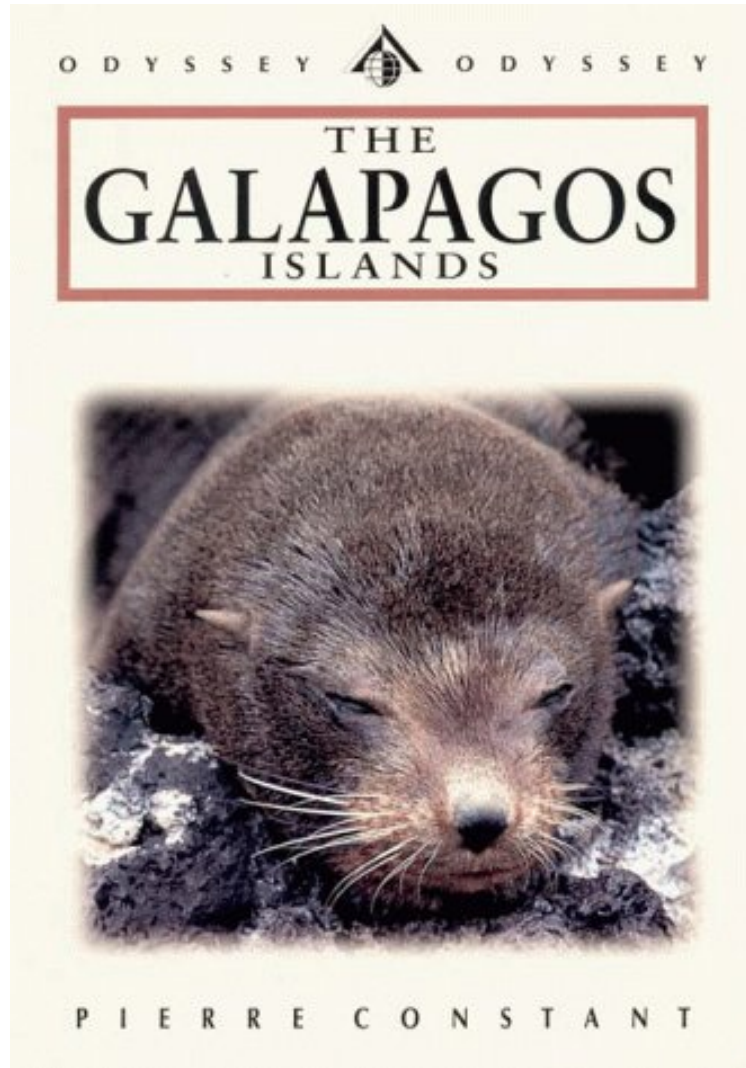


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The Galapagos Islands:

Pierre Constant

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Pierre Constant : The Galapagos Islands: before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Galapagos Islands::

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A disappointing guideBy sbissell3I bought this book due to the somewhat glowing reviews. I usually don't complain about that, but in this case I feel compelled to post a warning: if you are thinking of buying this book as a travel guide, don't! It has very little information about how to travel in the Galapagos, in fact I don't think the author really wants you to go to the Islands because he complains throughout the book about the impact of tourism.The book is poorly edited with numerous mistakes. For example, Constant attributes "survival of the fittest" to Charles Darwin in the very weak section on evolution. In fact that phrase belongs to Herbert

Spencer writing about evolution. In another area the author states there are two species of snakes on the islands, then goes on to describe eight species. One pet peeve, he calls Gulls, "seagulls" throughout the book, a very common, but galling mistake. I believe that English is not the author's first language and this shows throughout. In one area there is a reference to "black men" which doesn't seem to relate to anything else in the paragraph. This should have been noticed by the editors. I think the sections on geology and history are probably very good, but the section on evolution is rife with mistakes. I won't detail them here, but if you want to know about Darwin and the influence of the Galapagos on the development of the theory of evolution, go somewhere else; this book will seriously mislead you. The strong point of the book, the only reason I gave it three instead of two stars, is the photographs. These are by the author and are outstanding, especially the underwater photos. The species lists seem very good and this book, if used with a good travel guide, would probably enhance a trip to the Galapagos. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pierre Constant is a Thief! By little beandal booked several days of scuba diving and paid in advance for Pierre Constant to serve as a diving guide in The Galapagos. He cancelled at the last minute and has not paid me back. Does not reply to email or voicemail and still owes me over \$300.

The wildlife paradise of the Galapagos Islands, long regarded as a mysterious and desolate spot, is a showcase of evolution in action. A spawning ground for Charles Darwin's famous theory, the islands have become a National Park dedicated to the conservation of many unique species threatened with extinction. Pierre Constant provides detailed descriptions of the geology and natural history of the archipelago, the visitors' sites, as well as the spectacular sea and land birds, peculiar reptiles, playful mammals and amazing marine life that make their homes there. His superb photographs complement the text excellently. * Written by a world-recognized expert * Fascinating scientific and historical background * Meticulous descriptions of the flora and fauna * Extensive coverage of the 19 largest islands in the archipelago * Detailed discussion and listing of 52 dive sites * Includes a glossary and bibliography * Fully updated

For cruisers or other package tourers, this is, by far, the best Galapagos guide on the market. Photos are tantalizing as well as truly informative; nature info is detailed enough for a botany text. -- New York Daily News These handsome, well-edited books from a Hong Kong-based publisher cover places few other guidebooks go... The writers are particularly well-chosen: a French biologist for the Galapagos Islands... Odyssey fans tend to be adventurous travelers with a literary bent. If you're lucky enough to find an Odyssey guide to where you're going, grab it. -- National Geographic Traveler, February 2000
Language Notes
Text: English (translation) Original Language: French
About the Author
Pierre Constant was born in France in 1954 and studied at the University of Pierre and Marie Curie, Paris VI, where he received his degree in Biology-Geology in 1975, followed by a Master's in Geology in 1979. In 1980, he went to Ecuador to work as a naturalist-guide on cruise boats around the Galapagos Islands. After two years living on the islands he returned to France and published his first book, *L'Archipel des Galapagos*, and became the recognized French expert on the Galapagos Islands. Pierre has now taken up submarine photography and produced *Marine Life of the Galapagos*, a guide to the underwater life of the islands and has contributed to various travel and diving magazines.