



# The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World

By Eric Weiner

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## The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World By Eric Weiner

Part foreign affairs discourse, part humor, and part twisted self-help guide, *The Geography of Bliss* takes the reader from America to Iceland to India in search of happiness, or, in the crabby author's case, moments of "un-unhappiness." The book uses a beguiling mixture of travel, psychology, science and humor to investigate not what happiness is, but where it is. Are people in Switzerland happier because it is the most democratic country in the world? Do citizens of Qatar, awash in petrodollars, find joy in all that cash? Is the King of Bhutan a visionary for his initiative to calculate Gross National Happiness? Why is Asheville, North Carolina so damn happy? With engaging wit and surprising insights, Eric Weiner answers those questions and many others, offering travelers of all moods some interesting new ideas for sunnier destinations and dispositions.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Fortified with Eeyoreish fatalism—I'm already unhappy. I have nothing to lose—Weiner set out on a yearlong quest to find the world's unheralded happy places. Having worked for years as an NPR foreign correspondent, he'd gone to many obscure spots, but usually to report bad news or terrible tragedies. Now he'd travel to countries like Iceland, Bhutan, Qatar, Holland, Switzerland, Thailand and India to try to figure out why residents tell positive psychology researchers that they're actually quite happy. At his first stop, Rotterdam's World Database of Happiness, Weiner is confronted with a few inconvenient truths. Contrary to expectations, neither greater social equality nor greater cultural diversity is associated with greater happiness. Iceland and Denmark are very homogeneous, but very happy; Qatar is extremely wealthy, but Weiner, at least, found it rather depressing. He wasn't too fond of the Swiss, either, uncomfortable with their quiet satisfaction, tinged with just a trace of smugness. In the end, he realized happiness isn't about economics or geography. Maybe it's not even personal so much as relational. In the end, Weiner's travel tales—eating rotten shark meat in Iceland, smoking hashish in Rotterdam, trying to meditate at an Indian ashram—provide great happiness for his readers.

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From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

If there's one truth that emerged from reviewers' various takes on *The Geography of Bliss*, it's that happiness is subjective. Every critic seemed to find something that really irked him or her about this book: Weiner's persona seems affected, he indulges in "psychobabble," he remains aloof about himself, he comes across as an obnoxious reporter. Yet everyone seemed to enjoy his book, admiring Weiner's original approach to the subject, his balance of research and experience, and the characters that illustrate the lessons on happiness Weiner accumulates during his journeys. In short, all the critics' happiness was alike, but they were also all unhappy in their own way. (Sorry, Tolstoy.) FYI: Weiner lives in Miami, Florida.

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Review

"Laugh. Think. Repeat. Repeatedly. If someone told me this book was this good, I wouldn't have believed them." **Po Bronson, author of What Should I Do With My Life?**

"Part travelogue, part personal-discovery memoir and all sustained delight, this wise, witty ramble reads like Paul Theroux channeling David Sedaris on a particularly good day..... Fresh and beguiling."

**Kirkus Reviews**

"Think *Don Quixote* with a dark sense of humor and a taste for hashish and you begin to grasp Eric Weiner, the modern knight-errant of this mad, sad, wise, and witty quest across four continents. I won't spoil the fun by telling if his mission succeeds, except to say that happiness is reading a book as entertaining as this." **Tony Horwitz, author of Confederates in the Attic**

"With one single book, Eric Weiner has flushed Bill Bryson down a proverbial toilet, and I say that lovingly. By turns hilarious and profound, this is the kind of book that could change your life. The relationship between place and contentment is an ineffable one, and Weiner cuts through the fog with a big, powerful light. *The Geography of Bliss* is no smiley-face emoticon, it's a Winslow Homer." **Henry Alford, author of**

## **Municipal Bondage and Big Kiss**

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Cora Morrell:**

Nowadays reading books become more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that will improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of publication you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with education books but if you want sense happy read one with theme for entertaining like comic or novel. The particular The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World is kind of publication which is giving the reader unstable experience.

##### **Calvin Cline:**

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the e-book untitled The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

##### **Sophie Clark:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World, you are able to enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

##### **Lee Villegas:**

In this time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information easier to share. You can find a lot of recommendations to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you is The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places in the World this e-book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer use to explain it is easy

to understand. The writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That's why this book appropriate all of you.

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