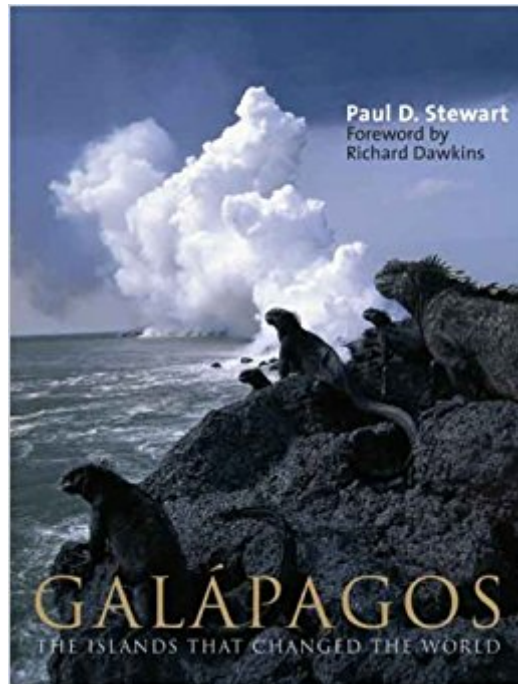




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# GalÃipagos: The Islands That Changed The World



## Synopsis

Rocky, fragile, beautiful, strange—the Galápagos archipelago is unlike any other place on earth. Its geology, its unique flora and fauna, and its striking role in human history intersect in surprising and dynamic ways. This book is the most wide-ranging and beautifully illustrated book available on the famous islands. Not since Darwin's *Naturalist's Voyage* has a book combined so much scientific and historic information with firsthand accounts that bring the Galápagos to life. *Galápagos: The Islands That Changed the World* describes how tragedy and murderous pirates curtailed settlement of the islands and how the islands' pristine nature, spectacular geology, and defining isolation inspired Darwin's ideas about evolution. The book explores the diverse land and marine habitats that shelter Galápagos species and considers the islands' importance today as a frontier for science and a refuge for true wilderness. The book's extensive gazetteer provides details about endemic plants and animals as well as travel advice about visitors' sites, diving, photography, when to go, and what to take. Vividly illustrated throughout, this guide is an indispensable reference for natural history enthusiasts, armchair travelers, and island visitors alike.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This group of volcanic islands lying along the equator in the Pacific Ocean are famous for their rare species of fauna and flora. Stewart and five coauthors first decide the geological journey that sets each island's lifespan from volcanic birth to death and burial. Then they narrate what they label "the human history of the Galapagos" and explain how Charles Darwin revealed the islands as a land of

riches and triggered a revolution of scientific thought. In the next three chapters the authors introduce the wild occupants of the islands--giant tortoises, iguanas, cavefish, champion mockingbirds, Galapagos hawks, short-eared owls, lava lizards, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, and ghost crabs, to name a few, along with many rare cacti, flowers, and trees. The authors also discuss the importance and fragility of the islands. Add to this 150 magnificent color photographs, and you have a special treat of a book. George Cohen

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"This group of volcanic islands lying along the equator in the Pacific Ocean are famous for their rare species of fauna and flora. Stewart and five coauthors first decide the geological journey that sets each island's lifespan from volcanic birth to death and burial. Then they narrate what they label 'the human history of the Galapagos' and explain how Charles Darwin revealed the islands as a land of riches and triggered a revolution of scientific thought. . . . A special treat of a book."

"Booklist" "Want to visit the Galapagos Island, but haven't managed it yet? This book, with its beautiful pictures and interesting text, will either make you think you've been there or make you arrange your plane tickets."

"Ecology" "I have been to the Galapagos and as I read this book I found myself 'walking the paths' again. Stewart offers an enjoyable and complete overview of the islands."

"Noble Proctor, author of A Field Guide to North Atlantic Wildlife" "The definitive single volume on the Galapagos that ecotourists and readers from all walks of life have been awaiting."

"Margaret Lowman, author of Life in the Treetops and co-author of It's a Jungle Up There: More Tales from the Treetops" "To anyone contemplating a visit to Las Encantadas (Galapagos), the Gazetteer alone is worth the price of this book. Paul Stewart's Galapagos will be my treasured companion on my next visit, and I shall take along an extra copy to present to the boat's library. If you are not able to go in person, reading this book and savouring its pictures is, if not a substitute, a delight to be going on with."

"Richard Dawkins (from the foreword)

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Needed good reference for upcoming trip. This book served the purpose perfectly. History, habitat, birds, fish, mammals and geography (and geology) all succinctly reviewed. Illustrations and photography "on the money". Will take it with us for daily reference. Highly recommend this book as a single source for "the big picture" on the Galapagos Islands.

Well researched, more of a reference book than a travel guide, more in depth on the science and nature.

bought it as a gift and the recipient really enjoys as a precursor to their trip.

I am going to the Galapagos Islands next month and this was a great introduction to the geology, plant, animal, and sea life of the Islands. The photos were incredible and enhanced the text. I had a general idea of the characteristics of the islands but Stewart's book provided great examples of the plants and wildlife endemic to each island and why they differ from island to island. It was a fascinating read and I feel much better prepared for my bucket list adventure to this wonder of the world.

There are many books on the Galápagos Islands but Paul Stewart's work is certainly one of the most appealing and true representations of this famous spot in the Pacific Ocean. Naturally, Darwin occupies an important part of Mr. Stewart's prose, but equally impressive is the space given to extraordinary photos. This is not surprising given that Paul Stewart is first and foremost a photographer. Whether this book can finally dispel the doubts of some people about evolution vs creation is anybody's guess but it will not be for lack of authentic facts as described by the author. The book is a real page-turner.

Good Intro- I hope to take my daughter, her wife, and my granddaughter there.

Love it!

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