

BEACHCOMBER HOT TUBS PRESENTS

# EVOLUTION OF HOT TUBS



Dive into our map of the world's rich history of hydrotherapy with 22 fully illustrated historical moments!

45<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



# INSPIRED by the WORLD

Throughout the ages, humankind has been fascinated with water and how to use it. We dove into history to see how cultures, regions, and practices across the globe shaped the ultimate Beachcomber experience we know today.

These 22 historical points explore our timeless relationship with hydrotherapy. Each point has a location pin on the world map inside accompanied by illustrations for a captivating look through windows into the past.

## GEOTHERMAL HOT SPRINGS

Region: Global **01** Time Period: Pre-Recorded History

Before recorded history began, humans and primates sought out naturally hot bodies of water that get their heat from beneath the Earth's surface.

## THE IKARIA SPAS

Region: Ikaria, Greece **02** Time Period: 7000 BC

The city of Therma discovered hot springs that emanated from the rocks and used them as natural spas, later building their own spas around town.

## ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CALDERAS

Region: Cairo, Egypt **03** Time Period: 2000 BC

Ancient Egyptians began bathing as a form of hot water therapy in calderas. They even built irrigation channels to keep a steady supply of hot water.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTH

Region: Athens, Greece **04** Time Period: 460 BC

Greek philosopher *Hippocrates* proposed a health regimen which included bathing in mineral water with essential oils, perspiration, walking, and massages.

## ANCIENT ROMAN BATHHOUSES

Region: Rome, Italy **05** Time Period: 200 BC

Hot water treatment in the form of bathhouses became a socio-cultural staple in the Roman Empire. They were heated with furnaces beneath the floors of the baths.

## MODERN-DAY CITY OF BATH

Region: Bath, England **06** Time Period: 76 AD

The Romans built the first Water Spa in what is now the city of Bath in England during their occupation of the region, originally calling it Aquae Sulis.

## THERMAL SPRINGS OF BADEN-BADEN

Region: Baden-Baden, Germany **07** Time Period: 211 AD

Roman troops discovered thermal springs in Baden-Baden along the Black Forest and built bathhouses in the area. Remains are preserved in local museums.

## THE CHURCH'S VIEW

Region: Constantinople, Turkey **08** Time Period: 500 AD

The Church of the Byzantine Empire begins to view bathing in bathhouses as a prelude to sin, thus denouncing the practice of mixed bathing and recreational bathing.

## HUANGSHAN SPRINGS

Region: Anhui, China **09** Time Period: 618 AD

Established during the Tang Dynasty, the highest springs on Huangshan Mountain (650m) are known for its stunning snow-covered landscape during the winter.

## ONSENS & OFUROS

Region: Beppu, Japan **10** Time Period: 749 AD

The Japanese engaged in outdoor bathing in hot springs called onsens. After its popularity increased, they started building tubs indoors and called them ofuros.

## TURKISH BATHS (HAMMAM)

Region: Constantinople, Turkey **11** Time Period: 800 AD

The Ottoman Empire built hammams to follow religious rules of cleanliness and purification. Eras later, Victorian Turkish baths were used therapeutically.

## THERAPEUTIC REDISCOVERY

Region: Europe **12** Time Period: 1570s

Bathing culture experienced a wave of scientific re-evaluation, and its popularity as a recreational past-time spread throughout Europe during the Renaissance era.

## FIRST NATIONS SWEATLODGES

Region: North America **13** Time Period: 1700s

Along with bathing in springs, sweat rituals with prayers and songs was a spiritual practice for First Nations across North America, especially in the Canadian prairies.

## LAKE HÉVÍZ

Region: Hévíz, Hungary **14** Time Period: 1795

Lake Hévíz is the largest swimmable thermal spring in the world. Landowner *Count György I. Festetics* saw the lake's potential and built a bathhouse directly overtop.

## THE BEGINNING OF BALNEOTHERAPY

Region: Vienna, Austria **15** Time Period: 1800s

The studies of mineral waters as medical aid for specific diseases and ailments started to be taken seriously. Steam box baths became a popular method of treatment.

## NEEDLE BATH SHOWER

Region: Chicago, Illinois USA **16** Time Period: 1882

Also known as the ribcage shower, this particular model from *L. Wolffe Manufacturing Co.* has curved pipes that surround the body, spraying pressurized jets of water.

## WILHELM WINTERNITZ

Region: Vienna, Austria **17** Time Period: 1896

*Wilhelm Winternitz* was a Jewish-Austrian surgeon-turned-researcher who legitimized hydrotherapy as a rational method of therapeutics in modern medicine.

## FDR & SARATOGA SPRINGS

Region: Saratoga, New York USA **18** Time Period: 1935

32<sup>nd</sup> US president, *Franklin Roosevelt*, established Saratoga State Park to preserve the area's naturally carbonated mineral springs and geyser created by the Ramapo Fault Line.

## AMERICAN BACKYARD SOAKER TUBS

Region: California, USA **19** Time Period: 1940s

Ofuro-style tubs made from old wine vats became popular in the US. The repurposed barrels were leaky and were quickly replaced with purpose-built cedar tubs.

## INVENTION OF THE HYDROTHERAPY PUMP

Region: Irvine, California USA **20** Time Period: 1956

A portable pump meant to be added to the home bathtub was invented in response to a child's physical ailments. It later went into production as a public product.

## FIBREGLASS & ACRYLIC SPAS

Region: California, USA **21** Time Period: 1960s

Wooden tubs started being replaced by fiberglass and acrylic models for a more durable, leak-resistant mould that integrated hydro-pumps in the form.

## BEACHCOMBER HOT TUBS IS BORN!

Region: Surrey, BC Canada **22** Time Period: 1978

The successful endeavor to sell luxurious, Canadian-built hot tubs began in the February of 1978, leading to 45 years of high quality, industry leading hot tubs.





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A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON HEALTH

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TIME PERIOD: 300 BC

PUBLIC BATHHOUSES

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TIME PERIOD: 76 AD

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TIME PERIOD: 500 AD

THE CHURCH'S VIEW

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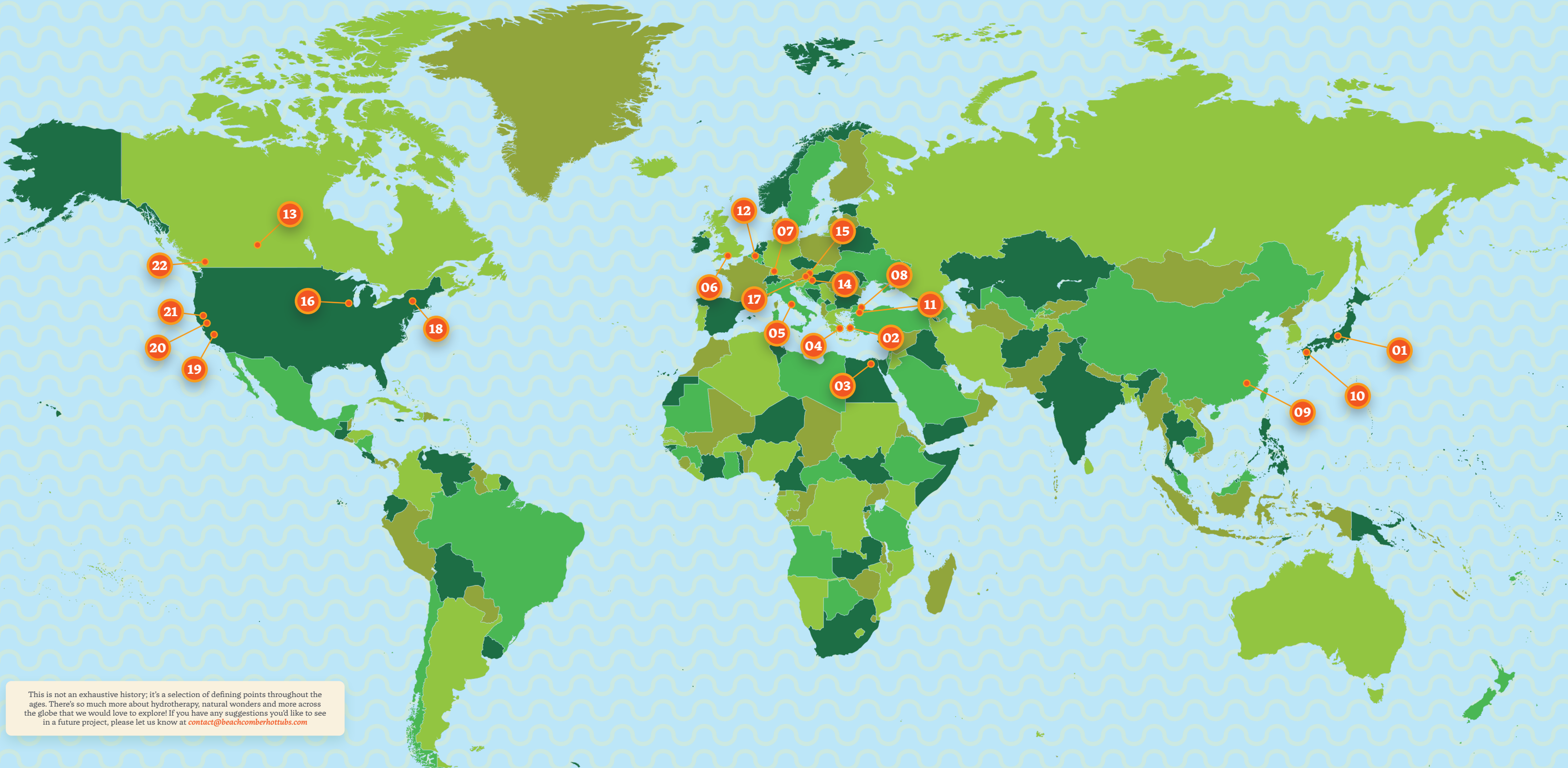
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THE BATHHOUSES OF LAKE HÉVÍZ

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REGION: Prairies, Canada (\*)  
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TIME PERIOD: 1570s

THERAPEUTIC REDISCOVERY

This is not an exhaustive history; it's a selection of defining points throughout the ages. There's so much more about hydrotherapy, natural wonders and more across the globe that we would love to explore! If you have any suggestions you'd like to see in a future project, please let us know at [contact@beachcomberhottubs.com](mailto:contact@beachcomberhottubs.com)

## A FASCINATING DIVE INTO HISTORY

As far back as history is written, humans have utilized hot springs, bathhouses, and spas for religious, spiritual and recreational purposes. From the modern-day Beachcomber hot tub all the way back beyond recorded history, humankind's existence is intertwined with a fascination with water. Dive deeper at [beachcomberhottubs.com/evolutionofhottubs](http://beachcomberhottubs.com/evolutionofhottubs)

\*1 Geothermal Hot Springs are naturally occurring across the globe, but we chose to showcase Japanese Macaques to highlight that it's not just humans who are attracted to such natural wonders

\*2 Constantinople was the capital of the Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire, Latin Empire and Ottoman Empire until the Turkish War of Independence (1922). It was officially renamed Istanbul in 1930

\*3 While therapeutic rediscovery was happening all across Europe, the year and location are based on an illustration called *Bathing Susanna* made in Antwerp Belgium in 1570 from *Abraham de Bryn*

\*4 Sweatlodges were a part of Native American & First Nations practices across North America, but it was most concentrated in the northern prairies

\*5 The illustration depicts the current-day state of Lake Hévíz and the bathhouses. The original bathhouses were established in 1795, but was comprised of 2 main bathhouses built out over the lake



# HOW THE EVOLUTION OF HOT TUBS CAME TO BE



When we started planning for Beachcomber's 45th anniversary, we knew we wanted to do something big. Showcasing how the company grew from its first hot tub made in Canada to being the pinnacle of backyard relaxation was a no-brainer.

But what if we did something different?

At its core, the hot tub experience is all about rejuvenation and togetherness, qualities that transcend region & culture. That sparked an idea. *A big idea.* We aren't just celebrating a company; we're celebrating a lifestyle that harnesses humankind's timeless relationship with water.

From hydrotherapy to spas and geothermal hot springs, using water to our benefit is part of the human condition. Why not explore the thousands of years of history that inspire the Beachcomber Hot Tubs lifestyle we know and love today?

Once research began, we were submerged in rich histories from across the globe. We put together a list of 22 points that illustrated the evolution of hot tubs.

Inside, you'll find dedicated descriptions for each historical point. Fold out the world map and you'll find a location pin, each accompanied by a detailed illustration to provide you with a window to the past. *But that's not all!*

Throughout 2023, we will be sharing a more in-depth look at each moment in time to further explore and expand upon the cultures, stories, and technological advancements through time all the way up to 1978 when Beachcomber Hot Tubs was born!

Get ready to dive into this hydro-inspired adventure by following the link to [beachcomberhottubs.com/evolutionofhottubs](https://beachcomberhottubs.com/evolutionofhottubs) where you'll be able to sign up for our Evolution of Hot Tubs newsletter so you don't miss a post, and receive a digital download for the map as well.

From everyone at Beachcomber, we thank you for helping us celebrate 45 years of best-in-class, Canadian-built hot tubs.



Dive deeper into the  
*Evolution of Hot Tubs!*

