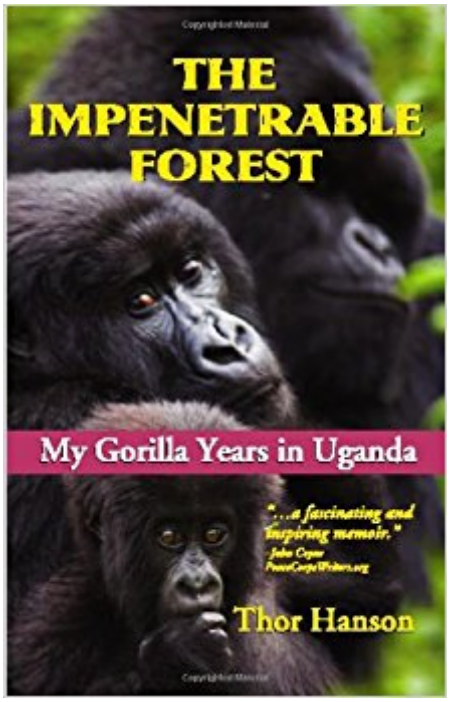
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years In Uganda, Revised Edition



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

A self-described eco-nerd Thor Hanson, scientist and writer, brought the nascent gorilla tourist program in Bwindi National Park, located within Africa's Impenetrable Forest, to life. With grace and good humor Hanson navigates the local customs, mores and bureaucracy governing everything from love to superstition to build infrastructure, hire and train staff, fend off millions of ants among many other creatures while studying and acclimating the mountain gorillas to humans in their midst.

Book Information

Hardcover: 284 pages

Publisher: 1500 Books; Revised edition (June 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1933698195

ISBN-13: 978-1933698199

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,763,262 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 inÃ Â Books > Travel > Africa > Rwanda & Uganda #247 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Apes & Monkeys #248 inÃ Â Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Zoology > Primatology

Customer Reviews

This book is a fun-read that provides an insider's account of life in the remote African bush as a Peace Corps volunteer. Great reading for everyone with a sense of adventure and interested in protecting our natural world. (Craig R. Sholley, African Wildlife Foundation)If you love to read about people who've made a difference, Thor's lifeÃ¢â ¬â ¢full of successes and disappointmentsÃ¢â ¬â ¢makes a fascinating, inspiring memoir. (John Coyne, Living on the Edge: Fiction by Peace Corps Writers)Fascinating...very well-written.

Award-Winner in the nature category of the National Best Books 2008 Awards, sponsored by USA Book News.

Dr. Hanson uses his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer to provide an engaging history of the conservation movement that has catapulted Bwindi (Buhoma), Uganda into a popular travel

destination. His auto-biographical account is humorous at times and heart-wrenching at others. He provides details about mountain gorilla behaviors (and how they are impacted by humans), though he does not overwhelm the reader with scientific "facts". He presents the information in a very digestible way that allows the reader to feel they are observing rather than reading. He does this while simultaneously examining the socio-political and economic factors that shaped the region in the early 1990's, including the political turmoil in neighboring Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire) and the impact of the AIDS epidemic on the local populations.I read this before spending several months in Buhoma as a volunteer at the Bwindi Community Hospital, and I recommended it to several other travelers while I was there. The hospital was not in place during Dr. Hanson's Peace Corps tour of duty (however, in the revised version, he does refer to it). Nonetheless, this is a lovely way for travelers with an interest in human or gorilla populations to become acquainted with the (semi-)recent local history. My only critique is that he does not really touch on the plight of the Batwa (pygmies) population that traditionally lived in the forest. They were forced to leave the forest (as conservation refugees) for the creation of the park and they now live on reservations. Of course, it is difficult to capture all of the complexities. Overall, Dr. Hanson does an excellent job presenting and contrasting issues that impact both humans and gorillas alike.

This is an amazing book about an amazing part of the world. I took this book with me when I visited Bwindi Impenetrable Forest a few weeks ago. While seeing the gorillas myself was wonderful, Thor Hanson's account inÃ Â The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda, Revised EditionÃ Â really added depth to my visit. In the book, Hanson recounts his years as a Peace Corps volunteer helping to establish ecotourism in Bwindi (the same ecotourism I ultimately benefitted from). His book weaves observations of the gorillas with amusing anecdotes of the Uganda people, whom he describes as being amongst the kindest in the world (an observation with which I agree).Hanson really breathes life into the gorillas, describing the personalities of the individual families. One episode in particular really stuck out. Gorillas often mock charge humans. Once, when Hanson was observing a family, two aggressive males charged him and his group. However, another gorilla stood in between the aggressors and the humans, as if protecting them. This heartwarming episode suggests some gorillas have empathy for humans. Through Hanson's book, hopefully more of us will have empathy for them.Hanson also provides an excellent overview of life in Peace Corps. While he admits his Peace Corps experience may have been more exciting (most volunteers end up teaching English), he shows the struggles some volunteers face immersing themselves into an entirely new culture. I was particularly struck by how volunteers sometimes felt

they were never fully accepted into the community - that they often remained the "white curiousity". On that note, this book should be assigned reading for new Peace Corps volunteers.The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda, Revised EditionÃ Â is not just about gorillas, not just about Uganda, not just about Peace Corps - it's the combination that makes reading it such a joy. I wholeheartedly recommend it if you ever get to visit the gorillas and people in Bwindi - or if you are just looking for a good book.

I read Hanson's fine book before going to Uganda and Bwindi in 2005. It was an excellent and useful read then. Now, ten years later, I've read it again during my 6th or so trip back to Uganda, finding it even more interesting and insightful than the first time, in part because I've spent a lot of time with Bakiga people in Kabarole. Long ago I was a Peace Corps volunteer in India, and wish I could have interacted as deeply with the people there as Hanson did in Uganda, and written as eloquently and warmly he has about life, culture, mores, gorillas and the land.

I'm planning a trip to The Impenetrable Forest to see the mountain gorillas. This was an amazing story of how the gorillas were habituated so that tourists like myself would have an opportunity to view these magnificent creatures. Thor Hanson has a wonderful sense of humor and is an excellent writer. His experience was fascinating. He weaves history and culture together in such a way that I felt totally immersed in the story. It was hard to put the book down. I would recommend this book to anyone.

I bought this book with the expectation that I would learn lots of facts about mountain gorillas before heading out to Bwindi to see them in the flesh. But now, having just finished the book, I can't honestly say that I learned much about gorilla behavior. Hanson devotes maybe a third of the book to discussing gorillas, and even then, the emphasis is on the habituation process which he was involved in as part of his Peace Corps mission, not on gorilla ecology. The rest of the book covers Ugandan history, culture, the impact of the Rwandan genocide, and the struggle to convince the local people to see the parks as sources of sustainable income, rather than hunting and poaching grounds. But the bulk of the story deals with Hanson's experiences and relationships with the Ugandan people - the friendships he formed, and the losses he suffered (mainly through the ravages of AIDS).Even though I learned little new about gorillas, I still recommend this informative and poignant book to anybody wanting to learn more about East Africa.

Download to continue reading...

The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda, Revised Edition The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda Gorilla Walk Gorilla Walk (Adventures Around the World) Uganda (Bradt Travel Guide Uganda) Amazing Pictures and Facts About Uganda: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Uganda (Kid's U) Uganda, 6th (Bradt Travel Guide Uganda) The Uganda Fact and Picture Book: Fun Facts for Kids About Uganda (Turn and Learn) Gorilla Mindset: How to Control Your Thoughts and Emotions and Live Life on Your Terms Gorilla Mindset Good Night, Gorilla Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla GOOD NIGHT, GORILLA (Picture Puffins) Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism The Guerrilla/Gorilla Diet & Lifestyle Program: Wage War On Weight And Poor Health And Learn To Thrive In The Modern Jungle The Invisible Gorilla: How Our Intuitions Deceive Us Confidence: Gorilla Confidence - Simple Habits To Unleash Your Natural Inner Confidence (Self Esteem, Charisma, Personal Magnetism & Self Confidence) The Year of the Gorilla Gorilla Mountain: The Story of Wildlife Biologist Amy Vedder (Women's Adventures in Science (Children's Press)) On the Gorilla Trail (Sisters of the Hunt) Magical Forest: An Adult Coloring Book with Enchanted Forest Animals, Fantasy Landscape Scenes, Country Flower Designs, and Mythical Nature Patterns

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help