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Photograph's role in tourism: Some unexplored relationships

Richard M. Chalfen 

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Abstract

Chalfen, Richard M., "Photography's Role in Tourism: Some Unexplored Relationships," *Annals of Tourism Research*, October/December 1979, VI(4):435–447. While photography is one of the most common attributes of tourist behavior, its role in tourism has never been studied. Tourist photography is understood as both photographs made by tourists and photographs made available to tourists by members of the host community. This paper draws attention to three unexamined topics: the relationship between certain tourist types and patterns of photographic behavior and/or content of photographs; the culturally variable standards of appropriate subject matter and camera use in different parts of the world; and the variety of responses exhibited by host communities to being photographed. Examples are given of host sensitivities and camera related disturbances. A trend is noticed in which host communities specify which images are appropriate and inappropriate for tourist photography.

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Mots-clÃ©s

photography; travel; tourist behavior; interaction; image sensitivity; authenticity; culture

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photographie; voyages; comportement touristique; interaction; sensibilitÃ© d'image; authenticitÃ©; culture

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Richard Chalfen is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Temple University. Professor Chalfen received his Ph.D. from the Annenberg School at the University of Pennsylvania. His primary research interests include the study of culture and communication, visual anthropology, and the sociology of non-professional photography and filmmaking.

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