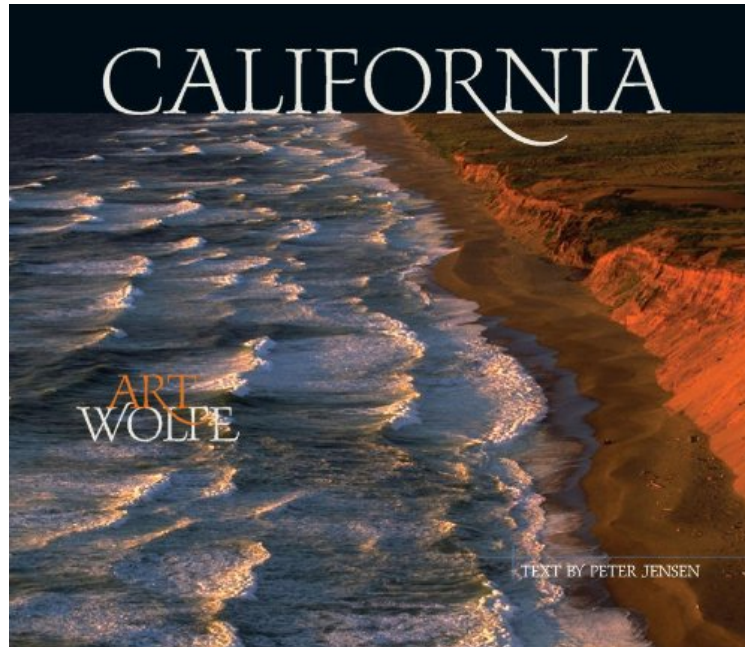


## California

*Peter Jensen*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



#2250816 in Books Pgw 2003-08-19 2003-08-19Original language:English 9.40 x .49 x 11.00l, 1.75 #File Name: 1570612803160 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Peter Jensen : California** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised California:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Looks for the details in natureBy Jerry HughesThe book "California" is filled with many photos of various areas in California----some of the standard or usual places like Yosemite, etc. But many are of off-the-beaten-path areas that many people would not recognize as being California. I bought the book for photos of the few places I've visited and the only short-coming I can list for this book is that I was hoping for photos of more, well-known areas or a "classic" California. The book has photos of animals and closeups of items in nature that are interesting but could have been taken anywhere. I think the author was bored with the usual and went one step further, hoping the readers would appreciate details in nature. I did appreciate the book and it was worth the money but would have enjoyed more of the beautiful, classic sites---such as, McWay falls, better variations of photos of Pt. Lobos, the outstanding views you find in the deserts instead of closeups of desert plants, etc. My comments are not intended to keep anyone from enjoying this nice book but are meant to reflect my personal expectations when paging through a book named "California". Enjoy. Jerry Hughes1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. BeautifulBy Barbara Westlake-KennyThis is a beautiful coffee-table style book that will make anyone with a pulse want to visit California. We are already planning another trip to this uniquely beautiful state.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Always awesome Art.By R. CummingsIf God were to choose a photographer to record his creations, I am sure he would pick Art Wolfe. Full of his standard great photos, a pleasure to look at.

Internationally acclaimed nature and wildlife photographer Art Wolfe has long had a love affair with California. Along its coastline he finds iconic vistas and light playing upon water in ways that crystallize the very idea of West Coast. In

this luscious book, he explores all of the natural regions of the state including the alpine lakes of the high Sierra, the ancient forests, and the uniquely abundant and colorful desert. Wolfe showcases a California that is familiar the craggy peaks of Yosemite, the fog-caressed rolling grass hills of Marin, the arid high-plains of Owens Valley and yet remarkably new as seen through his expert lens.

From the Inside Flap Internationally acclaimed nature and wildlife photographer Art Wolfe has long had a love affair with California. Along its wild coastline, he finds iconic vistas and light playing upon water in ways that crystallize the very idea of the West Coast. Heading inland, he is drawn to the dense lushness of ancient forests, the bracing environs of an alpine lake in the Sierra Nevada, and the particular abundance of plant and animal life found only in the desert. Seeking the natural world in the great Central Valley, Art Wolfe captures stands of ancient oaks, wildflower carpets, and migratory bird populations. The natural bounty of California is a gift of diverse treasures. Mountain landscapes of ice and rock give way to cloistered old-growth forests. A commanding scene of cliff and sand and breaking waves is also, upon closer inspection, the location of highly intricate stone carvings. And the light on sand forms in Death Valley exposes nature's most sensual shapes. Art Wolfe brings a painter's eye to photography, and so his eye is as apt to focus on light and pattern as it does on grand scenery and wildlife. This is a California that is familiar -- Yosemite, Marin, the Owens Valley -- and yet remarkably new. Art Wolfe offers a personal landscape in his images of place. The result is California as it has not been seen before. About the Author Art Wolfe is author of Alaska, Colorado, and many other books. He has spent many years hiking, exploring, and photographing California. He lives in Seattle. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. I can remember to this day the first time I ever traveled to California. During winter break in 1969, some friends and I racked up many road miles doing the "Grand Tour" of the state. Having never been there, I had the stereotypical preconceptions of what California would be like, gleaned from television and magazines, which were the only sources of knowledge I had of the state. So of course, I knew all about Disneyland and its faux Matterhorn; I knew that Hollywood was there, and that the Golden Gate Bridge was in San Francisco, and that San Francisco was a beautiful city situated on hills very similar to my hometown of Seattle. And of course, the sun shone all the time. We took fabled Highway 1 down the Washington and Oregon coasts and into California through the Klamath Mountains. My first impressions came from driving through Crescent City and coming to the groves of redwoods in Redwood National Park. It was there that I experienced my first true taste of what natural California had to offer. I had never seen any living thing of that magnitude in my life. The redwoods were so tall that their 350-foot-high crowns were lost in a midwinter mantle of fog, and their massive trunks dwarfed everything in their midst. The farther we ventured into the state, the more my naive perceptions were changed. Where was the immense population and choking smog? I found instead a stunning coastline intersected by ridges and valleys, and a pastoral beauty that was largely untrammelled and thankfully undiscovered by the casual tourist. We made our way to San Francisco where we stayed a few days enjoying the sights and scenes of that great city. Then we continued on to Big Sur and once again the raw beauty of the coastline profoundly affected me. I remember to this day sitting on a small deck outside a cabin on the Central Coast, smelling the honeysuckle vines a-buzz with hummingbirds and hearing news reports that Seattle was experiencing a snow storm. Later in the day, at an al fresco cafe, we looked several hundred feet down a cliff and watch sea otters frolicking in the kelp beds. We made it as far south as San Diego, turned east, and set off into the desert. What an experience the arid and elemental landscape of Death Valley was for someone fresh out of the mossy Pacific Northwest. The December nights were unexpectedly cold, but during the day it warmed up to a pleasant seventy-five degrees. Following the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada through Owens Valley and past monumental, yet ecologically devastated, Mono Lake -- deprived of water by the Los Angeles Aqueduct -- we skirted Lake Tahoe and dropped over to the west side once again. We ended up in Yosemite, with its great granite walls etched in snow and the smell of juniper smoke wafting through the valley. The scene is still fresh in my mind thirty years later. Since my first Grand Tour of California, I have returned countless times. It is a landscape photographer's dream, full of amazing geological diversity, and I cannot think of any state in the entire country that offers so many different experiences. If California were a state on the East Coast, it would stretch from Maine to Georgia. Truly unique is Death Valley, with its blistering heat and sub-sea level elevation -- at -282 feet, and lowest in the United States. There is the tilted granite block of the High Sierra, with its alpine tarns and meadows, and home to Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the Lower 48. The snow-capped volcanoes of Shasta and Lassen, located in the southern reaches of the Cascade Range, clearly rival the beauty and power of Washington's icon, Mount Rainier. A sea in primordial times and now productive farmland, the great Central Valley has field of flowers near Lancaster and Bakersfield that are unparalleled in sheer size and color. The rugged coastline, made up of five mountain ranges, is every bit as wild and untamed as you would find elsewhere in the United States, and the North Coast redwood forests simply tower over the cedar and spruce forests of the Pacific Northwest. With nearly 35 million residents and the fifth or sixth most powerful economy in the world, California must confront the major challenge of how to protect its environment from encroachment and overuse. The conflict between economic prosperity and environmental health has been an issue since the days of the Gold Rush in 1849. In the face of overnight development and environmental exploitation, the Sierra Club was founded in 1892, with John Muir as its

first president. In the century since, it has evolved into one of the most effective environmental lobbies in the United States. In the last century, various commissions have been set up to protect California's 1,264-mile coast and to save San Francisco Bay from the leeching poisons of landfills. How to protect its multiplicity of delicate environments and ecosystems as well as its multiplicity of human cultures is indeed a huge challenge for California in the twenty-first century. Because of its status as a bellwether state, California's policies, successes, and failures will affect us all. -- Art Wolfe, from the Introduction to CALIFORNIA