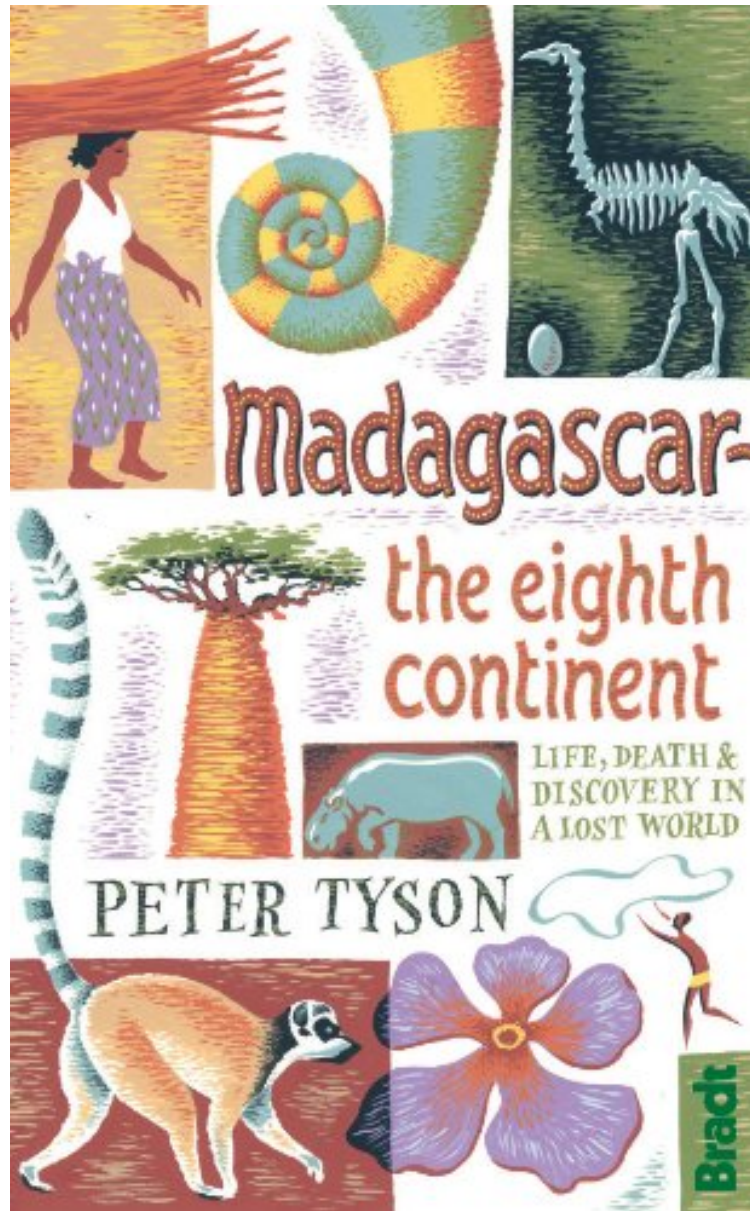


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Madagascar: The Eighth Continent (Bradt Travel Guides (Travel Literature))

Von Peter Tyson

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Von Peter Tyson : Madagascar: The Eighth Continent (Bradt Travel Guides (Travel Literature)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Madagascar: The Eighth Continent (Bradt Travel Guides (Travel Literature)):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

Excellent piece of travel writingVon sophiesanThis ranks among the best pieces of travel writing I have ever read. It's incredibly humorous and bristling with interesting bits of information. As it's based on travels (or rather expeditions) with different scientists exploring the fauna of Madagascar, there is lots of scientific info but it's never boring. I very much hope to find more by this author.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Romantic Reallife Zoology and MoreVon readerTyson takes us along on an adventure-filled, wonderful trek through the rainforests of Madagascar. The discoveries of new animals are chronicled, breathlessly, as if you are a member of the team. This is one of those important books that will be on my "special" shelf for a long time to come.The chapter "Search for the Pygmy Hippo" is bound to become a classic among cryptozoologists! This is a great book.1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. narrative non-fiction at its absolute bestVon Ein KundeThis book does what only the best narrative non-fiction can do, it takes us to places where we'll never go and fascinates us with tales of subjects that we never knew we cared about. Eighth Continent ranks alongside the best of John McPhee, and with other more recent work like Reflections in Bullough's Pond. You don't have to be interested in Madagascar to read this one for sheer pleasure.

KurzbeschreibungMadagascar is a land where lizards scream and monkey-like lemurs sing songs of inexpressible beauty. Known as the Great Red Island, it is a place where fosse and tenures, van gas and aye ayes thrive in a true 'Lost World' alongside bizarre plants like the octopus tree and the three-cornered palm. And where the ancestors of the Malagasy, as the island's 18 tribes are collectively known, come alive in rollicking ceremonies known as turning the bones. This natural and cultural history of Madagascar is an exploration of what makes the island so extraordinary. It is the only book that combines cutting-edge science and conservation with adventure travel and historical narrative. Perfect for those about to travel to Madagascar for the first time or just want to learn more, much of the historical material will be new to those familiar with Madagascar, even researchers who have worked there for years..deLying some 250 miles off the east coast of Africa, Madagascar is the world's fourth-largest island. It is quite unlike the neighboring continent, and, for that matter, quite unlike any other landmass on the planet. Its plant life is almost wholly endemic: eight out of 10 plants there grow naturally only on Madagascar, and it has an entire ecosystem, the spiny desert, that is found nowhere else on earth. Many of its animal species, too, seem to have emerged from some evolutionary track that runs parallel to the rest of the world's; here can be found lemurs that will fit into a human palm, dwarf hippos, giant chameleons, and other rarities. These plants and animals constitute an extraordinary diversity, writes science journalist Peter Tyson in this engaging book, and the island's richness of life has long intrigued scientists, who have proposed several theories to explain it. Those scientists, some of whom Tyson profiles at work in the field, are racing against time to catalog island life before it disappears, for Madagascar's human population is rapidly growing, and with that growth, the island's forests and other habitats are falling. The urgency may abate, Tyson writes, with guarded optimism, now that the island's current president has proposed that all of Madagascar be considered as a United Nations World Heritage Site, which would help provide funds to prevent further loss of habitat and diversity. Though this proposal is controversial, Tyson makes a good case for why it should be taken up--and he shows just how high the stakes are. Throughout his narrative, Tyson mixes scientific reportage with a nicely rendered travelogue that guides readers across the island while outlining key concepts of island biogeography and conservation biology. His book is a worthy companion to David Quammen's Song of the Dodo, and valuable reading for anyone concerned with the world environment. --Gregory McNameePressestimmenWhether meeting a leaf-tailed gecko eye to eye... or describing conservation issues and local customs, Peter Tyson provides the most enjoyable book on the natural and cultural history of Madagascar I have ever read.' George B. Schaller, Wildlife Conservation Society 'This is an absolutely absorbing book. Peter Tyson takes us with him on a journey of discovery, describing Madagascar with a rare depth of understanding, a fine eye for detail, and a sense of wonder that is most refreshing. There is humour, sadness, puzzlement, hope for the future. When you put the book down, you truly feel as if you have been there.' Jane Goodall "Part field report, part travelogue, part ecological history, Tyson's book is an engrossing testament to one of the planet's most astonishing places." Discover "Tyson's book makes a strong case that our planet would be a poorer place if [Madagascar] were to continue to wash into the sea." The Sciences "A sharp picture of an intriguing place." Scientific American "In this impressive volume, [Tyson] writes about what he learned on [his] visits, successfully conveying both the flavor of field research and the biological mysteries of the island nation." Publishers Weekly "For readers who have not experienced Madagascar, The Eighth Continent will provide a quantum leap in their understanding of the Malagasy culture and the island's diverse landscape and wildlife." Wildlife Conservation "A thorough researcher, Tyson packs this book with solid information . . . And he covers an amazing amount of terrain with a scholar's love of detail." Boston Globe "Science writer Tyson gives us a feel for the breadth and complexity of the world's fourth-largest island and tells us just why it is worth saving." Natural History "Tyson accompanied four scientists on separate field expeditions to the island In The Eighth Continent, readers relive these marvelous journeys."

