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Aruba: A Birding Paradise Hidden in Plain Sight

Caribbean's most eco-certified resort debuts birdwatching tour with leading expert

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba – December 1, 2020 – The sweet trill of the Chuchubi (native Papiamentu for Tropical Mockingbird), the vivid colors of the parakeets, and the sightings of a Peregrine Falcon migrating between hemispheres are a vibrant facet to Aruba known by few. Yet, in the U.S. alone, 45 million people identify themselves as birdwatchers according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Sustainability leader [Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort](#) is now connecting everyone from birdwatchers to birders, alike, to Aruba's treasure trove of 280 recorded species who flock the tiny island.

Bucuti & Tara has teamed with the island's leading seasoned birder and award-winning nature photographer, Michiel Oversteegen, to offer its exclusive **Aruba Birdwatching & Nature Tour**. Birders worldwide travel to Aruba specifically to have Oversteegen guide their birding. His [professional photography](#) work and vast Aruba birding and nature knowledge appears in National Geographic, major dailies including the Daily Mail, global scientific repositories including The Macaulay Library and eBird, and in site and field guide *Birds of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao* by Jeffrey and Alison Wells. A multi-linguist, the highly accommodating Oversteegen easily connects with many of Aruba's visitors who continuously praise his island knowledge and nature expertise.

As many travelers are drawn to the allure of Aruba's year-round sunshine, turquoise seas with white sand beaches and array of mesmerizing entertainment, only few know the small island is a bustling bird paradise. With a surface area of just 70 square miles (180 km²), Aruba sports a vast variety with approximately 280 various bird species registered. Aruba's central geographic location provides a natural layover for migratory birds during both annual cycles. Located just 15 miles (24 km) from Venezuela's coast, sighting of migrants and shoot-overs from South America are common.

Making arrangements

Guests can work with their personal concierge to book the Aruba Birdwatching & Nature Tour with Oversteegen. All tours are private and tailored to participants' preferences whether they are casual observers or highly skilled birding veterans. Each tour includes transportation, five to six hours of private touring at the guests' preferred pace, visits to multiple serene nature areas.

Oversteegen traverses the island selecting ideal viewing spots depending on the season and presence of birds. Stops can be anywhere. Aruba's Bubali Bird Sanctuary, the island's central spot for birdwatching including an observation tower, is a wetland area with 80 species of migratory birds, with everything from the Snowy Egret to

the Black-bellied Whistling Duck to the colorful Roseate Spoonbill. Venturing along the sand paths and rugged northern coastline, guests may witness the Aruban Burrowing Owl (locally called Shoco), a subspecies indigenous to the island, nesting in namesake burrows among cactus scrub. Fluttering among the Spaans Lagoon, observers may delight in the vibrancy of the orange-goldenrod Venezuelan Troupial and jewel-toned Blue-tailed Emerald, the hummingbird mostly predominant in the ABC islands. Along the sea, catch the elegant Roseate Tern flying reconnaissance in search of its next catch from the clear blue waters below.

The private tour is \$300 for two guests with an additional \$50 for each additional person up to a maximum of four participants total.

Feathered friends

As the Caribbean's most eco-certified resort, carbon neutral Bucuti & Tara's commitment to the environment has long included the care of island animal life. Its affection for Aruba's birdlife starts on property with its own winged rescues. Located in the newly renovated SandBar, guests quickly fall in love with permanent feathered guests, Paco, Jesse, James and Pretty Girl. Witty, talkative Paco is a yellow-headed Amazon parrot who arrived via an employee more than 30 years ago as an injured baby bird, was nursed back to health and has since been the star of the SandBar. Jesse is a brown-throated Prikichi parakeet indigenous to Aruba. She crash-landed on Eagle Beach and was nursed back to health at Bucuti. A couple years later James, also a local Prikichi, discovered her, alighted atop her cage and welcomed the opportunity to join her permanently. Most recently, Pretty Girl, a parakeet, arrived on her own and picked Bucuti as her permanent vacation.

To learn more and make reservations for Aruba's Birdwatching & Nature Tour, visit Bucuti.com.

IMAGES

Dropbox gallery: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/timi4zmjlrrtonn/AADD0sA2WfPw2PpGHH8d3wTla?dl=0>

Captions

Michiel Oversteegen Aruba's leading bird expert and professional nature photographer Michiel Oversteegen leads Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort's new, private birdwatching excursion.

Images of a sampling of Aruba's birds are labelled by their species and include:

Peregrine Falcon
Brown-throated Parakeet
Roseate Spoonbill
Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Snowy Egret
Aruban Burrowing Owl (locally called Shoco)
Venezuelan Troupial
Blue-tailed Emerald
Brown Pelican
Purple Gallinule and Common Gallinule
Whistling Herron

About Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort

Declared the [first CarbonNeutral®/net zero hotel in the Caribbean](#) in August 2018, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort is one of the Top 10 Hotels for Romance in the World, No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean, No. 1 Hotel for Romance in the Caribbean (fifth straight year) and No. 3 Hotel for Service in the Caribbean. Aruba's premier adults-only boutique resort is led by celebrated hotelier and environmentalist, Ewald Biemans, named by Caribbean Journal as the 2017 Caribbean Hotelier of the Year. The resort is nestled on the powdery white sands of Eagle Beach, home to protected sea turtles and named one of the "Dream Beaches of the World."

Now home to the Caribbean's Safest, Healthiest Vacation Experience thanks to its physician-developed [COVID-19 safety protocols](#) and Aruba's Health & Happiness Code seal, Bucuti has 104 well-appointed guestrooms, suites and penthouses. It offers sunbeds and shade for every guest; freshwater infinity pool; spa; WiFi; and complimentary iPad with Skype for use during stay. Award-winning healthy dining is enjoyed at oceanfront Elements, Tara Lounge and private beach dining. Reserved exclusively for guests and their friends, the newly renovated open-air SandBar offers top-shelf cocktails and live music daily along with the Caribbean's first Healthy Hour. The resort is TAG Approved® as a LGBTQ-friendly hotel. Bucuti, a worldwide sustainable tourism leader, holds eco-certifications of LEED Gold, Green Globe Platinum, ISO 14001 and Travelife Gold and was named the World's Most Sustainable Hotel/Resort in 2016 by Green Globe.

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