

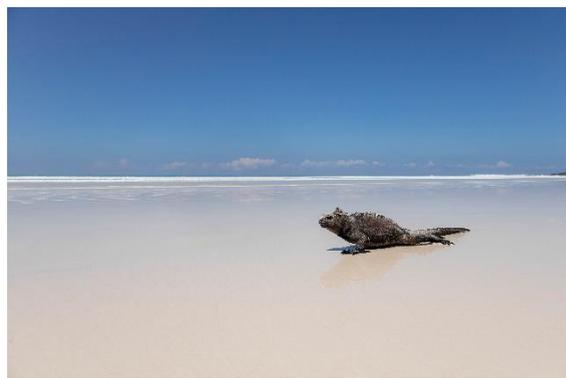
## PRESS RELEASE



### Nazca boobies win 2021 Galapagos Photography Competition



Winner: Nazca boobies by Leighton Lum



Third place overall: Paradise by Sam Whitton

Galapagos Conservation Trust is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Galapagos Photography Competition. Despite the huge decrease in the number of tourists to Galapagos due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still had many brilliant submissions which illustrate the beauty of the Islands and the wildlife that live there.

The overall winner this year was Leighton Lum with his image of Nazca boobies, a stunning shot showing a family of Nazca boobies under a looming grey sky. He said that the experience of seeing the birds with their chick on Española island was 'quite amazing.'

This year's judges were Creative Director at Freeborne Media, James Honeyborne, professional photographer, Jay McLaughlin, and Director of travel company Aqua-Firma, Ralph Pannell. Of the winning image, Ralph said, "*The low viewpoint, high dynamic colour and lighting range of this photo make for a very dramatic result that really makes you feel that you are there.*"

The categories this year included Animals in Action; Birds of Galapagos; Coastal and Marine; Landscape; Up Close and Personal; and Urban Life.

You can see the full collection of category winners online at [galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-photography-competition](https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-photography-competition).

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' which people can take part in here:

[galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-public-vote](https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-public-vote). A selection of the winning and short-listed images will feature in GCT's 2021 calendar. The 2022 Galapagos Photography Competition will open in autumn 2021.

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The **Galapagos Photography Competition** has been run by Galapagos Conservation Trust since 2001. Its categories include Animals in Action; Birds of Galapagos; Coastal and Marine; Landscape; Up Close and Personal; and Urban Life. Find out more about the competition here: [galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-photography-competition](https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-photography-competition)
- **Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT)** is the only UK registered charity to focus solely on the conservation of the Galapagos Islands, one of the most unique and ecologically important, but vulnerable, areas in the world. With over 25 years of experience supporting impactful conservation programmes across the Archipelago, we partner with Ecuadorian authorities, NGOs, local communities and leading scientists, both in Galapagos and worldwide.

By raising funds and awareness in the UK, we are able to support and deliver projects in Galapagos and respond to key threats facing the Islands, focusing on restoring natural habitat, protecting threatened species and driving sustainable solutions, helping to contribute to the overall management of this unique ecosystem. To find out more, visit: [galapagosconservation.org.uk](https://galapagosconservation.org.uk)

- **James Honeyborne** is the Creative Director at Freeborne Media and is a wildlife film maker on a mission to create entertaining and impactful viewing experiences for everyone who seeks to enjoy and connect with the natural world. Previously, James was creator and Executive Producer of the BBC's hit series 'Blue Planet II', which broke all records in UK as the most-watched wildlife documentary series for over 20 years. James is a biologist by degree and a storyteller by heart.
- **Jay McLaughlin** is a professional fashion and portrait photographer, and co-author of the photography book *Exploring Ecuador*. His work has been published internationally and he has worked with clients including Harper's Bazaar, Olympus and Vogue.
- **Ralph Pannell** is the Director of Aqua-Firma Worldwide Ltd, a travel company driven by a long-developed passion for exploring and conserving the best of our planet's wilderness and wildlife.

## CONTACT:

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Photos from the 2021 competition are available on request – these can be viewed here:

[galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-photography-competition](https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/get-involved/competition-galleries/2021-photography-competition)