

Mono Lake is a magical place. You would definitely notice this if you were ever down there during a storm. With darkened skies, choppy waves, the strong smell of salt in the air, it can overwhelm you with its power. It has an energy of its own that draws people in. Mono Lake isn't just a place you can experience with your eyes, it's a place you have to open yourself up to and let yourself feel it.

Sitting on the shore of Mono Lake is wild. You can hear and see the birds, watch the water and the foam move, listen to the alkali flies, and stare off at the horizon. You can also stare at the tufa for hours and imagine how it used to be under water, a living spring, and now it is a fossil. No two tufa are the same, and they are as fascinating close up as they are far away. The environment is so unique, you feel as if you are on another planet, and then you realize how blessed you are to be able to visit this place whenever you want, because it is here in the beautiful Eastern Sierra. There are no cars, buildings, or concrete. The lake is a different every day. It screams wilderness. It is a place you can go to and sit and think. It is also a place to relax and let all of your stress go. For me, it is a place of worship. I can go to the lake and feel closer to lost loved ones while praying, thinking, hoping, and dreaming.

Places like Mono Lake matter because they are so beautiful and powerful. There just aren't many places like that on earth. It also matters because some things should be left as is, wild. Humans need places to find peace and tranquility. We need reminders that we aren't in control of everything; we need to stay connected with the rhythms of nature. Everyone needs Mono Lake.