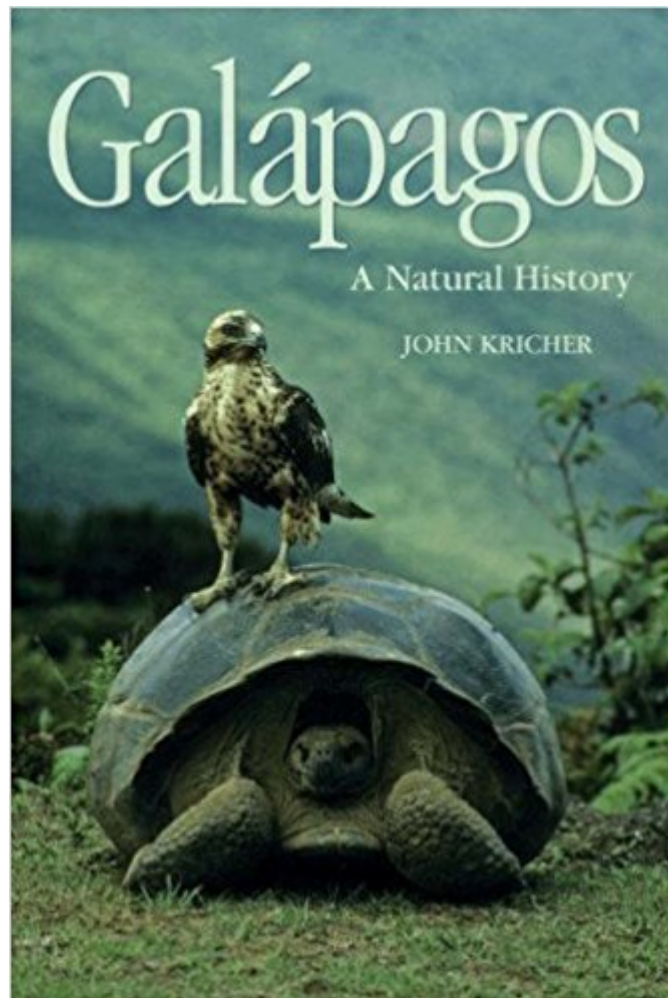


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Galápagos: A Natural History



Synopsis

The Galápagos Islands are a paradise for birders, botanists, geologists, and snorkelers, with many islands still devoid of human habitation. Since they lie more than 600 miles west of South America and were never connected to the mainland, almost all plant and animal life arrived here by chance. As Charles Darwin discovered, the evolution of plants and animals is more visible here than anywhere else on earth. John Kricher, a renowned ecologist and Galápagos ecotour guide, presents a detailed natural history of this spectacular archipelago. He looks at the amazing diversity of life found here, from iguanas to penguins, and explains the fascinating geology of these remote islands. Throughout his narrative, Kricher weaves the intriguing history of evolutionary biology that is intimately connected with the islands, and describes Darwin's adventures and observations while he was visiting in 1835. Indeed, Kricher takes his chapter titles from comments scattered throughout Darwin's account of his expedition around the world, *The Voyage of the Beagle*. Kricher closes his book by assessing the conservation efforts to preserve the Galápagos--and the challenges these efforts have met. Of special interest is the book's richly detailed island-by-island guide. For both the ecotraveler and the nature enthusiast, Galápagos is essential reading. Essential reading for the nature enthusiast and ecotraveler alike Detailed island-by-island guide Vivid descriptions of plant and animal life Fascinating explanation of the islands' geology

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book en route to vacation in the Galapagos. It is a fascinating read that had me reading

till late at night and gave a great overview of both the history and current flora/fauna of the islands. Many facts that our Park naturalists shared with us I had already learned from the book. I highly recommend if you are either vacationing there or wish you were.

This is an outstanding text on the Galapagos Islands. The author covers a number of important biological concepts in a readable text that makes one eager to visit the islands. I have, but when I read Kricher's accounts of the geology, botany, and zoology of these islands I cannot wait to return. This is an outstanding book for high school and college students and for anyone who loves natural history and has dreamed of visiting the Galapagos. Read the book and then go. You will be glad you did both.

I'm preparing for my first trip to the Galapagos Islands. This book was recommended by the parent of one of the students that is going with me. That parent is a biology professor at a local college and I'm a high school biology teacher. Kricher wrote in a comfortable and accessible style and presents exactly the information you should see in a "Natural History" book. There are chapters about the islands, the major organisms, the people and the future of the islands. If you want a travel book to describe the islands to you before you go, this is the one you should buy.

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