

The Blue Planet: The Galapagos Islands



Made famous by Darwin's Voyage of the Beagle of 1831 onwards, the Galapagos Islands are collectively, a giant National Park and a UNESCO and World Heritage Site. The word *Galapagos* is named after a 'giant tortoise' and relates to the Province of Galapagos in the Archipelago, West of Ecuador and in the Pacific Ocean, comprising 18 major islands.

Biologically unique as a confluence of currents, the islands are renowned for their diverse marine ecosystem, tame wildlife and abundance of it, albeit highly protected. Marine and land iguanas patrol the shores, along with the Sally Lightfoot Crab and other endemic or indigenous species; notably the Giant Tortoise, which is commonly known to stop traffic whilst crossing the 'road'. A rich array of Shark species inhabit the shallows, hidden within the low level mangroves. Overhead the sky is invariably bedecked with numerous unusual seabirds, such as the vocal Waved Albatross, neo-Prehistoric Magnificent Frigate Bird, and comical Blue Footed Booby and Brown Noddy.

This illustrated talk features good quality photographic reproductions, interspersed with short clips of the unique and wonderful wildlife that adorns this picturesque set of islands.