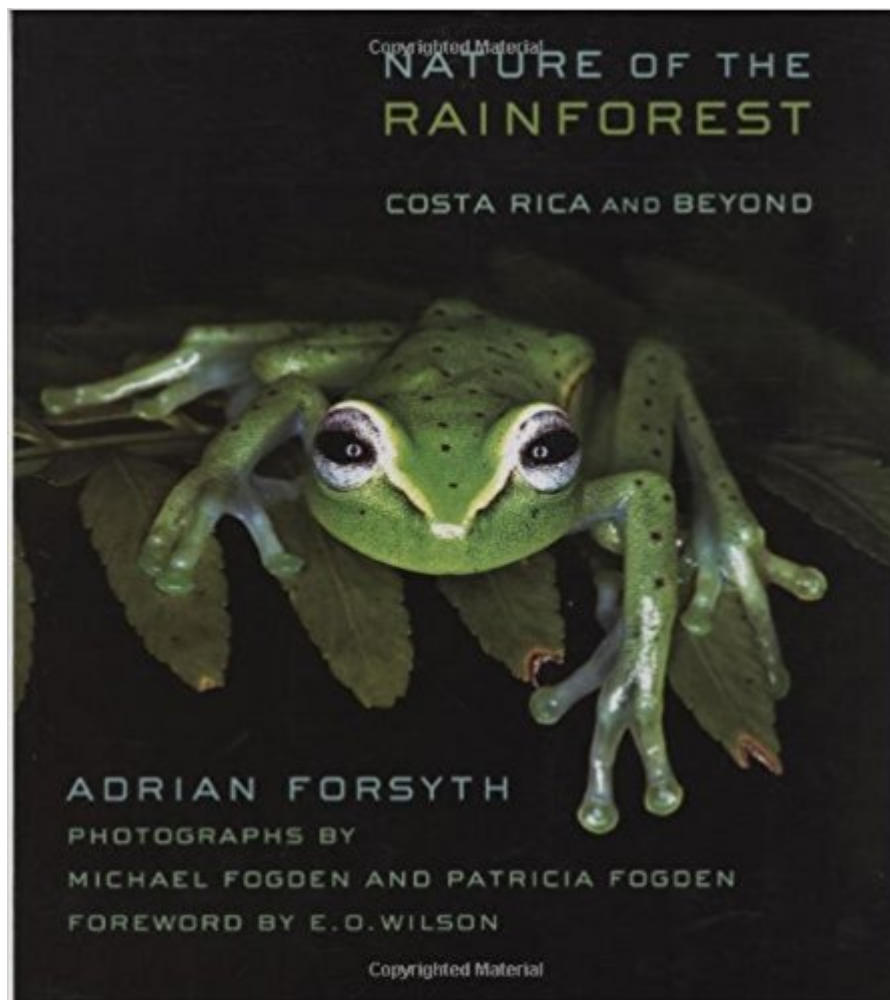




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Nature Of The Rainforest: Costa Rica And Beyond (Zona Tropical Publications)



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 rainforest—including poison-dart frogs, three-toed sloths, bushmasters, and umbrellabirds—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

"Forsyth succeeds in blending scientific data and analysis with an almost storytelling prose that should enthrall both professional and lay readers. As warned, some of the stories he tells tend to be personal in nature, or at least they start out that way. Each, however, weaves fascinating insights into the mystery and beauty of tropical biology.... His cause and his words are for understanding and protecting the tropical world. And for that, we should applaud his efforts and gain from his insights."

-- Sterling Evans, H-Net (September 2016) "What at first appears to be a new work by the distinguished naturalist Forsyth is actually an update of his 1990 *Portraits of the Rainforest*. The two pieces in *Portraits* that discussed in detail human activity in rain forests have been removed and replaced by three new reflective essays on the history, ecology, and future existence of certain rainforests. The new chapters have a much better fit here, as they express Forsyth's desire to give readers his sense of admiration and compassion for these relatively unknown ecosystems. While Forsyth's easy-to-read prose definitely helps to deliver his message, it is by far the photographs from the renowned Fogden that truly give readers reasons to appreciate these ecological treasures. Very few pictures from the original *Portraits* are included; instead, the photographers incorporate new sets of their spectacular and breathtaking images to create awareness and concern for these endangered rainforest ecosystems. Recommended for medium-sized to large public libraries and those with (introductory) natural history programs." -- *Library Journal* "Adrian Forsyth contributes with this book to the genuine literature of ecology, wherein exact knowledge is expressed through the prisms of disciplined emotion. Such writing requires a rare combination of scientific training and metaphorical skill, and Forsyth displays the instincts of a creative writer, taking us deep into the tropical rainforest. *Nature of the Rainforest* calls attention to the best of this planet and to the compelling reasons why we should look south, inland, to the forest of dreams." -- from the Foreword by E. O. Wilson "Nature of the Rainforest is an absolutely spectacular, essential addition to the library of any natural history buff, ecologist, or tropical forest conservationist. Its text reads like a *Sand County Almanac* for the tropics (something long needed and overdue) while the stunning photographs depict stories of how life works in this unique ecosystem. Adrian Forsyth loves the forest, understands the forest, and writes really well. The

Fogdens' incredible photographs, which serve as biological portraits of ecology, left me breathless."--Meg Lowman, author of *Life in the Treetops*

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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 needed this for one of my college courses, "Belize: Rainforests, Reefs, and Ruins." It's basically a picture book for adults. As a college student, any book with more images and less writing is exciting to have. I'm sure it'd also be nice to buy if you're interested in rain forests in general. Stunning photos, interesting material, and good stories.

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 is a great introduction to tropical ecology for those looking for a little more science behind the "gee-wiz" ecological fun facts of the tropical rainforest. Forsyth, as a working researcher, understands the science behind the natural history he discusses, but his gift with words makes it not only accessible but highly enjoyable to read. The great photography really helps illustrate the concepts, as well. Much more of a coffee-table sized book, this is something you'll want to pick up before heading to Costa Rica, and enjoy each morning with your coffee while planning your trip.

Helped us know what to look for on our travels. Very nice

I did not expect this book this book to be great and it isn't. It is Wonderful. Beyond my expectations. It is a beautifully made photo book on high gloss paper with detailed writing about the rainforest.

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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