsenal in St. John's
- 4 - Old Road Fort
- 5 - Great George Fort, Monk's Hill
- 6 - Dow's Hill
- 7 - Fort Berkerley
- 8 - Fort Charlotte
- 9 - The Lookout
- 10 - Block House, Fort Shirley

British Military

- 1 - Nelson's Dockyard
- 2 - The Lookout at Shirley's Heights
- 3 - Middle Ground

Places of Confinement

- 1 - Baracoons at Coates Cottage
- 2 - Orange Valley

Forts, British Military, Places of Confinement of Antigua & Barbuda HERITAGE MAP

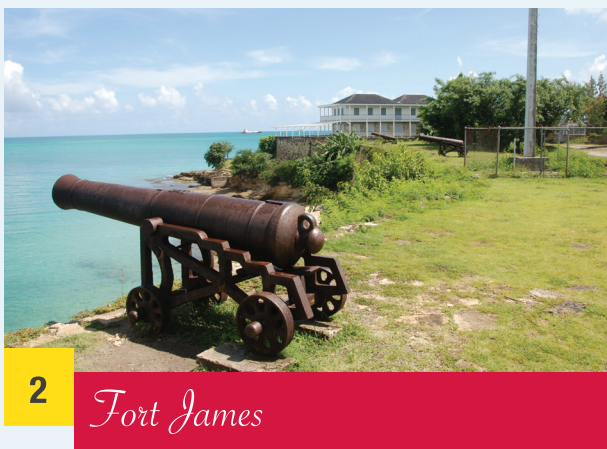
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

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1 Fort Barrington

Fort Barrington is situated on Goat Hill, the westernmost entry point into St. John's Harbour. It was built on the strategic hilltop point to control entry by sea into both St. John's Harbour and neighbouring Deep Bay. As such, it was an important part of the triad of forts built to protect the rapidly growing trading town of St. John's.



2 Fort James

Fort James is one of the oldest forts of Antigua. Its origins date back as far as 1672. Its intended purpose was to defend the port of St. John's. To achieve this, it was part of a defensive network of forts that were built on the headlands and strategic coastal locations. Fort James is unique in design when compared to the other forts and defense platforms of Antigua.

3 The Arsenal in St. John's

The Arsenal was built in St. John's on Newgate and Market Streets in 1772 on the site of the original building that was destroyed by the Great Fire of St. John's. It was initially a part of the administration complex of the island, and the Courthouse was built immediately adjacent to it; however, its primary role was as a prison. In 1831 the prison was and its secondary role as a police station was expanded and continues to this day.



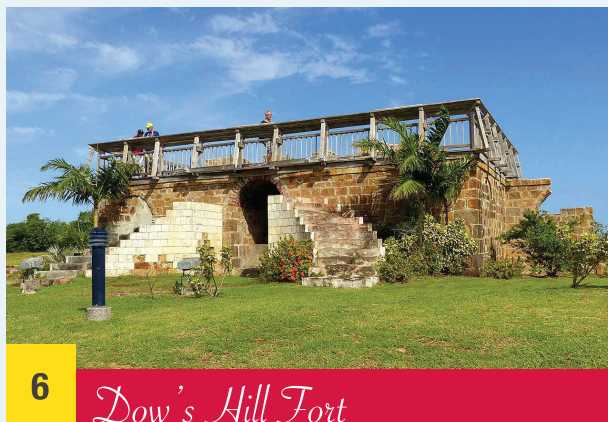
4 Old Road Fort

The fort is located on a point of land separating Carlisle Bay and Curtain Bluff. Old Road was one of the first places of settlement for the English in 1632. The fort was established by 1652 as a coastal battery, one of the many positioned to protect the island, prevent the landing of enemy forces and to guard nearby settlements and ships at anchor.



5 Great George Fort, Monk's Hill

Great George Fort is located on a flat hilltop overlooking Falmouth Harbour. Great George Fort was built on Monk's Hill as a walled enclosure to protect the families of the soldiers and planters on Antigua in the event of an armed invasion. Construction on the site began in 1689 and continued until the 1730s. It also served as a signal station passing communications on to other stations around the island and continued in this capacity until the Second World War.



6 Dow's Hill Fort

Dow's Hill is located on the grounds of the Dow's Hill fort overlooking Falmouth and English Harbour. The site is now the Interpretation Center for the National Parks. The site is a part of the Dow's Hill eastern battery and the gun platforms provide a scenic view of the entrance to English Harbour, Guadeloupe and Montserrat and is one of the top scenic vistas on Antigua. One can also see the University of Health Sciences Campus that was originally built by NASA as a communication center for the Apollo Missions to the moon.



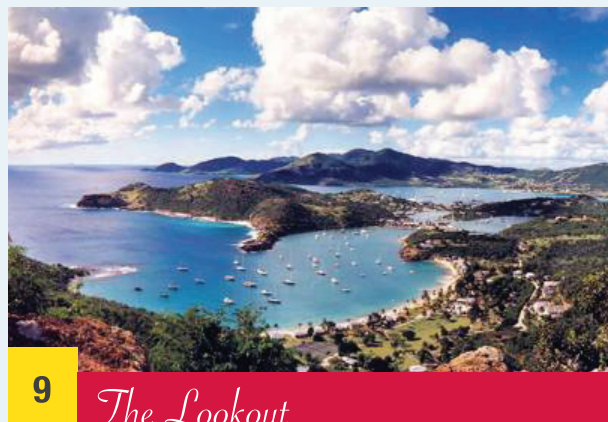
7 Fort Berkerley

Ft. Berkerley is located at the entrance to English Harbour. Fort Berkerley was built to protect ships at anchor and being careened in English harbour. The first defenses were setup in 1704 and expanded in the 1740s. The barrel end of the cannon bollard that was embedded in the bedrock, onto which a chain was tied and slung across the harbour entrance to Fort Charlotte on the other side, to effectively block the entrance of the harbour.



8 Fort Charlotte

Fort Charlotte was built to guard the entrance of English Harbour. It worked in unison with Fort Berkerley as a chain was floated across the harbor entrance between these forts. The deep water of this area is a popular scuba diving area. This site requires a 15 minute walk along an unpaved road from Galleon Beach resort out to Charlotte Point.



9 The Lookout

Lookout is located at the end of western extension of the road at Shirley's Heights. The Lookout was built as a signal station and fort with gun platforms set to assist the forts at the entrance to English Harbour. It is part of a large complex of barracks, hospitals, canteens, officers' quarters and cemeteries on the western end of the Ridge, or Shirley's Heights. There is an active bar and restaurant.



10 Block House, Fort Shirley

Blockhouse is located at the southeastern end of the Ridge on Shirley's Heights Road. Blockhouse was built as a coastal observation and defense platform. It was built as a part of the larger defense system designed to protect the nearby British Naval Dockyard and the island of Antigua and a time in history when Britain was experiencing difficulties. Antigua with the naval dockyard and strategically valuable hurricane shelter was the only safe port for the navy and had to be held at all cost.



1 The Nelson's Dockyard

The Dockyard is a major heritage site that dates to the Georgian Period. Most of the buildings have been restored. They are open to the public as offices, restaurants, hotels, shops, museum and government services such as Customs and Immigration. The former Georgian Naval dockyard is today an active marina and port of entry to Antigua and still provides to seafarers and their vessels. The Nelson's Dockyard was the former British naval dockyard in the Lesser Antilles. It was established in 1734 as a hurricane shelter and carenage, but its strategic importance was soon realized as it permitted the British to maintain an active squadron in the Eastern Caribbean after the loss of the North American colonies. Africans built and maintained the numerous naval and military facilities, serviced and repaired the ships stationed in the Caribbean. Today, the yachting industry of English Harbour is one of the primary economic engines of Antigua and the skilled workers, the descendants of many of these African workers continue to provide a high level of skilled services.

2 Shirley Heights

Shirley Height's was a British military center for the Leeward Islands. Its primary role was to protect the British Navy moored in English Harbour and the dockyard, but it also served as a platform for military campaigns in the region. The large numbers of structures, defense platforms, powder magazines, hospitals, barracks, storage facilities, roads and infrastructure.

3 Middle Ground

At the height of the Napoleonic Wars, several West India Regiments of African and free black soldiers were stationed at Middle Ground. On a rocky outcrop at Middle Ground, three grinding holes that are similar in all respects to those of northern Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria, can be observed. It is not known if the hollows were the work of the African soldiers or African domestics and tradesmen attached to the military, but they are a rare and interesting feature of important cultural significance.

1 The Barracoon's at Coates Cottage

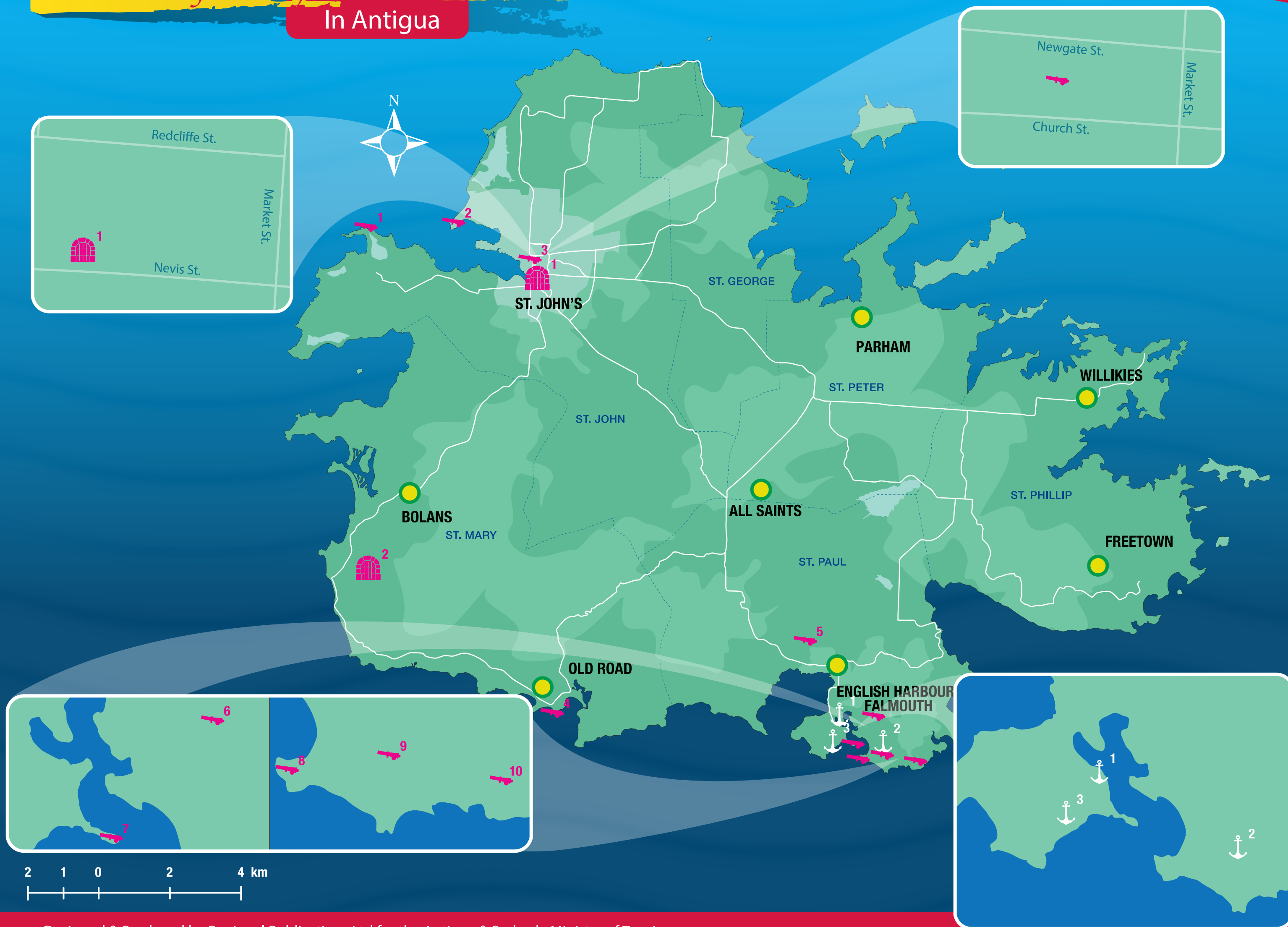
Coates Cottage is a small house close to the waterfront on lower Redcliffe Street. It is a typical small wooden house, single storey, common to St. John's. There are no other sites of its type in St. John's or on Antigua. The property is well maintained and is an excellent example of a disappearing architectural style and urban residence.

2 Orange Valley

The "dungeon" or confinement space is a simple single wall structure. It was built of stone and lime mortar enclosing a small rock shelter on a small hill in the heart of the Orange Valley Sugar Estate. The dungeon front wall has a small single entry door and a small narrow slit for ventilation. The sugar estate is located close to the western end of the Shekerley Mountains, near to the Dark Woods Beach in the Bermudan Valley trading area of colonial Antigua. In those early days of colonization, the Sherkeley Mountain provided the only place of refuge for maroons, or escaped slaves.

Forts, British Military, Places of Confinement

In Antigua



National Sites of Interest



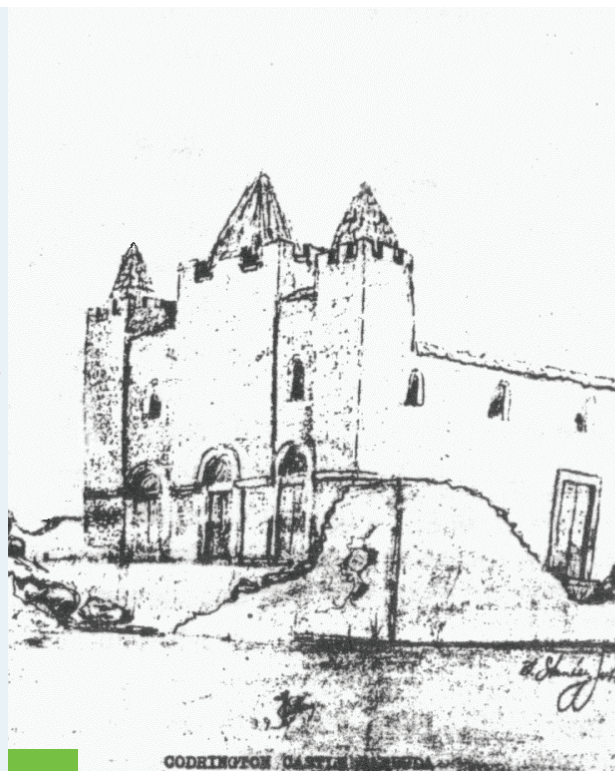
- 1 - The Codrington Castle
- 2 - Martello Tower
- 3 - The Cave and Petroglyphs at Two Foot Bay
- 4 - Dark Cave
- 5 - Darby's Cave
- 6 - The Caves and Rock Shelters
- 7 - The Frigate Bird Sanctuary

Introduction

With mysterious abandoned forts, Neolithic caves and beachfront untouched since the days of Christopher Columbus, Barbuda is both the deepest retreat into solitude you could dream of and an untouched world of legend for you to explore. This magnificent island is 62 sq miles or 14 miles in size, with a population of over 1500 people.

National Sites of Interest
of Barbuda
HERITAGE MAP
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

FREE



1

The Codrington Castle

The Codrington Castle is unique in many respects as it was a medieval style defense structure on a small island of the Eastern Caribbean. The Castle was built near the waterfront in the now town of Codrington, Barbuda. Only the well and foundations, a footprint of the once imposing and unique structure are visible today. It was built to protect the residents and of the early British colony of Barbuda following a series of devastating attacks by Carib Indians and French Privateers that almost crippled the small colony. The Castle rose to prominence as a Place of Memory following the 1745 Barbuda slave revolt.



2

Martello Tower

The Martello Tower is located on the pink sand beach area on Barbuda known as the River. It was initially known as River Fort and was built to defend the main anchorage and entry route of the southern approaches to Barbuda. It was armed with six guns that could be quickly repositioned in any direction. The tower today is the major historical site and attraction on Barbuda.



3

The Cave and Petroglyphs at Two Foot Bay

The caves here run along the sea cliffs and are interesting and full of history. A visitor might see evidence of bats, crabs, huge iguanas, tropicbirds and other interesting flora and fauna. Barbudans have camped in the caves for centuries and have given them names, such as 'The Fridge', which as its name suggests — is cool and breezy. Inside Indian Cave it is possible to see drawings (petroglyphs) left by the original inhabitants of Barbuda, the Arawak or the Siboney.



4

Dark Cave

Dark Cave is two miles to the south of Darby Cave. The cave has a narrow entrance leading to a vast cavern containing pools of water, which were probably a water source for Amerindian inhabitants as artefacts have been found nearby. Dark Cave is the habitat for a rare species of amphipod, the blind shrimp, as well as several species of bats.



5

Darby's Cave

Three and half miles north-east of Codrington is Darby Cave, a spectacular sink hole in the middle of the Highlands. It is well worth the long walk (45 minutes) to see the huge deep hole suddenly appear in front of you and wonder how it got there — the tops of tall palm trees are suddenly at eye level! Darby Sink Hole is over three hundred feet in diameter and around seventy feet deep. One side of the hole has been greatly undercut and stalactites up to eight feet long have formed under the overhang. The vegetation resembles a mini rainforest with palms, ferns, and lianas.



6

The Caves and Rock Shelters

The hidden caves and mysterious rocky caverns is steeped in myth and legend. Some caves are said to have fast-flowing rivers within them. Others are as tall as a cathedral, according to folklore tales. Many caves sit partially beneath ground level, offering visitors easy access. And one or two disappear into deep, dark sinkhole abyss.



7

Frigate Bird Sanctuary

The Codrington Lagoon National Park is the largest wetland in the State of Antigua and Barbuda. The national park stretches approximately 16.5 miles and encompasses the entire west coast of Barbuda. The lagoon itself is marvelously pristine. There are few mangrove lagoons in the Caribbean that are as preserved as Codrington, and for that reason alone this site is of global importance. Codrington Lagoon supports the largest magnificent frigate bird colony in the Caribbean and the Western Hemisphere. It has about 5,000 Frigate Birds. These birds with wingspans of four to five feet are only accessible by a short boat trip with a knowledgeable tour guide. These magnificent birds travel between the Caribbean and Galapagos islands during the varying mating seasons. At breeding season, males have a remarkable scarlet throat pouch inflated like a balloon.

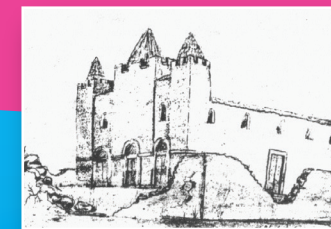
There are also over 100,000 birds that exist there. Brown boobies often loiter in the colony, and laughing gulls nest on the sand that collects beneath the mangrove islets. Frigate birds banded in this colony have been seen as far north as Florida. Codrington Lagoon is the only RAMSAR site in the country.



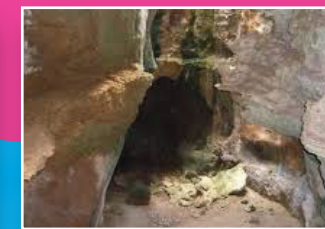
The lagoon and bird sanctuary constitute some of the most environmentally sensitive areas of Antigua and Barbuda. Consequently, the Codrington Lagoon was declared a National Park on March 3rd, 2005, giving this area special protection.

Natural Heritage Sites

In Barbuda



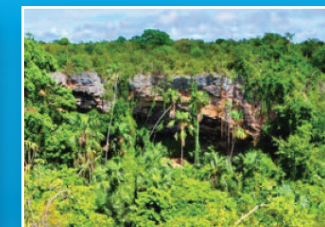
1. The Codrington Castle



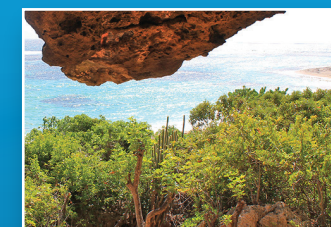
4. Dark Cave



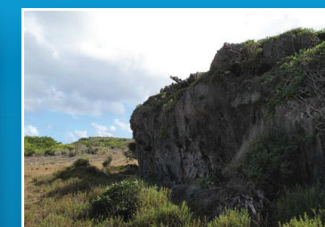
2. Martello Tower



5. Darby's Cave



3. The Cave and Petroglyphs at Two Foot Bay



6. The Caves and Rock Shelters



7. Frigate Bird Sanctuary

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