



King of birds - The Andean Condor, with a wingspan reaching up to three metres, is one of the largest birds in the world. These scavengers live in the Andes Mountains and feed on the carrion of deer, cattle and even seals, and can travel 200 km in search of food. Black with bald heads, Andean Condors have a distinctive collar of white neck feathers. Their head and neck feathers change colour depending on their mood.



Great diver, terrible dancer - Half of all breeding pairs of blue-footed boobies live on the Galápagos Islands. These birds are exceptional divers, able to swoop from 80 feet to catch fish. Their webbed feet range from pale turquoise to dark blue and indicate how healthy they are. During courtship, male boobies parade their bright feet to the female in a high-stepping strut. However, their name comes from the Spanish 'bobo' meaning 'stupid', due to their clumsy waddle when on land.



Gentle giant of the Galápagos - These iconic tortoises settled on the Galápagos Islands 2-3 million years ago. They have two main shell types: a domed carapace and a saddle-backed carapace. An estimated 20-25,000 giant tortoises inhabit the islands today. These herbivorous reptiles can weigh up to 220 kg, live for over 150 years and spend an average of 16 hours a day resting.

The Best in Biodiversity

See an astonishing array of wildlife in the diverse Pacific coast biomes of South America, from tropical rainforests above the Equator to the fjords and glaciers of Patagonia.

A birdwatchers' paradise

From the tiny hummingbird to the mighty Andean Condor, the sea cliffs and rainforest canopies of South America are home to more than 3,000 species of birds. Over 2,500 are endemic to the region, such as the tropical toco toucan, el oro parakeet and scarlet macaw.

Keep an eye out for the striking feet of the aptly named blue-footed booby and the impressive wings of the

waved albatross, the largest bird in the Galápagos. You might not expect to see penguins in a tropical climate, but the surprisingly cold seawater in the dry season allows colonies of Galápagos penguins to live there comfortably.

Animal magic

In the tropical rainforests of South America, you might encounter sloths lolling overhead; howler monkeys with spine-tingling roars; docile

iguanas hiding in plain sight; or crocodiles and alligators in the mangroves. Further south, look out for wild guanacos and huemuls (Andean deer). The warm Pacific waters are home to manta rays, whales, sharks, sealions, green turtles and dolphins.