

Galapagos Archipelago

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Galapagos Archipelago Latest News

A newly installed monitoring system called smart island monitoring model promises to scale ecosystem conservation in Ecuador's Galapagos archipelago.

About Galapagos Archipelago

- **Location:** It is situated in the **Pacific Ocean**, roughly 600 miles **off the coast of Ecuador**.
- It is **distributed on either side of the Equator**.
- **Terrain**
 - The Archipelago is a group of 19 islands, 13 large and 6 small, and dozens of islets and rocks
 - Repeated volcanic eruptions helped to form the rugged mountain landscape of the Galápagos Islands.
 - **Islands:** It is very young with the largest, and youngest islands, **Isabela and Fernandina**, with less than one million years of existence, and the oldest islands, **Española and San Cristóbal**, somewhere between three to five million years.
- **Highest Point: Mount Azul**, at 5,541 feet, is the highest point of the Galapagos Islands.

- **Climate:** It is characterized by **low rainfall, low humidity**, and relatively low air and water temperatures.
- It was designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage site** in 1978.
- **Biodiversity:** It includes the giant **Galápagos tortoise** (*Chelonoidis nigra*), the marine iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*), the flightless cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*), and the Galápagos penguin.
- The **Galápagos penguin** (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) is the only penguin species to live in the Northern Hemisphere.

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/galapagos-archipelago/>

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