

VEGETATIVE ZONES OF A GALAPAGOS ISLAND

The **Coastal Zone** is a narrow section of land with plants that have adapted to the salty conditions found along the shoreline. Most of the plants are shrubs or small trees.

The **Arid Zone** is a large desert-like zone that supports plants and animals that are resistant to drought conditions. The main plants are cacti along with palo santa trees and acacia shrubs.

The **Scalesia Zone** is a humid, dense forest habitat, with almost constant precipitation. The main vegetation is the evergreen Scalesia, which can grow to ten meters in height. There are many ferns, mosses, and grasses found in this zone. Between the Arid Zone and the Scalesia Zone there is sometimes a Transitional Zone that has characteristics and plants of both.

The **Miconia Zone** is appropriately named after its most prevalent plant: the miconia bush. Miconia is a small leafy shrub that grows two to four meters tall. There are also ferns and liverworts growing along the ground.

The **Fern Zone** has no true trees and is characterized by ferns, sedges, mosses, and other plants adapted to a very wet, windy environment. Some tree ferns can reach almost three meters tall in this zone. There are swamps and peat bogs in the Fern Zone.

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