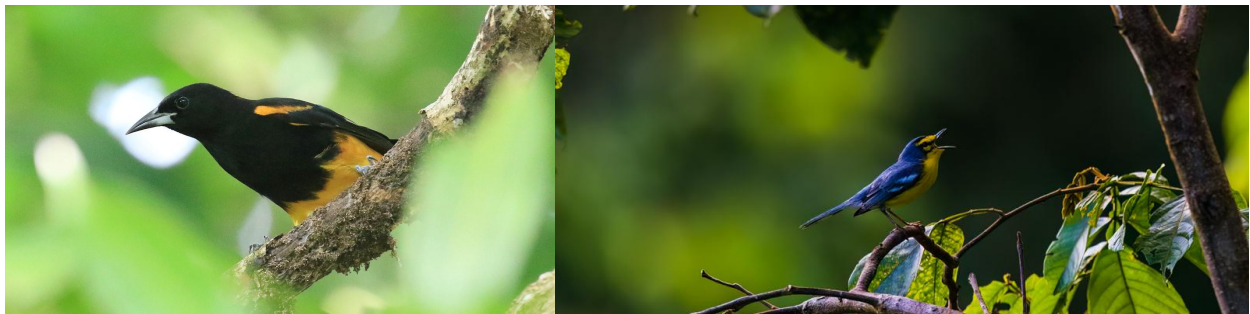


## St. Lucia - "the island of inspiration"



### Island Summary:

There are few islands in the Caribbean with such a wondrous variety of diverse habitats as St. Lucia. From its mountainous interior and lush rainforests positively teeming with tropical flora and fauna, to its dry broadleaved forests and palm fringed coasts, St. Lucia has more than most to discover. Its unique qualities even extend beyond the natural world to the intriguing mixed cultural and historical ancestry of its people, exemplified by the locals' use of *patois* - still spoken by many native St. Lucians.



*The stunning St. Lucia Oriole (photo © Keith Clarkson - Birding the Islands client); the song of the St. Lucia Warbler is as beautiful as the bird itself (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*

### Highlights:

Bird a remarkable ridgeline in the shadow of Les Pitons and enjoy close encounters with dainty **St. Lucia Warblers**, resplendent **St. Lucia Orioles** and secretive **Bridled Quail Doves**, and in the skies above - **Lesser Antillean Swift**, **Short-tailed Swift** and **Black Swift**. Explore the coastal dry-forest for opportunities for sightings of the near-endemic and highly threatened **White-breasted Thrasher**, foraging endemic **St. Lucia Black Finch** and inquisitive **Mangrove Cuckoo**. Be sure to adhere to our guide's advice in this area, as it is a site frequented by one of the Western Hemisphere's most venomous snakes - the Fer-de-Lance! Meander along the islands breath-taking coastline at dawn and be treated to the spectacular aerial displays of **Red-billed Tropicbirds**.



*One of the rarest species you will encounter on the island - the White-breasted Thrasher (photo © Keith Clarkson - Birding the Islands client);*

Delve into the sprawling expanse that is the Des Cartiers Rainforest for an unforgettable up-close encounter with the country's national bird - the stunningly beautiful **St. Lucia Parrot** and an astonishing array of other species, including **Rufous-throated Solitaire**, near-endemic **Grey Tumbler**, endemic subspecies of **Lesser Antillean Flycatcher**, **Lesser Antillean Euphonia**, spectacular **Green-throated Carib**, the omnivorous **Pearly-eyed Thrasher** and often flighty **Scaly-naped Pigeon**. From your accommodation, surrounded by an expanse of secondary forest, set out on an easily navigable trail for prime views of **Antillean Crested Hummingbird**, **St. Lucia Pewee**, **Black-faced Grassquit**, **Lesser Antillean Bullfinch** and **Tropical Mockingbird**. At dusk, await the call of the **St. Lucia (Rufous) Nightjar** in order to hone in on its position above the surrounding dry savannah.



*The positively mouse-like picture-perfect St. Lucia Pewee delights with its dainty frame (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands); the near-endemic Grey Tumbler is known only to St. Lucia and Martinique (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*

### **Other things to do in St. Lucia:**

- Tour a local herb garden with a knowledgeable Rastafarian guide to learn of the myriad uses of indigenous plants.
- Take a hike along the trails leading up the towering peaks of Les Pitons for unparalleled views of the historic town of Soufrière.
- Board a catamaran and sail along the spectacular West Coast, enjoying the opportunity to swim with a myriad of colourful reef fish and turtles.
- Drive through the crater of a dormant volcano and take the opportunity to enjoy a detoxifying mud bath in the sulphur springs.
- Set sail in the rich waters of the Caribbean Sea on a quest for ocean giants!