

In the third module of training in trail design and maintenance (held on March 28th and 29th 2017), participants had the pleasure of experiencing trails in Tobago – a paradise isle.

The Argyle Waterfall was the first stop. The trail to the waterfall was a 25-minute leisurely walk in an idyllic setting. Amongst the lush vegetation were cocoa, bamboo, silk cotton, pawpaw and poui trees. At the trail's end, the group was greeted with the wonderful sight of a triple-tiered, 100 foot waterfall with a large pool at its base and the clear flowing waters of the Argyle River – a rejuvenating experience indeed!



Heading next onto the popular Gilpin Trail in the Main Ridge Forest Reserve, participants trekked under the cool canopy of the forest. The Main Ridge Forest Reserve is recognized as the oldest declared forest reserve in the western hemisphere, having been set aside in 1776. The Gilpin trail (one of nine trails in the Forest Reserve) is actually an old “donkey trail” that linked Roxborough to Bloody Bay.



After an exhilarating, but short boat ride, the group arrived at Little Tobago - the 450 acre island known formerly as the Greater Bird of Paradise Island. This island, which is dominated by semi-dry forest, hosts seabird nesting colonies – including the red-billed tropic birds, the magnificent frigate birds and Audubon's shearwaters.



The trail to the bird viewing platform which comprises concrete and natural pathways is challenging in parts; however, the view at the platform is spectacular. In fact, from this location, frigate birds ambushing tropic birds with food en route to their nests were featured in the BBC's nature documentary “The Trials of Life: A Natural History of Behaviour.”

Photos from top: Argyle Waterfall, Gilpin Trail, Viewing platform at Little Tobago and Red-billed tropicbirds

Day two of the module in Tobago started with a visit to the Genesis Nature Park in Goodwood. This half-acre, family run park was an interesting stop featuring a 200 year old water wheel and a range of animals – tortoises, monkeys, macaws, quenkens and a caiman – nestled in a garden setting.



Another interesting visit was to the Eden's Door Nature Park at Mary's Hill – a six-acre site incorporating organic farming, fitness and nature trails. The site offers visitors a “farm-to-table” experience. Other products offered include mixed land use: learning yoga under a bamboo shelter, special events (such as weddings) and glamour camping – known as “glamping”.



Module 3 ended at the Fort King George where participants wrapped up the two days of the module by sharing their analysis of the trails and the sites visited.

Photos from top: Genesis Nature Park and Eden's Door trail