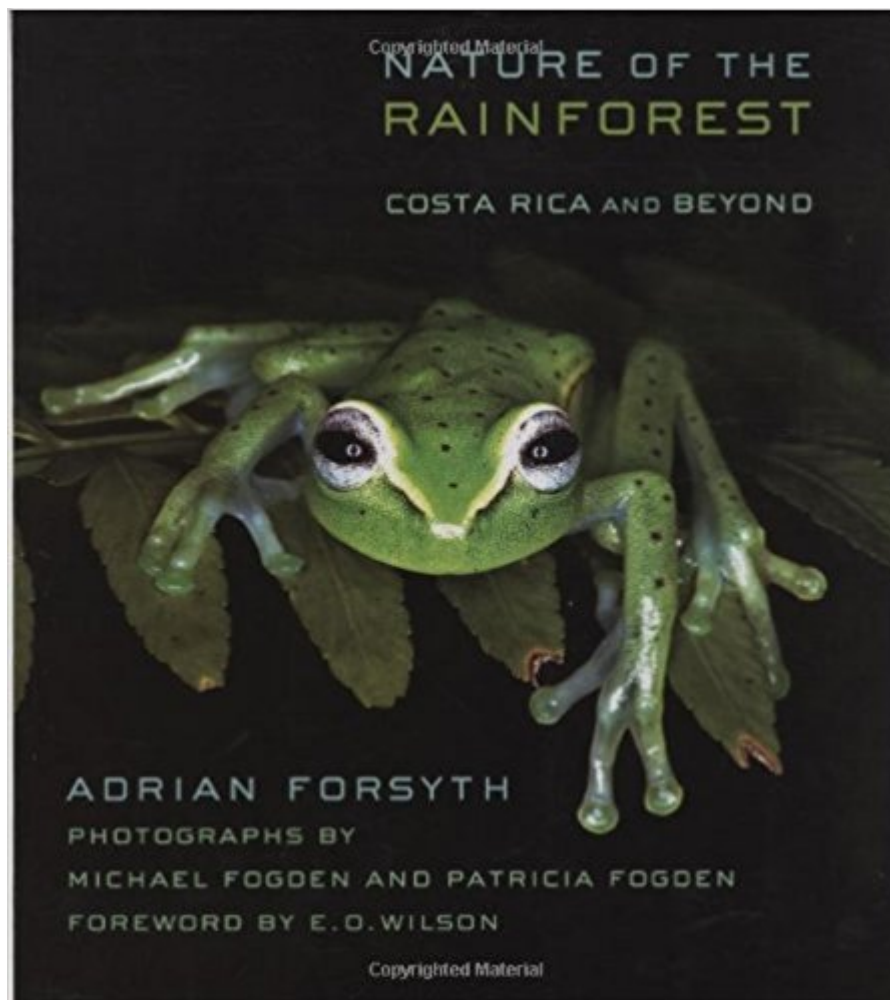




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Nature Of The Rainforest: Costa Rica And Beyond (Zona Tropical Publications)



Synopsis

A Zona Tropical Publication "The words 'tropical rainforest' may conjure up vistas populated by jaguars, brilliant macaws, and flowers amid the grandeur of towering buttressed trees. But the eager, expectant visitor is not regaled with the sight of charismatic vertebrates, gaudy birds, and luminous orchids. In the rainforest, close encounters with life that moves are usually rare but brilliant episodes; one is bedazzled for an instant and then left alone in the quiet greenery. Under such conditions, one must see the episode as part of a process; tracing the connections between organisms is the essence of rainforest appreciation." •Nature of the Rainforest Nature of the Rainforest is a breathtaking tour of an environment that is the pinnacle of biodiversity and evolutionary sophistication by an award-winning author and two photographers who love the rainforest, understand its intricacies, and have spent considerable time there documenting its wildlife and complexity. Adrian Forsyth draws on four decades of personal encounters with the animals of the rainforestâ •including poison-dart frogs, three-toed sloths, bushmasters, and umbrellabirdsâ •as a starting point to communicate key ecological topics such as biodiversity, coevolution, rarity, chemical defense, nutrient cycling, and camouflage. The luminous photographs capture stunning and rare creatures in action, including the now- extinct golden toad mating, a jaguar on the prowl, and the hermit hummingbird feeding. The behaviors and characteristics of the rainforest inhabitants featured here not only illustrate the text but also advance the scientific narrative and exemplify the critical importance of conservation. Thematic chapters are interspersed with four chapters devoted to specific habitats and regions of Costa Rica and Peru, areas with some of the most diverse arrays of plant and animal species in the world. The result is an exuberant celebration of the rainforest in text and images.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book contains a lot of excellent pictures. Each chapter explores different topic. My favorite chapters: "Frogs." Describes a great diversity of rain forest frogs and their strategies for surviving. "The essence of snake." Why the snakes are the way they are. "Fruit of reason." Purpose, variety and importance of tropical fruits. "The hidden." Camouflage of tropical animals. The chapter contains probably the most impressive photographs of the whole book. It is unbelievable how evolution molded animals in their environment. "The virtues of sloth." Who has not heard about a sloth? It turns out I knew very little about this animal. "Beetlejuice." Chemical defenses used by tropical animals. The most innocently-looking animals can be armed to teeth (even if they have don't have any :-)). Through the whole book one feels the author's pain for rain forest destruction, disappearance of tropical species, many of which are not even discovered yet. The book made me want to visit tropical forests of Costa Rica.

I have been to Costa Rica twice in the last couple years to see the rain forest and have found this book to be an invaluable resource. The author has written detailed chapters that really give wonderful details ...easy to read and enough info to learn quite a lot, no matter how much you think you already know. And the pictures on glossy paper are just a treat to see ... When you first see the book, you'll likely just flip through the pages and wonder at the majesty of rain forest life ...This is highly recommended for anybody going to Costa Rica!

This book is extremely well written and the photographs are outstanding as well. It is the quality of the writing and the quality of the information provided that sets this book apart. It gets into the ecology of the rainforest and the interrelationships of the plants and animals and the impact of human activities in a way I have found in no other book of its kind. Very accessible for anyone as the writer clearly wants to inform rather than impress the reader. I can only hope for more books from these people that cover additional species. It covers areas of Costa Rica and Peru but the information is applicable to other rainforest environments in Central and South America. I purchased and read the book after returning from my first trip to Costa Rica and only wish I had done so before the trip so I might have been a more perceptive traveler. If you have an interest in the wildlife of

Costa Rica this is a must have book.

This is a great coffee-table kind of book, organized around chapters that can be read independently in much any order. It sits greatly within the tradition of Adrian Forsyth's original Tropical Nature, but it also benefits immeasurably from the abundance of excellent photographs in large format that illustrate the text (Tropical Nature has precious few illustrations). If you will spend much time outdoors in forested parts of Central America, Colombia or Ecuador, or Peru, this book is for you.

I purchased this book as a gift for a friend who had recently been to Costa Rica on an 'eco-tourism' trip. The feedback (from my friend) about the book was absolutely glowing! She raved about it! If you're looking for a good gift for someone who has been to Costa Rica, give this book serious consideration.

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