

7 day Endemics and North American Migrant

This trip is organized to take advantage, not just of the local Puerto Rico birds but also the large number of north American migratory birds we get. Some of the described locations may change depending of the time of the year. The nights in certain locations may change depending on time of the year and recent reports.

Note: This itinerary is meant as a guide. Road, weather, human, and wildlife conditions may change our schedule.

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 1: After pickup at airport we drive out San Juan to our hotel area. If arrival is early we will go out birding to get our first few endemics and other targets that are possible. After dinner we go out for the Puerto Rican Owl.

Night in Manatí



Day 2: Our first morning we will spend in the karst areas of the northern side of the island. 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. In Rio Abajo state forest we will try for 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, Key-west Quail-Dove and Antillean Mango.

Rio Abajo state forest is also a good place to start with our north American migrants is one of the few reliable spots every year to see Worm-eating Warblers. Other migrants we can see are American Redstart, Black-throated Blue Warbler

and Northern Parula. After Rio Abajo we will visit a private hummingbird garden where we expect two of the endemic hummingbirds: Green Mango and Puerto Rican Emerald.

After lunch we will try for Key-west Quail-Dove and then head west. To spend the night.

Night Aguadilla or Rincón

Day 3: The west coast offer a few of the best spot to get North American Songbirds, specially on fall migrations. First will try Hoyo 8 MTB and Aguadilla Golf course. This location is a patch of forest right in the shoreline of the west coast.



Making it a perfect migrant trap. October and November are the best months to birdwatch in this locations as the chances for vagrants are higher, non the less is a good migrant for the whole migrant season.

Species we can expect here:

Magnolia, Hooded, Blackpoll and Black and White Warblers, some rare

ones we have to look out are Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted Warblers. On the edges of the golf course, we can sometimes Scarlet and Summer Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Local species we can find here are Puerto Rican Bullfinch, PR woodpecker, Pearly-eyed Thrasher among others.

After some lunch we will move to the town of Rincon, a big surfing community lives or spend vacation here for its great surfing spots. Here we will visit the Rincon Domes MTB, like Hoyo 8, this location is a patch of forest by the shore so another good migrant trap. Some of the open areas here may give us chances for Blue grossbeak or Indigo Bunting. We have more chances at the warblers mention before as well Yellow-throated Vireo, white eyed vireo and depending on the season Red-eyed Vireo. In October and early November is one if the best spot to look for Connecticut Warbler.

Night in Aguadilla or Rincón

Day 4: Early morning visit to Ricón to explore this area in the morning hours. After lunch we leave for the southwestern tip of the island. Our first stop will be Laguna Cartagena for West Indian Whistling Duck, depending on the season some times Masked Duck is found here. Later we will go to Parguera close to where we spend the night and look for Yellow-shouldered Blackbird. After a short rest we will have and early dinner to go out at dusk for the endemics Puerto Rican Nightjar.

Night in Parguera

Day 5: Walking the highland roads above 3,000 feet in elevation we hope to encounter one endemic special to the higher elevation of the island: the rare and highly restricted Elfin-woods Warbler, which was not formally described as a



species until May, 1972. Doubtlessly overlooked because of a superficial similarity to Black-and-white Warbler, 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, Puerto Rican Tanager, and

Antillean Euphonia.

After lunch we will spend some time in the Cabo Rojo Salt flats looking for shorebirds, later depending on reports we may visit Pitahaya mangroves forest or Parguera Natural Reserve to look for some more migrants songbirds.

Night at Parguera

Day 5: We will leave Parguera early in the morning and head up to the mountains to the town of Adjuntas, this will be our base for the next two nights. There are several spots we can visit on the different towns around Adjuntas for migrants. We may visit Bosque Guilarte or the roads above Lago Garzas where we have chances at Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cape May Warblers among other surprises that may show up. On this mountainous region we have chances also for the local subspecies of Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Night in Adjuntas

Day 6: Today we start the day before dawn and go to Toro Negro State Forest, here at some of the highest elevations on the island is where some Bicknell's Thrush spend the winter (**Note that in early fall this species is more difficult to see here**). Other species we can see around this area are Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart and very rarely Lincoln's Sparrow has show up in this location a few times. Other local species we may see today are Puerto Rican Spindalis, Puerto Rican Emerald, Puerto Rican Woodpecker and Pearly-eyed Thrasher.

Night in Adjuntas

Day 7: We leave the hotel very early in the morning and drive to Aguirre Natural reserve where we going to try for the eastern hummingbirds: The Antillean Crested Hummingbird and the Green-throated Carib. Departing and if time allows before your flight back home we try for the Plain Pigeon near the town of Caguas.

Contact us for pricing

Included: Guide, all meals, accommodation, transportation, checklist and entrance fees.

Excluded: Overnight accommodation for DAY 7 unless you ask for it, Gratuities, 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.

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.