Galápagos Islands


Burningham, L., Dowl, A., & Grosberg, M. *Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands*. Lonely Planet, 2009. Provides tools to create your own adventure, from browsing crafts to climbing volcanoes, to swimming with penguins; includes info on hiking, biking, surfing and kayaking; covers indigenous cultures; identifies sustainable options. Paperback, 432 pgs.


Caputo, Lorraine. *Ecuador and Galápagos*. Viva Publishing Network, 2014. Use this book to trek through the Andes, relax on hidden beaches or in jungle villages, party at local festivals, and get the most out of your time and money. Paperback, 556 pgs.


De Roy, Tui. *Galápagos: Islands Born of Fire*. Princeton University Press, 2010. De Roy is a wildlife photographer and writer, has spent her life exploring the Galápagos Islands, and makes a plea for their conservation. 245 full-color images capture the diversity of wildlife and habitats; ten photo essays showcase the islands’ birds, mammals and reptiles. Hardcover, 168 pgs.


Grant, K.T., & Estes, G.B. *Darwin in Galápagos: Footsteps to a New World*. Princeton University Press, 2009. Recreates Darwin’s historic visit to the islands; identifies the unique animals and plants he observed; describes the natural history and changes to the islands since his time; includes photos, drawings and maps of Darwin’s island itinerary. Hardcover, 440 pgs.

Grant, P.R., & Grant, B.R. *40 Years of Evolution: Darwin's Finches on Daphne Major Island*. Princeton University Press, 2014. Evolutionary biologists Peter and Rosemary Grant uncover the causes and consequences of events leading to evolutionary changes in species by continuously tracking finch populations over a period of 40 years. Hardcover, 432 pgs.


Insight Guides. **Ecuador & Galápagos.** Insight Guides, 2010. Covers entire country, catering to diverse interests; cross-references principal sites to full-color maps throughout; comprehensive history; info on transport, accommodation, dining, shopping, language, etc. Paperback, 368 pgs.

Johnson, Paul. **Darwin: Portrait of a Genius.** Viking Adult, 2012. Spans from Darwin’s birth to his voyage aboard the Beagle, to the long-delayed publication of his masterpiece; delves into what made him a visionary scientist, and into the tragic flaws that led him to support the eugenics movement. Hardcover, 176 pgs.

Krahenbuhl, Peter. **Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands.** Hunter Pub Inc., 2003. Practical travel info and activities designed for all, regardless of age or ability; info on history, culture, geography and climate; places to stay and eat; transportation; useful websites and tourism contacts. Maps feature walking and driving tours. Paperback, 480 pgs.

Kricher, John. **Galápagos: A Natural History.** Princeton University Press, 2006. A detailed natural history that looks at the diversity of life and explains the geology of the islands; describes Darwin's adventures and observations; assesses conservation efforts and challenges; includes a detailed guide explaining what you will find on the various islands. Paperback, 256 pgs.

Kunstaetter, D., & Kunstaetter, R. **Ecuador & Galápagos Islands.** Footprint Handbooks, 2013. Detailed information on where to go and what to do, from spending the day in the Andes to experiencing the wonder of the Galápagos. Contains detailed itineraries and maps, suggestions on where to eat and sleep, and off-the-beaten path experiences. Pocket-size. Paperback, 288 pgs.

Kunstaetter, D., & Kunstaetter, R. **Quito & Galápagos Islands.** Footprint Handbooks, 2011. Advice on how to get around; info on where to eat, sleep and drink; detailed street maps of Quito; advice on choosing a Galápagos tour. Extracted from Footprint’s Peru, Bolivia & Ecuador and South American Handbooks. Pocket-size. Paperback, 120 pgs.

Let’s Go Inc. **Ecuador: Including the Galápagos Islands.** Let’s Go Publications, 2004. Extensive coverage of Galápagos, national parks, community-based tourism and volunteering; tips to see the sights and experience the culture; info on lodging, food, attractions; suggestions for hiking, rafting, viewing wildlife. Maps of cities, towns and the outdoors. Paperback, 384 pgs.

Maddicks, Russell. **Ecuador.** Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture. Kuperard, 2014. Provides an insider’s view of the people, their history, food and culture. Designed to help foodies get the most out of the menu, and show expats, volunteers and visitors how to meet and get on well with Ecuadorians. Paperback, 168 pgs.

McMullen, Conley. **Flowering Plants of the Galápagos.** Cornell University Press, 1999. Introduces botanical history of the islands; provides a map and list of common plants; offers descriptions, ranges, islands inhabited and habitats; contains photos of various plants and of the islands themselves; aids in plant identification. Paperback, 384 pgs.


Nicholls, Henry. **The Galápagos: A Natural History.** Basic Books, 2014. Discusses the natural and human histories of the Galápagos, as well as the diverse landscapes, plants and animals. Draws attention to challenges facing the islands, showing that what happens here reflects the future of our relationship with nature and the fate of our planet. Hardcover, 224 pgs.


Pearson, D., Beletsky, L., & Barrett, P. **Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands.** Travellers’ Wildlife Guides. Interlink Pub Group, 2010. Illustrations, identification and location of most common animals; info on ecology, behavior and conservation of animals; info on habitats and common plants; brief descriptions of most frequented parks and reserves. Paperback, 475 pgs.


Schermerhorn, Jo Ann. **Travel with Me to…The Galápagos Islands.** PublishAmerica, 2007. A personal diary that chronicles the adventures of a lady of an advanced age who is just beginning to experience the world alone after thirty-seven years of marriage. Written specifically to encourage older females to take a chance and travel alone without fear. Paperback, 78 pgs.


Stewart, Paul D. **Galápagos: The Islands That Changed the World.** Yale University Press,
2007. Explores the diverse land and marine habitats; provides info on endemic plants and animals; offers travel advice; covers the geology and history of the islands, and discusses their importance and fragility. 150 color photographs. Paperback, 240 pgs.


Westwood, Ben. *Galápagos Islands*. Moon Handbooks. Avalon Travel Publishing, 2012. How to get to the islands, how long it will take, and where to stop; info on transportation, cruises, diving, and land tours; background on the diverse wildlife, including where and how to see each animal. Paperback, 160 pgs.

Wittmer, Margret. *Floreana: A Woman's Pilgrimage to the Galápagos*. Moyer Bell, 2013. The first-hand account of Margret Wittmer, who left Germany to settle the island of Floreana with her family in 1932. The 56 years recalled in this memoir are full of exotic adventures and the joys and tragedies of a lifetime. Paperback, 240 pgs.

Wohlfoth, Dawn (Ed.). *Quito, Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands*. Live Guides, Inc., 2005. Contains extensive coverage of the Galápagos, with reviews and maps; details several hotels in Quito, plus the top eco-lodges and tours in the Amazon rainforest; offers tips on visiting the jungle; info on rafting, climbing, riding, biking and hiking around Quito. Paperback, 256 pgs.

Wolff, M., & Gardener, M. (Eds.). *The Role of Science for Conservation*. Routledge, 2012. Integrates the knowledge and reflections of 30 scientists, many of whom have dedicated a substantial part of their professional life to the Galápagos - to the sustainable management of its resources and to the conservation of its biodiversity. Hardcover, 320 pgs.

By Charles Darwin:
  - *On The Origin of Species*
  - *The Autobiography of Charles Darwin*
The Descent of Man
The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals
The Voyage of the Beagle
The Galápagos Islands were the source of Darwin’s theory of evolution and remain a priceless living laboratory for scientists today. Worldwide fame has turned the Galápagos Islands into one of the most popular tourist destinations. Increased visitors as well as rapid human development bring higher demand for imported goods and fossil fuels, introduction of invasive species, and more demand for qualified labor (which comes primarily from mainland Ecuador), migration, and infrastructure needs.

The Galápagos Islands area situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km from the Ecuadorian coast. This archipelago and its immense marine reserve is known as the unique ‘living museum and showcase of evolution’. The islands are surrounded by the Galapagos Marine Reserve which was created in 1986 (70,000 km²) and extended to its current area (133,000 km²) in 1998, making it one of the largest marine reserves in the world.