

## Dominica - "Nature Isle of the Caribbean"



### Island Summary:

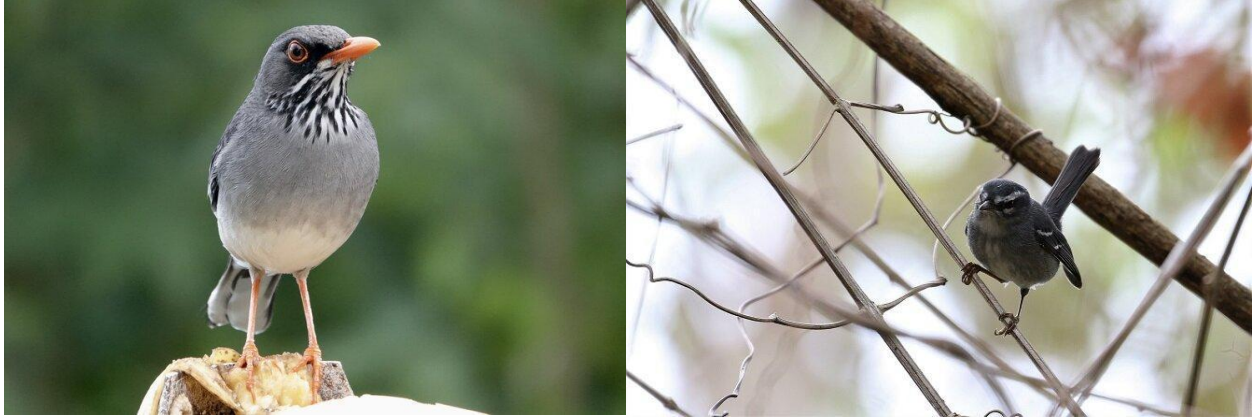
With its seemingly innumerable waterfalls and a river for every day of the year coursing through its vast tracts of primary rainforest, Dominica is an island renowned for its outstanding natural beauty, and offers a snapshot into what many of the more developed islands of the region would have resembled in years gone by.



*The "Jaco" or Red-necked Parrot is one of two endangered species of Amazona on Dominica (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands); this delightful Blue-headed Hummingbird is a near-endemic known only to Dominica and Martinique (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*

### Highlights:

Travel deep into the heart of the montane forests of Dominica for a rare glimpse of one of the most critically endangered species on the planet - the majestic **Imperial Parrot** (now estimated at less than 50 birds remaining). You may also have the opportunity whilst here to encounter **Black-capped Petrel** on their return to a breeding colony. In the rainforest, at lower elevations on the slopes of Mont Diablotin, be in the company of Dominica's other threatened endemic *Amazona* - the **Red-necked Parrot**. In both of these locations, enjoy stunning views of near-endemics such as the glorious **Blue-headed Hummingbird**, **Plumbeous Warbler** and **Lesser Antillean Pewee**, as well as species endemic to the Lesser Antillean region including the brazen **Lesser Antillean Saltator**, the imposing **Purple-throated Carib** and the mesmeric **Brown Tumbler**. At dawn, on your approach to the forests, you will have the opportunity for sightings of **Red-legged Thrush**, **Forest Thrush** and **Lesser Antillean Euphonia**. Several endemic and near-endemic subspecies are likely to be seen on the island, such as: **Antillean House Wren**, **Bananaquit** and **Lesser Antillean Flycatcher**. Other highlights include **Ringed Kingfisher**, **Lesser Antillean Barn Owl** and scanning the seascape for ocean wanderers including **South Polar Skua**, **White-tailed Tropicbird** and **Bridled Tern**.



*The striking Red-legged Thrush (photo © Mark Greenfield - Birding the Islands client); the Plumbeous Warbler is only found on Dominica and Guadeloupe (photo © Beatrice Henricot - Birding the Islands client)*

#### **Other things to do in Dominica:**

- Visit the Kalinago Territories (eight villages deep in the heart of the island) and gain insight into the way of life of some of the original inhabitants of the Lesser Antilles.
- Hike along riverine valleys teeming with over 50 species of butterfly (including regional endemics) and bathe in natural pools beneath pristine waterfalls.
- Take to the seas on an unforgettable whale watching cruise. Over 20 species of cetacean have been spotted off the Atlantic Coast of Dominica and the island is home to its very own resident population of magnificent Sperm Whale. Or take your experience to the next level and SWIM with Sperm Whales - one of the largest ocean-going mammals on the planet!
- Cruise up a mangrove-lined river in search of a host of wetland-dwelling species and scan overhanging tree limbs for basking Lesser Antillean Iguanas.
- Stroll along some of the island's black volcanic sand beaches on the lookout for turtle nests and explore tranquil saline lagoons - often hotspots for migrant waterfowl and North American shorebirds.



*Pilot Whales are regularly seen in pods off of Dominica (photo © Ryan Chenery - Birding the Islands); Lesser Antillean Iguanas stalk through the branches of the mangroves that line the mysterious Indian River (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands); the ethereal cloud forests of Dominica are home to the majestic Imperial Amazon (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*