

# Field Guide to Galápagos Islands's Flora, Fauna, and Funga



## DISCLAIMER

This field guide is intended for educational and recreational purposes only. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, species identification should always be verified through multiple sources, especially for:

- Edible or medicinal plants
- Mushrooms (many species are toxic)
- Wildlife encounters (maintain safe distances)

### **Safety Notice:**

- Never consume any wild species without expert verification
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance
- Follow local regulations regarding protected species

## FLORA



### Galápagos Pricklypear

*Opuntia galapageia*

Endemic to the Galápagos Islands, this cactus features various forms across islands, notable for its long spines and diverse varieties.



### Lava Cactus

*Brachycereus nesioticus*

A clump-forming cactus endemic to the Galápagos, thriving on lava fields with spiny stems and daytime white or yellowish flowers.



### Darwin'S Cotton

*Gossypium darwinii*

A unique flowering plant in the mallow family, found only in the Galapagos Islands, likely arrived via bird droppings or debris.



### Candelabra Cactus

*Jasminocereus thouarsii*

This endemic cactus features a treelike structure, reaching up to 7 m tall, with night-blooming flowers and green to reddish fruits.



### Yellow Geiger

*Cordia lutea*

A shrubby plant native to arid lowlands, featuring large yellow flowers and hairy young branches. Found in the Galápagos and Polynesia.



### Mexican Palo Verde

*Parkinsonia aculeata*

This thorny perennial tree features fragrant yellow-orange flowers and spiny branches, thriving in dry, sunny environments.

## FAUNA



### Marine Iguana

*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*

Unique marine reptiles of the Galápagos, they forage on algae, exhibit sexual dimorphism, and face threats from climate and predators.



### Galápagos Sea Lion

*Zalophus wollebaeki*

A social species found in the Galápagos Islands, these sea lions are known for their agility in water and distinctive vocalizations.



### Blue-Footed Booby

*Sula nebouxii*

A marine bird known for its striking blue feet, it displays unique mating rituals and exhibits complex parental behaviors in breeding.



### Galápagos Giant Tortoise

*Chelonoidis niger*

The largest living tortoise species, native to the Galápagos Islands, exhibits diverse shell shapes and significant conservation challenges.



### Brown Pelican

*Pelecanus occidentalis*

This coastal seabird, found from New Jersey to Peru, is known for its distinctive diving feeding behavior and social nesting habits.



### Santa Cruz Lava Lizard

*Microlophus indefatigabilis*

Endemic to the Galápagos Islands, this small, colorful lizard exhibits territorial behavior and has a unique tail-dropping defense mechanism.

## FUNGA



### Ophiocordyceps Humbertii

*Ophiocordyceps humbertii*

This thorny perennial tree features fragrant yellow-orange flowers and spiny branches, thriving in dry, sunny environments.



### Christmas Lichen

*Herpothallon rubrocinctum*

This crustose lichen features a striking red and green appearance, resembling a Christmas wreath, and thrives on rough bark in moist forests.



### Trooping Crumble Cap

*Coprinellus disseminatus*

This saprotrophic fungus features convex caps, adnate gills, and a bare stipe. It typically grows in clusters, not dissolving into ink.



### Quipu Lichen

*Ramalina peruviana*

A fruticose lichen with tufted, irregular branches, it thrives on tree bark and rocks in warm regions worldwide, often in mangroves.



### Golden Hair-Lichen

*Teloschistes flavicans*

This widespread fruticose lichen features saffron pigmentation and grows on rocks and tree branches, first described in 1788.



### Cinnabar Bracket

*Trametes sanguinea*

A saprobic fungus found on dead hardwoods, featuring a convex, orange to salmon cap and round pores; used industrially and medicinally.