

1.

The American travel website company TripAdvisor publishes a list of the world's best beaches every year. Today, we are going to explore some of this year's top 10 beaches in the world.

1. Baia do Sancho, Brazil

It is named as this year's best beach in the world. Its water is calm and clear. Its sand is fine and soft. But getting to Baia do Sancho is not so easy. It is on Fernando de Noronha, a volcanic island more than 300 kilometers off Brazil's coast. Travelers must take a plane or boat from major cities in northern Brazil to get there. And no more than 420 visitors can be on the island at one time.

2. Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos

While Baia do Sancho is difficult to get to, Trip Advisor's second-ranked beach could not be much easier for tourists to reach.

This beach has impossibly clean and clear waters and pure white sand. Its calm waters make it extremely safe for swimming, snorkeling, or simply floating. Once on land, many visitors enjoy walking-barefoot-for several kilometers on the soft, warm sand.

3. Eagle Beach, Aruba

To get to the third-best beach, we head south to the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba. Like Grace Bay, Eagle Beach has clear, calm waters and soft white sand.

It offers visitors a chance to try different water sports, including tubing and jet skiing. Eagle Beach may be best known, however, for its dramatic sunsets. On clear nights, the sky turns red, orange, and purple.

4. Playa Paraiso, Cuba

The fourth-best beach is Playa Paraiso, an island off of Cuba's southern coast. It has a fun, laid-back restaurant for those who wish to eat and drink. There is little else on the beach. And that is exactly what visitors like about it. People come here for the sugar-like sand and calm waters filled with colorful wildlife.

21. Which of the following best describes Baia do Sancho?

- A. It receives many visitors daily. B. It can only be visited by plane.  
C. It is near the Brazil's coast. D. It is hard to reach.

22. What may Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos attract tourists?

- A. Its clean and safe waters. B. Its quiet bank for hiking. C. Its dangerous position. D. Its colourful sand.

23. What can visitors mainly find on Playa Paraiso, Cuba?

- A. Colourful waters. B. A fun eating place. C. Different water sports. D. Nothing on the beach.

2.

Bangkok (曼谷), Thailand, is known for having some of the best street food in the world. But officials have announced plans to ban food vendors (摊贩) in an effort to clean up the city. An assistant to Bangkok's governor told The Nation newspaper the move is meant to improve the appearance, walkability and safety of city streets.

"The street vendors have seized the pavement space for too long and we already provide them space to sell food and other products legally in the market," the assistant said. "So there will be no let-up in this operation—every street vendor will have to move out."

Bangkok was recently named the world's finest street food location for the second year by Cable News Network (CNN).

Vendors can be found in all of Bangkok's busiest areas. They serve everyone from business people to tourists to local citizens. The chairs and tables are basic. Customers have to deal with Bangkok's extreme heat and polluted air while they eat. But the tasty food keeps people coming back again and again.

Nontskul is a financial worker in Bangkok. He lives in a part of the city where street vendors will be some of the first to be removed. He told the Associated Press that, "Even people who eat at pricey restaurants every day can't avoid street food. It's faster, tastes better, and costs less than half the price."

Critics of the street food clean-up campaign say low-income people—including food vendors and their customers—will be most affected by the ban. They have called on the government to do more to help the vendors keep their businesses going in a legal way.

Ubolwattana Mingkwan is a coffee vendor in Bangkok. She charges 85 cents for a cup of coffee. She says she cannot afford the cost of rent required to do business in a government-approved area. "I've asked city officials for help and understanding," she told the Associated Press, "All they say now is 'no, no, no.' They've already received their orders."

24. Why do the officials want to forbid street traders?

- A. To force them to leave. B. To remove street food.  
C. To keep the city in order. D. To offer convenience to residents.

25. How does the author think of the street traders in Bangkok?

- A. They pollute the air in the city. B. They usually sell unhealthy foods.  
C. They work in too hot surroundings. D. They play an important role in daily life.