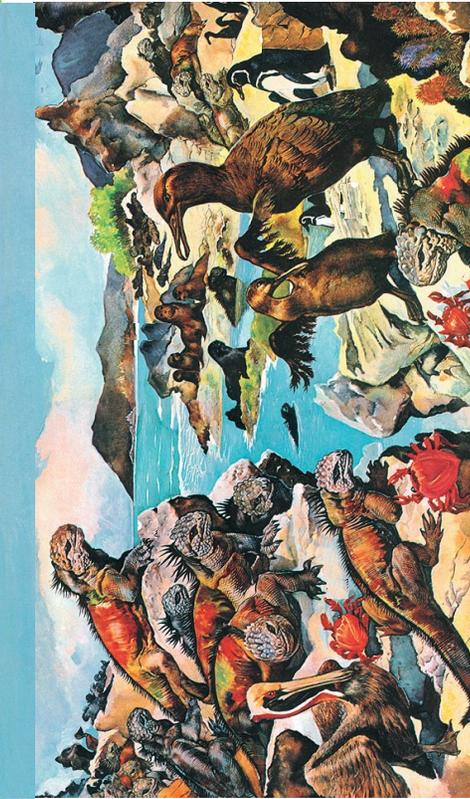


# Animals of the



# Galapagos Islands



## Giant Tortoise {dome shelled tortoise}

The largest and best known of the land fauna, the giant tortoises are slow-moving reptilian herbivores. They eat a variety of plants including grass, cactus and shrub.

They can go for several months without food or water, but can drink huge amounts when the opportunity arises.



## Lava Lizard

Small colorful lizards are found throughout the major islands. There are seven recognized species, notable for their different sizes and color. Females are plain with red “check” markings. They feed on plants, small invertebrates and on occasion the young of their own species. Virtually every other predator on the island seems to eat them too.



## Marine Iguana

The only marine-going lizard in the world. It is normally seen basking on land on the dark lava coasts to raise their body temperatures so it can enter the water to feed. They are vegetarians mostly surviving on a strict diet of marine algae. Males are extremely territorial during the breeding season and females fight over nesting grounds.



## Green Turtle

The species of turtle most commonly seen in Galapagos. Males are smaller than females and with a longer tail. From November to February groups of males can be seen trying to mate with a single female in lagoons, beaches and shallow coastal areas. Egg-laying occurs year around with a peak in December.



## Galapagos Penguin

One of the smallest species in the world standing about 19 inches tall and has a distinctive braying call. Galapagos penguins mate for life and are the only penguins to breed in the tropics. They form colonies, nesting in the shelter of lava cracks and crevices. Two eggs are usually laid though normally only one chick survives.



## Magnificent Frigatebird

The larger of the two species of frigatebird, the males are black with a purplish sheen and during the mating season develop a distinctive, engorged, red throat pouch. Females are black with a white breast. Magnificent frigates fish and scavenge the inshore waters and coast, feeding on fish, crustaceans and turtle hatchlings.



## Blue-footed Booby

The natural breeding habitats of the Blue-footed Booby are the tropical and subtropical islands of the Pacific Ocean. Approximately one half of all breeding pairs nest on the Galápagos Islands. Its diet mainly consists of fish, which it obtains by diving and sometimes swimming underwater in search of its prey. The Blue-footed Booby mainly hunts in groups.



## Blue-banded Goby

This fish is found from southern California to Ecuador, including Galápagos and Cocos Islands. It is bright red changing to orange near its tail, and it has a pair of narrow blue bars on its head and 3–5 similar bars on its body. This species is often found near brightly-colored purple sea urchins.

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