

## PRESS RELEASE

### Winners of Galapagos Photography Competition 2019 Announced



Winner: Reflections by Joe Sullivan



Third place overall: Circle of Life by Millie Kerr

Galapagos Conservation Trust is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Galapagos Photography Competition. The competition, sponsored this year by AQUA-FIRMA, celebrates the beauty of the Islands, while also aiming to raise awareness of the environmental issues that affect the wildlife and communities who live there.

The overall winner this year was Joe Sullivan with his image Reflections, a stunning black and white shot depicting a Galapagos giant tortoise retreating inside its shell and submerged in a body of water.

Jonathan Green, founder of the Galapagos Whale Shark Project, joined professional photographer, Tui de Roy as a judge in this year's Galapagos Photography Competition. Of the winning image, Jonathan Green said, "*The reflections are superb and the fact that the face is partially hidden provokes curiosity. Black and white gives it added strength*".

The categories this year included; Animal behaviour; Landscape; Underwater; Up close and personal; Urban life; Environmental threats. GCT also launched a new Young Photographer competition for anyone aged 17 or under for the first time.

You can see the full collection of category winners online at [galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2019-photography-competition-gallery](https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2019-photography-competition-gallery)

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 2020 calendar, and will be displayed at Galapagos Day at the Royal Geographical Society on the evening of 30 October 2019.

Galapagos Day will be hosted by renowned wildlife expert and award-winning writer Mark Carwardine, who will highlight the urgent need to protect the Archipelago from a range of threats. Speakers will include GCT partner Juan Pablo Muñoz who will be sharing his research on plastic pollution and marine vertebrates, including Galapagos green turtles, GCT partner Luis Ortiz Catedral who 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. To buy your ticket for the event, please visit, [galapagosconservation.org.uk/event\\_listings/galapagos-day-2019](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/event_listings/galapagos-day-2019)

For those who have always wanted to visit Galapagos, the GCT annual raffle has now launched and we have several amazing prizes to be won, including your 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/get-involved/raffle](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/raffle)

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.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- 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)
- 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)
- Jonathan Green is a sciences graduate of the University of North London. He has worked for nearly three decades in the Galapagos Islands and has several thousand

dives in the surrounding waters. An early fascination with whale sharks led to the founding of the Galapagos Whale Shark Project with a view to better understanding the part Galapagos plays in their life cycle. [www.galapagoswhaleshark.org](http://www.galapagoswhaleshark.org)

- 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](http://www.tuideroy.com)

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Photos from the 2019 competition are available on request – these can be viewed here: [galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries](http://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries)