

History of Seaside Holidays

The First Seaside Holidays

- They first started in the 1700s.
- The first seaside holidays were only for the rich.



Changes to Seaside Holidays

- The railway was invented in the 1840s.
- Then more people could go to the seaside.
- More hotels were built for people to stay in.
- Lots of beaches were given bathing machines.
- People got changed in the bathing machines.
- They did not like showing their bodies.



A Comparison: Then and Now

	Then	Now
Travel	train	car
Food	fish and chips ice cream	fish and chips ice cream
Activities	donkey rides	donkey rides arcades fun fair

Did you know?

The first British seaside town was Scarborough.



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History of Seaside Holidays

The First Seaside Holidays

Seaside holidays first started in Britain during the 1700s. At this time, it was only the rich people who went to the seaside. Very rich people often owned a second home at the seaside. The first British seaside town was in Scarborough.



Changes to Seaside Holidays

Seaside holidays have changed lots over the years. They started to become more popular with people who were not so rich after the invention of the railway in the 1840s. More hotels were built for people to stay in and the beach became a well-liked place. Victorian people did not like to show their bodies, so little huts called bathing machines were available.



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A Comparison: Then and Now

	Then	Now
Travel	People went by train to the seaside.	People usually go by car to the seaside.
Food	People liked to eat fish and chips. Ice cream was also popular.	People like to eat fish and chips. Ice cream vans are still seen by the beach.
Activities	People liked to have a donkey ride on the beach, or walk on the promenade to listen to a band.	People still enjoy donkey rides on the beach. They also like to go to the funfair or play on the arcade machines.
Clothing	People did not like to show their skin. They often went into the sea fully-clothed.	People wear shorts, costumes or bikinis in the water. Some people wear wetsuits to protect themselves from the sun.



History of Seaside Holidays

The First Seaside Holidays

During the 18th century, seaside holidays began. However, at this time, it was only a luxury for the wealthiest people. Only the upper class visited the seaside in their leisure time. The first British seaside town was Scarborough. The town became popular when a stream of acidic water was found on one of the southern cliffs. It was believed that the water helped to treat minor ailments.

Brighton, in the south, was also an early seaside town. It was extremely popular with the wealthy. King George IV particularly enjoyed visiting. In 1815, he transformed his home into a palace by the sea. Part of his home has now been turned into a museum.



Changes to Seaside Holidays

Seaside holidays have changed dramatically over the years, from the earliest days where only the wealthiest visited, to nowadays where they are accessible to all. In the 1840s, the invention of the railway allowed a wider range of people to visit the beach, as it was a cheaper way to travel. As a result of this, more hotels were built. Beaches became more popular too. Bathing machines were made available for people to get changed in. It was beach etiquette to use them, particularly for women.

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A Comparison: Then and Now

Seaside holidays today have both similarities and differences to those in the past.

Differences

In the past, due to expense, many working class people only visited the seaside for a holiday, whereas now, often people visit just for the day. Beach clothing has also changed significantly. Nowadays, people are not afraid to show their skin and so they wear shorts, costumes or bikinis. In the past, people tended to wear outfits that covered most of their bodies. Although people still like to walk along the promenade, it is usually to do different things. In the past, visitors strolled along the promenade before stopping to listen to music being performed in a bandstand. As a contrast, today, people often walk along the promenade to reach the funfair or arcades.

Similarities

Donkey rides on the beach have been popular since the Victorian times. People pay money to ride a short distance on the beach, although the cost has gone up significantly. Fish and chips have also been a popular cuisine at the beach for a long time. Fish caught in the nearby sea are battered and then served in paper with chips.



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