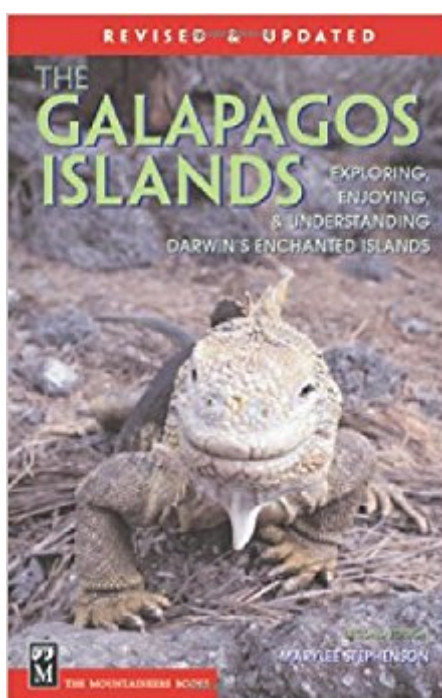


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The Galapagos Islands: The Essential Handbook For Exploring, Enjoying And Understanding Darwin's Enchanted Islands



Synopsis

A dedicated amateur naturalist presents an updated guide to visiting Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. Covers the plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, and underwater creatures; major islands and visitor sites; and travel tips, from planning a visit to what to bring. Illustrations are all new to this edition

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When not traveling in the Galapagos Islands or dreaming of it, MARYLEE STEPHENSON has her own consulting business as a program evaluator and social policy researcher. She lives in Vancouver, B.C.

This was very useful for explaining what one would find on each island at each spot, all of which are very different. Also a good guide to the fauna and flora. There is also some discussion about the history of the Galapagos. The Galapagos are so different from any other place I have been, some preparation was very helpful. You can only visit with a licensed naturalist, and he/she is limited by schedule to where he/she can take you on a given day. Unless you are there for a two week visit, you will not see all the islands up close. Major criticism is that the photos inside are all black and white and of limited value. I got my money's worth, and would buy this again if I had it to do all over again.

This book was a good reference due to the fact that my husband and I were just there this past March. I still use it to help me remember details about flora, fauna etc. It helped us prepare for the

trip. It would have been much more appealing if there were more colored photos in it.

The handbook is well-written, from the viewpoint of a conservationist. Lots of natural history and explanation of the ecology of these islands. A good resource for visitors.

The subtitle gives you an indication that this is not exactly a reading experience, but a guidebook during your actually sojourn. While it contains some useful pre-trip information, Stephenson concentrates on detailing the flora and fauna that are on each island, and their approximate locations, in a format that is almost like a checklist (or, for the birders out there, a lifelist).

Stephenson is knowledgeable, and her information accurate as far as I can tell, but there's really no savoir faire here, and there's the rub. If I had only this to base my foreknowledge of the islands, I'm not so sure I'd be so excited about going. Luckily, there's other books that are better at capturing the uniqueness of the islands and their place in history and our world today.

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