

## Grenada - “The Spice Isle”



### Island Summary:

The southernmost island in the Lesser Antillean archipelago, the “Spice Isle” of Grenada, is famed for its aromatic spices owing to the numerous nutmeg plantations that pepper its hilly interior. Its capital St. George is awash with an eclectic mix of colourful homes and typical Georgian architecture, with its narrow harbour overlooked by the imposing Fort George. Despite its relatively small size, it is home to a number of range-restricted indigenous species and endemics.



*One of the rarest birds in the region, and perhaps in the entire world - the quiet and demure Grenada Dove (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands); the colours of the Lesser Antillean (Grenada) Tanager stand out amongst the foliage (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*

### Highlights:

In the dry forests on the southern tip of the island dwells the critically endangered, and extremely cautious **Grenada Dove**. One of the rarest birds in the Lesser Antillean region (second only to the Imperial Parrot on Dominica), latest counts estimate their surviving number to be as low as 140 individual birds. Yet, our trusted local guide will take you to visit one of the last strongholds of this delicate unassuming dove, where you will be treated to a sight few people have had, or will ever have, a chance to see in their lifetime!

The colourful and somewhat cagey **Lesser Antillean Tanager** (also known as the **Grenada Tanager**) favours the montane thickets, moist forest and arid scrub that can be found on Grenada, while the island’s dry forests will provide you with great opportunities to see the **Grenada Flycatcher** - a near-endemic known only to inhabit the islands of Grenada and St. Vincent. Grenada is also home to two other species found nowhere else in the region, namely, the **Rufous-breasted Hermit** and **Hook-billed Kite**, along with endemic subspecies of **Antillean Crested Hummingbird**, **Green-throated Carib**, **Carib Grackle** and **Scaly-breasted Thrasher**. Only a short stroll from your hotel is a patch of woodland known as a favoured haunt of the endemic subspecies of **Antillean House Wren**. In addition, Grenada’s

mangrove wetlands provide an excellent habitat for migrant shorebirds and species of North American waterfowl.



*A near-endemic, the Grenada Flycatcher is found only on St. Vincent and Grenada (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands); a stunning male Antillean Crested Hummingbird (the smallest hummingbird in the region) poses obligingly on his favoured perch (photo © Faraaz Abdool - Birding the Islands)*

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

- Feast on a plate of 'oil down' – a Grenada speciality, this concoction of breadfruit slow-cooked with meat, fish and vegetables, will delight your senses!
- Step back in time with a visit to one of many historical places of interest that are dotted throughout the island.
- Climb aboard a glass-bottomed boat to see the wonder that is the Molinere Bay Underwater Sculpture Park - one of National Geographic's 25 Wonders of the World. Jason deCaires Taylor's first underwater sculpture 'garden', the monuments are a testament to Grenada's rich history and provide invaluable habitat for a plethora of marine life.