

## Martinique - "l'île aux fleurs"



### Island Summary:

The volcanic island of Martinique offers a distinct diversity of landscapes and atmospheres, from the spectacular and relatively uninhabited north - dominated by the imposing peak of Mount Pelée (pictured above) and densely forested Carbet Mountain range - to the bustling capital city and white-sand beaches of Fort-de-France and the south. Here, we are reminded that it is not merely physical characteristics such as geology, geography and fauna that differ between islands, but also languages, architecture and cultures.



*The stunning Martinique Oriole in its signature pose (photo © Phil Davis - Birding the Islands client); Martinique is one of only two islands where the Gray Trembler calls its home, and where you can witness its trembling displays (photo © Jane Hartline - Birding the Islands client); the diminutive, electric-blue near-endemic Blue-headed Hummingbird is only found on Martinique and Dominica (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*

### Highlights:

Explore little-trafficked areas deep in the heart of the Carbet Mountains to reveal such near endemics as **Blue-headed Hummingbird** and **Grey Trembler**, along with the stunning endemic **Martinique Oriole**. Travel to the dry northeast for an audience with the nominate subspecies of **White-breasted Thrasher**, unique to Martinique. Watch **Spotted Eagle Rays** swimming in a tranquil bay on the west coast. Take breakfast overlooking the swaying masts of the yachts in Fort-de-France harbour, while enjoying flyovers of **Orange-winged Parrots**.

### Other things to do in Martinique:

- Explore one of the remaining great wild mangrove wetlands in the Caribbean by kayak or small riverboat. A serene, rich and fruitful ecosystem home to a variety of species, and a perfect place to while away a few hours on the calm waters.
- Enjoy a guided walking tour of the historic capital city of Fort-de-France and discover its many secrets.
- Discover the legendary story behind the foundation of the oldest town, and Martinique's former capital city St Pierre - once considered the cultural hub of the Caribbean and the largest rum port in the world - and sample the exquisite rum produced at the historic estate of the first governor of the island.