

These saddleback tortoises live on smaller, drier islands such as Bartolomé, Española and Pinzón.



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On the drier, smaller islands, where there are no humid highlands, the tortoises have longer necks and legs and a shell shape that lets them extend their heads higher to eat the vegetation that is hard to reach from the ground.

One such island is the island of Pinta. It was here where Lonesome George lived. Sadly, he was the last remaining tortoise of his sub-species to be found there. Conservationists are now working on a project to re-introduce saddleback tortoises to this Island.

These domed tortoises live on islands like Floreana and Santa Cruz.



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On the larger, more humid islands of Santa Cruz and Floreana, there is more vegetation close to the ground so the tortoises do not need to extend their necks as far, therefore the shell shape is domed. They can also protect themselves better from predators, as they pull their head and neck into their shell and use their feet and neck to block the entrance!