

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910451012103321
Titolo	Histories of leisure [[electronic resource] /] / edited by Rudy Koshar
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, : Berg, 2002
ISBN	1-280-54834-7 9786610548347 1-84520-544-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (376 p.)
Collana	Leisure, consumption, and culture
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Disciplina	306.4/812
Soggetti	Leisure - Social aspects - Europe - History - 19th century Leisure - Social aspects - Europe - History - 20th century Consumption (Economics) - Europe - History Electronic books. Europe Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Seeing -- pt. 2. Traveling -- pt. 3. Consuming.
Sommario/riassunto	In the wake of the American and French revolutions, European culture saw the evolution of a new leisure regime never previously enjoyed. Now we speak of modern leisure societies, but the history of leisure, its experiences and expectations, its scope and variability, still remains largely a matter of conjecture. One message that has emerged from a multiplicity of disciplines is that research on leisure and consumption opens up a hitherto untapped mine of information on the broader issues of politics, society, culture and economics. How have leisure regimes in Europe evolved since the eighte