

## Four day Endemic Trail

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

### DETAILED ITINERARY:

**Day 1:** After pick up at airport we will be on our way to Arecibo where we will spend the first night, if time allows it we can do some birding. After dinner we will go out for the Puerto Rican Screech-owl.

#### Night at Arecibo



**Day 2:** After an early breakfast we go to the forest surrounding the limestone areas to get some of the more common endemics like: Puerto Rican Vireo, Puerto Rican Bullfinch and Puerto Rican Flycatcher, Adelaide's Warbler among many others. Later we will visit "Paraíso de los Zumbadores", a private property with dozens of hummingbird feeders where we can expect three out of the five

species of hummingbird on the island: the Antillean Mango, and the two endemics: Green Mango and Puerto Rican Emerald. After lunch we leave the northern area and drive along the west coast doing stops over spots for some shorebirds and waterfowls until we hit the Laguna Cartagena Refuge. It is in this refuge where we are 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:** If time allows, before dropping at airport we will do stop for the Plain Pigeon.

#### **4 days 3 nights:**

All trips are available year round, but prices may be adjusted around special holidays.

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

Excluded: Overnight accommodation for DAY 4 unless you ask for it, Gratuities, Alcoholic beverages, Personal items, Air tickets, Airport taxes (if any), International airfare, Government sales tax 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.

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.

