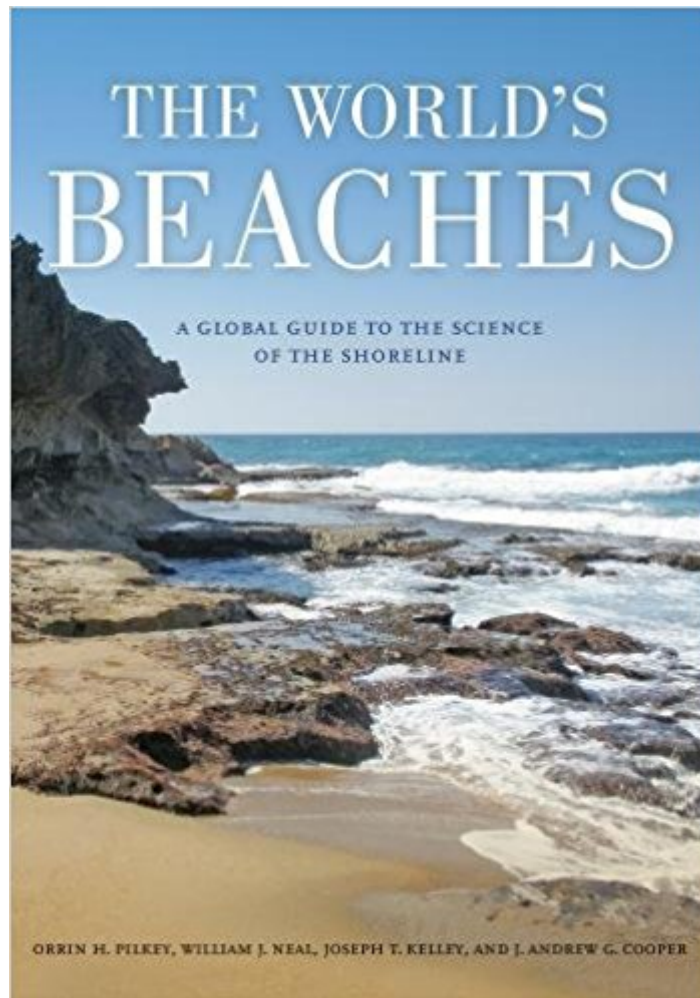




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The World's Beaches: A Global Guide To The Science Of The Shoreline



Synopsis

Take this book to the beach; it will open up a whole new world. Illustrated throughout with color photographs, maps, and graphics, it explores one of the planet's most dynamic environments; from tourist beaches to Arctic beaches strewn with ice chunks to steaming hot tropical shores. *The World's Beaches* tells how beaches work, explains why they vary so much, and shows how dramatic changes can occur on them in a matter of hours. It discusses tides, waves, and wind; the patterns of dunes, washover fans, and wrack lines; and the shape of berms, bars, shell lags, cusps, ripples, and blisters. What is the world's longest beach? Why do some beaches sing when you walk on them? Why do some have dark rings on their surface and tiny holes scattered far and wide? This fascinating, comprehensive guide also considers the future of beaches, and explains how extensively people have affected them; from coastal engineering to pollution, oil spills, and rising sea levels.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A comprehensive, readable guide to the physical features of many kinds of beaches and some of the threats they face." (New York Times 2011-08-16)

"A well-illustrated introduction to the geology and ecology of beaches." (Scienceblogs.com/The Guardian 2011-07-18)

"If one wonders how beach systems work and cares about the future, then this is the book to own, read, and share." (PR Pinet Choice 2012-01-01)

"This book has a wide appeal. . . . Written in an engaging style." (Reference & Research Book News / Scitech Book News 2011-10-01)

"Beaches occupy a magical place in the human consciousness. We fish from their tidal waters, run with our children on the cushioning sands and dream of what waits over life's horizon as we gather for a sunset. But there is much more to be known of these coastal wonderlands. Learn in *The World's Beaches* their critical function as a delicate ecosystem, how to read the signs left by winds, waves, plants and animals of the beach. Discover the surprising ways our irreplaceable beaches are increasingly threatened and what must be done to save them."—Rob Lowe, Actor“Ask 100 people their views about beaches and you'll get 100 love stories. We all love the beach. *The World's Beaches* delivers a comprehensive view into what a beach is, why it exists and how they are increasingly at risk."—Jim Moriarty, CEO Surfrider Foundation"Read this book and you'll never look at a beach in the same way. From waves and crab tracks, to sand, gravel and climate change, this book is filled with engrossing details to remind humankind of its enduring love of beaches worldwide.Ã¢âÂ—Miles O. Hayes, Coastal Geomorphologist, Research Planning, Inc.“Beach visitors around the world will want to own this superb collection of images and explanations of how the beach works. ItÃ¢ââs a must-read book for anyone wanting to know more about these dynamic natural resources.Ã¢âÂ—Robert A. Morton, United States Geological Survey (USGS)"We now have an outstanding, lively, readable, well illustrated and thorough resource to lead us towards a deeper understanding of the how beaches form and function and what we should be concerned for in their future. This book should be everyoneÃ¢ââs pillow and companion for the day at the beach."—Dr. Harold R. Wanless, University of Miami"The more you know about a place the more you will learn to love it, and want to protect it. The photos and captions alone in this book will gain you a great new appreciation of these precious coastlines."—Yvon Chouinard, owner, Patagonia, Inc.

If you want beach knowledge for beachgoers and especially swimmers, the first choice would be Robert Brander's "Dr Rip's Essential Beach Book: everything you need to know about surf, sand and rips", which happens to be the best guide to rip currents for the general public, and even has a brief and funny guide to driving on the beach."The World's Beaches" focuses on beaches themselves. Part I on the global character of beaches explains what materials are they made of, how they are different from one another (the book has a quick, tidy discussion of how beaches are classified), waves and currents, and considerably more. Part II, on how to read a beach, is a marvel. The abundant color photographs and illustrations draw you into all sorts of features of beaches. Some might be familiar, but I think that to most of us, there will be lots of surprises. I'm pretty certain

that if you get to maybe page 30 (with 2 photos of beaches and a diagram), you will likely finish the book and pick up far more coastal geology and biology than you expected. You'll be a much better beach observer, too. I cannot overstate the value of the photos and other illustrations. Geologists have a very long tradition of communicating with drawings and photos, and this is an impressive collection, truly global in scope. Publication was assisted by a grant from a private foundation. A list of selected references is useful. From "The World's Beaches", the next geological step up might be a lavishly illustrated and expensive college textbook like "Beaches and Coasts" by Richard A. Davis Jr and Duncan M. Fitzgerald. Surfers would like "Surf Science: introduction to waves for surfing" by Tony Butt and Paul Russell.

Great photos and illustrations but too much technical information on beach formation and degradation. As a collector of sand I was hoping for more information regarding the great variation of beach composition.

If you are looking for a book on beaches as resorts, read another book. This book addresses how different kinds of beaches are formed. The interaction of waves, wind and parent material is the mechanism, and it is quite complex. Beaches are dynamic systems, literally continually changing. The addition of human use of beaches alters the dynamism, resulting in currents that erode the beach. Human use of beaches often involves trying to make beaches permanent, over time mostly an exercise in futility. Beaches are not going to pay attention to things like structures, property or preferences of hotels and vacationers. I found some aspects of the book to be a little difficult, in the complicated dynamism described. But I understand it better after having read this book. Some nice illustrations. And a feel that the future of beaches as living systems is not good.

Bought this book for my sister-in laws birthday>> Sorry no Review from me..I am sorry that I did not read this book, but I gave it as a Gift>

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