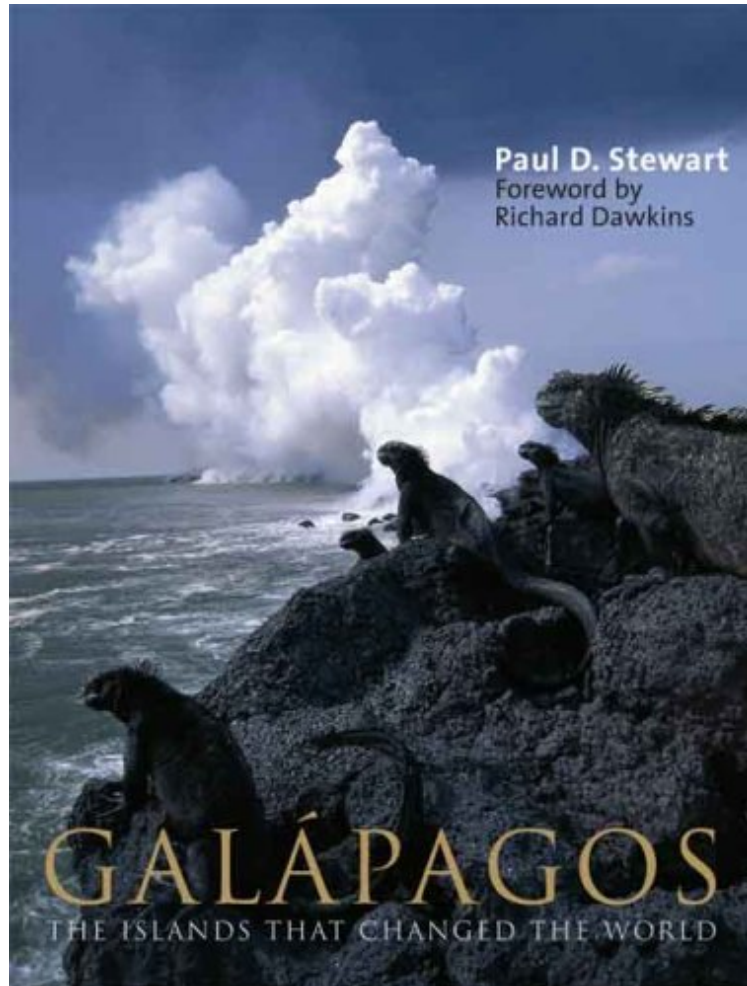


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Paul D. Stewart

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Rocky, fragile, beautiful, strangethe Galpagos archipelago is unlike any other place on earth. Its geology, its unique flora and fauna, and its striking role in human history intersect in surprising and dynamic ways. This book is the most

wide-ranging and beautifully illustrated book available on the famous islands. Not since Darwin's *Naturalists Voyage* has a book combined so much scientific and historic information with firsthand accounts that bring the Galapagos to life. *Galapagos: The Islands That Changed the World* describes how tragedy and murderous pirates curtailed settlement of the islands and how the islands' pristine nature, spectacular geology, and defining isolation inspired Darwin's ideas about evolution. The book explores the diverse land and marine habitats that shelter Galapagos species and considers the islands' importance today as a frontier for science and a refuge for true wilderness. The book's extensive gazetteer provides details about endemic plants and animals as well as travel advice about visitors' sites, diving, photography, when to go, and what to take. Vividly illustrated throughout, this guide is an indispensable reference for natural history enthusiasts, armchair travelers, and island visitors alike.

From Booklist This group of volcanic islands lying along the equator in the Pacific Ocean are famous for their rare species of fauna and flora. Stewart and five coauthors first decide the geological journey that sets each island's lifespan from volcanic birth to death and burial. Then they narrate what they label "the human history of the Galapagos" and explain how Charles Darwin revealed the islands as a land of riches and triggered a revolution of scientific thought. In the next three chapters the authors introduce the wild occupants of the islands--giant tortoises, iguanas, cavefish, champion mockingbirds, Galapagos hawks, short-eared owls, lava lizards, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, and ghost crabs, to name a few, along with many rare cacti, flowers, and trees. The authors also discuss the importance and fragility of the islands. Add to this 150 magnificent color photographs, and you have a special treat of a book. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This group of volcanic islands lying along the equator in the Pacific Ocean are famous for their rare species of fauna and flora. Stewart and five coauthors first decide the geological journey that sets each island's lifespan from volcanic birth to death and burial. Then they narrate what they label 'the human history of the Galapagos' and explain how Charles Darwin revealed the islands as a land of riches and triggered a revolution of scientific thought. . . . A special treat of a book." Booklist