

Santa Cruz Island

Dec 13, 2022 - National Geographic Endeavour II



Lonesome George was the last pure tortoise from Pinta Island. He died in 2012, and taxidermists did a great job preserving his body. Photo by Gilda Gonzalez



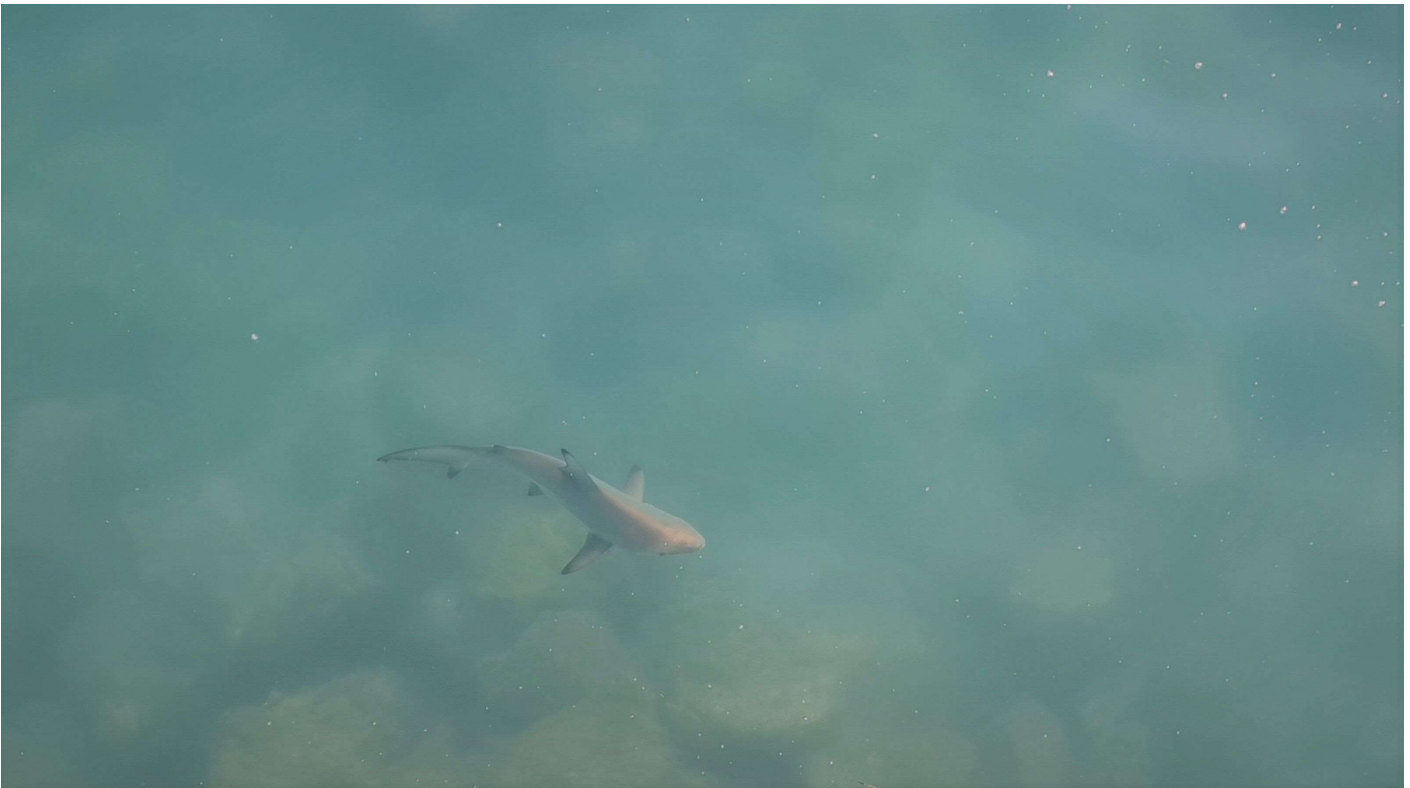
At the fishermen's market, brown pelicans wait for a piece of fresh fish. Photo by Gilda Gonzalez



Local fishermen use these small boats to fish. Late in the afternoon, they bring their catches to sell at the fishermen's market. Photo by Gilda Gonzalez



At the highlands of Santa Cruz, we found several giant tortoises feeding on grasses. Photo by Gilda Gonzalez



By the small dock in town, we encountered several juvenile sharks swimming back and forth as they looked for food in the bay.
Photo by Gilda Gonzalez

We spent our day on Santa Cruz Island. We enjoyed great opportunities to observe Galapagos giant tortoises as well as land birds. We walked around the breeding center for tortoises and saw adults as well as juveniles. They all looked so healthy. During the afternoon, we visited a local farm and looked for wild tortoises. We observed many large males and females.

About the Author



Gilda Gonzalez · Naturalist

Gilda was born in Ambato, located in the very heart of the Ecuadorian Andes. Since she was a child, she loved animals, often rescuing street cats and dogs. Her parents always made sure there were nature books and plenty of Jacques Cousteau's videos at home. She graduated from high school with a degree in chemistry and biology. Afterwards, Gilda obtained a B.A. in tourism and hotel management in Quito. She also studied English, French and German, later spending two months in Brussels, Belgium.