

**MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT
AREA OF WORLD
COUNTRY**

Snapshot section

Country Name: Anguilla

Population: 14,764

People Groups: 5

Government Type: Overseas territory of the United Kingdom



Picture of Flag

Religion Snapshot:	Christianity	90.6%
	Ethnic Religions	4.6%
	Non-Religious	2.0%
	Buddhism	0.7%
	Islam	0.6%
	Hinduism	0.3%

Geography: Located in the Caribbean Ocean, northeast of Puerto Rico. 18 15 N, 63 10 W



<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Anguilla

Demographics: As of July, 2010, the population estimate for Anguilla was 14,764. Life expectancy was 80 years. The average age of the population was 33 years. 68% of the population falls between 15-64 years of age. Birth rate is 13 births for every 1000 people. The death rate is much lower at 4 deaths for every 1000 people. 72 % of the population is Anguillan, while 28% of the population is made up of Americans, British, and individuals from other local islands and Asians.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>

Language: Since Anguilla is an overseas protectorate of the United Kingdom, English is the official language. A mixture of English and West African is also spoken. It is the island's "Creole."

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>

Land/Geography: Anguilla is located 150 miles east of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean Ocean. It is a flat coral and limestone island 16 miles long and 3 miles wide (91 square kilometers). The soil is very thin and so most crops grown are largely for individual families. The highest point on the island is only 65 meters (213 feet).

The climate is mild with average annual temperatures ranging from the 70s to 80s degrees (around 27 degrees Celsius). Average rainfall is only 35 inches making the island climate rather arid. This mildness of climate makes it a prime destination for tourists. Its surrounding coastline makes for wonderful beach activities.

<http://anguilla-guide.info/weather/>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>

Society/Culture: Anguilla culture is a mixture of the British influences of several centuries and its early Indian citizens. Religion plays an important part in people's daily lives. It is estimated there is a church every two miles.

The island celebrates its culture with holidays and festivals. The biggest and most popular is the Summer Festival which is held in August. It is a time to celebrate the freedom given to the slaves in 1834. There are parades, fairs, and opportunities for dancing and music.

On Easter Sunday a large sailboat race is held. It is the first race of the season. Racing season runs May through August. Hundreds of locals and tourists gather on the beaches around the island to watch the races. Sailing could be considered the national sport of choice. The ocean has had a big influence on this island since the early days when racing the fishing boats home was a competition.

Other English holidays celebrated include the Queen's birthday and Whit Monday.

The Anguilla National Trust was formed in 1993 to help islanders remember and preserve their heritage. Several sites have been found on the island with artifacts from the early inhabitants. The ANT helps to oversee protected sites and museums around Anguilla.

<http://anguilla-guide.info/getting.there/sailing.and.yachting/>
<http://anguilla-guide.info/past.and.present/culture/>

Literacy: It is estimated that 93% of the population are literate. Schooling traditionally covers 11 years. The government spends 4% of its budget to further educational achievements.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Anguilla
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>

Government: Anguilla is an overseas protectorate of the United Kingdom. The Queen is their head of state. Acting on her behalf is the Governor, Alistair Harrison. The local head of government is the current Chief Minister, Hubert Hughes.

The legislative branch is made up of the House of Assembly. There are 11 seats in the House. Seven seats are filled by popular election, two are appointed and two are ex officio members.

The judicial branch is overseen by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court which includes the Court of Appeals and the High Court.

Economy: The currency used by Anguilla is the Eastern Caribbean dollar. The average annual income is \$12,000. The unemployment rate is around 8%.

The island has very little agriculture endeavors. Only 4% of the economy is based on income from growing of tobacco, vegetables, and raising cattle.

The primary source of income is from the service sector which is primarily tourism and the business associated with it; construction, transportation, and financial. This makes up 78% of the country's budget.

Export revenue for 2009 was made from selling lobster, fish, livestock, concrete blocks, salt, and rum. These items produced \$119.5 million in revenue.

Items imported by Anguilla were foodstuffs, fuel, trucks, chemicals, and textiles. The country spent \$143 million in 2009.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>
<http://anguilla-guide.info/travel.basics/currency.and.credit.cards>

History

Artifacts have been found on Anguilla linked to the first inhabitants, the Amerindians. Some of the earliest findings have been dated back to 1300 BC. The name of the island is from the Spanish word for “eel” which may have been a descriptive word on the how the island shape looked to early explorers.

Anguilla was first settled by Europeans around 1650. They tried to cultivate large crops using the plantation system. They quickly learned that Anguilla, with its sparse rainfall and thin soil made growing crops extremely difficult. The British landowners brought slaves with them to work the plantations. As it became obvious there was no profit in working the land, English landowners sold their land to their slaves and left the island. Even before slavery was officially banned by Great Britain in 1832 in the Caribbean holdings, slaves on Anguilla were enjoying much freedom.

In 1967 Great Britain gave internal control to several of the Leeward Islands, including Anguilla. Many did not appreciate being a part of the unified dependency with St. Kitts and several revolts occurred in Anguilla. In May 1967 Anguillians demanded self-government. Agreements could not be reached with the British government.

On February 10, 1969 leaders in Anguilla announced they were no longer a part of the United Kingdom. In March, Britain sent troops to the island. Islanders were forced to sign a truce. Finally in August of that year Great Britain granted a new constitution for the Leeward Islands to be self-governing dependencies of Great Britain.

On December 19, 1980, Anguilla separated from the St. Kitts-Nevis governing body. They are now a British Overseas Territory. In 1989 the country voted to retain their ties with Britain. They helped to provide stability to the economy.

When a hurricane occurred in 1996 and destroyed nearly one half of the homes on the island, Britain lent aid to help Anguilla rebuild.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/av.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anguilla>

Encyclopedia of the Stateless Nations, volume one, pages 120-123, Greenwood Press, 2002.

Religion

Non Christian

Buddhism: It is estimated that about 0.7% of the population follow the practices of Buddhism. This religion was brought in through Chinese immigrants.

Islam: About 0.6% of the population or around 46 people claim to follow Islam.

Hinduism: 0.3% of the population or around 20 people may practice Hinduism.

Non Religious: Around 2% of the population does not claim any type of religious beliefs.

Ethnic: Over 450 people still practice ethnic or folk religion. Much of this may be mixed with other religions, including Christianity.

Roman Catholic: There are 2 congregations of Catholic believers with over 120 members. Over 300 people claim some kind of affiliation with the Catholic Church.

Christian or Evangelical

Anglican: There are 5 congregations with over 1,000 members. British presence has been a dominate stamp on the island for many generations.

Methodists: There are 4 congregations on the island with around 1,000 members. Over 2,000 claim some association with the Methodists.

Seventh Day Adventist: There are 3 congregations meeting with about 600 members.

Baptists: There are 2 congregations meeting with a little over 200 members. Around 650 people claim some connection with the Baptist church.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/countries.php>

Johnstone, Patrick, Mandryk, Jason. *Operation World*, pages 74-75, WEC International, 2001.

People Groups

16186

Afro-Anguillan (13,021)

The Afro-Anguillan or Mulatto people are the primary inhabitants of Anguilla. They are descendants of the slaves who were left behind when the British plantation owners left. Through the years they have intermarried with other nationalities. Their culture is a blend just as their language, Virgin Islands Creole English.

Many are members of the Anglican Church. It is estimated that nearly 20% are Evangelical Christians. There are many Christian resources in the official language of Anguilla, which is English. These include the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and audio recordings of the Gospels.

15741

American, US (300)

Most of the Americans living on Anguilla have come there to work. Some have stayed and now live on the island. Their primary language is English. Though a large percentage is Protestant in their religious beliefs 13% claim to be non-religious. There are many Christian resources in their language. These include the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and audio recordings of the Gospels.

16185

British (300)

The British population living on Anguilla is primarily descendents of those who came to live on the island during the colonial period. Their culture has a long history associated with Anguilla. English is their language. Though most have the Anglican Church in their religious affiliation, 30% claim they are non-religious. Only 7% are Evangelical Christian. The Bible, the *Jesus* film, tracts, Christian music, and more are available to them.

19206

Chinese (100)

The Chinese people living on Anguilla have immigrated there to work. They are English speakers. Roman Catholicism seems to be their predominate religion. About 5% indicate being Evangelical Christian. Since they are English speakers, there are many Christian resources available to them including the Bible, the *Jesus* film, and Christian music.

12227

Indo-Pakistani (100)

The Indo-Pakistani people living on Anguilla came from India. Many are Hindi speakers, though they are probably bi-lingual since English is the official language of the country. They may practice Hinduism or Islam. There is one mosque on the island. Around 2% of their population may be Evangelical Christian. There are Christian resources in the Hindi language and in English.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/people-profile.php?peo3=13862&rog3=AV>

<http://imb.org/globalresearch/downloads.asp>

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical churches and believers need to earnestly seek revival. Churches need a renewal of vision to reach the large percentage of non-believers. Evangelicals should note that if 80% of the Afro-Anguillan or Mulatto people are not evangelical Christians some 10,400 remain outside the Christian fold. Evangelism is a primary endeavor.
2. Evangelical churches and believers should seize the opportunities to minister to the tourists that come to the island. Ministry is needed in ocean beach areas because of the high concentration of people.
3. Evangelical churches and believers need to make a commitment to discipleship and growth in their relationship to Jesus Christ. As they grow they should desire to go out into their community, even to other surrounding islands and share the Good News of Christ.
4. Evangelical churches and believers should seek to share the Good News with the followers of Roman Catholicism. The evangelical groups should develop materials for witnessing to Catholics and share these materials with the believers in Anguilla.