

Repeating our highly successful Tour of 2008! Cuba, the "Pearl of the Antilles" is the largest and least commercialised country in the Caribbean, boasting some twenty endemic species alone, including the world's smallest bird, the Bee Hummingbird, along with migrant species from North America. We shall concentrate in visiting the *Sierra del Rosario*, Cuba's first Biosphere Reserve, and the *Zapata Peninsula*, the largest wetland in the Caribbean combining touring Havana & Trinidad, both designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In conjunction with our agents *Cubawelcome* the outline itinerary will be as follows:



Cuban Emerald

Feb. 14: Morning flight from Gatwick via *Virgin Airways* to Havana, arriving mid afternoon. Transfer to *Hotel Panorama* for overnight stay.

Feb. 15-17: Three full days exploring the *Sierra del Rosario Reserve*, Cuba's first Biosphere Reserve, searching the various trails for Cuban endemic birds including Cuban Trogon, Cuban Blackbird, Cuban Emerald, Cuban Bullfinch, Cuban Tody, Cuban Pewee, Cuban Grassquit & Yellow-headed Warbler. Visiting *La Guira N.P.* and the *Las Terrazas*, a model commune village and the nearby *Orchideario* which houses a superb collection of exotic orchids, with



Cuban Pewee

more birding opportunities to possibly see West Indian Woodpecker, Greater Antillean Grackle, Northern Mockingbird, Red-legged Thrush & Stripe-headed Tanager. 3-night stay at the *Hotel Soroa*.

Feb. 18: After breakfast, drive to the capital for 2-night stay at the *Hotel Santa Isabel*, Old Havana's finest hotel and conveniently situated on the east side of the Plaza de Armas. Afternoon at leisure.

Feb. 19: Fully guided Tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site including visits to Armas Square, San Francisco de Asis Square, La Plaza Vieja & Cathedral Square. Also visiting the City Museum, Rum Museum and the famous Revolutionary Square.

Feb. 20-22: Early morning departure to the Zapata Peninsula, stopping en route for boat trip along the River Hatiguanico to look for the endemic Zapata Sparrow & Zapata Wren. Afternoon visit to the Bermejas region to search for Bee Hummingbird, the world's smallest bird, plus endemic Cuban Parakeet & Blue-headed Quail-dove. Next morning visiting Las Salinas, an area of shallow salt pans to look for Greater Flamingos, Neotropic Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Royal Tern, Reddish Egret, White Ibis and the endemic Cuban Green Woodpecker, Cuban Crow & Cuban Black Hawk. Further full day excursion to the town of Trinidad, a superb World Heritage Site, stopping en route at the Soledad Botanical Gardens in Cienfuegos. 3-night stay at the *Batey Don Pedro*.



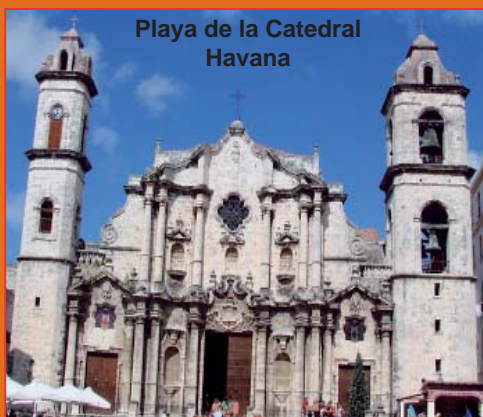
Cuban Black Hawk



Red-legged Thrush

Feb. 23: After breakfast, leisurely drive back to Old Havana for overnight stay again at *Hotel Santa Isabel*, with free time to explore more of this fascinating City.

Feb. 24: am at leisure for sightseeing around old Havana. Afternoon flight back to London.



Playa de la Catedral Havana

Feb. 25: Arrive Gatwick early morning.

Tour Cost: £1595 [£155 s/s] + flights. **Deposit:** £ 250

B/L due: 10 weeks prior to departure

Included in the cost: All accommodation as described, breakfast & dinners [except dinner in Havana], all transportation, boat trip, entrance fees to Museum, Orchid Garden & Nature trails & full services of local guides.

Excluded from the cost: Scheduled return flights Gatwick/Havana/Gatwick [approx. £550 pp, subject to availability & time of booking], dinners in Havana, lunches, Cuba entrance visa [approx. £15 pp], airport departure taxes, drinks, gratuities to local guides etc, travel insurance & items of a personal nature.



Cuban Trogon

Please note: Above Tour based upon a minimum of 10 participants. All bookings on a *Cubawelcome* booking form and all monies paid directly to *Cubawelcome*.