

Coastalisation on the Coast

Coastalisation is the increased movement of people who move to live on the coast. It is the increasing urbanisation of the coastal environment.

Key Facts:

- The coastal zone is the most populated part of the world with 3 billion people living 100km away from the coast
- Coastal population densities are usually around 80 people/km² which is more than 50% of inland areas
- Along the Nile and the Ganges the population density is as high as 1000 people/km²
- In 1990 30% of the world's population lived on the coast, however by 2002 it had risen to 40%
- Some of the fastest growing cities can be found on the coast e.g. Shanghai and Lagos

Growth of Coastal Areas:

1000 – An early population of people lived by the coast for the food security and transport opportunities

1300 – Coastal settlements became seats for political and economic power. They also offer security and attract more people and economic activities

1600 – European colonisation of America, Asia and Australia established the first coastal settlements.

1750 – Industrialisation brings prosperity to ports handling raw materials and manufactured goods

1800 – Settlement growth and development occurs due to increased security along the coast

1850 – Seaside resorts and coastal tourism takes off

1930 – Paid holidays from work give a big boost to coastal tourism

1950 – Expansion of port related industries such as steel, shipbuilding and oil refining

1970 – Exploitation of oil and gas reserves. Coastal settlements grow as bases and transshipment points

1980 – Growth of recreational activities in estuaries and inshore waters. The demand for second homes grows

2000 – Coastal areas are possible providers of tidal and wind energy. Development of deep water ports and leisure use.

CASE STUDY: Florida:

History:

- The coastal population of Florida grew rapidly between the 1960s and 1980s in which the population grew massively by 16% from 95 million to over 110 million. In the 1980s it grew further by 11%.
- Construction of canals, levees, pumping stations and water diversion/flood controls means that water quality and quantity problems have developed in South Florida's natural systems including the Everglades.

What is the coast being used for?

- Accommodation – around 80% of the beach is made up of hotels and flats/apartment blocks
- Tourist attractions – dolphins, whale and coral swimming is often offered to tourists
- Everglades National Park
- 75% of people live along the coastline with property value being \$1.9 trillion
- Fishing areas for recreational and professional fishing

Why people are moving here?

- Orlando is only around 1hr 45 minutes away
- The warm climate attracts many people from around the world
- Housing is relatively cheap in the area so it is accessible for people moving from inland

Coastal development and infrastructure:

- Most of the coastline has been rapidly developed as residential, recreational and tourist sites over the last 40 years
- The Port of Miami is known as the 'Cruise Capital' of the world in which it has been the number one passenger port in the world. In 2014 the port passed a world record processing 4.6 million multi-day passengers.

Problems faced?

- 9% of Florida lies less than 2 meters below sea level
- Around 80% of the Everglades has shrunk due to development for housing, etc
- There are already freshwater issues that may be exacerbated by more people moving to the area



CASE STUDY: Australia:

What has lead to Coastalisation?

- 90% of the population lives on the coast with 60% of people living in one of the 5 largest coastal cities
- Rainfall is much greater near the coast, so most farming is done there. Droughts inland have therefore forced many farmers to move to the coast
- New immigrants usually move straight to one of the coastal settlements
- House prices in small coastal towns are often cheap and therefore attract people to move here

CASE STUDY: Spain:

What has lead to Coastalisation?

- Inward migration is causing population increases of 1.2% per year. Many of the migrants are older, retired people from the UK and other European countries
- The climate in Spain attracts many older, retired people who often have joint problems and therefore benefit from the warmer weather and the slower pace of life
- Cheap housing and living costs are attracting foreigners
- In 2005 UK migration to Spain was 22% of people who were over the age of 65.

Issues with Coastalisation?

- Due to the increased amount of people there is greater demand for food and water amenities.
- The increased population means that housing shortages occur with a greater demand on councils within local areas to provide affordable housing to families.
- As people move to the coast it causes an increase in house prices which means that there are less affordable homes for people

Issues with Coastalisation?

- An increased number of older people means that there is potentially greater pressure on the health services in Spain
- Many homes are being built on unsafe, unregulated areas which have not been approved. They are then sold, meaning the owner is now liable.
- The increased number of people may mean that infrastructure will be put under increased pressure e.g. roads and sewers. The supply of water and food may also have increased pressure.

