

## PRESS RELEASE

### GALAPAGOS DAY 2019

#### THREATS TO ENDANGERED BIRDS AND REPTILES

**Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT)** is excited to announce that Galapagos Day 2019 will take place on Wednesday 30 October at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The evening event, which this year will focus on threats to endangered birds and reptiles, will be hosted by renowned wildlife expert and award-winning writer **Mark Carwardine**.

Speakers on the night will include GCT partner, **Juan Pablo Muñoz-Pérez**, who will be sharing his research on plastic pollution and marine vertebrates, including Galapagos green turtles. **Dr Luis Ortiz Catedral** will explore the challenges of reintroducing locally extinct species such as the Floreana mockingbird and Galapagos land iguanas, back to their original islands. Finally, **Sophia Cooke** will talk about the impact of invasive species on species such as Darwin's finches.

Tickets are £20 or £15 for students, to buy your ticket for the event, please visit, [galapagosconservation.org.uk/galapagos-day-2019](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/galapagos-day-2019). Doors open at 6pm with lectures starting at 7pm.

The Galapagos Islands are recognised as one of the most unique and biologically inspiring places on Earth. Due to its relative isolation and evolutionary history, around 80% of land birds and 97% of reptiles found in Galapagos are endemic. This relative isolation has made many of the species of Galapagos extremely vulnerable to dramatic changes in their ecosystems. The arrival of humans a few hundred years ago was therefore detrimental, with consequences including habitat destruction, invasive mammals and, more recently, plastic pollution, all of which are threatening some of the most unique, and rare, species on Earth.

A selection of the winning and short-listed images from this year's Galapagos Photography Competition will be displayed at Galapagos Day, and alongside this, the winner of the GCT annual raffle will be drawn on the night. There are several amazing prizes to be won, including the chance to experience the Galapagos Islands with a friend or family member for just £2! The cruise will be hosted by Ecoventura aboard one of the magnificent Theory or Origin yachts and dates are flexible. The prize not only includes the cruise but also up to £1,000 for each person towards return flights.

Our other fantastic prizes are a Trek Bicycle hybrid bike, a mixed case of Grand Cru and Premier Cru champagne donated by Finest Fizz and eight weeks' worth of Seasonal Organic veg boxes from Riverford Organic Farmers. The draw will be made electronically at Galapagos Day, Wednesday 30 October 2019. For more information, including terms and conditions, please visit, [galapagosconservation.org.uk/raffle](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/raffle)

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is the only UK charity focussed solely on the conservation of the Galapagos Archipelago, one of the most ecologically important places in the world. With over 20 years of experience, we partner with Ecuadorian authorities, NGOs, local communities and leading researchers to support impactful Science & Conservation programmes and deliver community outreach across the Archipelago through our Education & Sustainability programme. As a charity we rely on the generosity of donors in the UK and abroad to raise money to support our work so that we can preserve Galapagos for generations to come. To find out more, visit: [galapagosconservation.org.uk](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk)
- The 2020 Cruise with Galapagos Conservation Trust has been announced, offering you the perfect way to see the Archipelago in a comfortable, intimate and sustainable manner. Accompanied by a GCT staff member throughout the trip, you will have exclusive opportunities to visit projects funded and delivered by GCT. You will also meet passionate conservationists working on the islands. What's more, you can travel in the knowledge that your trip will be directly supporting the conservation and sustainability of the Islands. The cruise, which takes place in June 2020, is in partnership with Ice Tracks Wild Tracks. For more information, please contact Galapagos Conservation Trust.
- The Galapagos Photography Competition has been run by Galapagos Conservation Trust since 2001. Its categories include Animal behaviour; Landscape; Underwater; Up close and personal; Urban; Environmental threats; and Young photographer. Find out more about the competition here: [galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2019-photography-competition-gallery](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2019-photography-competition-gallery)

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