Unique biodiversity is a hallmark of the remote volcanic islands that once enchanted Charles Darwin

By STEVE BERGMAN

The 21-island Fernando de Noronha archipelago of Brazil, about 1,500 miles south of the equator, and the nearby Rocas Atoll in the South Atlantic were the inspiration for Charles Darwin’s Theory of Evolution. The islands are considered among the most biodiverse and pristine places on Earth.

Fernando de Noronha and the Rocas Atoll

In the South Atlantic, in many ways unchanged since the time of Darwin, have much to proffer in terms of biodiversity, endemic species and marine life. The islands are considered among the most biodiverse and pristine places on Earth.

Phylopecies

The islands’ biodiversity is showcased by the large number of species found there. For example, there are 65% more reptile species on the island than in comparable areas on the mainland. This is partly due to the islands’ isolation, which has allowed species to evolve in unique ways, leading to the development of new species.

Endemic Species

The islands are home to a number of endemic species, including the Doughnut tortoise and the Black-footed penguin. The Doughnut tortoise is found only on the island of Santa Catarina, while the Black-footed penguin is found only on the island of Tristan da Cunha. These species are not found anywhere else in the world.

Marine Life

The islands’ marine life is also unique. The waters surrounding the islands are home to a number of unique species, including the Humpback whale, the killer whale, and the Green turtle. The islands are also home to a number of endemic fish species, including the Fiddlefish and the Bottle-nosed dolphin.

Conservation

The islands are protected as a World Heritage site, which provides a degree of protection for their unique biodiversity. However, the islands still face threats, including habitat loss and pollution. Conservation efforts are ongoing to protect the islands’ unique biodiversity.

Scientific Research

The islands have also been the site of scientific research, with Charles Darwin himself spending time there and observing the unique biodiversity. The islands are still used by scientists today, who study the unique biodiversity and its relationship to the surrounding environment.

Overall, the islands of Fernando de Noronha and the Rocas Atoll are a unique and important part of the world’s biodiversity, with much to offer in terms of scientific research and conservation efforts.

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