

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: 14/03/2018



We want your Galapagos photos!

Have you recently been to the Galapagos Islands, or are you heading out there soon? Then the Galapagos Conservation Trust want your photos! With categories ranging from *Animal Portrait* to *Man in the Archipelago*, there's something for everyone in the 2018 Galapagos Photography Competition.

After the success of the 2017 Galapagos Photography Competition which featured in several online publications [including on the BBC News](#) website, the Galapagos Conservation Trust is pleased to announce that their 2018 Galapagos Photography Competition is open for entries, with a closing date of Friday 8 June 2018. Whether your interest lies in wildlife photography, capturing landscapes or cataloguing human activity, there is a category for you. Not only does the Galapagos Photography Competition celebrate the beauty of the Islands, it also aims to raise awareness of the environmental issues that affect the wildlife and communities who live there.



2017 winner: *Walking on water* by McKenna Paulley

Professional photographers Tui de Roy and Paul Sansome will be joining us again this year to judge the competition, along with GCT president Monty Halls. About last year's winner, Monty said that it was an *"outstanding photograph with such detail, right down to the droplets of water."*

He added, *"It's almost impossible to take a bad photograph in Galapagos - the stark beauty of the islands, the deep blue of the water and equatorial skies, and of course the unique wildlife, make it a photographer's dream. Good luck to everyone - it is certainly one of my great pleasures to review the entries as they arrive. May the best picture win!"*

In addition to the winners selected by the judges, we will also be holding a public vote this year, to find the 'Public's Choice'. A selection of the winning and short-listed images will feature in the GCT's 2019 calendar, and will be displayed at Galapagos Day at the Royal Geographical Society in October 2018. The prize for the overall winner will include free membership to GCT for a year and a signed copy of Henry Nicholl's book *The Galapagos*.

GCT's 2017 Galapagos Photography Competition was extremely successful, attracting entries from across the UK, Europe, North America and South America. The overall winning photo was of a storm petrel, by McKenna Paulley. Do you think you could do better? Then share your best Galapagos moments for a chance to win.

Find out more, including how to enter by visiting galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/photography-competition or email comms@gct.org

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Notes to editors:

- The Galapagos Photography Competition has been run by Galapagos Conservation Trust since 2001. Its categories include Animal Portrait, Animal Behaviour, Botanical, Landscape and Man in the Archipelago. Find out more about the competition here: galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/photography-competition/
- The **Galapagos Conservation Trust** (GCT) is the only UK charity to focus exclusively on the conservation and sustainability of the Galapagos Islands. Established in 1995 at the Royal Society, GCT raises funding and awareness for projects in Galapagos which focus on science, education and culture. To find out more, visit: galapagosconservation.org.uk/
- **Monty Halls** is a TV presenter, marine biologist, expedition leader and professional diver. He has presented a number of successful series including the BBC's Great Barrier Reef and The Fisherman's Apprentice. He first visited the Galapagos Islands whilst filming for Channel 5's Great Ocean Adventures in 2005 and has been fascinated by them ever since. After serving as an Ambassador of GCT for many years, Monty took on the role of President at the start of 2015. www.montyhalls.co.uk
- **Tui de Roy** is a world-renowned, award-winning wildlife photographer, as well as a writer and acclaimed conservationist who spent most of her life in the Galapagos Islands. Her work has been published in over 40 countries. www.tuideroy.com
- **Paul Sansome** is an award-winning professional fine art and travel photographer, as well as an experienced photography tutor. His photography has featured in many major publications and he has been awarded in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year, Landscape Photographer of the Year and Travel Photographer of the Year competitions, a rare achievement. www.paulsansome.com

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Photos from the 2017 competition are available on request – these can be viewed here:

galapagosconservation.org.uk/competition-galleries/2017-photography-competition-gallery/