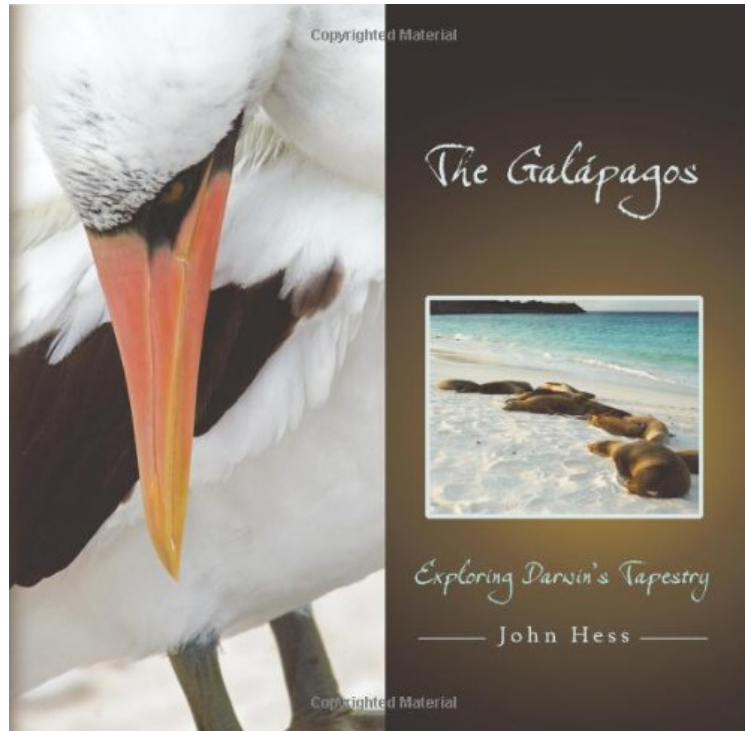


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## The Galpagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry

John Hess

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**John Hess : The Galpagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Galpagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry:

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. EnchantingBy Jeanne KernGoing to the Galapagos is a magical experience. You walk in history, science, and a spiritual connection with other species. No book has captured that sense of magic for me--until now. John Hess' photos are breathtaking, and his words are thoughtful, insightful, and whimsical. Even handling the book and feeling the pages makes you feel good.This is a book for anyone who likes animals, birds, nature, humor, science, and...yes...magic.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. UP CLOSE AND PERSONALBy Susan Coce KellyI recently picked up my copy of The Galapagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry, and was awed all over again. The book is not just a study of Darwin's legacy, but a compelling collection of up-close-and-personal portraits of both flora and fauna (especially fauna) that gives the reader a ring-side seat on one of the world's truly unique places. If you're going, have been or just wondering about the Galapagos, this book is a treasure.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. it is a expression of John Hess's love of natureBy KatzmeWsThis book is a not just a compilation of photographs, it is a expression of John Hess's love of nature, and his incredible ability to capture life as it unfolds. I feel very honored to call him my friend and to be able to enjoy his passion for photography. Thank you my friend.

Charles Darwin arrived at the Galapagos Islands some three centuries after their discovery. Thousands of seafarers had been there before him, but in these islands Darwin found something more enduring than fresh water and tortoise meat.

He found nourishment for an idea - an idea so powerful that its implications revised the place of humans in the universe and enriched every facet of science. Darwin tested and refined his idea for decades before he was persuaded to go public in 1859 by publishing *The Origin of Species*. Today this remote archipelago is the destination of vast numbers of visitors who hope to see what Darwin saw and to experience the aura of this extraordinary place. The Galapagos ecosystem, a tapestry of living things, is probably the best preserved of any in the world. Like all ecosystems, it is made of many components that are interwoven and interdependent; Darwin's idea explains how such tapestries are organized as well as how they are created. Now, in spectacular pictures and insightful prose, *The Galapagos: Exploring Darwin's Tapestry* opens the Galapagos experience to general readers. With an extensive background in ornithology and evolutionary ecology, a lifetime of experience as naturalist and photographer, and a deep respect for his subjects, John Hess has produced a celebration of these 'Enchanted Islands'. After describing the islands' origins and the complex of physical forces that make the Galapagos so remarkable, Hess turns his attention to the most prominent habitats on the islands and to the plants and animals encountered in them. He then focuses on the animals most encountered by visitors, animals that Hess presents as Galapagos Royalty: the flightless cormorant, the marine iguana, the Galapagos tortoise, and others. A photo essay for each of these species provides the reader with an intimate look at their physical and behavioral adaptations, and the accompanying text offers insight into their lives, showing that each of them is a unique and priceless evolutionary achievement. The photographs are amazingly intimate, offering close-up views that bring readers into virtual contact with the animals and illustrating their behavior and apparent quirks: an albatross that takes its egg for a stroll, a seabird that can't swim or land in the water, and a gull that has learned to fish for squid in the dark. For Hess, the Galapagos are more than a tourist attraction, more than a shrine to science - they are a place of breathless awe. His book invites readers to share his affection for the islands and his appreciation of the exquisite beauty of Darwin's tapestry.

This is a beautifully illustrated and informative introduction to the life of Galapagos. It's just the book to get the overall picture, and to use as a guide if the reader is fortunate enough to visit this amazing archipelago. Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University, and author of *Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth* is often asked by people who are traveling to the Galapagos Islands what book they should read before going. I finally have a good answer. John Hess's book is not just beautifully written. It features spectacular photography informed by the trained eye of a superb evolutionary biologist and these images bring the magical plants and animals of this unique archipelago to life. Jeffrey P. Bonner, President and CEO of the Saint Louis Zoo and author of *Sailing with Noah: Stories from the World of Zoos* found the book to be a delight to read, as it brought back so many memories of a place where I worked hard and long, but haven't visited in over a decade. This book will serve to both stimulate folks to visit those islands and remind them of what a special visit they had. It was fun to read, and the pictures are spectacular! John R. Faaborg, Professor of Biological Sciences and author of *Ornithology: An Ecological Approach* About the Author John Hess is Emeritus Professor of Biology at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg.