



# The Beach: The History of Paradise on Earth

*Lena Lencek, Gideon Bosker*

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**The Beach: The History of Paradise on Earth** Lena Lencek, Gideon Bosker

Blue-green surf, pillowy white sand, and a warm salty breeze--when it comes to restoring body and soul, no place in the world can compete with the beach. Nature's most potent antidepressant, the seashore is today--but wasn't always--everyone's favorite getaway spot. With an entertaining historical account as its narrative framework, this elegantly designed volume charts the evolution of the seaside from a wasteland at the margins of civilization--remote, terror filled, and exotic--to its present role as the central staging ground for diversions of all sorts: escape, re-creation, and congregation. A marvelous selection of images evokes the beach's hypnotic appeal--everything from impressionist paintings and fascinating lithographs to archival photographs and quirky advertising art--as the text explores the histories of sexuality, fashion, and sport; the rise of great resorts from Coney Island to Cap d'Antibes; and the evolution of leisure itself. Also included is an appendix of the world's most beautiful, luxurious, and unspoiled beaches. The Beach will be a pleasure to any reader who loves to settle down on the sand with a great--and fascinating--book.

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The beach is the favourite getaway destination for most of us. Using numerous paintings, photographs and advertisements, this book charts the evolution of the seaside, from ancient societies, through the development of famous resorts to the present-day quest for the luxurious and unspoiled. Product Identifiers. Publisher. Vintage Publishing. ISBN-10. 0436412179.

The Beach - The History Of Paradise On Earth. ISBN. 071266596X (ISBN13: 9780712665964). Lencek didn't go much into the working classes and their pretty steady use of the oceans, as this is mostly a history of how the middle and upper classes related to shoreside environments, and she also didn't get into issues of segregation and beach access and the development of resorts specific to certain religions and races. But it was a good sweeping look at the construction of the beach as an environment with particular purposes suited to their times. ...more. flag Like · see review. Sep 26, 2010 · Kimari · rated it liked it · review of another edition. Shelves: history, audiobook, The Beach will be a pleasure to anr reader who loves to settle down on the sand with a fascinating book. From being a wasteland at the margins of civilization-remote, unknown, dangerous-the beach is now seen as nature's most potent anti-depressant, everyone's favourite destination. Using a hugely enter-taining historical framework, this book charts the evolution of the seaside from ancient societies to the present day. A marvellous selection of images-impressionist paintings, lithographs, archive photos, advertising art-evokes the beach's hypnotic appeal, while the text explores the evolution of leisure, the beach's role in the history of sexuality, fashion and sport, and rise

The beach had its share of dangers, too. Drownings were common, as many beachgoers had only the most rudimentary experience with the water and were at best just marginally capable swimmers. And young women who came to the seaside to be cured of their melancholy or tuberculosis were - at least in the urban legends of the 19th century - tempting prey for "some handsome scoundrel, who all too often seduced and abandoned them." During the first half of the 20th century very little of the human torso was actually visible on the beach. The length and cut of women's suits were regulate