



GALAPAGOS FACT SHEET

GALAPAGOS READING LIST¹

By Darwin

Voyage of the Beagle There are many inexpensive paperback editions available as well as online (<http://www.literature.org/authors/darwin-charles/the-voyage-of-the-beagle>).

The Beagle Diary R.D. Keynes, editor. Along with his scientific journals, Darwin kept a general diary of his travels and impressions that he sent home to his family when the occasion permitted. He used this as the basis for *The Voyage* but it records his impressions fresh as he experienced them, without the filter of retrospection. Cambridge University Press.

On the Origin of Species There are many inexpensive paperback editions available, but it is always best to read the first edition. *The Origin* is a big, heavy, intimidating volume, but there is a very nice abridged version that is beautifully illustrated and very accessible. It is edited by Richard Leaky.

About Darwin

Charles Darwin: Voyaging. Volume 1 of a Biography Janet Browne. A large, well-written, and highly readable biography of Darwin from birth through the voyage of the Beagle and the first few years back in England. Alfred A. Knopf.

Darwin: The Life of a Tormented Evolutionist Adrian Desmond and James Moore. Among the very best biographies of Darwin, it is big, intimidating, and scholarly, but extremely well written and easy to read. Warner Books.

Darwin, His Daughter, and Human Evolution Randal Keynes. A history of the development of Darwin's ideas set against the background of his family life. Written by Darwin's great-great grandson. Riverhead Books.

Exploration and Human History

My Father's Island: A Galapagos Quest Johanna Angermeyer. The Angermeyers were among those drawn to Galapagos following publication of Beebe's book, and they are one of the most prominent families in Puerto Ayora. Viking.

Galapagos: Worlds End William Beebe. This book recounts his first expedition to Galapagos in 1922. He was the first person to describe the Galapagos as beautiful and his

¹ From a list compiled by Dr. Robert Rothman, Resources for Independent Thinking. For more information, contact: rhrsbi@rit.edu

book led directly to the colonization of the Galapagos by Europeans in the 1930's. Among the many people inspired to settle in Galapagos were the Ritters and the Witmers (see the Witmer and Treherne references). Originally published by G. P. Putnam and Sons, it has been reprinted in paperback by Dover.

The Galapagos Affair John Treherne. An investigation into the conflict on Isla Floreana in the 1930's between the eccentric philosopher Friedrich Ritter, the Witmer family, and Baroness Eloise Wagner de Bosquet, self-styled "Empress of Galapagos." Random House.

Floreana Margaret Witmer. The story of the Witmers' attempts to settle in Galapagos. Includes their account of the famous Galapagos affair. Anthony Nelson.

Natural History

Galapagos: A Natural History 2nd ed. M.H. Jackson. If you are going to read one book for the Galapagos, this is it. University of Calgary Press.

The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time Jonathan Weiner. A Pulitzer Prize-winning popular account of the work of Rosemary and Peter Grant and its place in modern evolutionary theory. Very accessible. Alfred A. Knopf.

Lonesome George: The Life and Loves of a Conservation Icon Henry Nicholls. Details the efforts of conservationists to preserve the Galapagos' unique biodiversity and illustrates how their experiences and discoveries are echoed the world over. Lonesome George's story draws together the islands' geology, evolution, history of human exploitation, and imperiled future. McMillan Science.

Birds

A Guide to the Birds of Galapagos Islands Isabel Castro and Antonia Phillips. Princeton University Press.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Galapagos Michael Harris. Collins.

Reptiles

Restoring the Tortoise Dynasty: The Decline and Recovery of the Galapagos Giant Tortoise Godfrey Merlen. A large-format, nicely photographed book describing the tortoise conservation efforts of the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park. Available from the [Charles Darwin Foundation](#) .

The Gigantic Land Tortoises of the Galapagos Archipelago John Van Denburgh. A recent reprint of Van Denburgh's classic 1914 monographs on giant tortoises based on material obtained by the 1905-06 California Academy of Sciences expedition to the Galapagos. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles.

Marine Life

Reef Fish Identification: Galapagos Paul Humann. Probably the best and most complete guide to Galapagos fishes. New World Publications, Inc. and Libri Mundi.

A Field Guide to Sea Stars and other Echinoderms of Galapagos and ***A Field Guide to Marine Mollusks of Galapagos*** Cleveland P. Hickman, Jr. Echinoderms and mollusks are a conspicuous part of the Galapagos snorkeling experience. These handbooks are easy and accessible. Along with the Humann book, these are a definite “must-bring.” Sugar Spring Press.

Plants

Flowering Plants of the Galapagos Conley K. McMullen. All of the illustrations are photographs rather than line illustrations, making the identifications much easier, and the text is easily accessible to those with no background in botany. Cornell University Press.

Coffee Table Books

Galapagos: Islands Lost in Time Tui de Roy. De Roy is a Galapagos native and world-famous photographer. Penguin Books.

Galapagos: The Flow of Wildness 2 vols. Elliot Porter. A Sierra Club book with beautiful photographs and excerpts by famous Galapagos visitors. Sierra Club/Ballantine Books.

Portraits of Galapagos Tui De Roy and Mark Jones. More fabulous photos. Imprenta Mariscal, Ecuador.

Ocean, Earth, Wind, and Fire Jonathan R. Green. A stunning collection of photographs that shows off the animal, plant, and scenic aspects of Galapagos. Imprenta Mariscal, Ecuador.

Islands and Island Biogeography

The Theory of Island Biogeography Robert H. MacArthur and Edward O. Wilson. This book was the first comprehensive theoretical explication of spread, distribution, and extinction of island life. Not only did it influence how biologists think about islands, but it also set the tone for debates over conservation, especially with respect to ecological reserves, over the next few decades. Princeton University Press.

The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions David Quammen. This is an excellent introduction to island biogeography, as begun by MacArthur and Wilson, and the controversy over ecological reserves.

Volcanoes and Geology

Geology and Petrology of the Galapagos Islands A.R. McBirney and Howel Williams. The classic book on Galapagos geology. The Geological Society of America.

Ecuador

Ecuador and Galapagos Tony Perrottet. Insight Guides, Houghton Mifflin.

Literature

Life on the Rocks: The Galapagos Annie Dillard. One of a collection of natural history essays by a Pulitzer Prize-winning author. In “Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters” by Dillard. Harper Perennial.

The Encantadas Herman Melville. Melville visited the Galapagos some years after Darwin and recorded his impressions in a series of sketches.

Galapagos Kurt Vonnegut. The million-year long story, narrated by a ghost, of a very eccentric group of humans stranded in the Galapagos.

Ecotourism

Ecotourism and Sustainable Development: Who Owns Paradise? Martha Honey. The first of these studies is an excellent chapter on the current status and challenges of ecotourism in Galapagos. Island Press.

Travel Guides

A Traveler’s Guide to the Galapagos Islands Barry Boyce, 4th Edition. A book devoted to trip preparation written by the founder of a well-known travel company, Galapagos Travel. Printed by Hunter Publishing.



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