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### The grand tour: A key phase in the history of tourism

John Towner

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#### Abstract

Although the Grand Tour has been examined by various disciplines, it has rarely been examined from the perspective of tourism studies. This paper begins with a review of previous work and concepts about the tour and then outlines some of its principal features based on an analysis of the primary sources of information: the diaries, letters, and journals of the travelers. Four aspects of the Grand Tour are then examined: the tourists, spatial and temporal aspects of the tour, and the gradual development of a tourist industry. The degree of continuity and change in the character of the tour is assessed and major changes are attributed primarily to the changing social class of the tourists. The 1820s and 1830s are identified as an important transition period in the development of a more formalized tourist industry.

RÃ©sumÃ©

Le grand tour: une phase clef dans l'histoire du tourisme. Quoique le grand tour a

À t-il examiné au sein de diverses disciplines, rarement a-t-il considéré d'une perspective le traitant strictement d'étude de tourisme. Ici, on offre d'abord un aperçu des travaux antécédents, ainsi que des concepts qui en ressortent. Ensuite, on utilise de l'information tirée de sources premières, telles que lettres et journaux quotidiens de voyageurs, pour tracer les grandes lignes des caractéristiques de cette activité. On passe alors à un examen de l'expansion graduelle de l'industrie du tourisme, ainsi que des touristes eux-mêmes, tout en soulignant les aspects spatiaux et temporels du grand tour. On évalue le degré de continuité et de changement qui s'observe dans le caractère général du grand tour. Les changements majeurs observés sont attribués aux changements des classes sociales qui y participent comme touristes. Les décennies des années 1820 et 1830 forment une période importante dans l'évolution du grand tour en industrie touristique.



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## Keywords

Grand Tour; tourism; history; Europe

## Mots-clés

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— **John Towner's** doctoral thesis was on the Grand Tour of Europe, 1547 – 1840. His research interests are in the field of the history of tourism.

— Author's address: Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, B152TT, United Kingdom.

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