


Cross-references

Coastal Modeling and Simulation
Numerical Modeling
Simple Beach and Surf Zone Models
Surf Modeling
Wave Climate

Arms at Anse Source D'argent, La Digue Island, Seychelles, Indian Ocean; often considered to be the most beautiful beach in the world (Photo courtesy of New Adventures).
Virgin Islands

The Virgin Islands, located in the northeastern Caribbean along the leading edge of the Caribbean plate, are composed of Mesozoic and lower Tertiary deformed island-arc terrane. Much of the northeastern British Virgin Islands region is underlain by the Virgin Gorda granitic pluton or batholith, which was intruded into the surrounding country rock in mid- to later Eocene time (Mattson et al., 1990). Weathered exposures in tonalitic rocks at the southern end of the island of Virgin Gorda reveal huge boulders now located upon the beaches (Weaver, 1962) in a park system managed by the B.V.I. National Parks Trust.

The origin of these boulders has been described by Ratté (1986) in the classic Linton (1955) style for tors of deep weathering along joints followed by removal of the rotten material. A favorite with tourists, the site is called “The Baths,” not because of the underlying batholith as a geologist would imagine, but for the salt water pools in the grotto at the base of the tors (Figure T47). Here one may walk, and crawl, along a trail between boulders that range up to 4 m in height.

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Bibliography


Cross-references

Boulder Beaches
Caribbean Islands, Coastal Ecology and Geomorphology
Coastal Hoodoos
Indian Ocean Islands, Coastal Ecology and Geomorphology
Tourism, Criteria for Coastal Sites
Weathering in the Coastal Zone

TOURISM AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Coastal tourism is a process involving tourists and the people and places they visit. It is more specifically defined as tourism brought to bear on the coastal environment and its natural and cultural resources. Most coastal zone tourism takes place along the shore and in the water immediately adjacent to the shoreline. Coastal tourism activities occur outdoors and indoors as recreation, sport and play, and as leisure and business (Miller and Ditton, 1986). As with other human endeavors in the coastal zone associated with development, tourism is viewed positively by some for the opportunities it creates. Others condemn coastal tourism for its unacceptable consequences.

Coastal tourism destinations fall all along an urban–rural continuum (see Demography of Coastal Populations, q.v.). At one end of the scale are major cities and ports (Hong Kong, Venice, New York, Rio de Janeiro, and Sydney come to mind) known for their cultural, historical, and economic significance. At the other end of the continuum are the relatively isolated and pristine coasts found around the world that are valued for their natural beauty, flora, and fauna. Of course, many coastal tourism destinations offer rich mixtures of cultural, historical, social, environmental, and other values to visitors.

Coastal tourism technologies of travel include both those which carry tourists from their homeland (e.g., airplanes, ships, cars, buses, and trains) and which are regarded by travelers as mere means to the end of arriving at destinations, and those which transport tourists at coastal destinations but which become part of the touristic experience (e.g., cruise ships, personal watercraft, sailboats, dive boats, motorcycles, bicycles, and forms of animal transportation). Again, some transportation technologies can, depending on the circumstances, be important for being both convenient and for being interesting or pleasing.

In a manner of speaking, all tourism is a matter of supply and demand. With this perspective, coastal tourism is a business for those who make a living by developing accommodations and attractions, and by providing touristic and recreational products and services. Competing marketing programs of a multifaceted industry alert tourists and would-be travelers to coastal tourism amenities. Today, tourists travel to the coastal zone for parts of a day, for weekends, for short vacations, and for prolonged stays. Depending on the circumstances, they may travel alone, with family, or in groups. Some coastal tourism is organized for a special purpose such as ecotourism, adventure tourism, scientific tourism, and dive tourism. Coastal tourism accommodations range from small residences and camping sites rented out as opportunities arise, to single Bed-and-breakfast and hotel rooms, to luxury suites in resort enclaves.

Many coastal tourism activities count as a business for those in the tourism industry and as an experience for tourists. Scuba diving, for example, provides an excellent example of how advances in technology have provided foundations for business and have facilitated touristic access to the marine environment. Other coastal activities that have a business aspect (involving, for example, guides and instructors, or...
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