



Here we are!  
it's further away  
than it looks.

# Interactive Galapagos Map



Darwin Island  
Up here not shown

Note the equator.  
Oddly, no hurricanes here

Airport on Baltra

3rd Island  
Santa Cruz

2nd Island  
Isabela

1st Island  
Floreana





Ah. Floreana, the southernmost and first island in our Galapagos journey. We each had a cabin. It is much hotter than it looks.



Pretty quiet here.

Only 130 people live on this island, 100 around town and the other 30 in the highlands. One restaurant/post office/general store.



My cabin – with Janette, our housekeeper and nurse for scraped knees.  
Hey! Could happen to anybody with all these lava rocks.  
At least the A/C worked at night here. Unfortunately, so did the mosquitos.



First night in the Galapagos. Not much to do in the evening on Floreana.  
That's all right. Happy to have electricity and hot water.



So quiet.



A vision in the morning.  
It looks so close! So tantalizingly close.



Lovely snorkeling, warm water, pretty fish, sea turtles.  
Not so easy to get to though, them's some rocks!



Our cabins from the isthmus.



Truck ride into the highlands, about 3000 feet. It's a little cooler (whew!), more overcast. Mighty muddy though, some a-slippin' and a-slidin' going on.



A hundred year old male full of confidence – with or without teeth - in his natural habitat (with a little help from his friends).



Tortoises (which are land based and not sea turtles) can live for a year without food or water. They were taken for fresh meat on board ships and their numbers reduced from 250,000 to 900 before becoming protected.



A pirate's lair.

They would string  
their hammocks  
between the rocks,  
hiding out up here  
in the highlands.



Is it my imagination or is there a certain similarity...



We went to the Farm for lunch. Chicken, cows, maize, instant coffee.  
Where is the espresso maker?



Those are eggs on that cactus to preclude any bloodletting.



Pretty. But it's only 4 feet high; whatever do they use it for?



Back down to the docks at Floreana, here's where we met the boats.  
Sea lions and iguanas everywhere, usually kids too.  
From the docks we'd go on Panga boat rides to see places inaccessible by land.



For lizards, the iguanas don't move much.  
They love hanging out in the sun – at least four in this picture.



Add some little bitty people and we have Godzilla!



Always happy to see cloud cover.



The first sighting of the blue-footed boobys. They are found only in the Galapagos.  
The males get the pretty toeses.



Handsome fellas.



Galapagos penguins, sea lions, birds, ducks, crabs.  
A whole bouillabaisse one might say.



The Galapagos penguin is small, about 9 inches, only about 1200 of them, all here.  
The last la nina weather pattern cost a third of them.  
J'adore mes ami!



Their cuteness quotient is so much higher than birds!



One big rock rising out of the middle of the pacific!  
Lots of nesting frigate birds here.



Male frigate bird getting all puffed up for his big date.



Isabela, island number two.

This is the largest of the islands with 4 volcano craters and has a population of 2000.



The rainy season brings in the clouds and rain erratically!  
Did I mention how welcome they were?



Only 8 rooms in the Red Mangrove – Isabela.



7 kilometers of beach.



Here we are traveling at the speed of light.



See? We moved and yet we didn't move!



One potato ...



Two potato ...



Three potato ...



Four!



Tintoreas is a little island where white tipped sharks and lizards breed. Nothing much can grow outside the water, that's clear. Man, it was hot.



The sharks sleep in here.

The baby geckos are all over the rocks, blending in nearly completely.



Hey! That's mine!







Dad and his new friend. Both happy for the shade.



“Friend! Ha! Dream on Pal.”



On another Panga boat ride, we went to a lava rock sea bed. Those who snorkeled here saw octopus and sea horse.



The rest of us just held our breath hoping not to rip a hole in the side of the boat.



What have you gotten us into this time, Ollie!!



Our group mates, adventurers from Ottawa who wanted to do it all and did it.



On the way into port, on nearly all the boats and docks,  
Sea lions were everywhere. Just laying around and hanging out.



"I told you, poop in that little room there!"



Happy hour!



Third island, Santa Cruz, and the Red Mangrove lodge. This is the biggest town (Puerto Ayora) and has a population of 25,000.



My lovely room on Santa Cruz.



Lovely balcony.



You can see the table umbrellas for the dining room below my room.



Tree top suite at the Red Mangrove – Santa Cruz.



Met guests from Sweden, Italy, Denmark, Canada.  
Quite the cosmopolitan clientele for being in the middle of nowhere.



The hotel is right next door to the Charles Darwin Institute where we can have a walkabout.

97% of the Galapagos is a national park created in 1959.



I wouldn't want to get between him and his girlfriend!  
A couple of the screens were boarded over.



We saw a number of tortoise hatcheries.  
Each turtle is numbered and is  
planned for a return to the wild.





They are arranged by age, these are 5 or 6 months.  
It takes 20 years to reach maturity. Obviously much sooner than humans.





These guys are over 150 years old.



Did I hear the dinner bell?



You think you're tired!



Lovely snorkeling beach right around the corner from the Red Mangrove.



Is that Nessie?



Goodnight, John Boy.

