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Searching for the Fernandina Galapagos Tortoise Among 25 Other Species

TOUR OPERATOR | LATIN TRAILS | JULY 24, 2017



PHOTO: Fernandina Island, a satellite Galapagos isle. (photo via Flickr/[Harvey Barrison](#))

WHY IT RATES: *Scientists will be searching for giant tortoises near the Galapagos Islands. – Eric Bowman, TravelPulse Senior Editor*

The [Global Wildlife Conservation](#) (GWC) defines the modern era as the extinction era. Many species of flora and fauna have disappeared. Yet, there are still many species that haven't been seen for decades but has not been declared extinct. One of them is the Fernandina Galapagos Tortoise.

This tortoise species was one of the subspecies of giant tortoises identified in Fernandina Islands, which is one of the less explored islands of the archipelago. The last time seen was in 1964, however, the California Science Academy killed a male species in 1906 to preserve it as a sample. But this giant tortoise is not the only lost species that scientists are looking in the Galapagos Island. The Wellington's Solitary Coral was seen in 2000.

According to the GWC, there are almost 1,200 species of animals and plants that are "lost". Nonetheless, there are 25 species that scientists consider the most wanted besides the Galapagos species mentioned. In fact, 100 scientists classified the species based on the animal that hasn't been seen in more than 10 years and has any cultural importance.

All this effort is thanks to the USD \$500.000 collected so far. Thus, this summer 2017 starts the expeditions in almost 18 countries in search of the wanted animals and the only plant included on the list. Some of them are:

- The Syr Darya Shovelnose Sturgeon - Kazakhstan
- Bullneck Seahorse - Australia
- Sierra Leone Crab - Guinea Forests
- Pink-headed Duck - India
- Namdapha Flying Squirrel - India
- Sinú Parakeet - Colombia
- Velvet Pitcher Plant - Indonesia
- Among others.

Any search has its own condition and characteristics. For example, looking for the pink-headed duck, “lost” 68 years ago, requires two weeks immerse in the meadow of Burma, while in the case of the Wondiwoi Tree Kangaroo of Indonesia, one of the biggest mammals, can use remote cameras.

In any case, the aim is to motivate the hope rather than the desperation as Robin Moore, chief of the project, quoted.

For getting more information as well as getting involved in this effort through donations, visit lostspecies.org/

SOURCE: *Latin Trails* press release.