

# 8 day Endemics, Caribbean and Bridle Quail-dove Quest

*Note: This itinerary is meant as a guide. Road, weather, human, and wildlife conditions may change our schedule. Hotel selections in Vieques may vary between hotels, Airbnb or guest houses depending on what's available.*

## DETAILED ITINERARY:

**Day 1:** After pick up at airport we would go straight to our hotel. If arrival is early we can do some birding on the way. After dinner we will go out in search of the Puerto Rican Owl.

### Night in Manatí.



**Day 2:** Our first morning we will spend in the karst areas of the northern side at Bosque Rio Abajo. The several forest and spots here are rich in bird diversity and we may see 8 to 10 of the endemics in this first morning. Including the Endangered Puerto Rican Parrot, Puerto Rican Bullfinch, Puerto Rican vireo among others. There are chances for other non-endemics like the Scaly-nape Pigeon, Loggerhead Kingbird. After Rio Abajo we will visit a private hummingbird garden where we have chances for three species of hummingbirds: Green Mango, Puerto Rican Emerald and Antillean Mango.

After lunch we leave the northern area for our next hotel in the southwestern corner of the Island until we hit the Laguna Cartagena Refuge. Is in this refuge where we going to look for West Indian Whistling Duck. In the afternoon we'll wind our way around the southwestern corner of the island to our hotel in La Parguera. La Parguera is famous as the most reliable site for the endangered Yellow-shouldered Blackbird.

### Night at La Parguera

**Day 3:** This morning we leave early and drive thru the mountains. Walking the highland roads above 3,000 feet in elevation we hope to encounter two endemics restricted to this elevation the Elfin-woods Warbler and Puerto Rican Tanager. Elfin-woods Warbler has the habit of foraging in dense growth. Persistence, however, usually pays off with good views of this particular endemic. Other species in the Maricao Forest Reserve include Scaly-naped Pigeons, Loggerhead Kingbird, Puerto Rican Spindalis, and Antillean Euphonia. After looking for the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird around the hotel and after resting a bit at dusk we are going on a short drive from our hotel to look for the endangered Puerto Rican Nightjar.



## Night at La Villa Parguera.



**Day 4:** Driving along the south coast we have the chance to enjoy scenic view, will then getting more in to the eastern mountains in search of the endangered Plain Pigeon. Later going down towards the coast we will visit the Humacao Wildlife Refuge here we will search for Antillean Crested Hummingbird and the Green-throated Carib. Going to the hotel we can search for these two hummingbirds again, both hummingbirds are restricted to the eastern part of the island.

## Night at Fajardo Inn

**Day 5:** After an early breakfast we leave the Fajardo Inn and take the earliest passenger ferry to Vieques Island, which will take about 45 minutes to an hour. After picking up the car rental, we have the rest of the day to look for the Bridled Quail Dove. This Quail-dove is very secretive, so we may still need to come back again. Around Vieques we can see other birds like the Antillean Crested hummingbird.

## Night at Vieques



**Day 6:** After breakfast, we go out again around the Island and, if we still need the Quail-dove (*Photo on the left*), we will go to the wildlife refuge in search of it. Otherwise, we will be looking for the Green-throated Carib and the Antillean Crested Hummingbird. Later we will exploring the Vieques Fish and Wildlife Refuge enjoying the scenery, visiting the Punta Ferro Lighthouse we will have a spectacular view of the Caribbean sea where we can do some sea watching. Afterward we may want a dip in the beach.

## Night at Vieques

**Day 7:** Today some more exploration around Vieques, if we have not seen the Quail-dove yet we take the morning again to look for it. We can explore the Fish and wildlife refuge which recently is seen a small breeding population of Lesser Antillean Bullfinch. This location is also a good spot for migratory north American warblers. We take our ferry back in the afternoon.

## Night at Fajardo or San Juan

**Day 8:** After an early morning jaunt in search of any species we may still want, the tour concludes about mid-morning at the airport in San Juan.

## Contact us for Pricing

**This trip will be available from September thru November and from mid January thru April.**

### **Included:**

Guide, All meals, Accommodation, Transportation, Checklist and Entrance and permits fees.

### **Excluded:**

Overnight accommodation for DAY 8 unless you ask for it, Alcoholic beverages, Personal items, Air tickets, Airport taxes (if any), International airfare, and Electronic transfers fees.

### **Equipment:**

Dress for hot and humid weather with possibility of rain. Earth colors preferable. Closed shoes or trainers (not sandals), hat, insect repellent and sun block recommended. For this tour we recommend the less baggage possible.

### **Money:**

Puerto Rico uses U.S. money for its currency. You will need money for any alcoholic beverages or soft drinks you may wish to consume, telephone calls, laundry, souvenirs, or any purchases you make of a personal nature. Most participants will want to bring \$100-\$200. Major credit cards are also widely accepted.

### **References:**

There are three field guides that cover Puerto Rican birds: A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by Herbert A. Raffaele, published by Princeton University Press, 1989; Puerto Rico's Birds in Photographs by Mark W. Oberle, published by Editorial Humanitas, 2010 (**most update**); and A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies by Herbert Raffaele, James Wiley, Orlando Garrido, Allan Keith, and Janis Raffaele, published by Princeton University Press, 1998.