

Galapagos Islands

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My Project: Create a Pathfinder

- Find websites with maps that show on which islands species of plants and wildlife can be found.
- Find accurate information online about the various plant and wildlife species found in the Galapagos.
- Create an annotated pathfinder wiki for others to use and add on.

Results

- At least 20 tour operator websites either with interactive maps describing plants and wildlife, or descriptions of species and where they are found.
- Commercial tour operator websites are the easiest to find using popular search engines. It's not immediately obvious that they are commercial sites.
- How reliable is this information? Who wrote it, and when? What are their sources?

Results, cont.

- The best websites for reliable information come from non-profit organizations that work to protect the Galapagos ecosystem.
- Other good websites include those from researchers affiliated with a university or some other organization.

Conclusions

- The abundance of tour operator websites with questionable information justifies the need for a pathfinder.
- Websites with maps of the Galapagos are not necessarily as trustworthy as many of those without maps.
- Simplest indicator of a tour operator website: advertising on the page.
- Plenty of trustworthy information to make your own map!

A Guide to Online Maps of the Flora and Fauna of the Galapagos

- **Charles Darwin Foundation**

<http://www.darwinfoundation.org/en/>

an international non-profit research organization for conservation of the Galápagos ecosystem

- On-line library with species fact sheets (native and introduced), journal articles, research papers
- Written by scientists

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- **Galapagos Conservancy**

<http://www.galapagos.org/2008/>

an organization dedicated to protection of the Galapagos Islands; collectively its members provide the largest amount of private funding for conservation

- Flora and fauna information
- Ecosystem restoration, captive breeding and repatriation
- Invasive species control

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- **Galapagos Conservation Trust**

<http://www.gct.org/map.html>

a UK registered charity that raises funds for the Galapagos Islands

- Interactive map describing each island
- Floral and fauna information
- History
- Position papers

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- **Galapagos Geology on the Web**

<http://www.geo.cornell.edu/geology/Galapagos.html>

written and maintained by W.M. White of the Department of Geological Sciences at Cornell University

- Mostly geology, climate, oceanography, history
- Some ecology of the islands
- Clickable map of the islands leading to geological information about each island

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- **Parque Nacional Galapagos Ecuador**

<http://www.galapagospark.org/png/index.php>

website for Galapagos National Park

- Geography, human history, ecology
- Interactive map showing park zones, Marine Reserve zones
- Detailed information for guides: locations and types of landings for each island (wet or dry), plants, animals, geological formations along each of the island trails.

Baltra



- Flew AeroGal, airline of the Galapagos, to Isla Baltra airport
- Some lazy sea lions greet us before we board the boat



North Seymour



- A dry landing on the rocks. Taking the zodiac from our boat to the shore.



- Our first marine iguana!

North Seymour



- Largest colony of frigate birds
- Nesting frigate birds and blue-footed boobies
- Lava gulls and Galapagos gulls
- Sea lions

North Seymour



North Seymour



Rabida



- Red beach
- Nesting brown pelicans
- Cactus forest
- Sea lions



Rabida



Rabida



Santiago



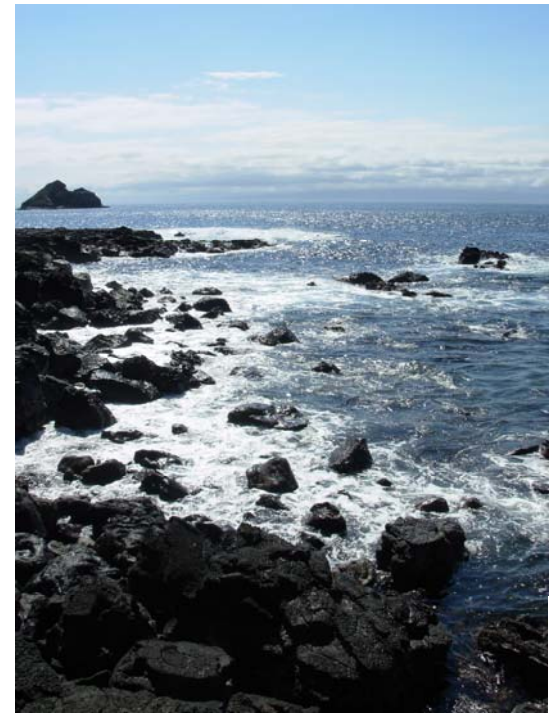
Santiago



Sombrero Chino



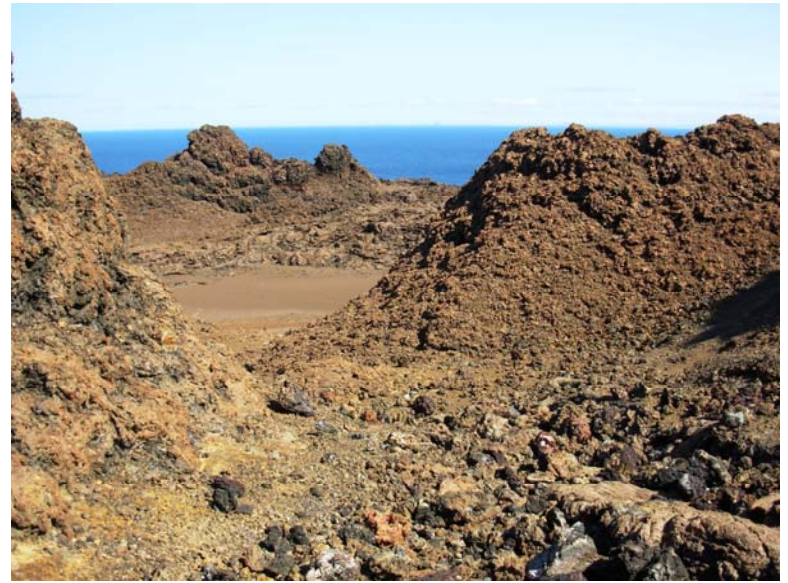
Sombrero Chino



Bartolome



Bartolome



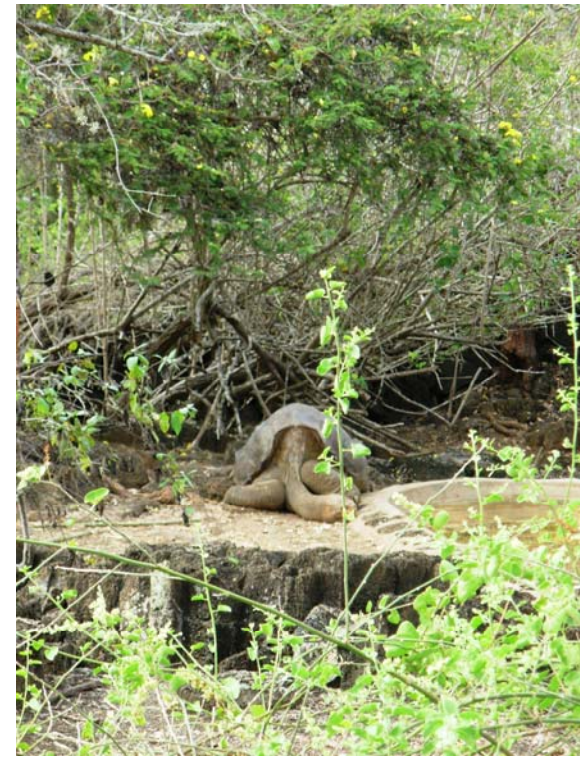
Santa Fe



Santa Cruz



Santa Cruz



Santa Cruz



South Plaza

