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Explore every square inch of the Caribbean map by taking in all the local landscapes and wildlife by Becky

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The beautiful natural landscape that surrounds the Caribbean is very pervasive with a dramatic seascape or mountain backdrop never far away. This combined with the high forests, rolling hills, river valleys and the great beaches embellish the islands and furthermore, despite mammalian fauna being rather limited, flora in certain countries is super abundant in both range and variety. In addition to the enthralling natural landscapes there are a number of truly memorable experiences available. The Phosphorescent Lake in Vieques, Puerto Rico is one of the most exciting natural phenomena in the world.

For those bird lovers, the number of bird species in the Caribbean is around 560 excluding Trindad which, as a separate entity of South American antecedence, has a remarkable 430 species alone.

Dominica in the Windward Islands is a leading global player in building up sustainable tourism, through nurturing its â€œNatural Isleâ€• ethos on a number of different fronts, by promoting culinary and botanical awareness, environmental conservation and renewable energy in harness with nature.

Although fish stocks may be limited in some areas, the marine life is always amazing to the landlubber and furthermore, there are a number of world class dive sites in the Eastern Caribbean, several off the west coast of Dominica where deep waters close to the shore also harbour resident whales and dolphins.

The endangered species surrounding the Caribbean like the manatee or sea cow, the slow moving denizen of estuaries and coast, the parrots of St Lucia, St Vincent, Dominica and Grenada, ocelot in Trindad and the giant leatherback, hawksbill and green species of turtle who lay their eggs on the remote beaches that surround the different regions. The above list are subject to a number of conservation initiatives and community educational programmes which look to help preserve the environment and natural heritage for future generations.

For those who want to pick the brains of the locals, there are a number of well-trained guides on the islands who will take you for a hike in the rainforest. They will bring the whole place to life with the various stories about the different animals and plants, their origins and local medicinal and other uses. It is important to beware of unofficial guides, therefore ensure that you book guides through your hotel, travel agents or local organisers. The guides recommended by Definitive Caribbean are well-researched.

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Becky - About Author:
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