

Emerald Pool

Morne Trois Pitons National Park
DOMINICA

The trail to Emerald Pool is located 3.5 miles north-east of Pont Cassé, near the road to Castle Bruce, and is the most accessible trail in the Morne Trois Pitons National Park.

Vegetation zones are determined by two main factors: climate and soil conditions. These zones occur in defined levels around our mountains. The ¾ mile loop trail to Emerald Pool passes through a **Transition Zone** of forest, and cannot be considered true **Rain Forest** or **Montane Forest**. Other trails in the Park have been established through rain forest and **Elfin Woodlands**.

As you move along the trail, note the prop roots of the *Palmist*, *Mang Blan* and *Karapit* trees; the large buttresses of the *Chatannyé* trees; and the pillar-like trunks of the Gommier trees. Other trees near the trail include *Bwa Dyab*, *Bwa Bandé* and *Bwa Kòt*. Also note the tree ferns.

Notice too, that there are relatively few shrubs, the majority of smaller plants being young trees. The massive canopy overhead shields out the sunlight. Hence, many vines strive upwards towards the light, while some send down their roots once they are established in the canopy.

The filtered sunlight encourages a large number of epiphytes. These are plants which grow on other plants but do not take nutrition from the host plant. Some of the epiphytes at Emerald Pool include the giant tank bromeliad *Glomeropitcairnia penduliflora* (a relative of the pineapple), wild anthuriums, ferns, mosses and orchids. The ground is relatively bare, except for patches of ground cover.

In walking up the short paved section of the trail, to your left you may sometimes catch a glimpse of Morne Trois Pitons, Dominica's second tallest mountain, which rises to a height of 4,672ft. It is most often covered in swirling mist and clouds.

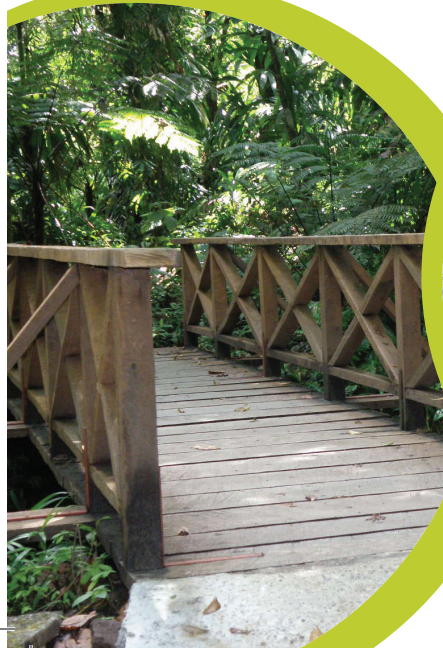
There are three main lookout points along the trail. The first provides a view of the Emerald Pool, and the second a view of the upper Belle Fille Valley, with Morne Laurent (Negre Marron) on the left. The third overlooks the wild stretches of the windward coast of St. David's Bay and Castle Bruce.

WILDLIFE

It is not likely that you will see many mammals, though the agouti (a rodent the size of a rabbit) and the nocturnal *manicou* or opossum inhabit the area. You will most likely see an Anolis (Tree) Lizard on a tree stem or a boulder displaying his orange throat-fan to attract a mate or in defending his territory.

Birds are common, especially hummingbirds and the *Siflé Moutany* (Mountain Whistler) or Rufous-throated Solitaire, which you will undoubtedly hear but rarely see. Its song is unhurried

The stone-paved section of the trail is part of an old trace used by the Kalinago Indians to get to Pont Cassé, before the main road to Castle Bruce was built in the 1960s. It is also on Segment 5 of the 114-mile long Waitukubuli National Trail.



and flute-like, and the bird is one of the most remarkable songsters of the West Indies. Once identified, the song will not be forgotten. Red-necked or Jaco Parrots have been seen occasionally from the lookouts at Emerald Pool and near the parking lot.

Some of the other birds that you may see or hear along the trail include:

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Scaly-naped Pigeon | - <i>Wamyé</i> |
| Rudy Quail Dove | - <i>Pèdwi</i> |
| House Wren | - <i>Wòsinyòl</i> |
| Scaly-breasted Thrasher | - <i>Gwiv</i> |
| Trembler | - <i>Twanblè</i> |
| Forest Thrush | - <i>Movi, Gwiv-a-linèt</i> |
| Black-whiskered Vireo | - <i>Chwèk</i> |
| Plumbeous Warbler | - <i>Papya, Chik-i-lik</i> |
| Bananaquit | - <i>Sikiyé</i> |
| Lesser Antillean Bullfinch | - <i>Mwéson, Pennwè</i> |
| Antillean Crested Hummingbird | - <i>Foufou, Ti-kyap, Lamouchwè</i> |
| Blue-headed Hummingbird | - <i>Foufou Tèt-blé, Madam Béké</i> |
| Purple-throated Carib | - <i>Foufou Madè, Fal-wouj</i> |

If you happen to be on the trail as darkness approaches, piping (tree) frogs and nocturnal crickets add their night calls to the stillness of the region. Bats too appear after dusk, feeding on fruits, nectar and countless insects.



It is within the forest that we witness the inter-relationships between living things. Here in the Morne Trois Pitons National Park, a portion of Dominica is being preserved as a living example of the island's forest environment. It is ours to enjoy and to protect.

Please do not litter. Use the garbage bins at the Visitor Centre and the Parking Lot. User Fee tickets to access this site may be purchased at the Centre.

Please do not use soap in the pool, as the marks left behind are unsightly. Furthermore, the chemicals in the soap will damage the aquatic life in the Pool and downstream.

Please do not damage or remove bark from the trees; and please do not pick plants or flowers. Take away only memories and photographs, leave nothing behind but footprints, and kill only time.



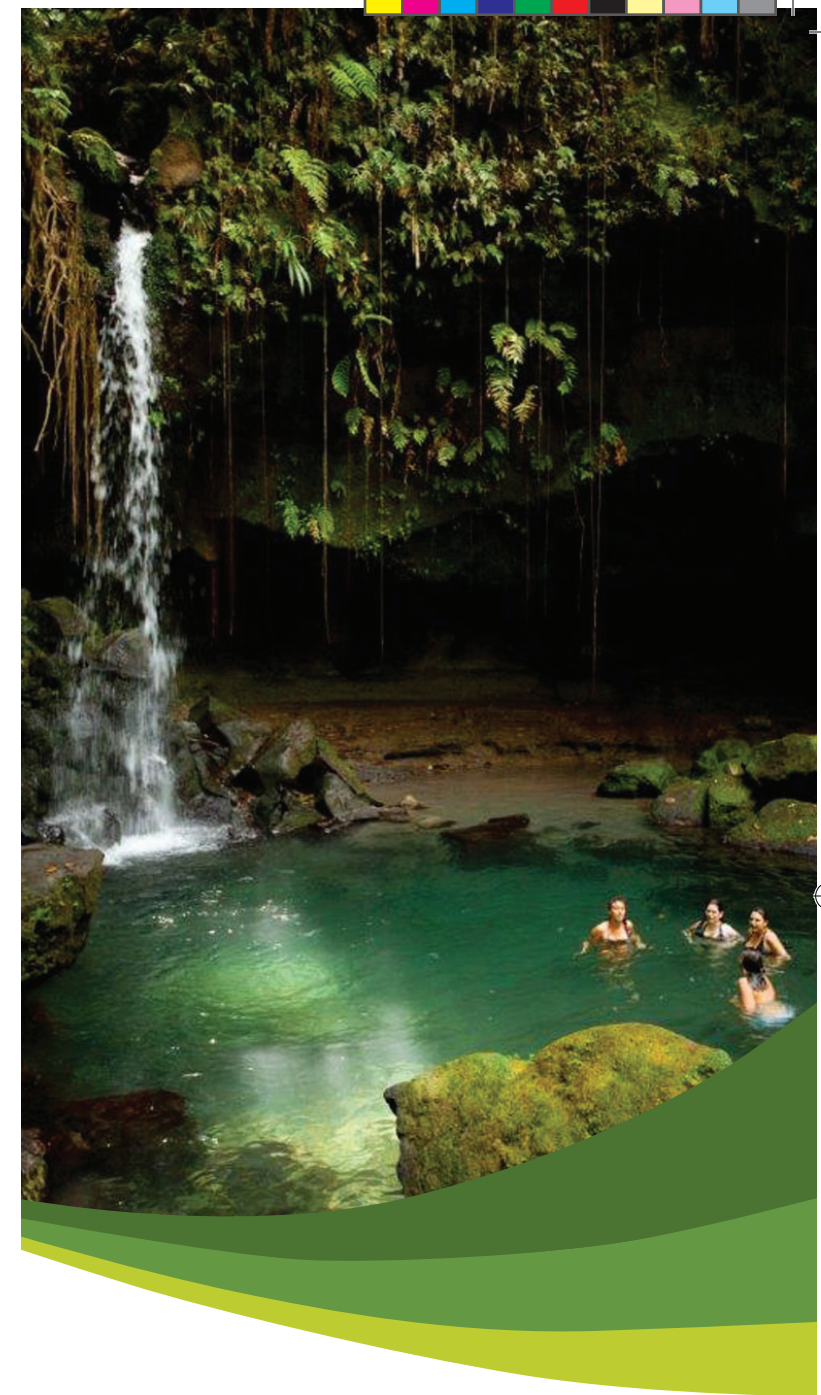
Emerald Pool is a part of the Morne Trois Pitons National Park World Heritage Site, a special area which was set aside by the Government of Dominica for the enjoyment of Dominicans and visitors alike. Everything within the park is protected by law.

For further information, contact:

Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division
Roseau, DOMINICA
Tel: (767) 266-5852/5856
Email: forestry@dominica.gov.dm
Website: agriculture.gov.dm



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