

Floreana Island

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Floreana Island Latest News

More than 150 giant tortoises have been recently reintroduced to Floreana Island in Ecuador's famed Galapagos archipelago, where they disappeared more than a century ago.

About Floreana Island

- Floreana, **officially "Santa Maria,"** is located on the **southern end of the Galápagos Archipelago** off the **west coast of continental Ecuador.**
- Spanning approximately 173 sq.km., it is a **volcanic landmass.**
- Situated in the middle of the **Pacific Ocean** — roughly 1,000 kilometers from the mainland coast — it remains a remote and vital ecological site.
- It supports a range of habitats, including **coastal lagoons, volcanic highlands, and offshore reefs.**
- It was the **first island to be colonized by Ecuadorians in 1832.** It was a **penal colony that didn't last long** because of the **lack of fresh water.**
- **Today, only around 150 people live** here, most in the small coastal **settlement of Puerto Velasco Ibarra,** one of the smallest and most isolated communities in the Galapagos.
- The majority of the inhabitants of Floreana Island still make a **living through farming.**

- The **main water source** for the entire island is **one natural pond that only fills up during the rainy season**.
- It is known for the **historic Post Office Bay**, where a **barrel mail system (dating to the 18th century) is still used by visitors**.
- Of all the Galápagos Islands, Floreana is the one **most affected by the presence of humans and their introduction of goats**, which ended up roaming loose on the island for many years.
- The **goats and some other non-native species** were **completely removed** by the Galápagos National Park in 2007.
- It has the **highest concentration of species threatened by invasive mammals of any Galápagos Island**, with **54 IUCN Red-Listed species present**.

Source: ETVB

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/floreana-island/>

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