

## **UNIT 04**

SUBJECT CODE: 406

SUBJECT NAME: GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY

FACULTY NAME: ANSHAY SINGH

### **THE RENAISSANCE**

#### **SETTING POPULAR TRAVEL IN MOTION**

The Renaissance spanned roughly through the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and it was a re-birth of the ancient classical era after the Dark Ages. The renaissance first started in the Italian city of Florence through the works of artists and writers spurred by political and cultural changes of the day. Due to the artistic dependency of patronage, the classical theme was set in motion much due to the rich and powerful Medici family. The Medici's sought to commission art outside the religious themes that dominated the time period. Besides a revival of the romanticized mythological themes of the classical era, a renewed interest was spurred in classical architecture, mathematics and *natural philosophy* (predecessor to modern science.)

As the renaissance spread through-out Europe, bringing with it a new artistic and academic focus, it became fashionable for young aristocrats to visit the great master pieces of the classical era as part of their classical education, (mainly Roman art and architecture.) This became known as the *Grand Tour*.

### **A TRENDING ITINERARY**

During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries a standard itinerary was popularized. While detours included many European destinations, the grand tour typically started in London and included Paris, but focused mainly on Italy, especially Rome. Few visited as far as Greece, which was still under Turkish rule. The grand tourists visited famous ruins, architecture, fountains and churches. Admission to Greco-Roman statues and paintings included both private collections and museums. Travel guides were available for the grand tour and the tour typically lasted for many months and sometimes years. Besides visiting art and architecture, a grand tourist could also listen to music, visit theaters, be tutored in languages, fencing, dancing, riding and other popular activities. The grand tour was often seen as a rite of passage and was considered a symbol of status.

## **SOUVENIRS AND POSTCARDS**

Grand tourists returned to display items otherwise unavailable at home. Popular souvenirs included art, books, sculptures, clothes, glass, coins and other cultural gems. Micro-mosaic became popular and often depicted famous landmarks. It could be worn as jewelry or be sent home in the form of small pictures to friends and family as a fore-runner to the modern post-card. Cityscape and landscape paintings or *vedute* became immensely popular during the time of the grand tour and provided “snap-shots” the tourist could bring back and present as a visual tale of their travels. Etchings of the grand tour also became very popular. Some grand tourists commissioned their own artists to accompany their travels.

## **TOUR GUIDES**

While it was common practice to hire a personal tour guide for the grand tour, printed travelogues or itineraries became popular to both travelers and non-travelers. Published accounts and letters of personal experiences gave insight to what the grand tour could offer for the populace of the time, but they also help illuminate the historic trend for us in modern times.

## **ITINERARY FOR GRAND TOUR**

The Elizabeth travelers used to complete the Grand tour with in a span of 03 years (avg.) their itineraries used to involve Tour Guides, and covers places such as England, central Europe and Western Europe.

The itinerary is as follows:

### United Kingdom

1 Cambridge and 2 Oxford have been Britain's dominant universities since the Middle Ages, and the starting point for many British tours, with 3 London as the first major stop. The tourists departed from 4 Dover, crossing the English Channel by boat. These days the boats are still running, but many people prefer taking the train across the Channel Tunnel.

### Benelux

Some tourists arrived in 5 Ostend.

There are ferries from the British Mainland to points in the Netherlands and Belgium, but you can also take Eurostar directly to 6 Brussels.

### France

British tourists arrived to 7 Calais or 8 Le Havre.

While 9 Paris was world-renowned centre for the arts, the city was notoriously filthy (both literally and figuratively) before the Hausmann renovation in the 19th century.

## Switzerland

Before the first rail tunnels, most travellers avoided crossing the Alps. 10 Geneva and 11 Lausanne were important for the origin of the Protestant Reformation, and a traditional stop for tourists of that faith. Apart from that, Switzerland was seen as something of an uncultured backwater until well into the 19th century, and its well known political stability was still some ways off. The German word for coup d'etat "Putsch" originated in early modern Switzerland, after all.

## Italy



German poet, dramatist and polymath Johann Wolfgang von Goethe famously toured Italy on this route in 1786-88

The Italian peninsula was the core of the lost Roman Empire, with heritage back to the Ancient Greek colonies as well. In the Italian Renaissance, some Italian city-states amassed wealth and power, and became a powerhouse for art, music, and fashion, in which the Italian language became the lingua franca. While the Italian "Golden Age" had ended in the 16th century, and foreign empires came to dominate Italy until it was unified in the 19th century, Italy remained as a centre for ancient history and the fine arts (especially European classical music), and an important destination for tourists.

13 Turin

14 Milan

15 Padua

16 Bologna is home to Europe's oldest university.

17 Venice was infamously decadent in these centuries.

18 Florence

19 Pisa mostly known today for its leaning tower

20 Rome was important; both as a caretaker of its ancient history, and, especially for Catholic tourists, as the seat of the Pope.

Naples, Herculaneum, and 21 Pompeii

The Greek ruins in 22 Paestum were the end of the line for many tourists.

A few adventurous tourists extended the tour to Sicily, Malta, or Greece, which was then under Ottoman rule. For this and other reasons, some of the tourists that made it beyond Naples skipped the voyage across to Greece and substituted it by taking their time among the ancient Greek ruins in Southern Italy, "Magna Graecia", instead.

Austria

The Austrian Empire was the dominant power of Central Europe. From the 18th century, it became a forerunner in arts and sciences.

- 23 Innsbruck was an important stop, as the Brenner Pass was one of few passages through the Alps
- 24 Vienna was the capital of the Austrian Empire, and arguably the most important city for European classical music.

Germany

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Germany was a patchwork of small states.

While none of them had the prestige of an Imperial capital, some were patrons of art, philosophy and science.

- 25 Munich was the capital of Bavaria, one of the largest Germanophonic states and a kingdom from the early 19th century. Bavaria's most famous monarch, Ludwig II has left a few castles in the surrounding areas that draw millions of tourists to this day.
- The university of 26 Heidelberg, founded in 1386, attracted many of Europe's greatest scholars. The town would later attract many American soldiers stationed in the area
- 27 Dresden thanks to the lavish spending of August the Strong and his son Dresden boasted a wealth of architectural and artistic marvel most of which has been restored from considerable war damage.
- 28 Berlin was a small city before the German Empire was united. Furthermore, Brandenburg/Prussia were seen as a backwater until at least the 18th century, in part because the ruling house spent more on military than arts or architecture.
- 29 Potsdam a residence of Brandenburg/Prussia, it offers more surviving Prussian glory than Berlin.
- 30 Weimar was a patron of the arts and residence of Goethe and Schiller during their most productive phase. To this day it is a favorite for school excursions in



Germany, though in part because the KZ Buchenwald in close proximity offers a stark reminder of the worst sides of Germany (see Holocaust remembrance).

Other destinations

More distant destinations such as Madrid, Seville, Saint

Petersburg and Jerusalem became more accessible in later years.

