



## WILDLIFE OF ST HELENA

St Helena has an incredible range of wildlife; the isolation of the island means that it is home to many unique species that are found nowhere else in the world.

A staggering 455 species of invertebrates are found on the island and include the Blushing Snail, the Spiky Woodlouse, the Vulturine and Golden Leafhopper and Janich's Fungus Weevil. St Helena also boasts a near perfect bee population.

The Blushing Snail (*Succinea sanctaehelenae*) is found throughout the island as it eats algae that grow on plant leaves; it can often be seen on New Zealand Flax.



**Blushing Snail**  
*Succinea sanctaehelenae*

Some of St Helena's endemics are very rare and difficult to see. An example is the Spiky Yellow Woodlouse (*Pseudolauroa atlantica*). With less than a hundred adults inhabiting a single patch of Black Scale Fern, it is among the world's most endangered species.

To prevent St Helena's endemic species becoming extinct it is crucial that conservation measures are respected and no-go areas within habitats are adhered to.



**Spiky Yellow Woodlouse**  
*Pseudolauroa atlantica*



# St Helena Island

Secret of the South Atlantic



BIRDING &  
WILDLIFE

St HELENA  
ISLAND

## ABOUT ST HELENA

St Helena is a small British Overseas Territory situated in the South Atlantic Ocean. One of the remotest places on Earth, it is also one of the most extraordinary places to visit. Its unique character and unspoilt beauty lies in contrasting and spectacular scenery, a rich cultural heritage and an environment extremely rich in biodiversity. These are just a few of the reasons why this remote jewel is a perfect place for active exploration and discovery, especially now that it can be reached by plane for the first time.

## THINGS TO DO

- Walks and Hiking
- Indigenous Fauna and Flora
- Diving, snorkelling, fishing and other marine activities
- Whale Shark, dolphin and whale tours
- Historic legacy and cultural tours
- Napoleon
- Astronomy and photography



Follow in the footsteps of explorers such as Charles Darwin, Edmund Halley and Captain James Cook in discovering St Helena's fascinating biodiversity. The island is home to over one thousand species of which more than 400 are endemic, including the Wirebird.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

 [visit.sthelenatourism](https://www.facebook.com/visit.sthelenatourism)

 [@sthelenatourism](https://twitter.com/sthelenatourism)

Telephone: +290 22158

Email: [enquiries@tourism.co.sh](mailto:enquiries@tourism.co.sh)

St Helena Tourism, Jamestown

St Helena, STHL 1ZZ, South Atlantic Ocean

[www.sthelenatourism.com](http://www.sthelenatourism.com)



# St Helena Island

Secret of the South Atlantic

[www.sthelenatourism.com](http://www.sthelenatourism.com)



## BIRDING ON ST HELENA

On land and by sea, the sights and sounds of the birdlife of St Helena are certain to delight.

Inextricably wrapped up in the island's history, the story of St Helena's birdlife - a legacy of colonisation of the island by man and the animals he introduced, that brought about extinctions and rarity - is fast becoming one of conservation success and recovery.

Take time to explore the island to observe the rare and reclusive native Moorhen, or the variety of naturalised songbirds and be prepared to be 'visited' by inquisitive Fairy (White) Terns.

Observe the colonies of Noddies, Boobies, Petrels and Terns on the island's offshore stacks by boat or take a coastal walk to observe the remarkable conservation success story unfolding on the coastal cliffs where populations of Masked Boobies and Red-billed Tropicbirds are re-establishing themselves in ever increasing numbers on the mainland.

## SPOT SOME OF ST HELENA'S BIRDS



Indian Myna  
*Acridotheres tristis*



Feral Pigeon  
*Columba livia*



Peaceful Dove  
*Geopelia striata*



Pomarine Skua  
*Stercorarius pomarinus*



Chukar Partridge  
*Alectoris chukar*



Masked Booby  
*Sula dactylatra*



Sooty Tern  
*Sterna fuscata*



Ring-necked Pheasant  
*Phasianus colchicus*



Brown Noddy  
*Anous stolidus*



Brown Booby  
*Sula leucogaster*



Java Sparrow  
*Padda oryzivora*



Common Waxbill  
*Estrilda astrild*



Black Noddy  
*Anous minutus*



Moorhen  
*Gallinula chloropus*



Yellow Canary  
*Serinus flaviventris*



Madagascar Fody  
*Foudia madagascariensis*



Wirebird (St Helena Plover)  
*Charadrius sanctaehelena*

## ST HELENA'S ENDEMIC BIRD

The endemic Wirebird (St Helena Plover) is a source of national pride and a tour to observe its behaviour in the wild is not to be missed.

It is the last surviving endemic land bird on St Helena. The Wirebird is featured on St Helena's coat of arms as well as that of the airport and is held in great affection by island residents. It is closely related to the Kittlitz's Sand Plover (*C. pecarius*) of Africa.

There are between 450 and 500 adult Wirebirds on St Helena at present. This makes the species a very rare bird in global terms. St Helena's Wirebird population occurs in both semi-desert areas and the drier pasturelands between 820 and 1,970 ft (250 and 600m) above ground level. The majority of Wirebirds are now found on grassland, which provides a more abundant food supply.

Male and female Wirebirds are virtually identical in appearance. They form pair bonds that may last for several seasons. Nesting occurs throughout the year but most eggs are laid between October and March.



Fairy (White) Tern  
*Gygis alba rothschildi*

## LAND BIRDS

With the exception of the Wirebird and the Moorhen, all the other land birds were introduced for various reasons at some time during the island's history. The Chukar Partridge, Ring-necked Pheasant and the Pigeon were brought to the island in the 16th century by the Portuguese as a source of food for passing ships and itinerant residents.

It would seem the next group of birds which were introduced were the Peaceful Dove, Madagascar Fody, Java Sparrow, Common Waxbill and Yellow Canary. These are all attractive and colourful seed-eaters, most of them potential cage or aviary birds.



Red-Billed Tropicbird  
*Phaethon aethereus*

## SEABIRDS

Not to be forgotten are the island's seabirds. There are eight breeding species of seabird. Nesting occurs on the coast of the mainland, the offshore islands and on steep cliff faces. Fairy Terns are the most commonly seen seabird, and they are found all over the island. They breed all year round, laying a single pale grey speckled egg that is balanced on tree branches, cliff faces and even on window ledges in Jamestown.

Since 2008 Masked Boobies have started nesting on the mainland between Castle Rock and Lot's Wife. Regular monitoring has taken place and nests show a high percentage of success.

Another favourite is the Red-Billed Tropicbird, locally called Trophy birds. They are easily recognisable by their long white tail and prominent red bill.