

An aerial photograph of a large, turquoise lake with several forested islands and peninsulas. The water is exceptionally clear, showing the rocky bottom and submerged logs. The surrounding forest is dense and green, with some autumn-colored trees visible on the left side. The overall scene is a stunning natural landscape.

LONELY PLANET'S
BEAUTIFUL WORLD



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IT'S A
**BEAUTIFUL
WORLD**

Have you been to Yosemite Valley?

That's a place that can make you catch your breath: the scale of the rock faces, the delirious perfection of the valley floor's meadows. It makes your head swim, a recognition of beauty so powerful, you just ... stop.

The world is full of places like that. But we don't see them every day and sometimes we need to be reminded that they are there. This book gathers together photography of some of the world's most extraordinary places to share the wonder they bring.

Being in a beautiful place is more than observing what's before your eyes. The experience of beauty is an emotional one, brought about through context; there's the people you're with, or the people you're not with; there's your mood, where you are in your life. All these factors come together to make the response to a place unique and personal, and different every time you visit.

When you look at a photograph of a beautiful place, that context disappears. We thought about that fact when we were making this book. We wanted to create a context that helped bring some of those connections to bear. The images here are arranged in chapters that reflect an aspect of life. As you turn the pages we hope that pondering the relationship between each image and the life stage with which it's been connected will add another dimension to your experience.

The images in this book will take you to places far and wide, the kinds of places that you might never visit but that you can perhaps put on that "If" list we all have tucked away. These places are surprising, remarkable, remote, familiar ... dive in and marvel over the undeniable fact; *it is a beautiful world.*

ORIGINS

It all begins.







