

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Galapagos 2019



Galapagos & Ecuador, 13th to 26th March 2019, Trip Report

Leader

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Guides

Felipe Wittmer (Galapagos)

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Fernando Icaza and Mafe Icaza (Guayaquil)

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	13 th	Travel. Arrive in Guayaquil
2	14 th	Cerro Blanco and Parque Lago
3	15 th	Guayaquil to Baltra . North Seymour zodiac cruise.
4	16 th	Sullivan Bay (Santiago) and Rabida
5	17 th	Punta Espinosa (Fernandina) and Elizabeth Bay (Isabela)
6	18 th	Isabela : Urbina Bay and Tagus Cove
7	19 th	Puerto Egas (Santiago) and Bartholome
8	20 th	Sombrero Chino and Cerro Dragon (Sta Cruz)
9	21 st	Santa Cruz : Los Gemelos, Manzanillo Ranch, Charles Darwin Research Station, Puerto Ayora
10	22 nd	North Seymour and Puerto Ayora
11	23 rd	Santa Cruz : Manzanillo Ranch and German Bay
12	24 th	flight back to Guayaquil
13	25 th	Guayaquil city tour: Iguana Park, Malecon and Santa Ana hill Flight back to Europe
14	26 th	Amsterdam and return to UK

A galley of some of Philip's photos from this trip can be seen on our Flickr site, at www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157704276740232

An (ever-evolving) collection of photos from all Philip's previous visits to the islands can be seen at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/collections/72157704276768482/>

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DIARY

14th March: Cerro Blanco and Parque Lago

We spent our first Ecuadorean day in the company of Daniel and Fernando, who took us first into the dry forest at Cerro Blanco, where we enjoyed some colourful butterflies and a sleepy sloth alongside the introduction to the Tumbesian birdlife, and then to the Water Hyacinth-covered reservoir at Parque Lago, with its Snail Kites and noisy Limpkins.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*
 Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*
 Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*
 Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
 Western Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
 American Great Egret *Casmerodius egrettus*
 Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*
 Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*
 Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
 Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*
 Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
 Snail Kite *Rhosrhamus sociabilis*
 Savannah Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*
 Harris Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*
 Grey-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus*
 Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*
 Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*
 Ecuadorian Ground Dove *Columbina buckleyi*
 White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*
 Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*
 Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis*
 Red-masked Parakeet *Aratinga erythrogenys*
 Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*
 Amazilia Hummingbird *Amazilia amazilia*
 Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*
 Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus*
 Sooty-crowned Flycatcher *Myiarchus phaeocephalus*
 Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*
 Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*
 One-coloured Becard *Pachyrhamphus homochrous*
 Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*
 Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
 Fasciated Wren *Campylorhynchus fasciatus*
 Superciliated Wren *Thryothorus superciliaris*
 Ecuadorian Thrush *Turdus maculirostris*
 Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
 White-tailed Jay *Cyanocorax mystacalis*
 Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila plumbea*
 Tropical Parula *Parula pitayumi*
 Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*
 Saffron Finch *Sicalis flaveola*
 Southern Yellow Grosbeak *Phecticus chrysogaster*
 Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco*
 Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*
 Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*
 Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*
 Scrub Blackbird *Dives warszewiczi*

Guayaquil Squirrel *Sciurus stramineus*
 Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*

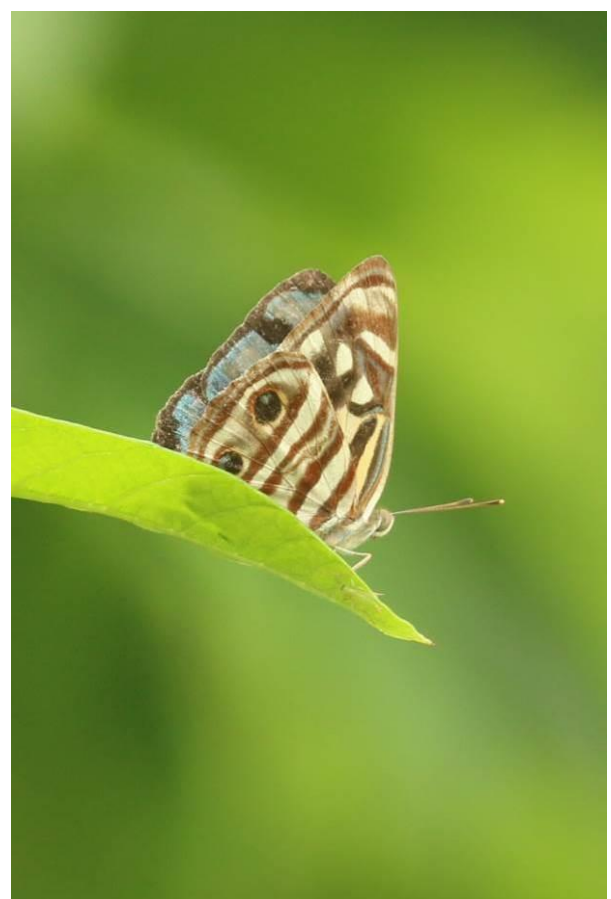
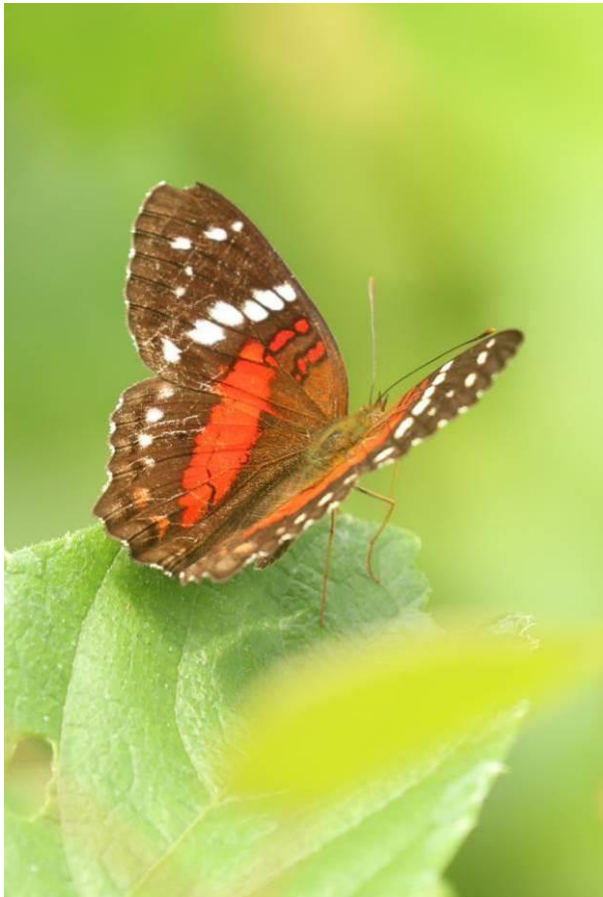
Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

10+ at Parque Lago, bold white wing bars in flight
 c5 at Parque Lago, smaller and without white wingbars
 Several soaring over Parque Lago: more to follow...
 Parque Lago
 Parque Lago
 Parque Lago
 Parque Lago
 Parque Lago
 Parque Lago
 Common. Long tail
 A couple at Parque Lago, very short tail
 Very common at Parque Lago
 Adult at Parque Lago
 Immature over Cerro Blanco, and one briefly at Parque Lago
 Adult perched, calling, at Cerro Blanco.
 Several noisy adults at Parque Lago
 A couple at Parque Lago, hiding amongst the Water Hyacinth
 Cerro Blanco & along the roadside. Tumbesian endemic
 Cerro Blanco, commonly heard and a couple flying past
 Guayaquil
 the tiny, short-tailed parrot at Cerro Blanco.
 Several flying over, Cerro Blanco. Tumbesian endemic
 Cerro Blanco & Parque Lago
 coming to the feeder at Cerro Blanco
 Cerro Blanco
 around the car park, Parque Lago
 Cerro Blanco
 Common roadside bird
 Cerro Blanco, the big streaky flycatcher with rusty tail
 singles, Cerro Blanco and Parque Lago
 Common around Guayaquil and elsewhere
 Common over Parque Lago
 Several family groups at their large twig nests
 Cerro Blanco
 Cerro Blanco
 Cerro Blanco: the resident form, sometimes split as Chivi Vireo
 two at Cerro Blanco, 1 at Parque Lago. Tumbesian Endemic
 Cerro Blanco
 Cerro Blanco
 Cerro Blanco. A common roadside bird
 Cerro Blanco. A common roadside bird
 Cerro Blanco
 Parque Lago
 Parque Lago
 Cerro Blanco
 Cerro Blanco
 Parque Lago

A couple at Cerro Blanco, tufted ears and big bushy tail
 One sleepy individual at Cerro Blanco

A couple at Parque Lago

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15th March: Guayaquil to Baltra: Mosquera/North Seymour

After making our way through the many layers of form filling, passport stamping and baggage searching, made much simpler thanks to the help of Fernando, our morning flight took us out over the Pacific and to the Galapagos where, after some more form filling, dog sniffing and the handing over of a hundred bucks each, we finally made our way out of the airport and met up with Felipe, our National Park guide for our cruise around the islands. A short bus journey took us from the airport down into the small port: whilst waiting for our lift across to the boat, we found a handful of the ashy-grey Lava Gulls, loafing around the port. This is the world's rarest gull, with a total population of fewer than 800 individuals and perhaps as low as 250 birds: during our week on the islands, we perhaps saw more than 10% of the entire population! Also around were Laughing Gulls, Brown Pelicans and numerous Magnificent Frigatebirds, soaring overhead.

Our first dinghy ride took us out to our boat in the bay, the catamaran Tip Top II: on board, and we were soon settling into our 'state rooms', before a quick lunch.

Food and safety briefings out of the way, and we were soon donning *chalecos* and heading off for our first excursion, a planned 'wet landing' on the white sands of Mosquero Island... the best plans and all that: as we neared the beaches, it became obvious that a significant swell had set in, and the rollers were much too large to make a safe landing. Instead, we took a zodiac cruise along the southern shores of North Seymour, where we had our first introduction to the amazing birdlife of the islands. Red-billed Tropicbirds flew high overhead, the beautiful Swallow-tailed Gulls were busy raising their young on the cliffs, along with Common Noddy, Blue-footed Boobies and a single Nazca Booby, while several male Great Frigatebirds were sat on their flimsy twig nests, red throat 'balloons' fully inflated, doing their best to attract the attention of passing females from amongst the Galapagos Incense Trees *Bursera malacophylla* and North Seymour's endemic Prickly Pears *Opuntia echios* var *zacana*. A couple of Galapagos Fur Seals were resting amongst the rocks, along with a handful of the larger Galapagos Sea Lions, and we also caught sight of several Land Iguanas, ambling across the slopes. Not bad for our first Galapagos excursion!

Back on board, we were introduced to the crew, toasted a successful adventure to come and enjoyed our first evening meal on the boat and headed to our bunks for some rest after a long and eventful day.

16th March: Santiago and Rabida

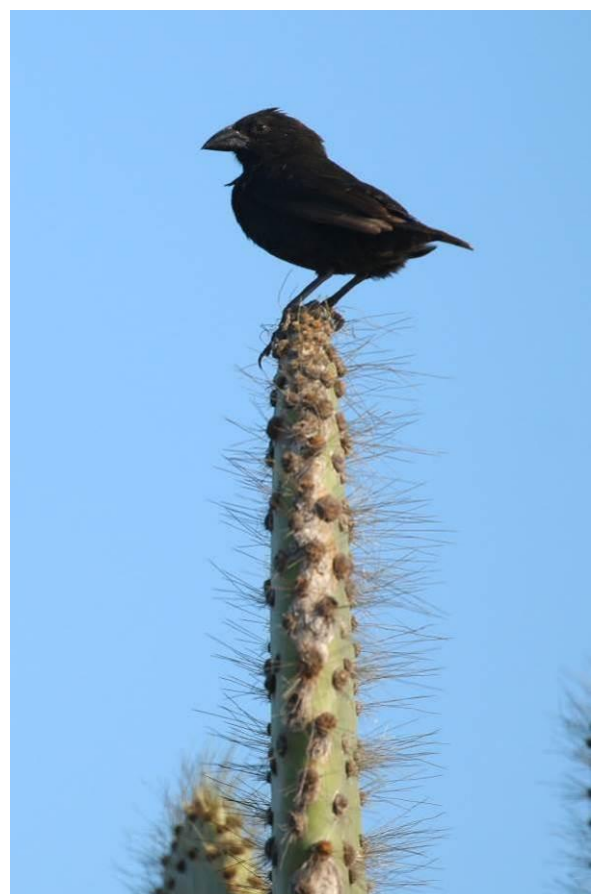
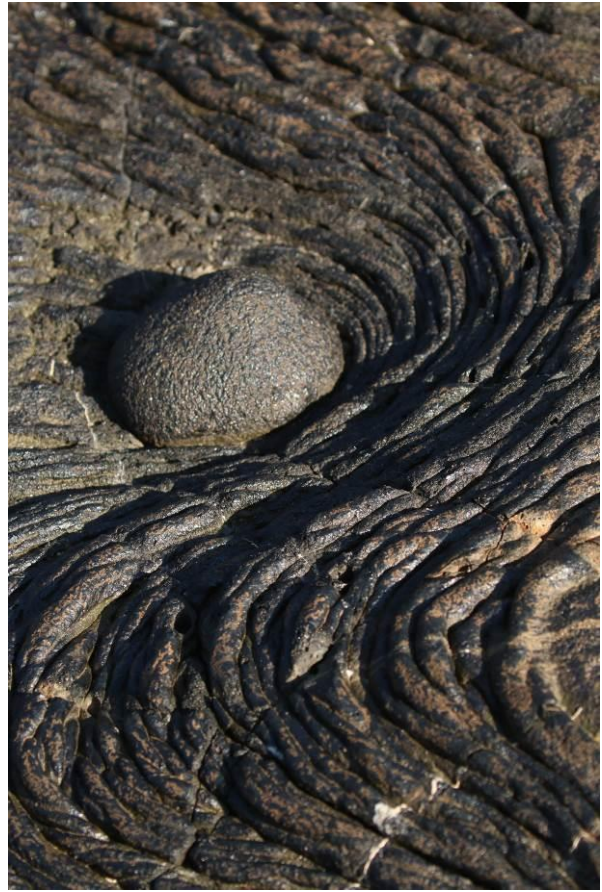
Our morning excursion was onto the massive lava field of Sullivan Bay (named in honour of the first lieutenant of the HMS Beagle, Darwin's famous ship). Thought to date back to the 1830s, the beautiful ropes and ripples of pahoehoe lava here look almost newly minted, with just the very first signs of life returning in the form of pioneer *Molluga crockeri* plants, one or two Lava Cactus *Brachycereus nesioticus* and the occasional Galapagos Dove, their favoured roost sites beneath the ledges of broken lava revealed by the concentrations of emoji-like droppings. Some hardy Santiago Lava Lizards were found out amongst the lava flows, as well as a couple of shed snake skins.

After our first snorkelling session, we moved on to Rabida, passing by very large numbers of Galapagos Shearwaters, feeding in enormous rafts of hundreds, if not thousands of birds.

On Rabida's famous red beach we found a confiding Wandering Tattler playing with the waves, while White-cheeked Pintail and Semipalmated Plover were feeding on the brackish lagoon behind the beach, fringed by Saltbush *Cryptocarpus pyriiformis* and the suitably-named Spiny Bush *Scutia spicata*. Our walk up onto the ridge behind the lagoon revealed Rabida's own endemic profusely-fruiting prickly pear *Opuntia galapageia* var *profusa*, the white-flowered Galapagos Lantana *Lantana peduncularis*, 'Palo Santo' Incense Trees *Bursera graveolens*, Galapagos Croton *Croton scouleri* and the bindweed-like Hairy Merremia *Merremia aegyptiaca*. This area also gave us our first proper look at some of Darwin's famous finches, with Cactus Finch, Small and Medium Ground Finches all singing from the treetops.

From the cliff tops we looked down on the clear water, with Razor Surgeonfish, Yellow-tailed Mullet, King Angelfish and the shark-like Milk Fish all seen: more fish were seen by the snorkellers from the beach, before we set off for our evening navigation, heading westwards, passing our first Galapagos Petrels and some large flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes on the water before the sun finally set on a very busy Galapagos day.

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Top: Marine Iguana on Rabida; Pahoehoe Lava formations at Sullivan's Bay
Bottom: Rabida Prickly Pear *Opuntia galapageia* var *profusa*; male Cactus Finch

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17th March: Fernandina and Isabela

Daybreak found us moored off Fernandina, with the sun rising over Volcán Darwin over on Isabela, on the other side of the Bolivar Channel.

After our early breakfast, we made our way across to Punta Espinosa, the only visitor site on Fernandina, the most pristine oceanic island in the world. We made our dry landing amongst the mangroves, a mixture of both Red Mangrove and White Mangrove, having to step over the Marine Iguanas who were firmly of the opinion that the landing jetty was for them, not for us mere visitors...

Fernandina's Marine Iguanas are the largest in the islands, the subspecies *cristatus*, and great piles of them were heaped up on the shore, warming up for the day, salt-snotting every way we turned. Once warm enough they were heading into the surf to graze on the cold-water algae that is their preferred food. The sights and sounds of hundreds of great dinosaur-like reptiles piled up on the lava, with the occasional Lava Lizard perched on their backs must stand out as one of the highlights of the islands, and they certainly made their impact on our camera memory cards!

Once we had snapped our fill of the iguanas, we moved on around the coast, where we found the other star of Punta Espinosa, the superb Flightless Cormorant. The world's largest cormorant, and the only one to have given up on the whole 'flying' thing, this Galapagos endemic is only found on these westernmost islands, where they take advantage of the rich, cold waters of the Cromwell Current. Two pairs were present on the rocky shore, where they spent a considerable length of time preening and drying out their feathers, posing for their share of the memory card space at the same time.

Finally dragging ourselves away, we moved on across the lava, with plenty of Lava Cactus looking at their best, an elegant Darwin's Snake hunting at the bottom of a crack in the lava, and the remains of a decades-long dead Bryde's Whale laid out on the sand.

Back on board, and a quick change, ready for a turtle-filled snorkelling session along the rocky shore south of Punta Espinosa.

After an early lunch, we set off south, heading down past Volcán Alcedo, with Volcán Sierra Negra towering in front of us. A gaggle of Magnificent Frigatebirds and a couple of young Laughing Gulls hitched a ride with the ship, with Elliot's Storm Petrels ever-present in our wake. Along the way we passed several large groups of chattering Red-necked Phalaropes, a single Galapagos Petrel put in an appearance, and five Red-footed Boobies flew past, one of which briefly joined the frigatebird entourage over the ship, before thinking better of it and carrying on eastwards.

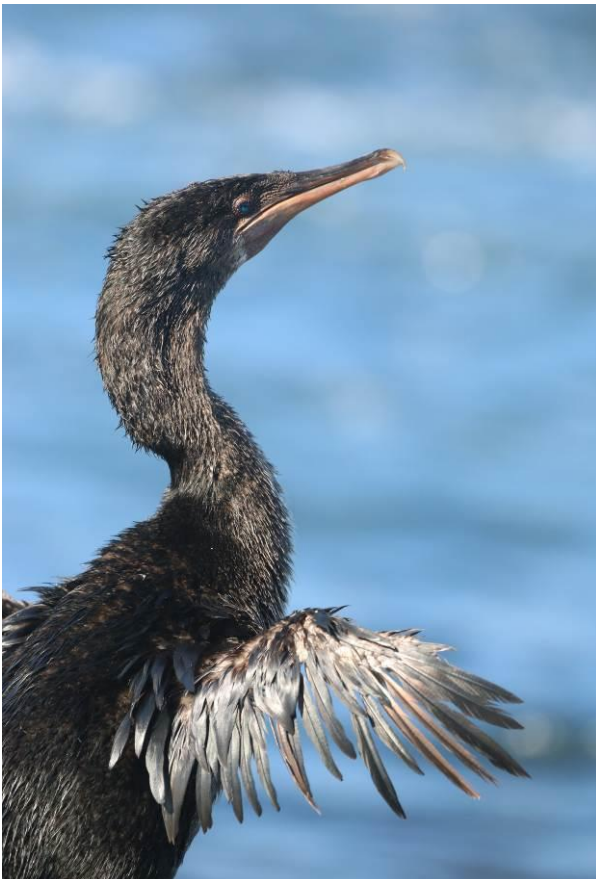
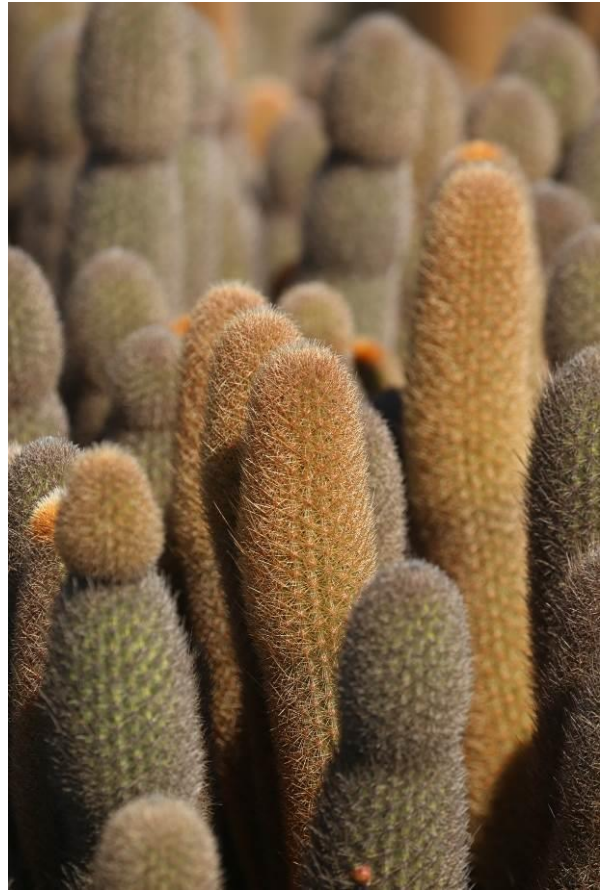
Our afternoon excursion was a zodiac ride into the mangroves of Elizabeth Bay, where we found more Flightless Cormorants on the rocks at the entrance to the bay, numerous Black Turtles cruising around the quieter channels in the mangroves, young Lava Herons aplenty, our first brightly-coloured Mangrove Warblers and solemn black Smooth-billed Anis, and best of all, several Galapagos Penguins: at least 10 during the afternoon, giving extra cause for celebration for Cynan who 'completed the set' of penguins.

18th March: Isabela

After a short overnight navigation back up the coast of Isabela, we awoke moored off Urbina Bay, ready for our morning excursion, with a wet landing on the steep beach.

Feet dried off and de-sanded, shoes back on, and we set off to explore the trail. As per usual, we had barely gone a couple of steps before the flitting of Darwin's Finches halted us in our tracks, with large numbers seen through the morning, all Small and Medium Ground Finches, coming down to the top of the beach to drink, and feeding on seeds along the path.

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Top: *cristatus* Marine Iguanas on Fernandina; Lava Cactus
Bottom: Flightless Cormorant at Punta Espinosa; Galapagos Penguin at Elizabeth Bay

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For many people, mention the word 'Galapagos' and just one animal springs to mind: the giant tortoises. The Volcán Alcedo Giant Tortoises are the most numerous of the islands' twelve extant species. Each of Isabela's five volcanoes is home to its own endemic tortoise, separated from their neighbours by an effective barrier of impenetrable 'aa' lava flows. Santa Cruz is home to two species, with one each on the islands of Santiago, San Cristobal, Espanola and Pinzon. The last known example of the Pinta Giant Tortoise, the famous 'Lonesome George', died in 2013 after forty years spent at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz (and probably another century wandering around Pinta). The Rabida and Floreana species are both also extinct, but good news recently came from Fernandina, where a female was found more than a century after the last known Fernandina Giant Tortoise was seen.

Back to Urbina Bay, and just behind the beach we met our first: a big old Alcedo Giant Tortoise having a yawn and a stretch, fresh from her morning mud wallow. Nearby, and along the rest of the trail, we found plenty of evidence of the tortoises' presence (along with at least another five individuals), with signs that they have a particular fondness for the (highly toxic, to us) fruit of the Poison Apple *Hippomane mancinella* which formed much of the canopy along the trail along with the Incense Tree.

Other notable plants during the morning included Darwin's Cotton *Gossypium darwinii*, Galapagos Lantana *Lantana pedicularis*, Galapagos Acacia *Acacia rorudiana* and two species of Physalis ground cherry, the endemic *Physalis galapagoensis* with large, pale, five-angled 'lanterns' and, growing alongside it, the native *Physalis angulata*, with smaller, ten-angled 'lanterns'. Several large Land Iguanas obviously considered the trail to be their territory, not ours, slumped right across the path soaking up the morning sun, and we found their large burrows nearby.

Back at the beach, and after a short spell of snorkelling we were back on board and moving again, passing through some large rafts of Galapagos Shearwaters and plenty of Red-necked Phalaropes before lunchtime. Our afternoon destination was the deep-water harbour of Tagus Cove, where those with a watery bent enjoyed some great snorkelling and peaceful kayaking, with courting Galapagos Penguins, nesting Flightless Cormorants and a trio of very sizeable Galapagos Sharks keeping everyone more than entertained.

On dry land, having made our way past a proprietorial Galapagos Sealion on the landing steps, we climbed up the hill above the cove, stopping first for the views over Darwin Lake and out across to Fernandina in the distance, before climbing right to the top for the views across the impressive lava fields towards the volcanoes of Alcedo, Darwin and Wolf in the other direction.

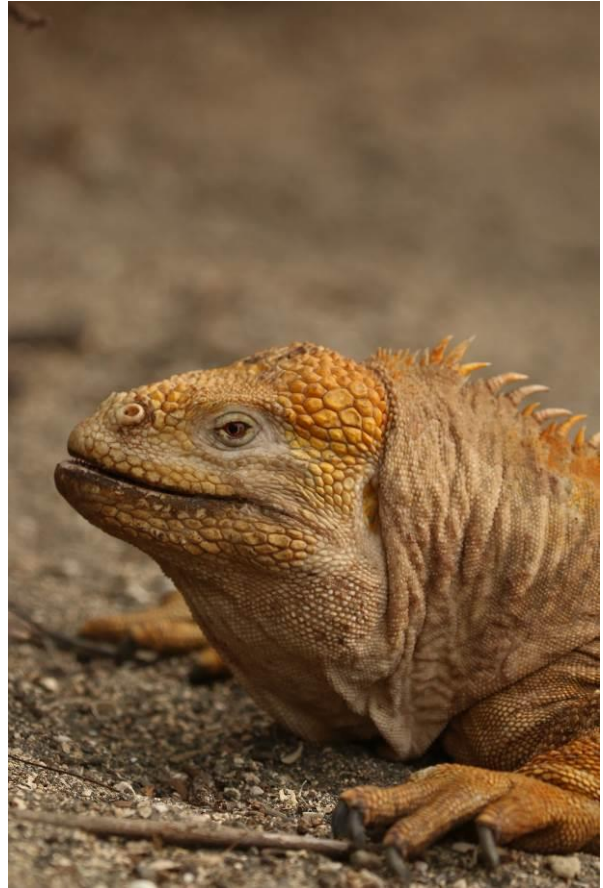
Along the way, we found plenty of Galapagos Long-tailed Skippers and Galapagos Carpenter Beers feeding on the *Waltheria* flowers, a very confiding Isabela Lava Lizard, a new cactus in the form of *Opuntia insularis* and other interesting plants including representatives of two endemic genera of shrubby daisy: *Macraea laricifolia*, the commonest shrub on the drier slopes near the top of the walk, with yellow daisy flowers; and *Scalesia affinis*, the local representative of a genus of 15 species which show an even more impressive adaptive radiation than Darwin's famous finches...

19th March: Santiago and Bartholome

Another early breakfast out of the way, and we disembarked onto the beach at Puerto Egas for further exploration of Santiago. Leaving our snorkelling gear at the top of the beach, we walked through the arid zone vegetation which was alive with singing ground finches and Galapagos Mockingbirds. Butterflies included plenty of the bright orange Galapagos Silver Fritillary and several big Monarchs and smaller numbers of Galapagos Long-tailed Skipper and Galapagos Sulphur. The brightly coloured Large Painted Locust was also much in evidence this morning. Close to the shore, we found a single Land Iguana, part of a recent reintroduction project aimed at restoring the animals to Santiago after the successful eradication of goats from the island.

Emerging onto the rocky shore close to the 'grottos', including the (in)famous 'Darwin's (self-flushing) Toilet', we found a little group of very endearing Galapagos Fur Seals, including a couple of chunky males hauling themselves up out of the water to doze the morning away. Nearby in one of the grottos, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron had the same napping plans.

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Top: Volcan Alcedo Giant Tortoise and Land Iguana, both at Urbina Bay
Bottom: *Scalesia affinis* and Isabela Lava Lizard, at Tagus Cove

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Around the shore we found Wandering Tattler, Semipalmated Plover, Hudsonian Whimbrel, Turnstone, a couple of tiny Least Sandpiper and American Oystercatchers, as well as a Lava Heron, intent on eating as many of the young Sally Lightfoot crabs as he could find, and the chocolate-brown Marine Iguanas of the island's newly-described *wikelskii* race.

Back at the beach, and a Galapagos Hawk was waiting to greet us, perched on the water tower before moving to the nearby football field goalposts...

The water visibility off the beach wasn't the greatest for the hardy snorkellers amongst us. Much better snorkelling conditions were to be had in the afternoon, after lunch and our now traditional post-lunch siesta, around the western end of Bartholome. Along with the now familiar suite of colourful fish, we also found a couple of dozing White-tipped Reef Sharks and a massive Diamond Stingray resting on the bottom.

Dried off and back in the zodiacs again, our final outing of the day saw us heading up the 370+ steps up to the summit of Bartholome. The cinder slopes of the island were dotted with the silvery-grey mat plants *Tiquilia nesotica*, the lime green, round-leaved *Euphorbia amplexicaulis* and a second, narrow-leaved *Euphorbia* species along with some grasses and sedges and the endemic Lava Cactus. *Scalesia stewarti* and the island's Prickly Pear *Opuntia galapageia* var *galapageia* were both growing along the more sheltered ridges, with Galapagos Shore Petunia *Exedeaconus miersii* on the rocky cliffs.

From the top, we enjoyed the panoramic views, taking in the islands of Santa Cruz, Sombrero Chino, Daphnes Major and Minor, Rabida and, of course, Santiago, with Isabela, Marchena and Baltra all out there somewhere in the haze.

20th March: Sombrero Chino and Cerro Dragon

Our morning excursion was onto the atmospheric island of Sombrero Chino (or China Hat), where we walked along the shore, passing the usual mix of Galapagos Sea Lions, Marine Iguanas and Sally Lightfoot Crabs. At the surf-splashed cliffs at the far end, Felipe showed us the bizarre Four-eyed Blenny, clinging on to its amphibious ledge in the splash zone.

Our final snorkelling session was along the coast of Santiago, just across the channel from Sombrero Chino, where we enjoyed good visibility and some very large shoals of fish, as well as the endearing Gardener Eels on the sandy bottom.

For our afternoon excursion, our first on the island of Santa Cruz, the high tide made our 'dry landing' a bit damper than we expected, but we finally made it to dry land safe and sound. The lagoon behind the beach was home to a small group of White-cheeked Pintail and various shorebirds including a pair of Black-necked Stilts, two Lesser Yellowlegs, a handful of Hudsonian Whimbrels, several tiny Least Sandpipers and two Stilt Sandpipers, the latter apparently a rare vagrant to the islands, with just 12 previous records.

The surrounding vegetation was made up of Saltwort *Batis maritima*, Atriplex *Atriplex peruviana* and Leatherleaf *Maytenus octogona*.

Heading inland, through the 'arid zone' vegetation of Palo Santo trees, Darwin's Cotton *Gossypium darwinii* and Prickly Pear cacti *Opuntia echios* var. *echios*. Cerro Dragon is home to a good population of Land Iguanas, and we saw several on our walk up to the 'mighty peak': late afternoon is obviously their busy time, as all were much more active than the rather sluggish early morning beasts we'd seen previously at Urbina Bay and Puerto Egas. At the top of the hill, we enjoyed another impressive view out over the islands, learning about the piratic history of the Galapagos, while enjoying the antics of a family of Galapagos Mockingbirds.

Back to the beach, where some very confiding Least Sandpipers, a Lava Heron and a Great Blue Heron all posed for photos, before we headed back to the boat. After dinner, and a tour of the galley for some, we navigated southwards around the coast of Santa Cruz, ending up in the harbour at Puerto Ayora for the night.

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Top: Elliot's Storm Petrel and Beach Morning Glory
Bottom: Galapagos Fur Seal and Lava Heron, all at Puerto Egas, Santiago

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21st March: Santa Cruz: Charles Darwin Research Station, Los Gemelos and Manzanillo Ranch

A busy day on the island of Santa Cruz started with a zodiac ride across Academy Bay to the awaiting bus, which whisked us out of town.

Our first stop was just on the outskirts of Puerto Ayora, at the entrance of a large lava tunnel. Galapagos Blue and Monarch butterflies flitted about the weedy edges of the car park, where we found various introduced weeds, including *Euphorbia hirta*, *Elytraria imbricata* and the Multicoloured Lantana *Lantana camara*, as well as Punctureweed *Tribulus cistoides* and Feather Fingergrass *Chloris virgata*, two natives that also flourish in these weedy edge habitats. Nearby, a medium-sized Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise looked a little incongruous, so close to town, but apparently part of a small group who take advantage of some nearby leaky water pipes.

Heading up into the highlands, and at the twin sink holes of Los Gemelos we found more finches in the Scalesia forest. As well as the ubiquitous Small and Medium Ground Finches we also found a young Small Tree Finch, a male Large Tree Finch and plenty of Green Warbler Finches, as well as a single male Woodpecker Finch: Woodpecker Finch may not look like much, but its use of tools to wheedle beetle larvae out of the bark makes it very nearly unique (the New Caledonian Crow is the only other bird known to use tools).

Amongst the plants of interest, we found some nice endemics: Galapagos Peperomia *Peperomia galapagensis* growing as an epiphyte on Galapagos Guava *Psidium galapageium* alongside Buttonhole Orchid *Epidendrum spicatum*, the Galapagos Bromeliad *Tillandsia insularis* and a trio of interesting endemic Asteraceae: Thin-leaved Darwin's Shrub *Darwiniothamnus tenuifolius*, the yellow-flowered *Jaegeria gracilis* and, of course, the Tree Scalesia *Scalesia pendunculata*.

Moving on, and with the day heating up, we visited La Manzanillo ranch, where a brief wander brought us face to face with plenty more Santa Cruz Giant Tortoises, many wallowing in the mud. On the duckweed-covered pool a group of White-cheeked Pintail dabbled, and a handful of Common Gallinule (the New World version of 'our' Moorhen) jerked around the edge.

After lunch, we headed back down into town, to the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here we learned about some of the conservation projects being carried out on the islands, notably the Mangrove Finch recovery project, and a local plant nursery, trying to encourage the restoration of native flora. We also learned about the the tortoise breeding programme, paid a visit to Diego, the prolific Espanola male from San Diego Zoo, resting in the shade somewhere no doubt after another burst of gene-pool-enhancing activity, and paid our respects to the (alas, now stuffed) Lonesome George, the last of the Pinta Giant Tortoises, who died in 2012, taking his entire species with him...

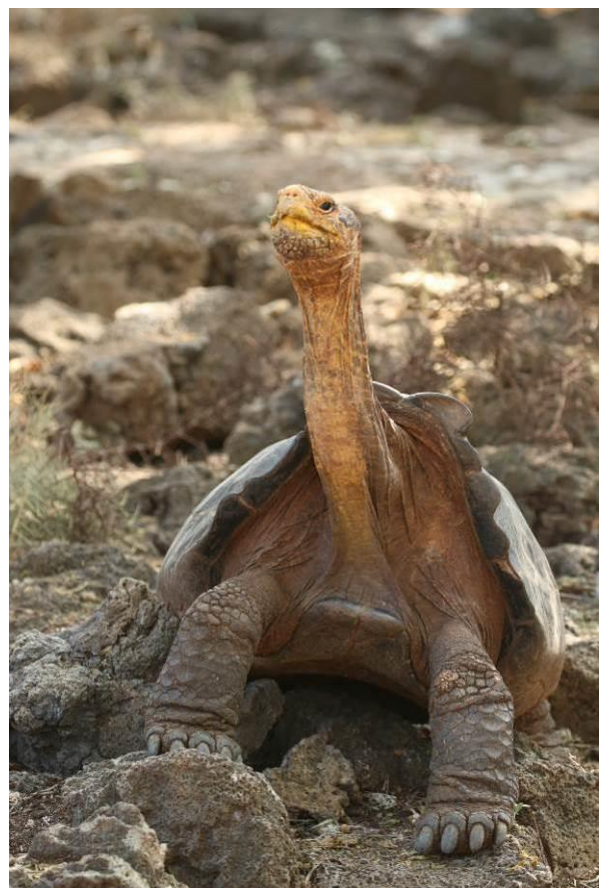
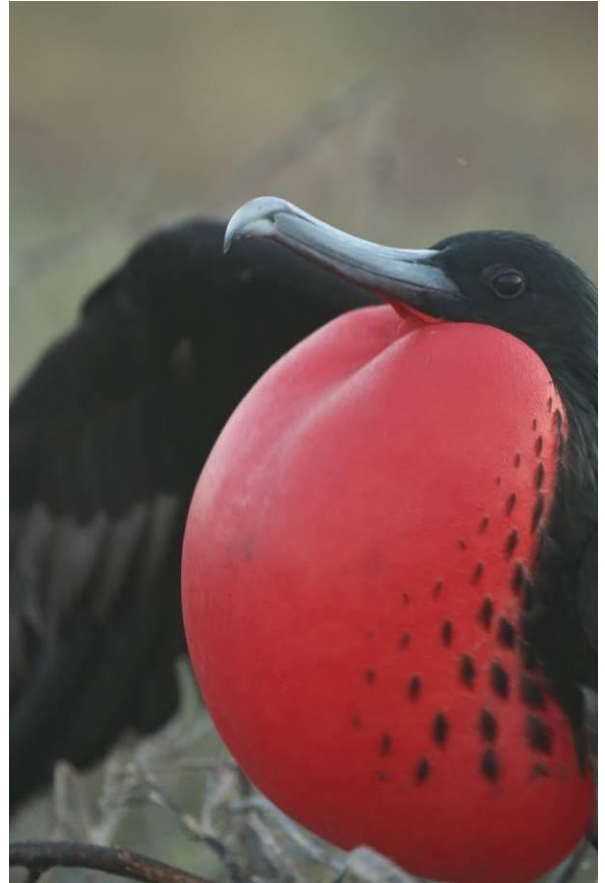
After a wander round the 'big city' of Puerto Ayora and the associated retail opportunities, we returned to the boat for our final dinner on board, a rather incongruous, but pleasantly tasty, roast turkey. Or perhaps it was a pelican after all...

22nd March: North Seymour

Our earliest start yet, for a pre-breakfast (and pre-sunrise) landing on the island of North Seymour. And what a way to end our cruise itinerary, amongst the busy seabird colony, with Swallow-tailed Gulls on the rocky shoreline, Great Frigatebird males ululating on their twiggy nests (together with a handful of drumming Magnificent Frigatebirds) and Blue-footed Boobies strutting their stuff in pairs, plus a single rather lost Red-footed Booby who flew out from the island as the sun rose.

Back on board for one last breakfast ("I hope you like it"), and then it was time to bid a final sad farewell to the Tip Top II, to Carlos and Felipe and all the crew, before the gradual transfer (via 3 buses and 2 boats) to our hotel back down in Puerto Ayora, home for the remainder of our time on the islands.

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Top: Blue-footed Booby and Great Frigatebird on North Seymour
Bottom: Lava Gull in Puerto Ayora and Espanola Giant Tortoise in the Charles Darwin Research Station.

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23rd March: Santa Cruz

This morning we re-visited the highlands of Santa Cruz, heading back up to La Manzanillo Ranch, this time in the company of Fausto.

Our first stop was at a nearby lava tunnel, where a hushed approach meant that we were able to see one of the island's shy residents, a Galapagos Barn Owl at his roost, hidden in the dark. The trees nearby were home to Galapagos Flycatcher and a singing male Woodpecker Finch.

After getting re-acquainted with the wonderful lemongrass iced tea, a longer and noticeably cooler walk around the pool and the edge of the ranch, before the cruise crowds had arrived, gave us a second bite at the 'highland finches' cherry, with both Large and Small Tree Finch, Woodpecker Finch and Green Warbler Finch all putting in appearances.

We also found some interesting plants, notably Galapagos Mistletoe *Phoradendron henslowii* and the endemic passionflower *Passiflora colinvauxii* with its boomerang-like cat face leaves.

After a midday siesta, we met up again later in the afternoon at the town pier, from where we took a water taxi over to Angermeyer Point and German Bay. Despite the high tide and hot sun, we had a pleasant walk out past the salt pans, home to a family of Black-necked Stilts and some roosting Turnstones, Semipalmated Plovers and Least Sandpipers, to the swimming hole at Las Grietas.

The afternoon gave us the chance to catch up with our final two finches: a male Vegetarian Finch appeared (albeit briefly) right by the path up at Las Grietas, and a singing male Large Ground Finch was, rather surprisingly, the only one of the trip, with the other three 'Geospizas' (Small and Medium Ground Finch and Cactus Finch) all singing from the tree tops nearby.

Our final Galapagos dinner was overlooking the bay, although the only cocktails we were able to enjoy were alcohol free ones, as the local elections meant three days of 'dry law' throughout the country!

24th March: Galapagos to Guayaquil

Our last morning on the islands, and with bags packed we set off across Santa Cruz, stopping for one last look at the 'junior twin' of the Los Gemelos sink holes and its surrounding *Scalesia* forest, before our ferry across the 'canal' and one last bus journey across Baltra (with a fleeting glimpse of the island's endemic *Scalesia crockeri* and a Land Iguana at the roadside), to the airport and our flight home, somewhat bizarrely taking off ahead of schedule, with views of one last island in the form of San Cristobal beneath us as we flew eastwards, back to the mainland, bidding a sad farewell to the wonderful 'islas encantadas'.

And back to Guayaquil, where we settled in at the UniPark. A late afternoon wander took us across into the famous 'Iguana Park', with the somewhat incongruous sight of Green Iguanas acting much like Trafalgar Square's pigeons, being fed on bags of iceberg lettuce leaves.

Down to the Malecon, passing a noisy pair of Red-masked Parakeets getting frisky in a street tree, and to the banks of the River Guayas, with its great clumps of floating Water Hyacinth floating past: suddenly the idea of a lost iguana or tortoise floating out to sea and making it across to some new volcanic islands didn't seem quite so unlikely after all.

Great-tailed Grackles were flying about over the water, with a few Snowy Egrets, a single Yellow-crowned Night Heron and several groups of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks flying past, like out-of-place geese. One of those groups attracted the attention of a big female Peregrine, while a passing flock of Pacific Parrotlets was briefly chased by a small male, both northern migrants here for the winter, surely soon to be on their way northwards.

As dusk approached, a steady stream of bats appeared, hundreds of animals flying overhead as they channelled down one of the city streets and out over the river and into the wetlands surrounding the city for the night.

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Top: Western Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise; Small Tree Finch
Bottom: *Passiflora collinvauxii*; Santa Cruz Lava Lizard

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25th March: Guayaquil

A morning spent exploring the city in the company of Mafe, Fernando's daughter, before our flights home. We re-visited 'Iguana Park, wandered through the gardens of the Malecon (designed by Cecilia Von Wofal to commemorate the life of Mathilde Hidalgo), and climbed the Sta Ana hill, before one last lunch in a local restaurant.

Along with the Green Iguanas in the park, at least four species of freshwater turtle (all presumably released former-pets) were swimming about in the tiny pond, waiting for their ever-eager local fans to come and feed them.

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregatta magnificens*
Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*
Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*
Yellow-crowned Night Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*
Ecuadorian Ground Dove *Columbina buckleyi*
Croaking Ground Dove *Columbina cruziana*
Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*
Osprey *Pandion Haliaeetus*
Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*
Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
Pacific Parrotlet *Forpus coelestis*
Red-masked Parakeet *Aratinga erythrogenys*
Pacific Hornero *Furnarius cinnamomeus*
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*
Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*
Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*
Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*
Orange-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia saturata*
Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*
Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*

Several circling over the river
One flew along the river
One flew along the river
Several seen during the morning along the Malecon
Several pairs around
A pair at the top of the hill
Along the Malecon
One came over, being mobbed by a Bat Falcon
One, high up, mobbing the Osprey
A male came through
The tiny parrot, flying over
10+ pairs around the town hall
One along the Malecon
Common
The big common 'swallow'
The small swallow
Common
A female singing at the bottom of Sta Ana hill
One or two around the top of the hill
Common along the river

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Common in the trees along the Malecon, and of course in Iguana Park

South American Snapping-Turtle *Chelydra acutirostris*

At least four in the pond at Iguana Park

Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta*

"the" pet terrapin, common in the pond at Iguana Park

Yellow-spotted River Turtle *Podocnemis unifilis*

Several in the pond at Iguana Park

South American River Turtle *Podocnemis expansa*

A couple in the pond at Iguana Park

A hassle-free flight and easy connection in Amsterdam (for those not staying on to enjoy the tulips), with the bags waiting for us once we'd made it through passport control, meant that all that was left was to negotiate the M25 or London Underground.

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Galapagos Species Lists

E = endemic species, e = endemic sub-species, **E** = endemic genus, N = native, I = introduced

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th
BIRDS																
Family Spheniscidae (Penguins)																
E	Galapagos Penguin	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>				X	X	X	X	X						
		Currently categorised as Endangered , with a total population of fewer than 1200 and declining. 95% of the population is found around Isabela and Fernandina.														
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters & Petrels)																
E	Galapagos Petrel	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>				X	X	X	X							
		Currently categorised as Critically Endangered having suffered a rapid population decline to less than 5000 pairs. Threatened by loss of habitat (Miconia-zone vegetation) and predation by introduced rats and cats.														
E	Galapagos Shearwater	<i>Puffinus subalaris</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Family Hydrobatidae (Storm Petrels)																
e	White-vented Storm-petrel (=Elliot's Storm-petrel)	<i>Oceanites gracilis galapagoensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
		Currently categorised as Data Deficient . Despite being the most frequently seen storm-petrel during our trip, with birds following the boat pretty much constantly and a population estimated as 'several thousand pairs', no breeding sites have ever been found!														
	Pacific Band-rumped Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma (castro) cryptoleucura</i>						X								
e	Wedge-rumped Storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma tethys tethys</i>			X				X	X						
Family Phaethontidae (Tropicbirds)																
	Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>			X							X				
Family Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)																
e	Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens magnificens</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
		A recent study has shown that the Magnificent Frigatebirds of Galapagos have been isolated from other frigatebirds for several hundred thousand years, with significant genetic and morphometric differences, suggesting that it should best be considered an endemic species, with a total population of around 1000 pairs, breeding on just four islands.														
	Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>			X							X				
Family Sulidae (Boobies & Gannets)																
e	Blue-footed Booby	<i>Sula nebouxii excisa</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Nazca Booby	<i>Sula granti</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X		X				
	Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>					X					X				
Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)																
e	Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis urinator</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese & Swans)																
e	White-cheeked Pintail	<i>Anas bahamensis galapagensis</i>				X		X		X	X		X			
Family Ardeidae (Herons & Egrets)																
e	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias cognata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>				X			X		X	X	X	X		
E	Lava Heron	<i>Butorides sundevalli</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
		Considered by some authorities to be a subspecies of Striated Heron <i>Butorides striata</i>														
e	Yellow-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea pauper</i>							X				X			
Family Accipitridae (Hawks & Eagles)																
E	Galapagos Hawk	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>						X	X	X						
		Total population estimated at fewer than 500 individuals: categorised as Vulnerable														
Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules & Coots)																
	Common Gallinule	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>									X		X			
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)																
	Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>								X						
	Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>				X	X		X	X						
	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			X		X		X	X						
	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					X	X	X	X			X			
	Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>							X	X			X			
	Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Micropalama himantopus</i>								X						
	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>				X	X	X								

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
	Family Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)															
e	American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus galapagensis</i>				X	X	X	X	X						
	Family Recurvirostridae (Avocets & Stilts)															
	Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>								X			X			
	Family Charadriidae (Plovers & Lapwings)															
	Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>				X	X		X				X			
	Family Laridae (Gulls & Terns)															
	Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>			X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
E	Lava Gull	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i> The rarest gull in the world, considered as Vulnerable by BirdLife International because of its very small population. Estimates range between 243 and 1000 individuals, but there has never been an accurate survey of the species! Numbers are assumed to be stable, but the greatest densities are found around the three main urban areas (Puerto Ayora, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno and Puerto Villamil).			X					X	X	X	X	X		
	Swallow-tailed Gull	<i>Creagrus furcatus</i> Virtually endemic to the Galapagos, the only other breeding location being a very small population of a few pairs on Malpeo Island in Colombia. Population estimated to be around 35,000 individuals, and considered Least Concern by BirdLife International.			X							X				
e	Common Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus galapagensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Family Columbidae (Pigeons & Doves)															
E	Galapagos Dove	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)															
	Dark-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>						X								
	Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>					X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
	Family Tytonidae (Barn Owls)															
E	Galapagos Barn Owl	<i>Tyto (alba) punctatissima</i>											X			
	Family Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)															
E	Galapagos Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Family Mimidae (Mockingbirds)															
E	Galapagos Mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus parvulus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Family Parulidae (New World Warblers)															
E	Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia aureola</i> The widespread Yellow Warbler is split by some authorities into two species: the migratory Yellow Warbler of North America, and the sedentary Mangrove Warbler of South America.					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
	Family Geospizidae (Darwin's Finches)															
E	Green Warbler-finch	<i>Certhidia olivacea</i> Considered Vulnerable by BirdLife International. Warbler Finch has been recently split into Green Warbler-finch of the highlands of Sta Cruz, Santiago, Isabela and Fernandina, and the Grey Warbler-finch <i>Certhidea fusca</i> of Espanola, Genovesa, Santa Fe, San Cristobal, Floreana, Marchena and Pinta.									X		X			
E	Vegetarian Finch	<i>Platyspiza crassirostris</i>									X		X			
E	Large Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>											X			
E	Medium Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
E	Small Ground Finch	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
E	Cactus Finch	<i>Geospiza scandens</i>				X					X	X	X			
E	Small Tree Finch	<i>Geospiza parvula</i>									X		X			
E	Large Tree Finch	<i>Geospiza psittacula</i> Considered Vulnerable by BirdLife International, with recent significant declines on Sta Cruz likely to be mirrored on the other islands, from where no data exists. Threatened by loss of habitat and introduced species, notably the parasitic fly <i>Philornis downsi</i> and avian pox.									X		X			
E	Woodpecker Finch	<i>Geospiza pallidus</i> Considered Vulnerable by BirdLife International, with recent significant declines on Sta Cruz likely to be mirrored on the other islands, from where no data exists. Threatened by loss of habitat and introduced species, notably the parasitic fly <i>Philornis downsi</i> and avian pox.									X		X			

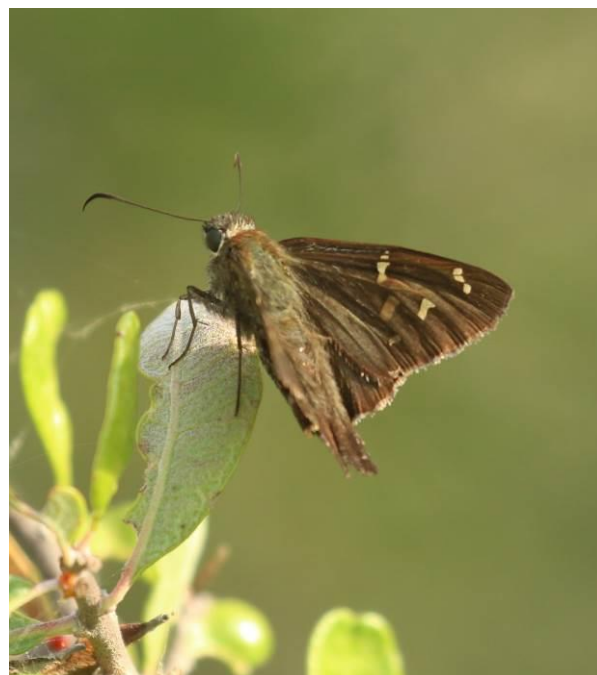
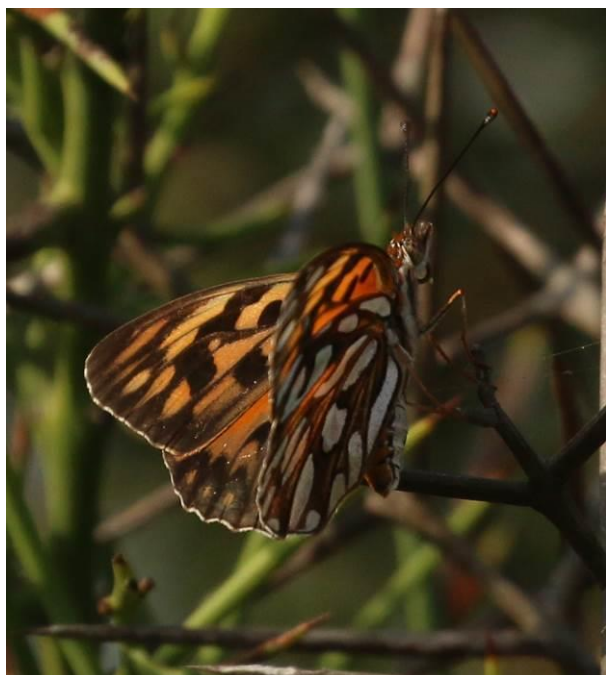
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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
REPTILES																
Family Testudinidae (Tortoises)																
E	Western Santa Cruz Giant Tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis porteri</i>									X		X	X		
		Considered Critically Endangered by IUCN, with a total population of 3500 individuals. The work of the National Park over the past decades, most notably in reducing the feral population of pigs and dogs, is showing signs of success, and the population is thought to be increasing, with animals turning up in areas where they haven't been seen for decades, including where we saw them along the roadside just outside Puerto Ayora.														
E	Volcan Alcedo Giant Tortoise	<i>Chelonoidis vandenburghi</i>						X								
		Considered Vulnerable by IUCN, with a total population of 6320 individuals.														
Family Cheloniidae (Tortoises)																
	Green Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
		Considered Endangered by IUCN. The eastern Pacific populations are split by some authorities as Black Turtle <i>Chelonia agasszii</i>														
Family Iguanidae (Iguanas & Lava Lizards)																
E	Marine Iguana (F'dina/Isabela)	<i>Amblyrhynchus cristatus cristatus</i>					X	X								
E	(Santa Cruz)	<i>Amblyrhynchus c. hassi</i>			X					X	X	X	X			
E	(Santiago/Rabida)	<i>Amblyrhynchus c. wikelskii</i>				X			X	X						
		Marine Iguana is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN.														
		A recent (2017) paper has re-assessed the taxonomy of Marine Iguanas: the population of Santiago and Rabida is now a newly-described subspecies <i>A.c.wikelskii</i> , while Isabela's ' <i>albemarlensis</i> ' subspecies is now considered a synonym of <i>cristatus</i> , also found on Fernandina.														
E	Land Iguana	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>			X			X	X	X		X		X		
		Land Iguana is listed as Vulnerable by IUCN, with a total population of fewer than 10,000 individuals														
E	Santa Cruz Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus indefatigabilis</i>			X					X	X	X	X	X		
E	Isabela Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus albemarlensis</i>					X	X								
E	Santiago Lava Lizard	<i>Microlophus jacobii</i>				X			X	X						
		Recent studies have split Galapagos Lava Lizard into the above three species.														
Family Colubridae (Snakes)																
E	Darwin's Racer	<i>Pseudalsophis darwini</i>					X									
Family Gekkonidae (House Geckos)																
	Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>											X	X		

MAMMALS																
Family Otariidae (Sealions)																
E	Galapagos Sea Lion	<i>Zalophus wollebaeki</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
		Formerly considered a subspecies of Californian Sea Lion, now recognised as an endemic species. Listed as Endangered by IUCN, with a total population estimated around 10,000 individuals, and decreasing.														
E	Galapagos Fur Seal	<i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i>			X				X							
		Listed as Endangered by IUCN. Total population estimated around 15,000 individuals, and decreasing.														
Family Baleopteridae (Rorqual Whales)																
	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>					D									
Family Delphinidae (Dolphins)																
	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>					D									
	Long-beaked Spinner Dolphin	<i>Stenella longirostris</i>					X									

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MISCELLANEOUS: TERRESTRIAL. Various other creatures seen during the trip			
E	Galapagos Sulphur	<i>Phoebis sennae</i>	The big yellow butterfly, common everywhere
E	Galapagos Blue	<i>Leptodes parrhasioides</i>	The small blue butterfly, eg around Puerto Ayora
E	Galapagos Long-tailed Skipper	<i>Urbanus galapagesis</i>	Dark brown butterfly, eg common at Tagus Cove
E	Galapagos Silver Fritillary	<i>Agraulis vanilla</i>	Medium-sized orange butterfly, eg common at Puerto Egas
N	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Big, orange butterfly, common everywhere
E	Large Painted Locust	<i>Schistocerca melanocera</i>	The very big colourful grasshopper, eg Puerto Egas
E	Galapagos Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa darwini</i>	The big shiny blue/black bee, with gingery males
I	Yellow Paper Wasp	<i>Polistes versicolor</i>	The common wasp, an introduced pest
I	Dark Paper Wasp	<i>Brachygasttra lecheguana</i>	The smaller, darker wasp, also a pest
E	Galapagos Horsefly	<i>Tabanus vittiger</i>	Biting us on the beach at Puerto Egas
E	Spotless Ladybird	<i>Cylonedra sanguinea</i>	eg Cerro Dragon
N	Giant Huntsman	<i>Heteropoda venatoria</i>	The large spider, eg on the wall at Los Manzanillo
N	Silver Argiope Spider	<i>Argiope argentata</i>	The common spider, with pale 'stabilimentum' in the webs



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FISH AND OTHER MARINE ANIMALS			
E	Sally Lightfoot Crab	<i>Grapsus grapsus</i>	Black when young, bright orange when mature
	Ghost Crab	<i>Ocypode gaudichaudii</i>	The ball-making crab living in holes on sandy beaches
	Red Spiny Lobster	<i>Panulirus penicillatus</i>	One dead on the beach at Puerto Egas
	Green Sea Urchin	<i>Lytechinus semituberculatus</i>	Common
	Hatpin Urchin	<i>Diadema mexicanum</i>	The sea urchin with long thin black spines
	Slate Pencil Urchin	<i>Eudicaris thouarsii</i>	The broken 'pencil' spines were very common on beaches
	Chocolate Chip Sea Star	<i>Nidorellia armata</i>	Large 'fat' star fish, yellowish brown with dark purple/brown 'chocolate chip' thorns
	Panamic Cushion Star	<i>Pentaceraster cumingi</i>	The fat purple and red star fish
	Diamond Sting Ray	<i>Dasyatis brevis</i>	One massive individual seen at Bartholome
	Spotted Eagle Ray	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>	One at China Hat
	Golden Cow-Ray	<i>Rhinoptera steindachneri</i>	A 'flock' of about 20 beneath the pier at Puerto Ayora
	Manta Ray	<i>Manta hamiltoni</i>	The big black and white ray jumping/flipping out at sea
E	Galapagos Shark	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	3 seen by snorkelers at Tagus Cove
	Black-tipped Shark	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	Several beneath the pier at Puerto Ayora
	White-tipped Reef Shark	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>	2 seen sleeping at Bartholome
	Longfin Halfbeak	<i>Hemiramphus saltator</i>	Swimming just below the surface, the long thin fish
	Milkfish	<i>Chanos chanos</i>	The large 'shark-like' fish at the surface, Rabida
	Pelican Barracuda	<i>Sphyræna idastes</i>	One cruising past at China Hat
E	Dusky Chub	<i>Girella freminvilli</i>	The round-faced, fat-lipped grey fish, eg Bartholome
	Yellowtail Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>	Feeding at the surface, eg Rabida and China Hat
E	Black-striped Salema	<i>Xenocys jessiae</i>	The small black-striped silver fish at eg Sullivan Bay
E	White Salema	<i>Xenichthys agassizi</i>	The small silver fish in big schools, eg Sullivan Bay
	Razor Surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus latidavies</i>	The common grey fish, black mask, yellow tail
	Barberfish	<i>Heniochus nigricoristris</i>	A pretty, dark-faced butterfly-fish at Bartholome
	King Angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>	Common: black/purple with white stripe and orange tail
E	Galapagos Ringtail Damsel	<i>Stegastes beebei</i>	The small dark fish with pale lipstick: tiny multicoloured juveniles
	Yellowtail Damsel	<i>Stegastes arcifrons</i>	Dark fish with paler head, yellow tail and yellow lips
	Giant Damsel	<i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>	Big dark adults, juveniles with luminous blue spots, eg Bartholome and China Hat
	Panamic Sergeant Major	<i>Abudefduf troschelii</i>	Bluish fish with tiger stripes
	Flag Cabrilla	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>	A large, ugly, 'army camouflaged' fish in crevices, eg Rabida
	Pacific Creolefish	<i>Paranthias colonus</i>	Pinky grey fish, orange tail and three silver dots along side
	Blue-chin Parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	The common, large blue & pink or orange & green fish.
	Cortez Rainbow Wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>	Long and multicoloured
	Mexican Hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaenia</i>	The large lump-headed fish with 'streamers'
	Blacktip Cardinalfish	<i>Apogon atradorsatus</i>	The common, red fish hiding in large groups behind rocks
	Panamic Fanged Blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachneri</i>	Common: blotchy, holds territory on top of rocks
E	Galapagos Four-eye Blenny	<i>Dialommus fuscus</i>	The 'amphibious' blenny, China Hat
	Concentric Puffer Fish	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i>	Around the boat.
	Guinea-fowl Puffer Fish	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>	Large puffer fish, dark with white spots or bright yellow
	Orangeside Triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>	The triggerfish with large pale yellowy side panels
	Galapagos Gardener Eel	<i>Taenioconger klausewitzii</i>	On the sandy bottom at China Hat
	Tiger Snake Eel	<i>Myrichthys tigrinus</i>	Two dead on the beach at Puerto Egas

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
VASCULAR PLANTS			
Family Acanthaceae			
N	Blechum	<i>Blechum pyramidatum</i>	eg Urvina Bay, highlands of Sta Cruz: similar growth form to Selfheal
I	Elytraria	<i>Elytraria imbricata</i>	'candelabra' plant growing near the lava tunnel, Puerto Ayora
Family Aizoaceae			
E	Galapagos Carpetweed	<i>Sesuvium edmonstonei</i>	Succulent, coastal, white flowers: eg Sombrero Chino
N	Common Carpetweed	<i>Sesuvium portulacastrum</i>	Succulent, larger leaves, pink flowers: eg Cerro Dragon
N	Horse Purslane	<i>Trianthemis portulacastrum</i>	Pink flowers, flat leaves, Puerto Egas
Family Amaranthaceae			
N	Spiny-headed Chaff-flower	<i>Alternanthera echinocephala</i>	Common in arid zone. eg CDRS
E	Thread-leaved Chaff-flower	<i>Alternanthera filifolia</i>	Common in arid zone. eg Las Grietas
Family Apocynaceae			
I	Golden Trumpet	<i>Allamanda cathartica</i>	Big showy yellow flowers, gardens in Puerto Ayora
I	Madagascar Periwinkle	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	A common roadside plant in Puerto Ayora: big pink flowers
Family Asteraceae			
	Seven plant genera are endemic to Galapagos, of which four are Asteraceae: we saw three of them; <i>Scalesia</i> , <i>Darwiniothamnus</i> and <i>Macraea</i>		
N	Ageratum	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Highlands: purple veined leaves
E	Lance-leaved Darwin's Shrub	<i>Darwiniothamnus lancifolius</i>	Tagus Cove
E	Thin-leaved Darwin's Shrub	<i>Darwiniothamnus tenuifolius</i>	Los Gemelos
E	Macraea	<i>Macraea laricifolia</i>	Tagus Cove
E	Pectis	<i>Pectis subsquarrosa</i>	Cerro Dragon
I	False Elephant's Foot	<i>Pseudelephantopus spiralis</i>	Highlands: vervain-like flower spikes
E	Radiate-headed Scalesia	<i>Scalesia affinis</i>	Tagus Cove
E	Crocker's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia crockeri</i>	Near to the ferry port on Baltra: endemic to that island
E	Heller's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia helleri var santacruzii</i>	Planted around Sta Cruz, frilly leaves: endemic to Sta Cruz
E	Tree Scalesia	<i>Scalesia pedunculata</i>	Los Gemelos
E	Stewart's Scalesia	<i>Scalesia stewartii</i>	Seen growing on the hillside at Bartholome
I	Nodeweed	<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i>	Manzanillo Ranch
Family Avicenniaceae			
N	Black Mangrove	<i>Avicennia germinans</i>	eg Rabida: long leaves, pointed end, sturdy tree
Family Bataceae			
N	Saltwort	<i>Batis maritima</i>	The succulent saltwort, eg behind the beach at Cerro Dragon
Family Bombacaceae			
I	Balsa	<i>Ochroma pyramidale</i>	Agricultural zone of Sta Cruz
Family Boraginaceae			
N	Yellow Cordia	<i>Cordia lutea</i>	Big yellow flowers
N	Seaside Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>	Sombrero Chino
E	Gray Matplant	<i>Tiquilia galapagoa</i>	Bartholome: lower growing, with larger flowering clusters
E	Gray Matplant	<i>Tiquilia nesiotica</i>	Bartholome: slightly more erect, with smaller clusters
N	Smooth-stemmed Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia psilostachya</i>	Smaller plant, yellow fruits, arid zone eg Puerto Ayora
E	White-haired Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia pubescens</i>	Large shrub, eg Around Puerto Ayora, Sta Cruz
E	Rufous-haired Tournefortia	<i>Tournefortia rufo-sericea</i>	Large shrub, eg Highlands, Sta Cruz
E	Galapagos Cordia	<i>Varronia (was Cordia) leucophlyctis</i>	Cerro Dragon
E	Revolute Cordia	<i>Varronia (was Cordia) revoluta</i>	Tagus Cove
Family Bromeliaceae			
E	Galapagos Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia insularis</i>	Los Gemelos
Family Burseraceae			
N	Palo Santo (Incense Tree)	<i>Bursera graveolens</i>	The common tree of the arid zone
E	Galapagos Incense Tree	<i>Bursera malacophylla</i>	The dwarf Palo Santo on Baltra & North Seymour
Family Cactaceae			
	Of the seven plant genera are endemic to Galapagos, two are Cactaceae: <i>Brachycereus</i> and <i>Jasminocereus</i> . The seventh endemic genus is <i>Sicyocaulis</i> , a Cucurbitaceae that has not been seen for 40+ years.		
E	Lava Cactus	<i>Brachycereus nesioticus</i>	Sullivan Bay, Punta Espinosa, Bartholome
E	Candelabra Cactus	<i>Jasminocereus thouarsii</i>	Elizabeth Bay (var <i>sclerocarpus</i>), Sta Cruz (var <i>delicatus</i>)

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	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
E		<i>Opuntia echios</i> var. <i>echios</i>	Baltra & Cerro Dragon
E		<i>Opuntia echios</i> var. <i>gigantea</i>	Puerto Ayora
E		<i>Opuntia echios</i> var. <i>zacana</i>	North Seymour
E		<i>Opuntia galapageia</i> var. <i>profusa</i>	Rabida
E		<i>Opuntia galapageia</i> var. <i>galapageia</i>	Santiago
E		<i>Opuntia insularis</i>	Tagus Cove
Family Caricaceae			
I	Papaya	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Sta Cruz highlands
Family Celastraceae			
N	Maytenus	<i>Maytenus octogona</i>	Coastal: eg Puerto Ayora, Cerro Dragon
Family Chenopodiaceae			
N	Atriplex	<i>Atriplex peruviana</i>	Cerro Dragon
Family Cleomaceae			
I	Cleome	<i>Cleome viscosa</i>	Common yellow-flowered weed in the arid/transitional zone
Family Combretaceae			
N	Button Mangrove	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	'ordinary' leaves, rounded 'button' fruits. Eg Las Grietas walk
N	White Mangrove	<i>Laguncularia racemosa</i>	long leaves, rounded end. Eg Punta Espinosa
Family Commelinaceae			
N	Dayflower	<i>Commelina diffusa</i>	Los Gemelos
Family Convolvulaceae			
E	Narrow-leaved Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea linearifolia</i>	China Hat
I	Blue Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea nil</i>	Eg Urbina Bay
N	Beach Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea pes-caprae</i>	Large leaves, purple flower, on the beach eg Puerto Egas
N	Pink Morning Glory	<i>Ipomoea triloba</i>	Eg Urbina Bay
N	Hairy Merremia	<i>Merremia aegyptiaca</i>	Common in the Arid and Transition zones, eg Rabida
Family Cyperaceae			
E	Andersson's Sedge	<i>Cyperus anderssonii</i>	Eg Urbina Bay
Family Euphorbiaceae			
E	Galapagos Croton	<i>Croton scouleri</i>	Common in the arid zone, eg Rabida
E	Chamaesyce	<i>Euphorbia</i> (was <i>Chamaesyce</i>) <i>amplexicaulis</i>	Bartholome
I	Asthma Plant	<i>Euphorbia</i> (was <i>Chamaesyce</i>) <i>hirta</i>	Weed in the lava tunnel carpark, Puerto Ayora
E	Spurred Chamaesyce	<i>Euphorbia</i> (was <i>Chamaesyce</i>) <i>viminea</i>	Shrubby plant with short, narrow leaves, Tagus Cove
N	Poison Apple	<i>Hippomane mancinella</i>	Very popular with tortoises, eg Urbina Bay, highlands of Sta Cruz
I	Castor Bean	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Puerto Ayora
Family Fabaceae			
I	Butterfly Flower	<i>Bauhinia monandra</i>	Urban areas: pink flowers, bilobed leaves
I	Flamboyant	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Urban areas:red flowers, mimosa-like leaves, large 'bean' pod
N	Tick Trefoil	<i>Desmodium incanum</i>	Pink flowered, eg Los Gemelos
I	Flame Tree	<i>Erythrina velutina</i>	Sta Cruz: the living fenceposts
N	Palo Verde (=Jerusalem Thorn)	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Long fine leaves, big thorns: arid zone, eg Baltra
N	Matazarno	<i>Piscidia carthagenensis</i>	Puerto Ayora lava tube
I	Candle Senna	<i>Senna alata</i>	Spikes of yellow flowers, Puerto Ayora
I	Sicklepod	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	Large yellow-flowered 'pea' at the roadside, transitional zone
N		<i>Stylosanthes sympodialis</i>	The low-growing, small orange 'pea', Puerto Egas
E	Galapagos Acacia	<i>Vachellia</i> (=Acacia) <i>rorudiana</i>	Arid zone, eg Urbina
Family Lozaceae			
N	Stickyleaf	<i>Mentzelia aspera</i>	eg Santiago. Yellow flowers, leaves like velcro
Family Malvaceae			
N	Bastardia	<i>Bastardia viscosa</i>	Common in arid/transitional zones, yellow flowers
E	Darwin's Cotton	<i>Gossypium darwinii</i>	Common in the arid zone, eg Cerro Dragon, Urbina Bay
I	Chinese Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Agricultural areas and Puerto Ayora, Sta Cruz
I	Sida	<i>Sida ciliaris</i>	Common roadside weed, Sta Cruz
Family Meliaceae			
I	Spanish Cedar	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	Sta Cruz agricultural zone, the big timber tree

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Family Molluginaceae			
E	Crocker's Mollugo	<i>Mollugo crockeri</i>	The pioneer plant amongst the lava on Sullivan's Bay: hairy
E	Mollugo	<i>Mollugo flavescens</i>	Eg at Urbina Bay: not hairy
Family Myrtaceae			
E	Galapagos Guava	<i>Psidium galapageium</i>	Los Gemelos: iron wood, covered in epiphytes
I	Guava	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Agricultural areas of Sta Cruz. Very invasive
Family Nolanaceae			
E	Galapagos Clubleaf	<i>Nolana galapagensis</i>	North Seymour: the green bush with frigatebird nests on
Family Nyctaginaceae			
N	Saltbush	<i>Cryptocarpus pyriformis</i>	Very common in the arid zone: eg Rabida
Family Onagraceae			
N	False Loosestrife	<i>Ludwigia leptocarpa</i>	Yellow flower at Los Gemelos
Family Orchidaceae			
E	Buttonhole Orchid	<i>Epidendrum spicatum</i>	Los Gemelos: leaves only, epiphytic
Family Passifloraceae			
E	Colinvaux's Passion-flower	<i>Passiflora colinvauxii</i>	Eg Los Gemelos
I	Passion Fruit	<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	Sta Cruz highlands
N	Running Pop	<i>Passiflora foetida</i>	Eg Las Grietas walk
Family Piperaceae			
E	Galapagos Peperomia	<i>Peperomia galapagensis</i>	Sta Cruz highlands: epiphytic
Family Poaceae (amongst many others)			
N	Feather Fingergrass	<i>Chloris virgata</i>	Eg Puerto Ayora
I	Elephant Grass	<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>	Sta Cruz highlands
Family Portulacaceae			
E	Galapagos Purslane	<i>Portulaca howellii</i>	Eg North Seymour, large yellow flowers
N	Common Purslane	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i>	Small yellow flowers, eg around Puerto Ayora
Family Rhamnaceae			
E	Spiny Bush	<i>Scutia spicata</i>	Common, spiny bush
Family Rhizophoraceae			
N	Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	large rubbery leaves. eg Elizabeth Bay, German Bay
Family Rosaceae			
I	Hill Raspberry	<i>Rubus niveus</i>	Sta Cruz highlands, very invasive weed
Family Rubiaceae			
N	Milkberry	<i>Chiococca alba</i>	Los Gemelos
I	Quinine Tree	<i>Cinchona succirubra</i>	Los Gemelos
Family Rutaceae			
N	Cat's Claw	<i>Zanthoxylum fagara</i>	In highlands of Sta Cruz: covered in epiphytes
Family Simaroubaceae			
E	Bitter Bush	<i>Castela galapageia</i>	Arid zone, eg Urbina Bay
Family Solanaceae			
I	Angel's Trumpet	<i>Brugmansia candida</i>	Sta Cruz highlands
E	Galapagos Shore Petunia	<i>Exedeconus miersii</i>	Eg Bartholome
N	Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis angulata</i>	Urbina Bay: 10-angled calyx
E	Galapagos Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis galapagoensis</i>	Urbina Bay: 5-angled calyx
Family Sterculiaceae			
N	Waltheria	<i>Waltheria ovata</i>	Common in arid zone: yellow flowers, popular with bees
Family Verbenaceae			
I	Multicoloured Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Eg highlands of San Cristobal. Invasive weed
E	Galapagos Lantana	<i>Lantana peduncularis</i>	Small white lantana, arid zone, eg Rabida.
N	Glorybower	<i>Clerodendrum molle</i>	Sta Cruz highlands
I	Brazilian Tea	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>	Vervain-like, transition zone and highlands
Family Viscaceae			
E	Galapagos Mistletoe	<i>Phoradendron henslovii</i>	Sta Cruz highlands
Family Zygophyllaceae			
N	Puncture Weed	<i>Tribulus cistoides</i>	Yellow flowers, spiny fruits, common in the arid zone, eg Cerro Dragon. Like Silverweed

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