

Jamaica Anytime

Dates: Anytime

Guide: Local Guide

Sample Price: £2600

This Anytime tour takes is based around a single location in Jamaica, here the majority of the endemic bird species can be found. It includes side-trips to the John Crow and Blue Mountains to find some of the more range-restricted species.



Jamaican Tody © Charles J. Sharp

Day 1: Arrive Kingston – Green Castle Estate

After arrival, transfer to Green Castle (c.1¼ Hours).

Day 2: Green Castle Estate

Meet your bird guide for an early bird walk around the gardens from 0630, followed by breakfast at 0830.

After breakfast, there will be a brief orientation with your registered bird guide, who will take you during the week at Green Castle Estate. You will then spend a relaxing morning along the Waterfall Trail, hopefully encountering a dozen or so endemics: Jamaican Mango, Red-billed Streamertail, Jamaican Tody and Jamaican Woodpecker are usually the first to show.

The afternoon will be spent walking a different trail through the estate, in search of more birds. Endemic sub-species that you are likely to encounter include Vervain Hummingbird, Jamaican Oriole and Greater Antillean Bullfinch.

Day 3: John Crow Mountains

You will meet for early refreshments, ready for a 0500 departure. Today your bird guide will take you to the foothills of the John Crow Mountains, to an area called Ecclesdown Road. This offers superb birding and has good numbers of endemics; both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Amazons may fly overhead and you will look for another species that you will not have encountered so far – Black-Billed Streamertail. After such an early start, a packed breakfast (including hot porridge) is most welcome!

For the remainder of the day, you will visit more woodland habitat, looking out for Jamaican Crow, Jamaican Blackbird, Jamaican Becard and Arrow-headed Warbler. American wood warblers are also a colourful feature of birding here. Then you head back to Green Castle Estate, maybe stopping to visit various coastal areas if time permits, where White-tailed Tropicbirds are sometimes seen.

Day 4: Green Castle Estate

A relaxed day, morning and evening birding or afternoon and evening birding with your bird guide, taking time to explore more habitats around Green Castle's 1600-acre site, starting with a pre-breakfast walk for the early risers if desired with breakfast at 0830.

Today you will visit different parts of the estate including Davey Hill, freshwater pools and the coast, where a different range of species can be found. Amongst a variety of waders and wildlife, you can usually find the scarce Caribbean Whistling-Duck.

After dinner, your Bird Guide will take you for a spot of night birding, in search of the endemic Jamaican Owl, which can be found close to the estate house. You should also encounter Barn Owl and the cryptic Northern Potoo, which is an endemic Jamaican sub-species that may soon be split as a full species.

Anytime Tours can be taken at a time of your choosing (subject to availability). Prices are samples based on the cheapest time of year in the recommended date-range, and assume a group of two people sharing a room (larger groups will be cheaper). Most prices include international flights (from the UK), internal transport, birding guide, 3 meals per day, accommodation, park fees and bottled water (if necessary).

All tours are subject to a formal quotation which will contain full information on what is included.

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Day 5: 20th Nov: Blue Mountains

You will again need early refreshments, ready for a 0500 departure (with packed breakfast), to visit the majestic Blue Mountains, about two hours away in an air-conditioned vehicle with your birding guide.

You will spend most of the morning in the Hardwar Gap area, which offers a huge variety of species. Target birds include endemics such as Jamaican Blackbird, Blue Mountain Vireo and the elusive Crested Quail-dove.

You could stop for a cup of Blue Mountain Coffee at a roadside cafe before spending the afternoon exploring a little farther up the road, taking time to enjoy more of Jamaica's birdlife amidst stunning mountain scenery.

Day 6: Green Castle Estate

You will spend a more leisurely day around the estate, where you will take new hiking trails including visiting the reservoir. Breakfast will be at 0830.

During the day, you should encounter such species as Jamaican Vireo, White-Chinned Thrush and Rufous-tailed Flycatcher.

You may want to return to the coast to look for Antillean Nighthawk, Antillean Palm-swift and breeding Yellow Warbler (a Caribbean endemic subspecies).

Day 7: Green Castle Estate – Kingston Depart

An optional pre-breakfast bird walk in the gardens if desired with breakfast at 0830.

There will be plenty of time for packing, relaxing or birding around the gardens or trails before your air-conditioned vehicle sets off to Kingston for the flight home. You may have time to stop at a suitable habitat for your last experience of Jamaican birding.

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