

Media Group: National Newspaper Magazine  
Media Outlet: **Sunday Times Travel Magazine**  
Media Title: Best Beds: Antigua

Publication: March 2015  
Ad rate: £11,954  
Circulation : 65,950



# Best beds: *Antigua*

Location, vibe or price? Whatever you want, we've got it sussed. Here's the how and why



## The easy-breezy one *Blue Waters*

**PRICE** From £262, B&B. There are 19 different room categories, though, so plenty of price options. The **100 block** has the best views (0870 360 1245, bluewaters.net)

**LOCATION** Stretched out along a couple of coves in Antigua's northwest corner, a **nice short drive from the airport** and capital, St John's

**THE VIBE** Unpretentious, unrushed, unfussy — there's something about the **shady gardens and 'sure can' attitude** of the staff that makes this place feel way laid-back

**ROOMS** **Crisp white linens and always comfortable**, but even within each price category there's a lot of variation; some rooms look pretty dated, so ask to see several

**FOOD & DRINK** The main restaurant serves standard resort fare, but Bartley's (for **zingy West Indian curries**) spices things up



**BEST THING** The Cove is one of the island's best-sited restaurants: right on the water, **facing west into the sunset**. That comes early (5.30pm-6.45pm), so do cocktails here before dinner

**WORST THING** Several of the resort's footpaths run in front of the accommodation blocks, so **ground-floor rooms often have little privacy**

**TRAVEL'S TIP** All-inclusive is an extra £225 per room per night, but the food and drink prices are reasonable, so there's no need to opt in. You're also **just a £10 taxi ride from the capital**



## The sleek & sexy one *Carlisle Bay*

**PRICE** From £438, B&B. But, as with most hotels in Antigua, you'll **pay less by booking through a tour operator** — from £245, B&B, in this case (00 1268 484 0002, carlisle-bay.com)

Right next door to Curtain Bluff, but with **its own perfect scalloped bay**

Cool, in every sense. Breeze-catching open-sided restaurant; understated mod decor in rooms; chilled-out staff. Amazingly, it's **sexy and child-friendly** (families stay at the west end of the resort, couples east)

Muted tones, clean lines, even **colour-co-ordinated fruit and tasteful paperbacks**. It could easily have been pretentious; instead it's serenely restful

Four restaurants, all great. Posh pizzas and pasta by the pool; hit-the-spot grills (and bikini-busting breakfasts) on the beach; and an **exquisite 'I want everything!' pan-Asian** menu at ritzy East

Four beautiful words, right there on the resort guide: **'No fussy dress codes'**. (It's not just wearing shorts to dinner; it's the whole kick-back, feet-in-the-sand vibe)

The spa is a sleek beauty, but sits right in between tennis courts and teens' club. You'll **feel self-conscious in your bathrobe**



Guests can book the tiny cinema in the evening — free — for their choice from the hotel's DVD collection (**with popcorn and Prosecco!**)



## The linen-jacket one *Curtain Bluff*

**PRICE** From £512 — food, drink, diving, **everything included**. In common with most of the island's hotels, though, you'll pay at least 50 per cent more in winter (0800 0518956, curtainbluff.com)

The eponymous bluff is a promontory sticking out from the island's quieter south coast, with **one beach on either side of it**

Dressing for dinner... Tennis tournaments... Three generations of the same family on staff... Putting green... It's as if the place has been **preserved in G&T** since it was built in the '50s



Marble sinks, rattan sofas, Jacuzzi baths: it's **Caribbean luxe as your grandma might imagine it**, but it somehow works

Serious about dinner (even the less formal beach restaurant **adds truffle to its Black Angus fillet tartare**) and wine (you can take tastings in the 25,000-bottle cellar). Lunch and breakfast are less memorable

The second beach. Big waves (and sharp coral under them) means it's always deserted. Take a ground-floor Deluxe Room (the cheapest) and you can **roll right out of bed onto your 'private' beach**

The atmos is trad-going-on-stuffy. And **service runs on Caribbean time**

Most of the 'nightly entertainment' is distinctly missable, but Thursday's *chanteuse* (and manager **Rob's rock 'n' roll stories** at the weekly cocktail do) are ace

WORDS: ED O'BRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHS: CORBIS, GETTY; MAP: ROBERT LITTLEFORD