



# **The Naked Tourist: In Search of Adventure and Beauty in the Age of the Airport Mall**

*Lawrence Osborne*

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# The Naked Tourist: In Search of Adventure and Beauty in the Age of the Airport Mall

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**The Naked Tourist: In Search of Adventure and Beauty in the Age of the Airport Mall** Lawrence Osborne

**From the theme resorts of Dubai to the jungles of Papua New Guinea, a disturbing but hilarious tour of the exotic east?and of the tour itself**

Sick of producing the bromides of the professional travel writer, Lawrence Osborne decided to explore the psychological underpinnings of tourism itself. He took a six-month journey across the so-called Asian Highway?a swathe of Southeast Asia that, since the Victorian era, has seduced generations of tourists with its manufactured dreams of the exotic Orient. And like many a lost soul on this same route, he ended up in the harrowing forests of Papua, searching for a people who have never seen a tourist.

What, Osborne asks, are millions of affluent itinerants looking for in these endless resorts, hotels, cosmetic-surgery packages, spas, spiritual retreats, sex clubs, and "back to nature" trips? What does tourism, the world's single largest business, have to sell? A travelogue into that heart of darkness known as the Western mind, *The Naked Tourist* is the most mordant and ambitious work to date from the author of *The Accidental Connoisseur*, praised by *The New York Times Book Review* as "smart, generous, perceptive, funny, sensible."

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