

Digiscoping Trinidad



| Sport Optics

in cooperation with Asa Wright Nature Centre & Caligo Ventures



male Green Honeycreeper
Leica digiscoped image



Leica APO Televid 82 & C-Lux 2 camera



male Purple Honeycreeper
Leica digiscoped image

Come learn the finer points of digiscoping with Leica Sport Optics as we sample the natural wonders of Trinidad & Tobago. Asa Wright Nature Centre will serve as our base for exploring Trinidad's wild areas and varied habitats in search of local birds & wildlife. From the comfort of Asa Wright's luxurious grounds, we will begin our exploration of this wondrous island. Like most visitors, our introduction to Trinidad's wildlife will start from the comfort of the shaded verandah at the centre. The wide array of feeders here offer up close and personal views of many common bird species including: Green, Red-legged, & Purple Honeycreepers, Silver-beaked, White-winged, Palm & Blue-gray Tanagers, Bananaquits, White-necked Jacobins, Copper-rumped Hummingbirds, White-chested Emeralds, and numerous others. Glassing the scenic valley that spreads below the centre, offers good chances of viewing the majestic White Hawk cruising above the canopy, as the Bearded Bellbirds & Channel-billed Toucans pose in the high tree tops.



view from Asa Wright verandah

We will hike the Asa Wright trails to view other bird and wildlife species including the highly entertaining White-bearded (below) & Golden-headed Manakins, Cinnamon & Lineated Woodpeckers, Cocoa Thrushes, Barred & Great Antshrikes, and even the tiny Tufted Coquette hummingbird that feeds on the tiniest of flowers with its diminutive bill.



male White-bearded Manakins
digiscoped @ Asa Wright, July 2008

One could easily spend an entire week exploring Asa Wright's lush second growth forests, but there is **much** more to see on this tiny island nation, and sampling it in earnest means visiting the many differing habitats including: rolling savannas, grasslands, marshes, mangrove forests, the mountainous Northern range, and beaches. We will sample all of these through a series of relaxing half-day excursions on our week long adventure.

Leica Digiscoping Workshop at the Asa Wright Nature Centre

July 19–25, 2009 \$1,110 per person - based on double occupancy from Port of Spain
(Tobago Extension July 25-28, 2009 \$625 per person based on double occupancy)

DAY 1 – Sunday, July 19: Transfer from Piarco International Airport in Port-of-Spain.

DAY 2 – Monday, July 20, AM: Enjoying our first birds at Asa Wright: Crested Oropendola, Violaceous Trogon, Channel-billed Toucan, White-bearded Manakin, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Turquoise and Bay-headed Tanager and numerous others.

PM: Gear shakedown at Sewage Pond Marshes: Big birds, caiman, and other cooperative photographic subjects are perfect for practice as we offer individual review & personalized instruction on use of each individual's digiscoping set up.

DAY 3 – Tuesday, July 21: AM excursion over the Northern Range to the seaside village of Blanchisseuse searching for Swallow-tailed Kite, Common Black Hawk, Ornate Hawk-eagle, Bat Falcon, White-tailed Trogon, Rufous-tailed Jacamaras, as well as Trinidad's only endemic species, the Trinidad Piping Guan.

PM: Caroni Marsh and its spectacular highlights ... Neotropic Cormorant, Anhinga, Striated Heron, White-cheeked Pintail, Large-billed Tern, Pied Water-Tyrant, Bicolored Conebill, and Red-capped Cardinal are all specialties, but the spectacular flight of Scarlet Ibis generally steals the show.

DAY 4 – Wednesday, July 22: Lowland Aripo Savannah area: Plumbeous Kite, Savannah Hawk, Southern Lapwing, Green-rumped Parrotlet, White-headed Marsh Tyrant, Shiny & Giant Cowbirds, Red-breasted Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Cacique, Blue-black Grassquit, and Ruddy-breasted Seedeater are all likely to be seen.

DAY 5 – Thursday, July 23: A relaxed morning - enjoy the trails and ply our new found skills on the centre grounds capturing more digital memories. After lunch we will first search out Howler Monkeys, enjoy an impressive picnic dinner, and then a night-time visit to the spectacular Leatherback Sea Turtle nesting beaches!

DAY 6 – Friday, July 24: Dunstan Cave, a beautiful riparian grotto on the sanctuary, is home to a breeding colony of the fascinating, nocturnal Oilbird. We will follow this with continuing searches for missed local specialties with emphasis on field craft and imaging. Farewell dinner to follow.

DAY 7 – Saturday, July 25: Sad farewell as you depart for your flight home.

- TOBAGO EXTENSION -



Orange-winged Parrot
Leica digiscoped image

DAY 7 – Saturday, July 25: AM departure to Trinidad's sister island, Tobago. The final link in the Venezuelan Coastal Range, Tobago's climate more closely resembles that of the Lesser Antilles being drier and windier. We will transfer to at our lovely beach side hotel, Blue Waters Inn for a relaxing afternoon with birding en route.

DAY 8 – Sunday, July 26: (weather permitting) Boat trip to Little Tobago Island watching for Leatherback and Hawksbill Sea Turtles and other sea life, among spectacular coral formations from the comfort of our glass-bottom boat. After landing, we will explore the nesting colonies of Red-billed Tropicbirds, Red-footed & Brown Boobies, and Sooty Terns.

DAY 9 – Monday, July 27: Tobago's mountainous, Rainforest Preserves.

Charming villages line the route to the forested interior where we will look for

White-tailed Sabrewing, Blue-backed Manakin, Yellow-legged Thrush, and other Tobago specialties such as Red-crowned Woodpecker and White-fringed Antwren.

DAY 10 – Tuesday, July 28: All good things come to an end as we depart for our flights homeward.

For more information or to reserve your spot on this fabulous trip where wondrous birding meets fun technical instruction, contact the staff at Caligo Ventures listed below. Limited participation insures that all attendees receive the highest quality, personalized instruction and that all will leave with both fabulous memories and beautiful digital images! Leica will have limited numbers of spotting scopes, adapters, cameras, and binoculars available for those interested in trying these wonderful products. Requests for loan equipment must be made in advance.

Caligo Ventures: 800-426-7781, 305-292-0708
info@caligo.com, www.caligo.com/trinidad

Sample digiscoped images from Trinidad: www.flickr.com/photos/16435490@N00/sets/72157606578403615/



Red-bellied Macaw
Leica digiscoped image