

St Lucia

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 - 14 January 2012



Scaly-breasted Thrasher by Ed Drewitt



Pantropical Dolphins by Janine Marchant



Soufriere & The Pitons by Ed Drewitt



Grey Trembler by Ed Drewitt

Report compiled by Ed Drewitt
Images by Janine Marchant and Ed Drewitt



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader: Ed Drewitt Naturetrek Naturalist

Participants: Colin McCrae
Georgie McCrae
Leigh McDougal
William McDougal
Lesley Nickell
Frances Hutchison
Paul Marchant
Janine Marchant
Alec Mctavish
Sue Mctavish

Summary

This 9-day tour was a fabulous chance to enjoy some hot sunshine while making the most of the wonderful island's endemic birdlife, the rich tropical rainforest, the taste and smells of various plants (that we are more familiar with in our supermarkets), and the astonishing, memorable views of the Piton mountains, sandy beaches and glorious sunsets.

Throughout the week, we found all of St Lucia's endemic birds including the St Lucia Parrot, the St Lucia Warbler, the St Lucia Oriole and the St Lucia Black Finch. Meanwhile, other birds only found in this part of the Caribbean were common and at breakfast time we had the great chance to see many up close and personal as they came to feed on sugar left for them!

The holiday allowed the group to travel the island by boat, foot and car, seeing the variety of habitats, people and villages along the way. A trip out to sea was rewarded with a large school of Pantropical Dolphins surrounding the boat, while various seabirds such as boobies and the endangered Black-capped Petrel also joined in the fun. We saw turtles on a number of days and the snorkelling off the beach provided ample opportunity to see hundreds of colourful fishes, sea fans and coral.

Day 1

Friday 6th January

London to St Lucia

After a smooth flight across the Atlantic passing over the Azores, we arrived at Hewanorra Airport on the southern tip of St Lucia, ready for our transfer to the hotel. Bill and Leigh met us at the airport having flown south from the US, and Paul and Janine joined us a little later on a delayed flight. The hot, moist air hit us as we exited the plane, especially as we left the UK on bright, sunny, but cold day. We had a scenic tour to the hotel up the south-west coastline of St.Lucia, passing through Vieux Fort, Laborie, La Fargue and Soufrière on the way.

In Vieux Forte, school had just finished for the day and we passed the hustle and bustle as people made their way home. Horses and goats populated the roadside and nearby fields, while the blindingly white Cattle Egrets, looking for invertebrates, were never far away. Meanwhile, some Caribbean Martins were dashing between trees, hawking insects close to the ground. As we drove up to a higher altitude, the telephone and electricity wires along the roads were ideal places for Grey Kingbirds, very upright birds with white bellies and darker backs, while Carib Grackles, behaving like Starlings, were seen all along the hour's drive. Three or four American Kestrels, much smaller than the Common Kestrel, were perched on wires at various intervals plus a Broad-winged Hawk. Close to the hotel a Tropical Mockingbird flew into the bushes.

The luxury hotel resort Anse Chastanet, lies just beyond the village of Soufrière. At the hotel we had a fine Caribbean welcome from the staff and enjoyed a fresh cocktail, amazing views looking down to the beach, hot sunshine and Antillean Bullfinches which came to our tables looking for some sugar to eat! As light fell, large Brazilian Free-tailed Bats came out to feed over the valley and Leigh spotted a Lesser Antillean Swift. Despite everyone's body clocks telling us we must be in bed, we finished off the evening with a meal in the Treehouse Restaurant where the group had the chance to relax before retiring for a night's sleep. We were serenaded at night by the squeaks and churrs of frogs and insects that were starting their night shifts.

Day 2

Saturday 7th January

Anse Chastanet and Anse Mamim

As dawn broke, yellow-blue light appeared behind the Pitons, revealing the two steep, pointed shadows of these tall coastal mountains. The eerie, drawn out calls of the Zenaida Doves and the chattering of the Grey Kingbirds formed the dawn chorus - but they were all hidden somewhere in the darkness of the valley. The thin, but remarkably loud 'tsip' calls of hummingbirds and Bananaquits surrounded us.

After a good night's sleep, a fine breakfast of hot and cold foods greeted us in the Treehouse Restaurant where we also got our first good views of the local avian residents. Near the hot food area, the balcony was busy with Bananaquits lapping up the sugar which had been laid out. We watched as they ate with their long, nectar-feeding tongues. Lesser Antillean Bullfinches perched on the table or chairs nearby while Carib Grackles chased each other past the overhead beams.

It wasn't long before the temperature rose – up to 28 degrees Celsius was usual on most days. After a welcome orientation talk from the hotel and a refreshing lemon squash each, most of the group spent a few hours watching the wildlife around the hotel grounds. We didn't need to go far – the tree outside the main bar was busy with Bananaquits and bullfinches, plus another bird which had caught our eye. With drooped wings, a yellow eye and scallop-marked breast feathers, it could only be a Scaly-breasted Thrasher. It was feeding on the creamy-white berries of a tree. It gave obliging views – and we could see the distinctive white tips to its inner wing feathers, something that isn't so obvious in the books.

Down the steps and along the beach we encountered many of the locals including a few more thrashers. A Grey Kingbird perched for a short while on the overhead wires. Out at sea we watched juvenile Brown Boobies flying low over the water – some coming to rest on ledges of the rocks at the outer point of the beach cliff.

Further along the coast we spotted a few Magnificent Frigatebirds – their distinctive, long, angled wings a dead giveaway. They looked like the marine equivalent of Red Kites. Meanwhile, we focused our eyes (and necks) on a tree with pretty pink blossom. Zipping to and fro was a beautiful male Antillean Crested Hummingbird. As we watched, every so often the group caught a glimpse of his bright, purple, iridescent crest feathers which rose up from the forehead and stuck out above the head in a diagonal line. A Spotted Sandpiper also gave close views on the dark, volcanic boulders, often feeding by the breaking waves.

Butterflies were plentiful including numerous white and bright yellow Peirids. We also had nice views of a Caribbean Buckeye and one or two Antillean Skimmer dragonflies were hunting nearby. The conglomerate cliffs were home to a host of plants from ferns to cacti. Some of the trees had incredibly long buttress roots which entangled their way round rocks or hung down the side of cliffs. As we walked back towards the hotel, a Green Turtle came up for air! We caught numerous glimpses as it rose up to breathe before finally paddling hard and disappearing out of view. Back at the hotel, at least six frigate birds were soaring effortlessly above the beach and woodland.

After a delightful buffet lunch in the Trou Au Diable (Devil's Hole) beach restaurant we met our hotel guide and local naturalist Meno. A quick wet hop on and off the hotel's shuttle dive boat, we landed on the nearby private beach and explored Anse Mamim, a former sugar plantation 200 years ago. He showed us the nuts of almonds (different to those we're used to) below the beach's Coconut Trees which had been dropped by fruit bats. Artefacts and remnants of buildings left in situ leave vivid reminders of the once lucrative sugar trade and associated slavery that once took place here. The area is now full of Coconut Trees, Africa Tulip trees and the national tree of St Lucia, the Calabash Tree. We also saw wild orchids growing as parasites from the bark of trees. Meno guided us through the plantation, telling stories about many of the plants his grandmother used to heal him with when he was sick. From rubbing and smelling local Bay Tree leaves to trying some fresh cocoa milk from a Cocoa Pod, we got the chance to touch, smell and taste some of the locally grown fruits and nuts which we take for granted in supermarkets back at home. Meno picked a fresh Grapefruit from the tree which it had grown from and after a few quick peels with his penknife, was handing out segments for us to taste!

Alongside the plants there was plenty of birdlife. The nearby water bodies were home to a number of Little Blue Herons – one of which landed in a tree and lowered its head before performing deliberate snake-like movements. We conceded that perhaps it was doing this to explore the fronds and leaves for any frogs or insect that may be hiding and would make a tasty morsel. Lesser Antillean Bullfinches and Bananaquits were common. Meno spotted a Spectacled Thrush (aka Bare-eyed Thrush) – Lesley spotted it too but it was a little later before the rest of the group caught up with this Blackbird-like thrush with its bare yellow skin around the eye. Above in the trees, a Caribbean Elaenia (a type of Starling-sized flycatcher) was perched. The teeth-chattering call of a Mangrove Cuckoo was easy to make out and we heard one or two on our walk. As we approached a man-made pool of water, we disturbed one or two more Little Blue Herons. A Spotted Sandpiper preened by the water's edge. A nearby tree was alive with hummingbirds. It's fluffy, nectar-rich flowers provided an afternoon sugar-rush for Antillean Crested Hummingbirds, Purple-throated Caribs and Green-throated Caribs. We spent some time watching the antics of the 'hummers' as they zipped around or perched briefly before darting off somewhere! The Purple-throated Caribs appeared more black-throated than the others – the purple only being visible in direct sunlight.

Meanwhile, a striking St Lucia Warbler, an endemic, was feeding on insects in front of us. Its bright yellow breast contrasted with its grey back and head. Above us two Broad-winged Hawks soared – we could hear their whistling calls and as they turned in flight their bodies glinted in the sunshine. A few Scaly-naped Pigeons flew high across the woodland valley while another flew low through a woodland clearing. One area of trees was busy with bullfinches, a Caribbean Elaenia, St Lucia Warblers and Black-whiskered Vireos.

As we walked back to the beach we spotted many of the other animals living here – the water running across a track was busy with tadpoles while a volcanic cliff was home to Red Bees and their nest. They surrounded their supplies of yellow-coloured honeycomb which was neatly moulded into the rock. It looked a little like bracket fungus from a distance. A small Fire Ant nest, a mound of soil shaped into two small domes was no more than a few inches off the ground. The *piece de resistance* was when Meno picked the tip of a fern and pressed it on his forearm. As he removed the fern, a clear silver print was left on his arm – hence the name of the plant, Tattoo Fern. As we waited for our boat to arrive back at the beach, a female American Kestrel glided over and landed on a palm frond. On the boat we headed off to see the Brown Boobies on the cliffs and had remarkable views of the Pitons. Eight Brown Boobies, mainly juveniles, were perched tightly to the sheer cliffs overhanging the sea – the patches of white guano were dead giveaways to where the Gannet-like birds liked to perch.

With some time left to relax and rest, we finished the evening off at the Beach Grill restaurant on the beach with the sound of gently breaking waves and a pleasant breeze. We celebrated Janine's birthday with drinks, and cake! Before arriving, Bill and Leigh had seen a heron flying low over the beach – and after dinner a small heron lurking on the sand in the dark was indeed a Yellow-crowned Night Heron which favoured this area at night looking for fishes, crabs and other invertebrates.

Day 3

Sunday 8th January

Cul de Sac and Des Cartier

We were up at the crack of dawn with the calling Zenaida Doves and left the hotel by 6.15am to head up the west coast. On the way we passed along winding roads taking us through the dramatic rocky, vegetated terrain in the north where the older volcanic basalt rock persists. Tree ferns overhung the road and small villages hugged the coastline. Houses were often built on stilts to cope with heavy flooding during the wet season. We had our eyes trained on the telephone and electricity wires – Grey Kingbirds were very common and we saw at least four American Kestrels and a Broad-winged Hawk perched on the wires.

After an hour or so we stopped at Cul de Sac, an area of marshy, lowland grassland along the river. It was relatively quiet apart from various bull cows feeding in a field. Cattle Egrets were common and feeding near the feet of the cows. Some larger egrets revealed themselves as Great Egrets. There were three in all and as they flew around chasing each other they disturbed a Green Heron which rose briefly before hiding in the wetland vegetation. A Little Blue Heron also flew out. Nearby was a large Banana plantation in the lowland fields of the Roseau Valley – most of these Bananas come to Europe and in particular the UK. Each group of Bananas hanging from the trees was covered in a blue plastic bag to protect it from birds, reptiles, bats and insects.

We continued our journey up into the mountains and our driver Isiah pointed out the 'hurricane scars', sandy-coloured patches on the cliffs and hills where landslides had occurred in October 2010 when Hurricane Tomas struck the island.

Passing through Dennery we stopped at a roadside cutting just south of the village for the rare White-breasted Thrasher. The dense vegetation and uncleared paths meant we couldn't go far in case we encountered snakes. Meno who had also joined us from the hotel pointed out the thin, high pitch call of the thrasher but it was too distant for most to hear. Meanwhile, an Antillean Crested Hummingbird flew and perched nearby. Carib Grackles called from the nearby bushes where a St Lucia Pewee also made its single note calls. Two Shiny Cowbirds dashed past and a White-breasted Thrasher called near the roadside vegetation but remained elusive and went unseen.

Our final stop and walk was in the Quillesse Rainforest Reserve at Des Cartier. To get there we meandered up the hills and into the mountains passing more Banana Plantations. In amongst the Banana plants we were shown Plantain trees (looking very similar to the Bananas), Pineapples, Dasheen (a root vegetable), Cashew trees, Avocado and Mango trees. The Mangoes were just developing – usually the trees only have one batch of fruit per year but more recently they are growing a second lot in December/January time due to changes in the weather. As we neared our destination, a Small Asian Mongoose disappeared into the verge.

At the reserve car park we met our guide who took us a few kilometres into the tropical rainforest (c. 1200 feet above sea level) where we got to see some incredible trees, ferns, epiphytes, bromeliads and other plants which looked a fresh, lush green colour in the dappled light. The Banana Trees were replaced by their relative, the *Heliconia*, with its distinctive orange, triangle-shaped flowers.

The birds were trickier to see but we heard a variety including St Lucia Warblers, St Lucia Pewees, Bananaquits and Pearly-eyed Thrashers (like the mating calls of Grey Squirrels!). Excitedly, we heard the calls of a St Lucia Parrot and an individual flew into the tree catching the eye of a few. After a little time and patience everyone got to see this cryptic bird hidden in the tall branches. For most it was a green blob, but for those who could get a closer view, the deep green colour of its back and lemon yellow under-tail coverts were visible. The belly feathers were orange and red. The eye was creamy-coloured, contrasting with the darker black-blue head. A little further along we saw St Lucia Parrots in flight. They were distant, but their stunning blue and red wing patches were easy to spot. At least six were seen at various moments along the walk.

An open glade was busy with beautiful, Nasturtium-orange butterflies known as the Flambeau which were feeding on yellow flowers thriving in this sun-spot. Purple-throated Caribs could often be heard calling or were seen zipping between trees or chasing each other. A few perched and gave brief views. In a darker area of the forest, a Blackwatch Moth hurried around in the shadows. While the single, drawn out notes of a Rufous-throated Solitaire transmitted through the forest, the calls of a St Lucia Oriole caught the ears of our guides. It wasn't long before we had incredibly close and obliging views of a lovely adult female feeding by the path. Her steely-grey bill and legs alongside her orange-yellow plumage were very distinctive. Paul also photographed a second bird seen below us in the valley.

Before we headed back we looked out across an opening in the forest looking down into the valley – the trees hugged the mountain slopes and we could make out some flowering Magnolia trees. The flowers are a favourite of the parrots! Lesley spotted a House Wren and as a quick, short, shower (liquid sunshine as the locals call it!) finished, a St Lucia Pewee gave glimpsing views in the canopy. Following our path back we heard a Mangrove Cuckoo, a Lesser Antillean Flycatcher and St Lucia Warblers.

Our guide showed us the pink and brown fruits of an Incense Tree – Alec gave it a squeeze and the liquid which oozed out had the distinctive smell of incense. The sap/ooze from the tree is dried, powdered and used in the Catholic churches in St Lucia. Having seen so many endemic birds we were very happy and made our way back along the south coast road and back up the west coast to Anse Chastanet where we had a well-earned late lunch before relaxing for the rest of the afternoon.

Leigh and Ed did a little snorkelling and saw many fishes including Peacock Flounder, Fairy Basslet, Squirrelfish, Stoplight Parrotfish, Four-eye Butterflyfish, French Angelfish, Sergeant Major, Smooth Trunkfish, French Grunt, and Sand Diver. A number of Trumpet Fish were stalking small fishes close to the coral-covered rocks, making quick dashes to snap any that were unaware of these cryptic predators. It was also a chance to snorkel and surface close to a few Brown Boobies resting on some low rocks.

Back on the beach a Spotted Sandpiper was feeding while a pair of American Kestrels preened on a tree above. Further along the beach, a Belted Kingfisher perched on a jetty but was shy and didn't stay long. We finished the evening with a lovely meal in the Treehouse Restaurant before retiring for the night ready for a later 9am start to go dolphin-watching. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was again foraging on the beach at night.

Day 4

Monday 9th January

Dolphin Watching off the coast of Anse Chastanet and Soufrière

A bright morning, and at breakfast more of the local birds came out of the forest to greet us. Looking out over the nearby trees, bullfinches, grackles and Bananaquits, were joined by Shiny Cowbirds looking for tasty breakfast morsels. A Grey Trembler also came to see what the fuss was about and was soon on the breakfast table trying to pinch Ed's bread! Similar in shape to the Scaly-breasted Thrasher, it lacked the scales but still had a bright yellow eye and a longer, down-curved bill. As its name suggests, it regularly shivered or trembled its wings and tail. Janine and Paul watched a Grey Kingbird perched nearby. Meanwhile on the beach, grackles, Zenaida Doves and Common Ground Doves were feeding.

After breakfast we met at the beach at 9am and boarded our boat to go dolphin watching. Errol our guide was on top of the boat looking out for any cetaceans. The usual Brown Boobies were on the cliffs and even before we had left the beach, a large 1.5 metre long Loggerhead Turtle surfaced for a brief moment showing off its large carapace (shell). As we ventured out to sea it was very warm and sunny. The clouds moved in for some of the trip but on the whole it was bright and hot. A few Magnificent Frigatebirds drifted overhead and a Royal Tern, with its carrot-orange bill stuck with the boat for a short while before drifting off. The easterly winds meant the sea was calmer than the week previously, although we spent an hour or so in choppy waters. In the distance we were able to make out the outline of St Vincent, 45 miles southwest of St Lucia. We saw plenty of Flying Fish jumping out of the water, often in groups of between ten and twenty. A large dark form on the surface seen by Alec looked to be a turtle, probably a Leatherback Turtle.

Before heading further south into calmer waters, Leigh spotted another seabird, a black and white fulmar-like bird. It was very distinctive with extensive white on the neck/head, white chest and dark wings. It was a very rare Black-capped Petrel – only a thousand pairs are left in the West Indies, with breeding restricted to Hispaniola, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This one was perhaps drifting past perhaps on a feeding foray for young.

A few Pomarine Skuas flew over the sea but were always quite distant. As we edged into calmer waters it wasn't long before some distant but large splashes were seen. And very soon we had our first dolphin, a large adult Pantropical Spotted Dolphin. Within 10 minutes or so we were surrounded by a school of 50 to 100 dolphins, often with a dozen or so at the bow of the boat, including a mother with her small calf. The school were of various ages and gender – the younger animals were very plain coloured, lacking the spots. The adults show a lovely peppering of spots and white lips and beak tips. Some had clear scars on their back and one had a very tatty dorsal fin – probably as a result of battle scars or from the teeth of predators. They stayed with us for a good 30 minutes or so. Many of us sat on the bow of the boat, feet dangling towards the sea with the dolphins just below. They were all around the boat, offering everyone excellent views. At one point a group of adults at the bow caused panic amongst the Flying Fish and a shoal of a few hundred took flight, keeping ahead of the dolphins!

Meanwhile, they also attracted a variety of boobies. Where there are dolphins there are often shoals of fish, and the seabirds know this. We watched at least six immature Masked Boobies with their white and black wings but sooty bodies, while a single Red-Footed Booby, a brown phase bird with a dusky body and white tail joined in the fun! As it took off, its bright red feet were easily visible. Surprisingly, and rare for here, was a Northern Gannet – just like the ones we see in the Atlantic Sea where it was no doubt from! So, four species of gannet/booby type birds in one day was pretty good going!

As we watched the action, our guides spotted a few other dolphins which were doing more than just jumping and splashing – these were serious about their water antics and were coming right out clear of the water and spinning round and round as they did so, rather like a cork screw! These were spinning dolphins – Gray's Spinner Dolphin to be precise. They were present in small numbers and only obvious when being acrobatic. By this point we were heading towards land and as we left the dolphins behind we had remarkable views of the coastline, including the Pitons, Soufrière and our hotel resort, Anse Chastanet. As we left the jetty some of the group members watched Mottled Shore Crabs, black with a peppering of white, marching sideways over the rocks. On the beach Marbled Chitons were stuck fast to boulders as waves washed over them.

After a two and half hours at sea, it was time for lunch. Many of the group stopped for buffet lunch at the Trou Au Diable beach restaurant before retiring for the afternoon and doing their own thing. Janine watched a Mangrove Cuckoo from her room at close quarters while Lesley also saw one well near the hotel's private beach where four Grey Kingbirds were calling and residing together. We met again in the evening and enjoyed the hotel's Apsara Restaurant – a delightful mix of East Indian cuisines Caribbean style.

Day 5

Tuesday 10th January

Millet

As we woke the moon was full and its light was brightly flooding across the bay. Seven of us left the hotel in the dark at 6.00am to travel north along the windy roads to Millet, a rainforest reserve. A shower out at sea produced a stunning, bright double rainbow over Anse La Raye. And on arrival at the rainforest it was indeed raining – a short shower, or liquid sunshine as the locals like to call it. The forest had a very different feel to Des Cartier that we visited on Sunday and was more open, with birds at close hand. Our guide for the trip was Charmain. We began with a St Lucia Oriole calling in a tree by the car park and some were fortunate enough to glimpse it.

A Scaly-breasted Thrasher was spotted and a Tropical Mockingbird perched on some nearby fencing. Bananaquits were ubiquitous. Along the track halved coconuts have been put on stakes as bird food – shortly after Hurricane Tomas struck many birds had little food to forage for and took to feeding on the coconuts instead. Zenaida Doves never previously known to feed on coconut now can't get enough of it! A Brown Trembler was feeding one such feeding station before Ed stepped back and was almost lost down the hillside! Meanwhile, a Mangrove Cuckoo was calling and soon spotted up in a tree providing stunning views – its peach-coloured chest, sandy-brown back and black and white tail all easily seen. Lesser Antillean Bullfinches also came down to feed on the coconuts.

We came to a viewing area overlooking the vast forest, valleys and reservoir below. Clouds hung in the trees like hammocks strung between branches. A Caribbean Elaenia called in the nearby bushes and was briefly spotted by some. Meanwhile, a Lesser Antillean Saltator was singing away with its clear and distinctive three note song. It remained elusive but appeared in a gap long enough for many of the group to see him. Throughout the morning two or three called but were difficult to see. Another was spotted shortly before we made our way back to the cars. Two Broad-winged Hawks soared overhead. A Grey Kingbird also called nearby and in the distance two St Lucia Parrots flew across the low-lying cloud and huge forest trees.

We spent some time looking across another section of forest where at least two Scaly-necked Pigeons were resting in trees some distance away. A Broad-winged Hawk flew over the forest and in a nearby tree a Black-faced Grassquit was feeding on a tree flower. A Red-snouted Tree Frog called for a short period – it sounded like a mobile phone text coming through! Meanwhile, a Grey Trembler was feeding on some coconut, swallowing some large pieces of the 'white stuff' in one go! Zenaida Doves fed below the stakes and sometimes on the coconuts themselves.

Some of the group watched a St Lucia Warbler and a little further along Charmain found a female Blackfinch; its pink legs distinguished it from the Lesser Antillean Bullfinch, and the bill was thicker. She also came down to some coconut. Whilst watching her we had the most obliging views of a Mangrove Cuckoo sitting on a branch in the sunshine calling. A second bird called back. Two St Lucia Parrots flew past noisily and in the trees some tremblers and Bananaquits came to investigate our activities. Back by the reserve headquarters another Black-faced Grassquit was spotted briefly.

As we drove slowly back down the narrow roads some Cattle Egrets were resting by the roadside. Grey Kingbirds were as numerous as ever on the overhead wires. As we passed over a bridge in Anse la Raye, an Antillean Common Gallinule (now a separate species to the Moorhen) nodded across the water, while on the other side a Little Blue Heron was hunting. We stopped by the bridge in Canaries where at least three Green Herons were feeding in the shallow river. In good light, the deep green colour of their back and wings reflected back while at other times a deep purple brown was obvious along the neck and chest.

Stopping to photograph some tree ferns near Soufrière we were greeted by the calls of a St Lucia Parrot. After a few minutes of searching we spotted the single bird perched in an old tree covered in epiphytes. The bird decided to fly and took off across the valley, screeching as it went.

We arrived back just after midday ready for some buffet lunch. Later in the afternoon, various wildlife was also spotted. Whilst relaxing Leigh spotted a Lesser Antillean Saltator outside her room and watched the Scaly-breasted Thrashers and a Black-whiskered Vireo at lunch above the main bar. Leigh and Bill had also seen a Snowy Egret along the beach. Lesley, Frances and Georgie saw a Yellow-crowned Night Heron on the stream by the hotel's private beach.

In the Mamim Plantation, two Spectacled Thrushes were feeding along with the finches. A Brown Trembler also arrived, shivering its wings and tail. That morning, Sue and Frances who decided not to join the main group, had walked into Soufrière to send some postcards. They got the taxi boat back and the skipper happened to be a naturalist. He showed them the fruit bats which roost in caves within the sea cliffs. A Pancake Slug, ideally suited for living in a hot climate, was spotted coming out of its cool, damp hole on the steps down from the reception to the beach.

After a rest in the afternoon we met together in the evening on the beach for a lovely meal and cocktails (particularly good rum punches!) as part of Tuesday's Manager's Cocktail party! The events on the beach meant the night heron was keeping away but a large Great Fishing Bat with its light-coloured chest and long wings quartered the beach hunting for food.

Day 6

Wednesday 11th January

Castries and Aerial Tram Tour, Rainforest Adventures near Chassin

This bright morning seemed to be particularly good for Spectacled Thrushes around the hotel and before we set off for the day some of the group had all ready spotted some. The usual Bananaquits, grackles and bullfinches joined us for breakfast.

We met at 8am and our skipper Desir gave us a guided boat tour along the sunny coastline before dropping us off in Castries for our trip into the forest. Along our way we passed Canaries, Ti Kaye Village, Anse La Raye, the Roseau Valley and we dipped into Margot Harbour (where there were some mighty sailing boats and houses) before being entering the port of Castries. Brown Boobies were perched on cliffs in a few places and the odd Magnificent Frigatebird drifted overhead. We also watched local fishermen in their small boats reeling in their nets by hand. Some of the men were in the water with their snorkels helping to bring them in. At one point along our trip a Kingfish (which could have been any number of completely unrelated fish species!) jumped clear of the water before diving back in again.

In Castries, we were met by a huge, cowering Cruise liner which we passed before docking and being greeted by our taxi driver, Junior, who took us up into the mountains to the Rainforest Sky Ride in Chassin. It wasn't long before we were in two separate carriages taking us on a gentle one-hour tour through and over the rainforest. We were already 600ft above sea level and we travelled up to 1400ft passing from the forest floor, through the understorey of ferns and tree ferns into the canopy. As we came back down over the emergence layer we also had incredible views over the north of St Lucia and towards the next Caribbean island of Martinique, which was just over 20 miles away! The variety of plant and animal life was fascinating. Passing an area of introduced Norfolk Pines, originating from the Norfolk Island of the Pacific, we travelled through native forest and learnt about the different trees and their medicinal or everyday uses. Sulphur and Flambeau Butterflies flew past as they fed in the canopies.

Purple-throated Caribs were common and we had good views of one or two St Lucia Warblers. Lesley spotted a Lesser Antillean Saltator and a Lesser Antillean Flycatcher was also seen by a few. Bananaquits were common and the odd Broad-winged Hawk soared overhead. Even those nervous of heights (and holding tight!) enjoyed the sheer brilliance of the ride, the magnificent views and the diversity of plants and birds living in the rainforest. We continued passed a 200-year old Fig Tree and saw how the forest has begun to recover since Hurricane Tomas struck in October 2010. We learnt that a water cascade runs through the rocks while a waterfall runs over the rocks. Being at canopy level enabled us to really see and appreciate the bromeliads living along the branches of many of the older trees.

After the ride we had a 20 minute round walk to see the foliage from ground level including the Incense Tree, the Honduras, the West Indies Mahogany Trees and various *Heliconias*. We also touched the incredibly rough leaves of a particular vine – their course texture saw them used in the past as sandpaper and Brillo pads. After a quick free refreshment and stop in the gift shop, we headed back down the mountains to Castries, with glorious views of the landscape below us. Grey Kingbirds were common on the overhead wires and the odd Black-faced Grassquit flew up from the roadside verge.

Back on the boat we were taken round the harbour to a Cattle Egret colony where young of various ages were sat in their nests, about to fledge or beginning to explore. An Antillean Common Gallinule was also lurking beneath the bushes and unlike our Moorhen had a larger red shield on its bill and more orange upper legs. Heading out to sea and along the coastline we passed various Brown Boobies and a frigatebird. We stopped at a floating buoy and navigation lamp where, alongside a juvenile booby, half a dozen Sandwich Terns were resting for the day. A little further along the coast at least twelve Royal Terns were hugging the coastline and passed by the boat. Before we carried on to Anse Castanet, we stopped to see some more Brown Boobies resting on the cliffs – these included two adults which we hadn't seen until now. While the young birds were brown all over, the adults had brighter feet and clear white bellies and faces.

We docked at 2pm and went straight for a buffet lunch. At dusk, Paul spotted an unidentified swallow species in the valley while Lesley had spotted a small type of bat. The Grey Trembler also put in an appearance in the afternoon while some snorkelling revealed various fishes including needlefishes and a Green Turtle resting by the algae beds. We met together again in the evening at the Emeralds Vegetarian Restaurant for some very creative and varied vegetarian dishes whilst those who still fancied something meaty chose from the daily Treehouse menu.

Day 7

Thursday 12th January

Sulphur Springs, Emerald Estate and Diamond Falls Botanical Gardens

After some rain overnight the morning felt fresh. At breakfast a Spectacled Thrush showed briefly while a Grey Kingbird stood out on a branch. As the beach was being raked, a juvenile Yellow-crowned Heron was foraging across the sand before people came to sit and sunbathe. While waiting for our taxis a Grey Trembled quivered its wings above us on the beams of the hotel.

We set off at 9am to Sulphur Springs, the world's only drive in volcano, also as known in Amerindian as Qualibou. It is in fact a caldera rather than a coned volcano which we may be more familiar with seeing on TV.

We had the opportunity to stand by the barriers to see the bubbling water and smell the hydrogen sulphide. The whole crater is 7.5 miles square and includes the town of Soufrière. Magma is only 2.5 miles below the surface but the volcano hasn't erupted since 1766. Our guide told us about the history of the volcano and more detail about the type of rocks and terrain we were looking at. The water itself (which is seawater) was a dark grey colour – a combination of the hydrogen sulphide reacting with iron to produce iron sulphide. We looked across moon-like terrain which included a variety of rocks containing sulphur, carbon and iron. As some of us walked back down the road to the car park, an obliging Grey Kingbird watched us from the overhead wires. An American Kestrel and a Broad-winged Hawk tussled in the air above while the bushes were busy with Bananaquits.

We drove a short while down the road to Anse Chastanet's very own 550 acre organic farm where all the fruits and vegetables for the hotel's restaurants are grown. Our young guide Martin did a fine job telling us about the different plants and enabling us to taste a few of the more unusual fruits such as St Lucia Cherries and the tropical American Soursop, like an egg-shaped green melon with soft spines. He also scraped away some of the bark of a Cinnamon Tree for us to smell. There were common herbs, Banana and Plantain Trees, flowering Mango Trees and also many ornamental plants being watered including Poinsettia trees ready for next Christmas! A Broad-winged Hawk soared overhead and a few Grey Kingbirds were perching on nearby walls. A pair of Common Ground Doves was sheltering in a greenhouse.

We finished our morning with a visit to the Diamond Botanical Gardens, Waterfall and associated mineral baths (small rectangular pools) just down the road. Here we got to see at close hand a number of different and brightly coloured *Heliconia* flowers. There were Cocoa Trees, Banana Trees, and a whole host of others. It was like seeing a 'wild supermarket'! Everyone enjoyed seeing on our excursions where our fruits and nuts actually come from before they are imported, and then slowly walked back to the cars for our return to the hotel.

We lunched in the restaurant above the main bar looking out across the beach and the berry trees favoured by the Scaly-breasted Thrashers. Lesley and Ed listened to the song of a Tropical Mockingbird. The afternoon was full of short rain showers in the sunshine and many stayed on the beach happily reading or relaxing under the sun umbrellas provided. Despite the rain it was still a very warm and bright afternoon. We met together for our final meal at the Treehouse Restaurant and as ever enjoyed some amazing dishes and drinks.

Day 8

Friday 13th January

Walk through the hotel's estate to Anse Mamim

It had been raining throughout the night and the morning was cooler (but still very warm!!). After an early breakfast at 7am, most of the group met on the beach where Meno took us on a two and a half hour walk around the hotel grounds, finishing at the Mamim Plantation. This was our chance to catch up with some of the birds that perhaps we hadn't seen or didn't see so well earlier in the week. The brief but often heavy showers provided ideal conditions for watching the birds – as soon as the rain stopped the birds became active again. Near the security entrance we started off well with at least six Woodpigeon-like Scaly-necked Pigeons. A Brown Trembler was quivering nearby while two Common Ground Doves fed on the ground below. A Shiny Cowbird flew past briefly. Walking on a bedraggled female American Kestrel sat in a tree. A little further along a Lesser Antillean Saltator and a Spectacled Thrush were feeding on tree berries.

On the other side of the track Meno had attracted a St Lucia Warbler, a female Lesser Antillean Crested Hummingbird and a Lesser Antillean Flycatcher. A Broad-winged Hawk was calling and seen dashing out of some trees. In a tree hanging over the road a House Wren busily foraging – it is slightly bigger than that found in the UK with an obvious white chest. A little further on we finally had excellent views of a St Lucia Pewee flycatching. Its soft peachy-coloured breast was very attractive. On a branch overhanging some water a Green Heron was perched – it later flew into a more open tree giving better views.

At the next, more open pond another Green Heron was resting near some flowering lilies. With a little splashing of his stick, Meno lured out an Antillean Common Gallinule before it scuttled away. Another was also spotted. As we climbed the hill, a small flock of birds revealed a Black-whiskered Vireo, a Lesser Antillean Saltator, a Caribbean Elaenia and a stunning St Lucia Warbler. The small bushes and grasses revealed the odd Black-faced Grassquit including a male showing off his blackish face.

Before we started to move downhill towards Mamim Plantation, Meno lured us over with ‘come and see the show begin’ and pointed towards some very big and colourful moth caterpillars of the Frangipani Moth. They certainly put on a good show – a black appendage was being waved around towards the tail; no doubt a lure to distract predators away from the head of the insect. We also got to touch and smell some wild crushed Lime leaves.

Further along the track we found more St Lucia Warblers and an obliging Lesser Antillean Saltator was feeding on berries, showing its olive-green plumage, creamy streak above the eye and yellow bill. Before things went a little quieter, a St Lucia Pewee gave some lovely views as it was fly catching in front of us. We made our way down to the beach and caught the taxi boat – a refreshing wet boarding and landing.

The rest of the day was spent packing suitcases, going for a swim or snorkel and preparing for the trip home. We met just before lunch to say our goodbyes and go through our final checklist. After a lovely lunch, Bill and Leigh took their taxi first, followed by Janine and Paul. Ed, Colin, Georgie, Frances and Lesley took a later taxi for the British Airways flight via Moule à Chique in an attempt to spot some Red-billed Tropicbirds. The rain had been heavy on our journey south but had stopped by the time we’d reached the southern point of the island. Sadly, we almost got to the top of the hill to look over the cliffs but the road had been washed away and it was too far to walk in the time we had. However, we were still rewarded by half a dozen female Magnificent Frigatebirds hanging in the air over the telecommunication aerials and a view towards Vieux Fort and the Maria Islands Nature Reserve. The rain in the distance produced a beautiful rainbow over the sea. Near the airport, at least 30 Cattle Egrets were feeding in a lush, boggy field.

Everyone made their way home safely after a relaxing, hot, sunny holiday seeing St Lucia’s endemic birdlife and many other plants and animals. A contrast to the overnight frost which greeted us as we arrived back in London the following day!

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Black-capped Petrel	<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>				1				
2	Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>				6				
3	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>				1				
4	Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>		8	✓	✓	✓	12+	✓	4
5	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>				1				
6	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>		6		✓	1	2+	✓	✓
7	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			3					
8	Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>		4	2		1	1		1
9	Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>					2			
10	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	6	✓	6		3	50+	✓	30+
11	Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>					3			2
12	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax violacea</i>		1	1		1		1	
13	Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	1	2	2	✓	4	2	✓	3
14	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	4	2	4	2	2	2	2	4
15	Antillean Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata cerceris</i>				1	1		2	3
16	Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		2	1	1	1		1	1
17	Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>				1		12		
18	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>						6		
19	Pomarine Skua	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>				2				
20	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>			2			✓	2	
21	Scaly-naped Pigeon	<i>Patagioenus squamosa</i>		4			4	1		6+
22	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>						1		
23	Zenaida Dove	<i>Zenaida aurita</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Common Ground Dove	<i>Collumbina passerina</i>		4	2	4	✓	✓	2	2
25	St Lucia Parrot	<i>Amazona versicolor</i>			6		5			
26	Mangrove Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus minor</i>		h	h	1	2	2	h	
27	Lesser Antillean Swift	<i>Chaetura martinica</i>	1						✓	
28	Purple-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis jugularis</i>		6	4	1	2	✓	✓	2
29	Green-throated Carib	<i>Eulampis holosericeus</i>		4			✓			
30	Antillean Crested Hummingbird	<i>Orthorhyncus cristatus</i>		4	1	✓	✓	✓	2	2
31	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>			1		1		1	
32	Caribbean Elaenia	<i>Elaenia martinica</i>		2			1			1
33	St Lucia Pewee	<i>Contopus oberi</i>		h	1					2
34	Grey Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	6+	1	10	✓	10+	✓	✓	✓
35	Lesser Antillean Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus oberi</i>			h			1		2
36	Caribbean Martin	<i>Progne dominicensis</i>	4			2				
37	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>						✓	✓	
38	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>			1					1
39	Tropical Mockingbird	<i>Mimus gilvus</i>	1			h	1		1	
40	White-breasted Thrasher	<i>Ramphocinclus brachyurus</i>			h					
41	Grey Trembler	<i>Cinlocerthia gutturalis</i>				1	1	1	2	1
42	Brown Trembler	<i>Cinlocerthia ruficauda</i>				1				1
43	Scaly-breasted Thrasher	<i>Allenia fusca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
44	Pearly-eyed Thrasher	<i>Margarops fuscata</i>			h					
45	Rufous-throated Solitaire	<i>Myadestes genibarbis</i>			h					
46	Spectacled Thrush	<i>Turdus nudigenis</i>		2+			2	2	1	2+

	Common name	Scientific name	January								
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
47	Black-whiskered Vireo	<i>Vireo altoquus</i>		2+							1
48	St Lucia Warbler	<i>Dendroica delicata</i>		3+	2+	h	1	2	✓		3+
49	Bananaquit	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Black-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris bicolor</i>					2	1			4
51	St Lucia Black Finch	<i>Melanospiza richardsoni</i>					1				
52	Lesser Antillean Bullfinch	<i>Loxigilla noctis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Lesser Antillean Saltator	<i>Saltator albicollis</i>					2	2	✓		3+
54	Carib Grackle	<i>Quiscalus lugubris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>			2	✓	1				2
56	St Lucia Oriole	<i>Icterus laudabills</i>			2		1				

Reptiles & Amphibians

1	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>		✓				✓		
2	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>				✓				
3	Leatherback Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>				Poss				
4	Rough-scaled Worm Lizard	<i>Gymnophthalmus pleii luetkeni</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Watts' Anole Lizard	<i>Anolis watsi watsi</i>						✓		
6	Cane Toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>				✓	✓	✓		
7	Lesser Antillean or Johnstone's Whistling Frog	<i>Eleutherodactylus johnstonei</i>	h	✓	h	h	h	h	h	h
8	Red-snouted Tree Frog	<i>Scinax ruber</i>					✓			

Mammals

1	Pantropical Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella attenuata</i>				100+				
2	Gray's Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris longirostris</i>				2+				
3	Small Asian Mongoose	<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>			✓					
4	Brazilian Free-tailed Bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis antillarum</i>	✓							
5	Great Fishing Bat	<i>Noctilio leporinus mastivus</i>					✓			
6	Jamaican Fruit Bat	<i>Artibeus j. jamaicensis</i>			h	h	h	h	h	h
7	Small bat sp								✓	

Crabs

1	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocyopde quadrata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Caribbean Hermit Crab	<i>Coenobita clypeatus</i>						✓		
3	Mottled Shore Crab	<i>Pachygrapsus transversus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Sally Lightfoot Crab species with sea urchins	<i>Percnon gibbesi</i>							✓	

Molluscs

1	Pancake Slug	<i>Veronicella sloanei</i>					✓			
2	Marbled Chiton	<i>Chiton marmoratus</i>								

Butterflies, Moths and Dragonflies

1	Large Orange Sulphur	<i>Phoebis agarithe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Barred Sulphur	<i>Eurema दौरa palmira</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Caribbean Buckeye	<i>Junonia coenia</i>		✓						
4	The Julia or Flambeau	<i>Dryas iulia</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
5	White Peacock	<i>Anartia jatophae</i>		✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
6	Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus proteus</i>								✓
7	Hanno Blue	<i>Hemiargus hanno</i>		✓					✓	
8	Great Southern White	<i>Ascia monuste</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Black Witch Moth	<i>Ascalapha odorata</i>			✓					
10	Caterpillars of the Frangipani Moth	<i>Tetrio sphinx</i>								✓
11	Antillean Skimmer	<i>Orthemis macrostigma</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Fishes

1	Flying Fish	<i>Cypselurus</i> spp			✓					
2	King Fish (refers to a number of different spp)								✓	
3	Moray Eel sp	<i>Gymnothorax</i> spp				✓				
4	Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus maculatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Yellowhead Wrasse	<i>Halichoerus garroti</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Puddingwife	<i>Halichoerus radiatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Redbound Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma aurofrenatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Stoplight Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma viridae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Princess Parrotfish	<i>Searus taeniopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Queen Parrotfish	<i>Searus vetula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Yellowtail Hamlet	<i>Hypoplectrus chlorurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Brown Chromis	<i>Chromis multilineata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf saratilis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Yellowtail Damsel	<i>Microspathodon chrysurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Yellowtail Snapper	<i>Ocyurus chrysurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Southern Sennet	<i>Sphyraena picudillei</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Palameta	<i>Trachinotus goodei</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Yellow Jack	<i>Caranx bartholonaci</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Bluetang	<i>Acanthurus coeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Doctorfish	<i>Acanthurus chirurgus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Grey Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus arcuatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Banded Butterfish	<i>Chaetodon striatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Foureye Butterfish	<i>Chaetodon capistratus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	French Angelfish	<i>Pomacanthus paru</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Bar Jack	<i>Caranx ruber</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Blue-striped Grunt	<i>Haemulon sciurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Yellowtail Parrotfish	<i>Sparisoma rubripinne</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Bluehead Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma bifasciatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Slippery Dick	<i>Halichoeres bivittatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Orange-spotted Filefish	<i>Cantherhines pullus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Yellow Goatfish	<i>Mulloidichthys martinicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Spotted Goatfish	<i>Pseudupeneus maculatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Lizardfish	<i>Synodus</i> spp		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Fairy Basslet	<i>Grama loreta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Sand diver	<i>Synodus intermedium</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Spanish Grunt	<i>Haemulon macrostomum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Spotted Scorpionfish	<i>Scorpaena plumieri</i>								✓
38	Squirrelfish	<i>Holocentrus adscensionis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Cardinal Fish	<i>Apogon</i> spp		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Redlip Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius atlanticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Ocean Surgeon	<i>Acanthurus bahianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
42	Peacock Flounder	<i>Buthus lunatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Smooth Trunkfish	<i>Lactophrys triqueter</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
44	Whitespotted Filefish	<i>Cantherhines macrocerus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Goldspotted Eel	<i>Myrichthys ocellatus</i>			✓					✓
46	Snapper sp	<i>Lutjanus</i> spp							✓	
47	Slender Filefish	<i>Monocanthus tucken</i>							✓	
48	Scrawled Filefish	<i>Aluterus scriptus</i>							✓	
49	Graysby	<i>Cephalopholis cruentata</i>							✓	
50	Blackbar Soldierfish	<i>Myripristis jacobus</i>							✓	
51	Clown Wrasse	<i>Halichoeres maculipinna</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	French Grunt	<i>Haemulon flavolineatum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Copper Sweeper	<i>Pempheris schomburgki</i>							✓	✓
54	Various Goby species	<i>Elacatinus</i> spp								

Coral/sponges

1	Finger Coral	<i>Porites</i> spp								
2	Brain Coral	<i>Diploria labyrinthiformis</i>								
3	Common Sea Fan	<i>Gorgonia ventalina</i>								
4	Giant Barrel Sponge	<i>Xestospongia muta</i>								
5	Yellow Tube Sponge	<i>Aplysina fistularis</i>								
6	Long-spined Urchin	<i>Diadema antillarum</i>								
7	Christmas Tree Worm	<i>Spirobranchus giganteus</i>								
8	Bearded Fireworm	<i>Hermodice carunculata</i>								

Plants

1	African Tulip Tee	<i>Spathodea campanulata</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
2	Almond	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>		✓		✓				
4	Balsa	<i>Ochroma pyramidale</i>				✓				
5	Bamboo	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>			✓	✓		✓		
6	Banana	<i>Musa x paradisiaca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Bayleaf	<i>Pimenta racemosa</i>		✓						
8	Bird-of-Paradise	<i>Heliconia psittacorum</i>			✓	✓		✓		
9	Blue Mahoe Tree	<i>Talipariti elatum</i>			✓	✓				
10	Breadfruit	<i>Artocarpus altilis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Bromeliads		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Calabash	<i>Crescentia cujete</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Cashew Nut	<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>			✓	✓				
14	Castor Oil Plant	<i>Ricinus communis</i>							✓	✓
15	Chataignier sp	<i>Sloanea</i> spp			✓	✓		✓		
16	Clusier tree sp	<i>Clusia</i> spp			✓	✓		✓		
17	Cinnamon	<i>Cinnmomum verum</i>							✓	
18	Cocoa	<i>Theoboma cacao</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Cotton	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i>	✓							
21	Dasheen	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>			✓	✓		✓		
22	Red Ginger	<i>Alpinia purpurata</i>		✓					✓	
23	Gommier Tree	<i>Dacryodes excelsa</i>			✓		✓			
24	Grapefruit	<i>Citrus x paradisi</i>		✓						
25	Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Lansan Tree (Incense Tree)	<i>Protium attenuatum</i>			✓			✓		
27	Lime	<i>Phaeolus lunatus</i>								✓

	Common name	Scientific name	January							
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
28	Magnolia Tree	<i>Magnolia</i> spp			✓		✓	✓		
29	Mango	<i>Mangifera indica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron trinervium</i>						✓		
31	Norfolk Island Pine	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>						✓		
32	Nutmeg	<i>Myristica fragrans</i>						✓	✓	
33	Orange	<i>Citrus x sinensis</i>		✓						
34	Pineapple	<i>Ananas comosus</i>			✓			✓		
35	Plantain	<i>Musa x paradisisaca</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Pink Powderpuff Tree	<i>Calliandra surinamensis</i>						✓	✓	
37	Poinsettia	<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Rubber Tree	<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
39	Passion Fruit	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>							✓	
40	Pumpkin	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>					✓			
41	Sexy Pink	<i>Heliconia chartacea</i>							✓	
42	Soursop	<i>Annoa muricata</i>							✓	
43	Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus</i> spp			✓			✓		
43	Surinam Cherry	<i>Eugenia uniflora</i>							✓	
44	Tree Fern	<i>Cyathea arborea</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
45	Vanilla	<i>Vanilla planifolia</i>						✓		
46	West Indies Mahogany Tree	<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>						✓		



2012 Naturetrek Group

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans. Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!