

TRAVEL WITH TAMPA AUDUBON & CAREFREE BIRDING on our CARIBBEAN CRUISE THROUGH THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN! JANUARY 15 TO 25, 2024

Birding from a cruise ship?! Well, not *only*, or not exactly. But it is a fun, easy way to see lots of birds, most of the islands' endemics, without the hassles of new hotel rooms each night, multiple flights, customs offices, or immigration clearances. This Carefree Birding trip is designed for highlight birding in 5 different countries with the ease of one comfortable room, a variety of dining options on the ship each night, and no waiting in immigration lines.

On arrival in port we'll be one of the first groups off the ship. At every port there will be a local birding guide with vehicle and driver to take us to the best local spots, usually outside the city, get us on the birds, and back to the ship in time for departure. The guides are professional, local and certified. Most trips manage to **find all the endemics** as well as additional local birds. Full days have from 6 to 8 hours of birding, all with easy walking. And we will bird from the deck as we pull into and out of ports!

Carefree Birding cruises are the perfect way to travel with non-birding companions. While you enjoy a day of birding they have time for local tours, shopping or relaxing on or off the ship. Then you have the evenings together for dining or shows.

Days at sea give time for watching for pelagics (or whales), studying your bird books, or relaxing by the pool, on your balcony, or any of the lounges.

Carefree always has a video introduction to

the upcoming port and the main birds to be expected. There is also time for showing off your photos, and bird games with prizes.



ITINERARY

- Jan 14**, leave Port of Ft Lauderdale, 4 pm
- Jan 15 -16**, days at sea (whale watching!)
- Jan 17**, dock in Phillipsburg, St Maarten, 8 am - 6 pm
- Jan 18**, dock in Roseau, Dominica 8 am, leave 5 pm
- Jan 19**, dock in Scarborough, Tobago 8 am - 5 pm
- Jan 20**, dock in Bridgetown, Barbados 7 am - 4 pm
- Jan 21**, dock in St Johns, Antigua 9 am, leave 5 pm
- Jan 21 - 23**, days at sea (whale watching!)
- Jan 24**, arrive Ft Lauderdale 7 am

BIRDING INFO



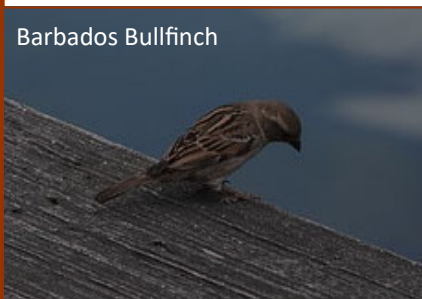
Lesser Antillean Bullfinch

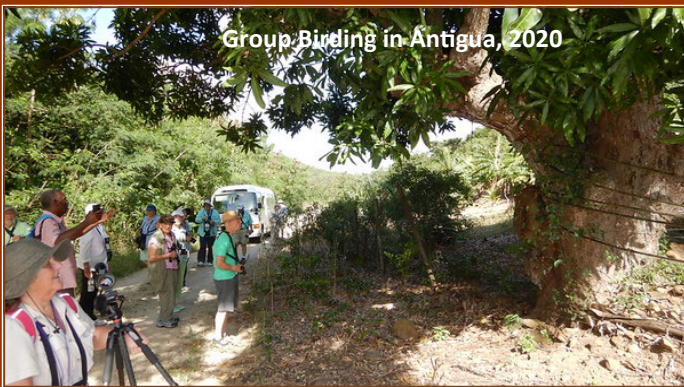
This will be the first time a Care-free Birding cruise goes to Dominica and Tobago, and we're never exactly sure what will be seen. They've said that the 'new' species that we're hoping we'll find

include: *Rufous-vented Chachalaca*, *Trinidad Motmot*, *Copper-rumped Hummingbird*, *Rufous-breasted Hermit*, *Red-necked Parrot*, *Blue-headed Hummingbird*, *Imperial Parrot*, *Rufous-throated Solitaire*. These are just a few birds from the two new ports.

Previous trips have had birds lists of 59 species in St Martin, 48 in Barbados, and 26 in Antigua.

Barbados Bullfinch





Group Birding in Antigua, 2020

The tour will include both the Dutch and French sides of the St Martin/St Maarten.

Specialties in Dominica that we will be searching for include *Blue headed hummingbird*, *Red-necked Parrot* and *Imperial Parrot*. In Tobago, we'll be on the prowl for *White-tailed Sabrewing* and *Trinidad Motmot*. Barbados has one endemic, the *Barbados Bullfinch*, which is generally part of the welcoming committee when we get off the ship! Not rare at all!

Neither Antigua nor St Martin have endemics, but some of the outstanding Caribbean specialties we should find include: *Green-throated Carib*, *Lesser Antillean Bullfinch*, *Purple-throated Carib*, *Scaly-breasted Thrasher*, *Antillean Crested Hummingbird*.

Carib Grackles



Green Throated Carib



Green Throated Carib



Trinidad Motmot

If we get videos from Carefree of previous island visits, or more complete bird lists for the ports, they will be posted on our TAS website. If you have questions about the cruises that are not answered on the websites, feel free to contact mary.keith@tampaadubon.org or mic.mccarty@tampaadubon.org

COSTS

The ship is the Celebrity Silhouette. The cost for the cruise cabins, *per person in double occupancy*, is:

Interior cat 12 \$1695

Balcony cat V2 \$2425

Concierge cat C2 \$2245

*Pricing good until
8/15/2023



White Cheeked Pintail



Cabins must be booked through Travel Ser-

VICES, via the link on the Carefree Birding website.

The cost for the birding package, for our guides, drivers and vehicle is an additional \$1050, payable to Carefree Birding. Non-birding companions do not pay the birding package. They can book port tours or activities through the ship at their cost.



The cruise leaves from Port of Ft Lauderdale.

Any travel costs arriving to or leaving from Ft Lauderdale **are not included**.

For more info go to the Carefree Birding website. To register, follow the instructions on the site:

<https://carefreebirding.com/cruises-jan-15th-2024/>

Missy from Travel Services will contact you for your choice of cabin and other options as well as payment for the cruise. Linda of Carefree Birding will contact you regarding the payment for the birding tours, and will remind you a month ahead of the due date. Payment can be made by check, credit card or PayPal.

You can also check the Celebrity website <https://www.celebritycruises.com/> for updates on safety measures, and information on cabins, reservation policies and more.

Celebrity Silhouette

