



Galapagos

Galapagos – research biology heaven

David Robinson

We're in the Pacific about 1,000 kilometres west of South America, on the Equator.

VOICE OVER

Martin Wikelski, is heading for his research site. It's an island called Santa Fe, part of the Galapagos Archipelago.

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Santa Fe like all the Galapagos Islands, is the tip of a volcano that became land only a few million years ago.

Many of the animals and plants that now live there, are found nowhere else on earth.

These island species have long fascinated biologists interested in evolution. But this is also a good place for animal physiologists to study. Like all animals found in isolated oceanic island groups, the species found in Galapagos are astonishingly unafraid of people because of the absence of predators.

And even on an inhabited island, on a hotel patio, marine iguanas, a Galapagos species lounge in the shade of the chairs. With few natural predators, they don't see people as a threat. They're easy to observe and study and a source of fascination.