



Caligo Ventures Guides in Trinidad and Tobago



Caligo Ventures' tours and Independent Birding Ventures feature time with some of the very best birders and guides in Trinidad and Tobago. Experienced, multi-talented, and engaging, we know you will enjoy spending time with them and sharing their expertise!

In Trinidad we work with guides at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, and off-site professional guides that provide field trips and transfers for the Centre's field trips.

On Tobago, we carry on a long tradition of work with the Adolphus and Gladwyn James family for all our island birding. Cuffie River Nature Retreat further offers

services of their top guides, a few are listed here.

Asa Wright Nature Centre Onsite Guides

The cadre of naturalist guides at the Asa Wright Nature Centre is one of its strongest assets. Recruited from qualified secondary school and Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry graduates, all guides receive two years of in-house training. In addition, many also participate in additional training and internships at nature centers in the United States.



Yosanna Auguste, Naturalist Guide

Living in the beautiful village of Valencia, Yosanna is proud to be one of the guides at the Asa Wright Nature Centre. She has a special love for plants and animals and is a member of 'Estrec', a group specializing in snakes that holds shows where attendees are educated about various snakes and reptiles. Yosanna previously owned a catering company, has her certificate in childcare, and taught at Tiny Mites pre-school.

Natalie Clement, Naturalist Guide

From the village of Matura, Natalie holds a degree in Hospitality and Tourism from the Sital College of Tertiary Education, and completed a course in Tour Guiding at the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme. She is also involved with Nature Seekers, doing turtle patrols on the north shore of Trinidad during turtle nesting season.





Randell Duberry, Naturalist Guide

Randal joined the Centre naturalist staff in 2016. He carries on a family tradition as he is part of the fourth generation in his family to work at the Centre. Randall is certified in photography from the University of West Indies. A very friendly and welcoming person, on weekends he enjoys a good game of football with his team (SATT). His favorite bird is the Tropical Mockingbird.

Elizabeth Naipaul, Naturalist Guide

One of the newest guides at the Center, with an extraordinary passion for nature, Liz is from the village of Talparo. She has an Associate Degree in Food and Beverage Management (TTHTI) and a Diploma in Forestry (UTT). Liz has worked on an International Cruise Line (RCCL) and has a passion for traveling, exploring exotic countries, wine tasting, hiking, and most of all, on a day off, she just loves going to the beach. Her favorite birds are the showy macaws and parrots.



Jessie Pitt, Naturalist Guide

A guide since 2014, Jessie is a certified National Association for Interpretation's as an Interpretive Guide. He is familiar with many aspects of the Centre's ecology and is currently pursuing his B.A. in Human Resource Management, having completing an associate degree at the Cipriani Labor College. He has a special interest in the study of bats throughout the island. He has an avid interest in natural history and looks forward to a long association with the Asa Wright Nature Centre.

Barry Ramdass, Senior Naturalist Guide

Barry started bird watching when he was six years old, having first been introduced to birds close to home, in the same Arima Valley where the Asa Wright Nature Centre is located. Barry has worked for the Centre for ten years. Caligo Ventures and the Friends of Asa Wright Nature Centre sponsored an internship in bird ecology and nature interpretation in Arizona for Barry in 2016. He was a star participant, and documented his experience with excellent photography. In his youth, Barry played a lot of sports, especially cricket, at which he was recognized at a national level. Barry loves to do anything that contributes positively to the environment and is a dedicated bird watcher who enjoys meeting all the guests. He plans to travel the world.





Mukesh Ramdass, Guide and Landscaping Coordinator

Actively employed by the Center since 1984, Mukesh has worked on the land and as a guide for more than 30 years. In addition to his knowledge of birds, butterflies and other wildlife, Mukesh has developed knowledge about native plants and those that attract birds. He currently manages all landscaping around the Centre buildings including designing and implementing plantings for birds. Certified as a guide from the TTHTI and an Honorary Game Warden, he also leads birding and photography trips throughout Trinidad. Mukesh has interned at the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm (Ohio) and with the Delaware Nature Society.

Elsa Thomas, Naturalist Guide

Having started as a guide in 2007, Elsa can now be found part-time at the Centre (weekends and one weekday night), sharing her long experience with visitors. Elsa participated in the Multi-sector Skills Training (MUST) Programme, training in hospitality and tourism.



Caleb Walker, Guide Supervisor

Caleb has been a guide at the Centre since 2009, and currently holds the post of guide supervisor. He has an Associate's Degree in Hospitality Management and a diploma in Front Office & Travel Agency Operations from the Hospitality Institute in Trinidad. In 2011, Caleb became one of three certified bird banders and one of two trainers in Trinidad, having received his certification from Klamath Bird Observatory after completing a six-month internship in Oregon. Caleb loves traveling and visiting other countries for birding and to experience life in other places. His favorite birds are the Ornate Hawk-Eagle in Trinidad, and from his tie time in the USA, Ruffed Grouse and Stellar Jay. He has attended the British Bird Fair representing the Asa Wright Nature Centre to a global audience.



Naturalist Guides for Off-site Field Trips

Working with Caligo Ventures through the lodges we use in Trinidad and Tobago, external guides are highly experienced and trained professional birding guides, naturalists, and capable drivers. They will guide you on field trips and provide transfers to Caroni Marsh, Nariva Swamp, Aripo Savannah, Blanchisseuse Road/Northern Range, and Grande Riviere in Trinidad. In Tobago, guides interpret and guide at Gilpin Trace/Forest Reserve, Little Tobago Island, and on trails at Cuffie River Nature Resort and other sites around the island. In Grand Riviere, an experienced guide helps you find Trinidad Piping-guan and more.

TRINIDAD, Asa Wright Nature Centre Field Trips

Guiding for the Asa Wright Nature Centre is a family tradition, with several father and son combinations from the local area keen to share their expertise. These guides are top-notch by any world standards! We are so proud to associate with this great group of guides, who deliver expertise and enthusiasm for Trinidad birding with every visit.



Charran Ramdass

Charran Ramdass started at the Centre by providing professional transportation services and over the years gained expertise in natural history and birding at the many field sites visited by the Asa Wright Nature Centre field trips. He is knowledgeable and patient, keen to share the intricate wonders of Trinidad's nature, history and culture. He is involved with the community of Arima and his extended family, including mentoring Barry Ramdass, one of the Centre's fine naturalist guides. On owner Peg Abbott's first visit to the Centre after taking on the task of managing Caligo Ventures, Charran greeted her and showed off a Spectacled

Owl en route to the Centre!



David Ramlal

David grew up and continues to live in Verdant Vale, also known as Temple Village, just down the road from the Centre. From the time he was six years old, David assisted his father, Roodal, with conservation science - taking birds out of mist nets and banding at the William Beebe Tropical Research Station. David assisted with making numerous sound recordings for the birds of Trinidad, and has surveyed bat and Oilbird caves across the island. When not guiding, he enjoys long walks afield in search of new bird

data or sightings. He has traveled to the USA to represent the Centre at USA-based birding festivals. Mentored by Richard French, author of the Guide to Birds of Trinidad and Tobago, he has continued to develop and refine his birding identification skills and can help you do the same.



Mahese Ramlal

Son of Jogi Ramlal, Mahese also started an intense natural history and birding career from his youth. He has inherited his father's passion for birds, education and the Centre, and a talent for finding and sharing birds with guests. He is an excellent all-around naturalist as well as keen birder, and has excellent connections with local landowners, being a farmer on the side himself. He has worked with research teams, field biologists, film crews, and visitors to the Centre from around the world. He has worked as a local guide for all the major birding companies of Canada (where he has family), the UK, and USA.



Roodal Ramlal

Roodal is the senior guide of the Asa Wright Nature Centre, working as a guide for much of his career after first focusing on assisting research biologists at what is not the William Beebe Research Station. He began an interest in birds and nature at a young age, assisting the famed naturalist William Beebe, artist Don Eckelberry, and artist and field guide author Richard French. Brother of Jogi Ramlal, and father of David Ramlal, Roodal is part of the Arima Valley's close-knit Asa Wright Nature Centre family of guides. He was instrumental in early studies of the Oilbird at the Dunsten Cave, and in making sound recordings of numerous Trinidad birds. He and his brother

Jogi designed many of the field guide routes still used today. Joining the team in the 1980's, Roodal continues to drive and guide guests from the Centre on birding excursions, often teaming up with his son David Ramlal.



Jogi Ramlal (retired)

Now retired, Jogi was first employed as a driver/guide in 1974. He also worked closely with William Beebe at the William Beebe Tropical Biological Station (Simla) – hired by the famous biologist after arriving with a beautiful live boa as a specimen for study. Many top birding guides for various tour companies first experienced tropical birds under the guidance of Jogi, including Caligo Ventures' owner, Peg Abbott. His portrait hangs in the Main House of

Asa Wright Nature Centre, in recognition to so many years of fine service and sharing his expertise. His son, Mahese Ramlal, continues the family tradition of guiding guests at the Centre.

TRINIDAD, GRANDE RIVIERE



Nicholas Alexander

Nicholas is the lead birding guide for Caligo Ventures in the Grande Riviere area and is an expert in finding Trinidad Piping Guan (pawi), at the Pawi Nature Reserve in Grande Riviere. In addition, as the public relations officer for the Grande Riviere Nature Tour Guides Association, Nicholas shares details of sea turtle nesting season and the work of the Turtle Village Trust, which operates a small turtle rearing facility called Turtle Head Start, adjacent to the Mt. Plaisir Estate Hotel.

TOBAGO



Zeloni "Z" Frank

Running Frank's Glass Bottom Boat Tours from Blue Waters Inn to Little Tobago, Z provides access and commentary on the large breeding colonies of Brown and Red-footed Booby, Red-tailed Tropicbird and other seabirds found on the offshore islands. Z's father Wordsworth started the business, continues to share his expertise, and also runs the Bird Watcher's Restaurant in Speyside.



Gladwyn James

Gladwyn has been driving and conducting birding tours for over twenty years, following in the steps of his father, the renowned Tobagan guide Adolphus James. Benefitting from his expert knowledge of the songs and habitats of local species, and punctuated with passion, humor and facts, Gladwyn's tours explore the wetlands, parks and forest preserves across Tobago. He guides for Caligo Venture's groups, and groups from many of the major birding tour companies of the UK and USA. His air-conditioned bus is spotlessly clean and very comfortable in the tropical heat.



Desmond Wright

Truly expert resident naturalist Desmond has an amazing ear and repertoire of bird calls. Specializing on the birds in the lands on and adjacent to Cuffie River Nature Retreat, he can also advise about other special locations in Tobago. When he isn't guiding for Regina Dumas at Cuffie River, Desmond is a Foreman for the Tobago House of Assembly.