

# EcoAdventures in the Galapagos Islands

A land where nature left the book open...

The Galapagos, made up of 13 large islands, six smaller islands and over 40 islets, are located in the Pacific Ocean 600 miles west of the Ecuadorian mainland. Its wonders span from the most varied geological formations of lava flows, blowholes, spatter cones and lava tunnels, and beaches of olive, white, or black sand, to the most diverse landscapes and species of animal and plant life.

On some islands you will find red mangroves, scalesia trees and acacias, while on others you will see cactus, micronias and Palo Santo trees. The most surprising sight for visitors, however, are the animals, which astounded Charles Darwin on his visit in 1835. The giant land turtles gave the archipelago its name and are just some of the species unique to the islands, as are the Galapagos Penguins, Darwin Finch, hawk and marine iguana. You will also see blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, bright yellow warblers, fur seals, sea lions, frigate birds and free-roaming albatross.



## The Islands



Meet some of the Galapagos residents: Fur seals, Galapagos Penguin and blue-footed booby exhibiting the behavior called "sky-pointing"



- Baltra Island:** Beach, airport & docks (South Seymour)
- Bartolomé Is.:** Galapagos Penguins, lava lizards, sea turtles, white-tipped sharks, Galapagos Grasshoppers (locust) (Bartholomew)
- Espanola Island:** Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez: Waved albatross, blue-footed & masked boobies, sea lions, marine iguanas (Hood variety), Hood Mockingbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos Doves, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds, large cactus finches, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, oyster-catchers, Galapagos Hawks (Hood Is.)
- Fernandina Is.:** This is the youngest of the islands & still the most active volcanically, with eruptions every few years. Flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, sea lions, Galapagos Penguins & Hawks (Narbrough Is.)
- Floreana Island:** Post Office Bay, Punta Cormorant: Greater flamingos, pintail ducks, brown pelicans, tropicbirds, medium tree finches, yellow warblers (Charles Is.)
- Genovesa Island:** Darwin Bay: Prince Philip Steps (El Barranco): Galapagos Fur Seals, masked & red-footed boobies, frigate birds, petrels, Palo Santo trees (Tower Island)
- Isabela Island:** Penguins, blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, Audubon Shear Waters, noddy terns, mockingbirds, Galapagos Hawks, flightless cormorants (Isabela Island) Woodpecker & Darwin Finches, brown pelicans, blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls & Galapagos Penguins (-Tagus Cove)
- Isla Lobos:** Sea lions, blue-footed boobies, frigates, gulls. (Sea Lions Is.)
- North Seymour Is.:** Sea lions, land iguanas, frigate birds, colonies of blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, bright yellow warblers, fur seals
- Plaza Island:** A small geological uplift. Sea lions, land iguanas, tropicbirds, blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls
- Rabida (Jervis) Is.:** Sea lions, pelicans, flamingos, white-cheeked pintails (Chatham)
- San Cristobal Is.:** Main sea lion, blue-footed boobies, masked boobies, frigate birds & other seabird species (-Cerro Brujo: (San Cristobal) Pelicans, boobies & gulls (-Leon Dormido: (San Cristobal) A vertical tuff cone formation that juts 500 feet into the air (Kicker Rock)
- San Salvador Is.:** Fur seals, hawks, marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, oyster catchers, great blue herons, lava herons, yellow-crowned night herons, lava lizards, moray eels, sharks, octopi (James or Santiago Is.)
- Santa Cruz Is.:** Puerto Ayora (Academy Bay): Giant tortoises & 11 other surviving species of turtles at the Darwin Research Center, Darwin Finches (13 species) (Indefatigable)
- Los Gemelos:** (The Twins)
- Dragon Hill:** (Santa Cruz Is.) Flamingos, white-cheeked pintails