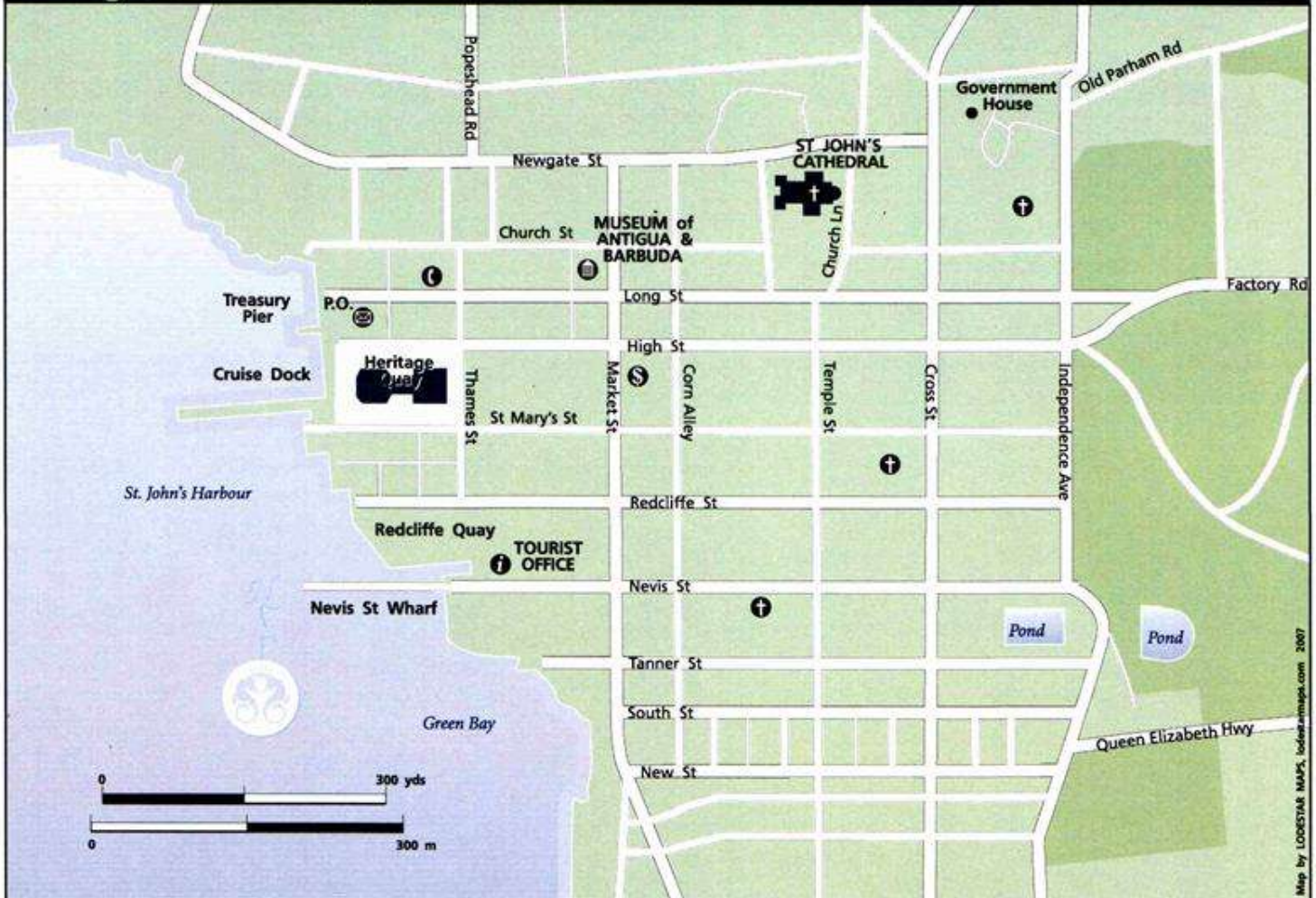




# Port Description

## Antigua/St. John's, West Indies



**Docking location:**

Crystal Symphony is scheduled to dock in Antigua.

**Distance to town:**

The distance to downtown St. John's is approximately a 5 minute walk.

**Local Crystal Cruises' Port Representative:**

Geo. W. Bennett Bryson & Co. Ltd., Long Street, St. John's.  
Phone: +1 (268) 480-1240, +1 (268) 480-1241.

**Exchange Rate:**

The official currency is the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (ECD). Please refer to your daily Reflections for the most updated rate of exchange. Dollars and credit cards are widely accepted.

**Shopping:**

Shops are located in downtown St. John's, on St Mary's Street or High Street. A number of boutiques may also be found at the Heritage Quay waterfront.

**Shuttle Bus:**

No shuttle service is necessary as we dock within walking distance from downtown.

**Taxis:**

Taxis are available at the end of the pier and have government-fixed prices. Taxi drivers speak English.

Antigua's sunny climate and easy-going Caribbean ways are alluring attractions for visitors. It boasts 365 superb white beaches and is home to a beautiful national park that stretches for ten square miles. Found within this park are the famous English Harbor and Nelson's Dockyard. Horatio Nelson was posted here early in his career and the harbor was the headquarters for the British fleet during the 18th century. Although Antigua achieved its independence in 1981, it continues to bear the unmistakable imprint of centuries of British Rule.

### **Betty's Hope**

When Sir Christopher Codrington came to the island in 1684 he changed the future of the island. His idea was to cultivate sugar cane on a large scale using the newest technologies. He was successful and over the next fifty years almost all plantation owners switched from growing tobacco to growing sugar cane. By the middle of the 18th century over 150 plantations had evolved on the island. Betty's Hope was Codrington's original sugar estate and today visitors may view a fully restored windmill.

*Open Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.*

### **English Harbor**

This site is located on the Southern coast of Antigua and is considered a must-see when visiting the island because it contains Nelson's Dockyard National Park. English Harbor is a 15-square-mile historical venue that gained importance by the year 1704 due to its numerous geographical advantages. For instance, since the mid 1600s, it served as a refuge for English ships needing shelter from hurricanes. The Georgian naval dockyard was utilized by Admirals Nelson, Hood and Rodney, to name only a few, and was the home of the British Fleet during the Napoleonic Wars. Restoration started in 1951 and continues until today. *Open daily 8:00am to 6:00pm.*

### **Shirley Heights**

Named for General Shirley, who was Governor of the Leeward Islands when the area was being fortified in the late 18th-century, offers impressive panoramic views from its 500-foot-high vantage point. Visitors may still view the few gun emplacements and military buildings that still stand. *Open daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm.*

### **Dow's Hill Interpretation Center**

This center offers an informative multimedia presentation that covers six periods of the island's history from its first settlement to its independence up to today. *Open daily 9:00am to 5:00pm.*

### **Fort James**

Fort Bay is located on the north side of St. John's Harbor. It offers access to a popular beach near St. John and historical Fort James. Although this small fort was originally built in 1675, most of the present structure dates from 1739. Once intended to protect the harbor visitors now marvel at the great view it commands over the harbor.

### **Beaches**

Antiguans claim that the island is home to 365 beaches, one for each day of the year. True or not, all of them are public, and quite a few are spectacular. Closest to St. John's, Fort James Beach, located five minutes from the cruise dock, is popular with both locals and tourists. Pigeon Point is a lovely white sand beach located at Falmont Harbor, near English Harbor. It is ideal with its calm waters, pristine sand for snorkeling and swimming. However, it is likely to be crowded. Dickenson Bay is situated north of St. John and offers a wide strip of powder-soft sand and clear turquoise water. If you crave complete peace and quiet, head to Antigua's most beautiful beach, at Half Moon Bay, isolated at the island's southeast extreme. Waves at the beach's center are great for bodysurfing, while the quieter eastern side is better for children and snorkeling.

Port Descriptions are provided to our guests compliments of the Crystal Adventures shore excursions staff. Information is intended as a guideline only and cannot be guaranteed by Crystal Cruises in any way.