

If you were asked to take a Martian to visit a single place that captures all the themes running through the modern world – from our faith in technology to our destruction of nature, from our interconnectedness to our romanticising of travel – then you would almost certainly have to head to an airport. Airports, in all their turmoil, interest and beauty, are the imaginative centres of our civilisation.

'I doubt if de Botton has written a
dull sentence in his life'

JAN MORRIS

'De Botton's gift is to prompt us to
think about how we live and how
we might change things'

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