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A Chronological Exploration of Key Influences on the Development of Tourism

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Learning outcomes

Having read this chapter, you will be able to:

1. Understand how the development of tourism has been informed by historical events.
 2. Appreciate key chronological developments in providing a temporal context to contemporary tourism.
 3. Understand how historical events gave rise to cultural, wellness and escapist forms of tourism.
 4. Appreciate how authoritarianism regimes influence tourism behaviour.
 5. Consider the concepts of Fordism and post-Fordism in shaping contemporary tourism.
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Introduction

Contemporary tourism is often accepted as the direct heir of the European Grand Tour in the 18th century, which in turn succeeded the Age of Discovery during the 15th - 17th centuries (Chaney, 1998). However, a closer look into the subject reveals the existing tourism ecosystem has deeper roots (Morère Molinero, 2021). It encompassed various reasons for travel – for trade, pilgrimages and diplomacy, among other purposes. The values that emerged from the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolutions, in addition to the gradual crystallization of capitalism, were instrumental in shaping new geopolitical structures worldwide, in which Europe occupied the hegemonic centre (Towner, 1985; Bertrand, 2008). At the same time, these major events transformed the forms and rhythms of both life and work in Europe.

The aim of the chapter is to present the sociological dimension of travelling related to the different historical events over the past few centuries to the present day. This text is therefore structured according to some of the main socio-historical events that have affected the development of tourism, following as much as possible a chronological order. Geographically, Europe was chosen as the focus of this chapter, to illustrate its role in the origin and expansion of tourism to other areas of the world. However, it is acknowledged that tourism development in other parts of the world, while influenced by Europe's growing leisure phenomenon, were also shaped by local and nearer-to-home forces.

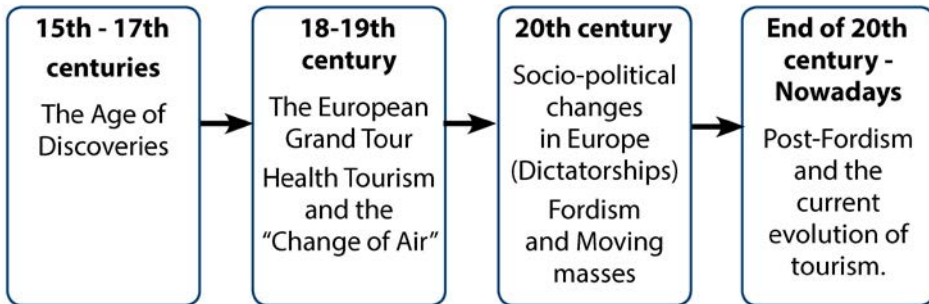


Figure 5.1: Time chronology of the events covered in this chapter