

## Be a Responsible Operator

- Only use designated mooring buoys is allowed with the Little Bay Marine Park; anchoring is not permitted.
- If your guests are snorkelling or diving, always display a diver-down flag from your boat.
- Please remind your guests not to touch or take anything from within the marine park.
- It is illegal for tourists to fish in Anguilla's marine parks.

## Be a Marine Park Partner

As regular users of the Little Bay Marine Park, we hope you will benefit from the installation of the artificial reef.

We ask that you make an EC\$5 voluntary donation to the Anguilla National Trust for every visitor that you take to the reef. 100% of this donation will be directed back to the maintenance of the reef and to future artificial reef projects around Anguilla's coastline.

Please also report any illegal activities that you see occurring in the Marine Park to the Anguilla National Trust. We will take your reports directly to the police.

The LBMP Dive and Snorkel Trail and this guide were made possible through funds provided by the European Commission's BEST 2.0 Initiative (SG2246) and in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The Anguilla National Trust and the Government of Anguilla are not liable for any loss or injury howsoever caused through usage of the Little Bay Marine Park Dive and Snorkel Trail.



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# Little Bay Marine Park Dive and Snorkel Trail Tour Operator Guide

## Little Bay Marine Park

Little Bay Marine Park is located on the northeast coast of Anguilla, nestled between Crocus Bay and Limestone Bay. This triangular-shaped coastal protected area is the smallest within Anguilla's marine park system (~1km<sup>2</sup>) and extends from Pelican Point (on its southern tip) to Flat Cap Point (on its northern tip). It has become one of the most popular and visited sites on Anguilla - amongst both residents of and visitors to the island.

## Why is Little Bay Marine Park So Important?

Little Bay Marine Park is home to one of the largest seagrass beds in Anguilla. Seagrass is known as the lungs of the sea and are one of the most important habitats in the marine environment, supporting hundreds of marine species while also acting as nursery ground for lobster and other crustaceans. At the same time, they are also one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world, declining globally due to the effects of pollution, boat anchoring and climate change. Little Bay Marine Park also supports coral reef habitat, which although degraded, still supports a vast array of marine life.

## Key Wildlife



Green and hawksbill turtles (endangered)  
Green turtles forage on the seagrass beds and can consume almost 80 lbs of seagrass everyday! Hawksbills use their bird-like beaks to scrape algae and sponges off hard corals. They can often be seen around the reef edges of the park.



Nassau group (endangered)  
The Nassau grouper has suffered serious population declines caused by overfishing. This fish can grow up to 20 inches and can live for up to 40 years. It is an ambush predator of other reef fish.



Caribbean spotted & Caribbean spiny lobster  
Two species of spiny lobster occur in Anguilla's waters. The spotted is known locally as a 'crayfish'.

## Little Bay Marine Park's Artificial Reef

Anguilla's natural reefs are degraded and threatened from the effects of overfishing, the invasive lionfish, damage caused by boat anchors, increased sediment run off from coastal developments, and the natural effects of severe storms and hurricanes. Our reefs, however, are essential in providing coastal protection, supporting local fisheries, and generating revenue from ecotourism.



In 2018, in recognition of the importance of coral reefs to biodiversity and the economy, Anguilla's first artificial reef-snorkel trail was created in the Little Bay Marine Park. This pilot project provides valuable reef habitat for reef fish, juvenile lobster, octopus, and an array of other reef dwelling species. The artificial reef also can act as a new substrate to encourage coral re-growth. It is also a new tourist attraction for Anguilla that you, as a tour operator, can take advantage of.

## Little Bay Marine Park's Artificial Reef

The snorkel trail is 100m in length, marked out by surface buoys. 40 individual artificial reef structures (made from concrete) are distributed along the trail interspersed with 10 underwater information signs detailing the creatures you may see along the trail.

The artificial reef and dive trail signs can be seen by surface snorkelers, but perhaps best enjoyed by scuba divers who can get up close to the reef and get a better view of the creatures living inside the nooks and crevices.

