

**Trinidad and Tobago
The Asa Wright Nature Centre & Blue Waters Inn**

**The Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory
Presents**

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
A HUMMINGBIRD SEMINAR
And more...**

With Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood

June 18-27, 2015

Avid birders and fans of natural history have flocked to Trinidad and the Asa Wright Nature Centre for over three decades, drawn by a magnetic combination of fascinating birds, talented naturalists, and time at a place that makes history in the study of the New World tropics. Many agree the twin islands, closely linked to South America in origin, provide the best possible introduction to New World Tropical birding and ecology.

*Trinidad has the highest diversity of hummingbirds in the West Indian archipelago. As most of the islands are oceanic in origin, and Trinidad is a block of South America now isolated, hummingbirds provide a glimpse into past ecological connections. In addition to observing their beauty and abundance, Sheri Williamson will augment our birding for a host of species with several lectures on hummingbird behavior and ecology. In the field, examine their relationships with plants and habitats. Martyn Kenefick, author of *The Birds of Trinidad and Tobago*, joins the seminar as a guest lecturer to outline the status and distribution of these dazzling gems.*

In Trinidad and Tobago, GREAT VIEWS of birds abound, as if some magic on islands seems to release elusive qualities of amazing species, making them appear as if tame. Trinidad Motmots, Purple and Green Honeycreepers are among some 30 species possible to see before breakfast your first day as they come to feeders. Over a dozen species of hummingbirds can be seen at arm's length. The Asa Wright Nature Centre's Dunston Cave is the most accessible Oilbird colony on the planet.

Why travel with SABO? Add their expertise and gift of teaching and it's a perfect reason to select going with them. Also you will travel with like-minded people who support bird research and conservation. Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood, teamed with Trinidad and Tobago's legendary local guides – this is a trip not to miss.



To Register for this Special Tour
Contact Caligo Ventures by Phone 800.426.7781 or Email:
info@caligo.com.

A Deposit of \$300 holds your space.
Included in the tour price, a donation of \$200 benefits
SABO.

Limit of 12 participants!
Don't miss a grand opportunity!
800.426.7781 info@caligo.com 520.558.7781
Portal, Arizona



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

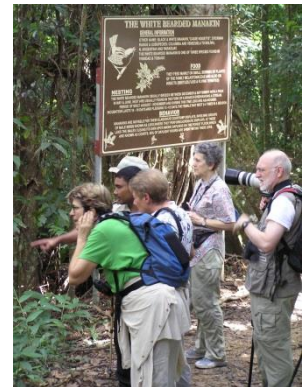
MAIN TOUR:

- June 18: Arrival in Port of Spain / Transfer to Asa Wright Nature Centre
June 19: Centre Grounds Birding: Bearded Bellbird, two species of manakins, tropical birds galore! / Evening Leatherback Turtles at Matura Beach
June 20: Blanchisseuse Road and Trinidad's Northern Range / Brasso Seco Community lunch
June 21: Nariva Swamp and Trinidad's East Coast
June 22: Dunston Oilbird Cave and Caroni Marsh Boat Tour for Roosting Scarlet Ibis by the Score
June 23: Early Birding from Asa Wright's Legendary Veranda / Marvelous Hummingbirds of Yerrete / Short flight to Tobago / Beachside Accommodations
June 24: Little Tobago Island for seabirds such as Brown Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Bridled and Sooty Terns and snorkeling / Lunch and time to relax
June 25: Tobago's Main Ridge Preserve Gilpin Trace Birding
June 26: Birding at Cuffie / Hummingbird Observation
June 27: Departures to USA or depart for 1N extension for rare Trinidad Piping Guans



Join Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood for a chance to spend five nights at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200-acre wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad's rainforested Northern range. Our SABO group tour blends time at the Centre with a range of guided tours with island experts to sample

varied habitats, from lush forests to expansive mangrove swamps.



Via a short inter-island flight, explore Tobago, from the beachfront Blue Waters Inn at Speyside, just across from the renowned seabird breeding island of Little Tobago. Rufous-vented Chachalacas may be your alarm clock here. Birding is excellent on the grounds, and you can relax in the pool or take a refreshing dip in the ocean – just out your door. On Little Tobago Island, which we visit by boat and then a hike, we view a nesting colony of Sooty and Bridled terns, Brown Noddy, and around the island feeding Red-billed Tropicbirds and both Brown and Masked boobies. Another day we drive up in elevation to bird and walk trails of Tobago's Gilpin Trace and Main Forest Reserve, one of the oldest protected areas in the New World.



ITINERARY

Thurs., June 18 Arrival in Port of Spain, Trinidad / Transfer to Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge



Arrive at Piarco International Airport in Port-of-Spain (POS). Staff from the non-profit Asa Wright Nature Centre greet all arriving flights. From the airport it is about 45 minutes to one-hour drive up into the mountains where we spend the next five nights in accommodations at the Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge. The original estate home serves as a common area for dining, relaxing, enjoying the “Birder’s Bar”, and for bird viewing from the famed Verandah.

Asa Wright Nature Centre lies at an elevation of approximately 1200 ft. in a habitat type known as Evergreen Seasonal Forest. Formerly the Springhill Estate, the grounds have returned to a wild state from once extensive coffee, cocoa and citrus plantations. Some coffee, cocoa, and citrus plants are still maintained alongside the wild second-growth forest vegetation at the Centre. Natural second-growth has taken over and festooned the abandoned plantation vegetation with vines and a host of epiphytes. The whole effect is one of being deep in a tropical rainforest. Those arriving by 6PM can enjoy their first rum punch while tallying up a host of species. For those arriving earlier, a walk along the Centre trails is the perfect complement to time spent on the verandah where dazzling hummingbirds such as White-necked Jacobin, Ruby-topaz Hummingbird and Tufted Coquette join Great and Barred Antshrikes, Squirrel Cuckoo, and both Purple and Green Honeycreepers putting on a show.



Accommodations at Asa Wright Centre (D)

Fri., June 19 Centre Tour / Birding from Veranda / Centre Trails in Search of Bearded Bellbird & More

Morning begins with the raucous noise of the Crested Oropendola, just one of several exotic sounds. A cup of fresh-roasted Trinidad coffee is waiting for you on the property’s famous bird-viewing verandah. A first-time



visitor might see 20-30 life birds before breakfast!



Our day will start with a guided tour of the several trails that traverse this rich and diverse wildlife sanctuary. Along the trail we may find such species as Guianan (Violaceous) Trogon, Channel-billed Toucan, Golden-olive and Chestnut Woodpeckers, White-bearded Manakins perhaps dancing at their lek site, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, and perhaps a mixed flock that includes Turquoise and Bay-headed Tanagers. In lush forests along the trail, we hope to spot Golden-headed Manakin and noisy Bearded Bellbird. Red-rumped Agouti spend time where forest fruits drop beside the trail. A colony of Crested Oropendolas ensures a steady stream of this species passing overhead; along with them keep watch for Orange-winged and Blue-headed Parrots as well as raptors, including Ornate Hawk Eagle, Black Hawk Eagle and White Hawk. Meet resident naturalists of the Centre who share a storehouse of local knowledge.

In the afternoon, after lunch and a break, we head out to Matura Beach, to see one the most moving events possible, that of massive Leatherback Turtles laying eggs on a wild beach. With luck there will be eruptions of hatchlings as well, so we get to observe adults and young. We work with local guides from the non-profit Nature Seekers organization and are very careful not to disturb them. Once they start laying we can approach to witness and for those who wish photograph (no flash).

Accommodations at Asa Wright Centre (B,L,D)

Sat., June 20 Blanchisseuse Road / Trinidad's Northern Range



Today we embark on a scenic, all-day excursion following a lush and winding mountain road that passes over the Northern Range towards the seaside fishing village of Blanchisseuse. Trinidad's Northern Range is an eastern extension of the Coastal Cordillera of Venezuela, a connecting range to the Andes.

We leave just after breakfast, to drive north on the Blanchisseuse Road into the upper elevations of the Northern Range forest. This is the only road on the island which bisects the Northern range before finally descending to the Caribbean coastline. En route we reach the highest elevation possible by motor vehicle, some 2,200 ft. elevation. Our day will be spent birding both quiet country roads and wide forest tracks seeking species more easily found at this higher altitude. We take a nice break mid-day at the community center of the village of Brasso Seco where clean washroom facilities are available. They prepare us a delicious lunch and we have a chance to learn about ecotourism in the ir community. A student of Cornell University has been studying hummingbirds here and if in residence we may get to learn more about the project. This is not a day where we spend a long time driving. We make numerous roadside birding stops, never walk far from the vehicles and there are always coolers with both water and fruit juice on board.



Species we hope to find include Short-tailed Hawk, Blue-headed Parrot, Lilac-tailed Parrotlet, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Collared and Green-backed trogons, Golden-olive, Red-rumped and

Chestnut woodpeckers, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Streaked Xenops, Cocoa and Plain-Brown woodcreepers, White-bellied Antbird, Black-faced Antthrush, Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, Dusky-capped, Slaty-capped, Streaked and Euler's flycatchers, Gray-breasted Martin, Rufous-breasted Wren, Long-billed Gnatwren, White-necked Thrush, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Speckled and Hepatic tanagers, Blue Dacnis and Golden-crowned Warbler. Bright blooms of the forest canopy attract a number of nectar-feeding birds. Leaf-cutter ants are plentiful.



Along with rich birdlife, we will also have an opportunity to examine the fascinating world of leaf-cutter and army ants, and to photograph orchids, elephant ear philodendron, ferns, mosses, and other tropical flora. Occasionally an Ornate Hawk-Eagle can be seen soaring over and there is an outside chance of finding Trinidad's most sought endemic species today – Pawi or Trinidad Piping Guan. Several birds reside in the high forests but we will need to be fortunate indeed to find them. In the appropriate seasons, wintering American Redstart and Northern Waterthrush can be found intermingled with resident species.

Towards mid-afternoon we stop our northward journey at the village of Morne le Croix. Here we take afternoon tea and cake whilst looking for additional species such as Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Southern Rough-winged Swallow and Yellow-rumped Cacique before a

late afternoon drive back south to the Centre in time for a shower before rum punch and dinner.

Accommodations at Asa Wright Centre (B,L,D)

Sun., June 21	Nariva Swamp / East Coast of Trinidad
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The east side of Trinidad hosts an ecosystem very different than that of Caroni on the west side. Where the Nariva River reaches the sea here, freshwater environments are comprised of herbaceous swamp and swamp forest, dotted with a few patches of mangroves such as the area around Bush Bush Creek. Nariva is the largest freshwater herbaceous swamp on the island. Along its edges are "palm islands," where the tall Moriche Palm is common. Here too we will see a unique mangrove community, made up primarily of the stilt-rooted rhizophora mangrove, which often reaches a height of 80 feet. Part of our drive follows the ocean shore down scenic "Coconut Alley".

As part of the day, we walk into the Bush Bush Forest, an area that provides good birding, and a good chance to see Red Howler and White-faced Capuchin Monkeys and possible other mammals such as Prehensile-tailed Porcupines. This is a raised area of sandy soils, surrounded by wetlands, and site of much of the work of C. Brooke Worth described so well in his book, *A Naturalist in Trinidad*. In 1999, a reintroduction effort to restore Blue and Yellow Macaws was begun here. The walk is in an area where permits are required by the Forestry Department, in the sanctuary where hunting is not allowed and thus it's a good place to look for mammals.

Immediately after breakfast, we leave Asa Wright Nature Centre and travel south down the Arima valley before turning east. We have now entered the lowlands where Great Kiskadees and Tropical Kingbirds regularly perch on overhead utility wires, Carib Grackles abound and Short-tailed Swift is the commonest aerial feeder. Just below the foothills of the Northern Range lies the Aripo Agriculture Research Station which works primarily with livestock, breeding a cross of Water Buffalo and Brahma cattle.



This open countryside and rough pasture allows us the opportunity to seek out a number of new species including Cocoi Heron, Savannah Hawk, Gray-headed Kite, Yellow-headed Caracara, Wattled Jacana, Southern Lapwing, Green-rumped Parrotlet, Fork-tailed Palm-Swift and White-winged Swallows. White-headed Marsh Tyrants, Pied Water-Tyrants, and Yellow-chinned Spinetails rattle throatily from the grasses whilst Red-breasted Blackbirds add a splash of color. This is also the only site where we can reliably find Grassland Yellow-Finches and there is a chance of finding Ruddy-breasted Seedeater.

Enjoy a picnic lunch on the beach at Manzanilla where Both Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans can be found. We then drive slowly south through “coconut ally” where a million coconut palms line both sides of the road we drive while looking for raptors sheltering from the midday sun. We should see Common Black-Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara and Savannah Hawk and have a realistic chance of finding Pearl Kite, Gray-lined Hawk and Crested Caracara. A brief stop near some roadside mangroves offers the possibility of Plumbeous Kite from February onwards, American Pygmy Kingfisher, Black-crested Antshrike, Silvered Antbird and Brown-crested Flycatcher.

Eventually we enter Nariva Swamp through the settlement of Kernaham. Here we will slowly drive the raised bund roads looking out over both freshwater marsh and water melon cultivation fields. Target species here include Pinnated Bittern, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Purple Gallinule, Yellow-hooded Blackbird and we will spend time seeking out the enchanting White-tailed Goldenthrroat hummingbird. Long-winged Harriers occasionally quarter the reeds and if we are lucky both Yellow-crowned Parrot and Red-bellied Macaw will be seen flying in to roost. Close to hear we can walk into Bush Bush Forest Wildlife Sanctuary. Plan for a late arrival back at the Centre which means going straight into dinner. Worth it for a very full but amazing day!

Mon. June 22 Dunston Oilbird Cave / Caroni Marsh



With a three-night stay at the Centre, one can visit Dunston Cave, a beautiful riparian grotto located on the sanctuary, home to a breeding colony of the fascinating nocturnal Oilbird. Naturalists will announce a walk down to Dunston Cave, home to our one of the most accessible Oilbird caves in the entire world. A walk along Guacharo trail gets you there in around 45 minutes. The trail can be steep in places, but there are well hand-rails along the way and at the destination an Oilbird viewing area.

Trinidad is perhaps the easiest place to see the world’s only fruit eating, nocturnal bird which navigates within the cave by echo location. It is much, much bigger than anyone expects (almost the size of a small harrier – it has a wingspan of up to 42 inches). The floor of the cave is littered with germinating palm seedlings. The Oilbirds swallow the palm fruit entire, and, after the pericarp is digested, regurgitate the seeds. Oilbirds are birds very important to seed

dispersal of a number of tropical trees. Staff of the Centre have collected these seeds and planted them around the estate to enrich the habitat.

En route this trail provides the best opportunity to find Gray-throated Leaf-tosser and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager on the Estate and perhaps your only chance of viewing, at a safe distance, a sleeping Fer-de-Lance. On the return you can retrace your steps, or connect to another of the Centre's several trails to make a longer loop. These are less traveled and a real prize sighting might be that of the elusive Little Tinamou.

The cave has a stream running through it; the water level is dependent upon recent rainfall. However you should not get more than your ankles wet. Please note the Centre regulates no flash photography at the Cave. Limited Access, guided walks only.

Caroni Swamp comprises 6000 hectares of protected area, including National Park lands, its habitat being mainly mangrove forest. It holds a very specialized mangrove forest that contains several genera and species of mangroves, showing classic examples of plant adaptation in a unique brackish water community. From the Centre, we drive in the direction of Port of Spain, close to the airport. This wild land area is south of the growing sprawl of the city, but worlds away from the city's congestion. Before our boat departs, we have the opportunity to seek out mangrove species from the roadside. Black-crested Antshrike, Pygmy and Green Kingfishers, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Straight-billed Woodcreeper and Masked Cardinal are some of the possibilities. There is also the opportunity of clean washrooms facilities at the National Park Information Facility.



Our boat leaves around 4.00pm, under the leadership of an experienced tour guide who visits the swamp each day. Your Asa Wright guide will also be on board.

Whilst the highlight of the afternoon is the Scarlet Ibis spectacle, we will spend an hour or so slowly navigating some of the mangrove channels seeking out those specialties of the area such as Green-throated Mango, Greater Ani and Bicolored Conebill. Gliding through the peaceful mangrove habitat, seek out some of its more specialized denizens — Neotropical Cormorants, Anhingas, Striated Herons, White-cheeked Pintails, Large-billed Terns, Pied Water Tyrants, and striking Masked (Red-capped) Cardinals. Often there are roosting Tropical Screech-Owls and a Common Potoo close to the water and we have a distinct chance of spotting a kingfisher or two with Green, Ringed and American Pygmy all living in the swamp. There is also an outside chance of a Boat-billed Heron, the least confiding of our salt-water herons. On the way, the boatman will keep a special eye out for Ruschenberger's Tree Boa roosting in the branches close to the river - these snakes feed almost exclusively on small birds and can grow to about 7-8 ft. long. We also have a chance of a roosting Silky Anteater or even a Spectacled Caiman.

We then moor up, sip our rum punch and wait for parties of Scarlet Ibis, plus smaller numbers of Tricolored and Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets flying into roost in the mangroves. The star attraction will be the spectacular flight of Scarlet Ibises, which occur often by the 100's, and in some months by the 1000's, returning to their mangrove roosts at dusk. This is truly one of the world's most dramatic natural moments. We leave as light begins to wane, retracing our steps back, arriving at the dock at dusk. En route we will search the mangrove-lined channels for the mysterious-sounding Common Potoo and with luck nocturnal Boat-billed Heron. We then, return direct to the Centre for a slightly later than usual dinner.

Accommodations at Asa Wright Centre (B,L,D)

Tues. June 23 Marvelous Yerrete Hummingbirds / Flight to Tobago / Beachfront Accommodations



Enjoy a final morning of birding from the Verandah or trails, and then head to the Port of Spain Airport to take a flight to Tobago.

En route we visit Yerrete, a private garden nestled high up in the hills overlooking the Maracas-St. Joseph Valley, home to Theo and Gloria Ferguson (and sometimes up to 1,000 hummingbirds!). This is birdwatching at its most relaxing. Thirteen of the seventeen species of hummingbird recorded in T&T have been seen at Yerrete; every day eleven are found, often twelve. We plan the visit to make sure you see as many hummingbird species as possible, and we know that

photographers will be most happy here as well. All you do is sit, sipping home-made juice and sampling home-made cake whilst watching the feeding frenzy happening mere feet away.

Theo is also a bird photographer, par excellence and will take pride in inviting you to a professional, interpreted slide show of the colorful hummingbirds of Trinidad. Plan to have lunch at the airport, at your own cost – there is a food court set-up with everything from healthy sandwiches to pizza and fried chicken.



We then take a short (25-minute) flight from the Port of Spain Airport to Crown Point on the southern tip of Tobago. From the airport to Blue Waters Inn at Speyside on the northeast side, it is about an hour and a half. We do some birding en route.

Once there it's time to settle in and enjoy the beach and pool! Die-hard birders can find birds aplenty on the grounds, including Rufous-vented Chachalacas and Trinidad Motmots, both quite tame.

Accommodations at the Blue Waters Inn, Speyside, Tobago. (B, D)

Wed., June 24 Little Tobago Island / Optional Snorkeling and Free Afternoon

Enjoy waking up to sounds of forest birds in the lush vegetation all around.

From the bay at Speyside we travel by boat (20-30 minutes) to Little Tobago Island, one of this nation's most important wildlife sanctuaries. Crossing over to the island, watch for Leatherback and Hawksbill turtles and enjoy spectacular views of one of the Caribbean's most beautiful and pristine coral formations from the comfort of the tour operator's glass-bottom boat.



Upon landing we explore the dry forests of Little Tobago Island, looking for Chivi Vireo, Brown-crested Flycatcher, and Pale-vented Pigeon. Climb up to a lookout for a view of nesting cliffs above a grand expanse of ocean. In addition, explore the nesting ground of Red-billed Tropicbird, Red-footed and Brown boobies, Brown Noddy, and Sooty and Bridled terns.



Return to a nice beachside lunch, a chance to clean up and spend some hours relaxing, kayaking, or wandering the garden in search of birds and blooms. There is drier scrub habitat just above the lodge, where some interesting species can be found.

Accommodations at the Blue Waters Inn, Tobago (B,L,D)

Thurs., June 25 Gilpin Trace and Tobago's Main Forest Ridge / Cuffie River Nature Retreat



After breakfast with Ruddy Turnstones, we pack up, and then head out to explore the mountains of Tobago, seeing some of the scenic coastline of the island before driving up to the premiere UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tobago, a geographic backbone of rugged terrain reaching almost 2000 ft. in elevation and covered by forests and extending parallel to the coast in the Northeast portion of the island. Established in 1776, Tobago's Main Ridge Forest Reserve is one of the oldest legally-protected forest reserves in our hemisphere. Early on its managers had the foresight to understand the connection of a healthy forest and a productive watershed for the island's agricultural areas below.

A trail through this UNESCO World Heritage Site is an excellent place to see White-tailed Sabrewing, a stunning hummingbird thought to be lost, but rediscovered here after Hurricane Flora altered much of the island's forest habitats in 1963. On a winding trail that descends into the forest, we look not only for sabrewings, but also Blue-backed Manakin, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Yellow-legged Thrush, both Fuscous and Venezuelan flycatchers, the elusive White-throated Spadebill, and Plain Antvireo. Common Black Hawk soars above, the main avian predator here. Tobago has weathered several hurricanes over the years and it is interesting to note how this has sculptured the forests, evidenced here by numerous palms.



After our hike, we continue on to Cuffie River Nature Retreat for two final nights in an very birdy place, an intimate forest lodge where Tobago's White-tailed Sabrewing, a near endemic shared with a small part of Venezuela, comes to the feeders, alongside Ruby Topaz, a species some consider the most beautiful hummingbird in the world. This location is the perfect place to end our journey, with a focus on hummingbirds and their role in Trinidad's avifauna.



Accommodations at Cuffie River Nature Retreat, Tobago (B,L,D)

Please note: Our original "SABO" tour had departure to Port of Spain on this day for flights out. When we enhanced the trip to include a focus on hummingbirds, we felt the addition of time at Cuffie River was a must. We highly recommend this addition of two nights to our original itinerary because of the amazing activity of hummingbirds at close range, alongside a chance to see Night Birds and more. If you cannot stay for this addition, we can make arrangements for you to depart to Trinidad on your own, stay at an airport hotel with shuttle, and depart the next day; call our office for details.

Fri., June 26

Birding at Cuffie River Nature Retreat / Hummingbird Observation

Join a local expert for a guided walk in Tobago's mid-elevation montane forests to see close-up views of Rufous-tailed Jacamars, and to look for some of the more furtive flycatchers and more secretive forest species. We plan to bird for the full morning, give you an after lunch break to enjoy the pool and surroundings, and then gather around the feeders for time with Sherry Williamson to watch hummingbird behavior and to study the habitats of a very range-restricted species, the White-tailed Sabrewing. This species was thought to have gone extinct after a hurricane in the late 1960's destroyed much of its breeding habitat. It was rediscovered by Adolphus James much to everyone's amazement. Celebrate the return of one of Earth's loveliest creatures.

Tonight we enjoy delightful cuisine, as our hummingbird seminar comes to an end. Cuffie River Nature Retreat's gracious hosts share local foods with us and the story of how this gem of an ecolodge came to be.

Accommodations at Cuffie River Nature Retreat (B,L,D)

Sat., June 27 Departures from Port of Spain / Grand Riviere Piping Guan and the Frenzy of Turtles Extension

This exciting Trinidad and Tobago birding tour with Sheri Williamson and Tom Wood of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory ends this morning as you depart for flights homeward. Please note you must plan your flights returning to USA after 10AM, 9 AM if Caribbean Air, in order to allow time for the flight from Tobago and connections. If you must take an earlier flight, you can book a flight out the following day (Sun., June 28) as early as you like, and we'll help you make arrangements for an overnight stay.

If there is interest in going over to look for endemic Trinidad Piping Guans and seeing one of the densest nesting beaches for Leatherback Turtles at Grand Riviere, this can be arranged as a one or two night

extension on an individual basis; ask one of the Caligo Travel Planners for help with this part of your journey.

GRAND RIVIERE option – please book this as Independent Travel:

Note, as of late February of 2015, Trinidad Piping Guans have been spotted on some of the field trips from Asa Wright! However, if this species is of key interest to you, we recommend you book a night in Grand Riviere, their nesting stronghold. In June this is also a great time to watch nesting sea turtles.

Accommodations if you are adding on time in Northeast Trinidad at Grande Riviere, will be at a delightful beachside hotel, known for serving delicious cuisine. The owner has a farm that gives us access to some excellent birding, and in the late-afternoon we are poised to find rare Trinidad Piping Guans as they return to roosts in the area. They are highly endangered, and Grand Riviere is their stronghold.



To access this location, on return from Tobago you are met at the airport, for the transfer to Grand Riviere, about a two and a half hour's drive. You can bird in the late afternoon with a local guide, and then continue birding the next morning. Guans are best sighted at dusk or dawn, so timing

is good for them.

Other exciting finds could include Swallow-tailed Kite, Gray-headed and Plumbeous Kites, Short-tailed Nighthawk, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Silvered and White-bellied Antbirds, Green-backed and Guianan Trogons, Channel-billed Toucan, Black-tailed Tityra and Trinidad Euphonia. With great luck we should find a group of guans feeding and get to watch them at leisure.

Night time brings high numbers of turtles on the beach, often in such number that they dig up each others' eggs, making morning a free-for-all for vultures, local beach dogs, and other predators. Volunteers at the site try to safeguard the hatchlings, which are at great risk if nests erupt during daylight hours. It is a busy time, at times graphic, but very much the drama of life. We find the best photography to be right at first light the following day, when some of the huge females may still be out on the beach, and tiny hatchlings work their way into the wild surf.

Mount Plaisir Hotel has a great atmosphere and some fine food to enjoy.

Sun., June 28 Piping Guans at Dawn / Return to Port of Spain for afternoon flights out

Early, we drive up a wide forested track, park up and look out over a superb viewing area, specifically scrutinizing the wild nutmeg trees that are preferred feeding habitat for the Trinidad Piping Guans. We should find them here, or at an alternate location we know of by networking with locals. We then return for a hot breakfast, pack up our gear, and head to the airport. We will time the return to our outbound flights but in general plan to be back at the airport by Noon. Those needing to take the early flight without a good afternoon option can return to the Holiday Inn Express for another night (additional expense) to fly out on the 29th.

Itinerary subject to change to due to weather, road condition, access, and other real world factors. The order of the trips may also change. Should a location or region become unviable, we will make every effort to visit an equivalent location or region.

PLAN AHEAD!

Protect yourself with Travel Insurance, available through our operator for the tour, www.caligo.com

COST OF THE JOURNEY

COST and TRAVEL

Main Tour Price: \$2490.00 Per Person, includes all lodgings, meals, tours and transfers

Cost of the Extension – to be determined by numbers and interest

Please request full itinerary and registration forms from Caligo Ventures 800.426.7781 info@caligo.com

Trinidad and Tobago are served by United, American, Jet Blue, West Jet, and Caribbean Air via the International airport at Port of Spain Trinidad. Inter-island flights are included in the cost of your tour; International air is additional expense (POS)

Cost of the Cost of the Main tour from Piarco International Airport (POS), Trinidad, is \$2450 based on double occupancy. The single supplement is \$425. This cost includes all accommodations, meals as specified in the itinerary (all but one lunch and one dinner), professional guide services, other park and program entrance fees and miscellaneous program expenses.

Tour cost does not include: round-trip transportation from your home city to Port of Spain Piarco, Airport, optional activities, lodge and guide gratuities, or items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone charges, maid gratuities or beverages from the bar. Group Size: Minimum of 6 persons, maximum of 12.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Plan to arrive on June 18 (or before at additional cost) at a time convenient for you, Centre staff meet all flights. You may depart from the Main tour after 10AM on June 27. You may depart from the extension on flights out after 2PM on January 28, or overnight at the airport to go out early on the 29th.

International Air is not included in the tour price.

Photo Credits:

Pg. 1: Asa Wright Nature Centre Porch, Hibiscus and beach, Group birding and Centre guide teaching, Peg Abbott (PA); Black-throated Mango, Janice Petko. Pg. 2: Island scenic, Rufous-tailed Chachalaca, Rufous-vented Chachalaca, Island view 2, PA. Pg. 3: Red-billed Tropicbird flying and on nest, Cuffie River porch and pool, PA. Pg. 4 Asa Wright Nature Centre guides greeting, View from the Asa Wright Porch, PA. Pg. 5: White-bearded Manakin, Bob Behrstock www.naturewideimages.com, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, PA. Pg. 6: Oilbird in Cave, Janice Petko; White-necked Jacobin, PA; Tufted Coquette, Janice Petko; Pg. 7: View from Speyside and island scenic, Sandwich Tern, PA. Pg. 7: Purple Honeycreeper, Janice Petko.

Thank you for supporting the non-profit Asa Wright Nature Centre though your visit!
Follow them on Facebook! www.facebook.com/AsaWrightNatureCentre.org