

# The Grand Tour

In the 1700's to early 1800's, the males of the upper class (wealthy or of the nobility) of Europe were sent on a trip through Europe as part of their education. This trip was called the *Grand Tour*. This travel could last anywhere from a few months to several years. The young men were to learn about politics, the culture, language, and art of other countries in order to enlighten them on the world so they would be prepared them for the time when they would take their place in society. It was also a way for families of these upper class young men to keep them busy. The children of wealthy families were not usually required to work, so this was a way for them to go and have their fun and then return home and settle down.

While on the tour they would spend their time sightseeing and studying. One of the most popular places to visit was Italy and France; however, the travelers also discovered the exotic regions of the eastern Mediterranean region. These young men were often brought with them a tutor and a valet, a sort of butler. It later became fashionable for young women to make the trip with a spinster, unmarried, aunt as a chaperon.

Much of what we learn about the areas they visited comes from their journals and sketches. They were able to capture the wonders they saw through sketches of ancient ruins and record the tales of the people of they met. These grand tours stirred an awakening in the culture of the ancient world and revival of things associated with the classic world of Greece. These travelers brought back to their home tales of wonder about the region that they transfused into architecture, fashion, decorative arts, and even hairstyles. The travelers created an exchange of cultures that exists even today.

The *Grand Tours* took place during what time in history?  
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Would you like to have gone on a Grand Tour?  
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Tell about one time you visited some place and saw evidence of other cultures.  
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Have you ever gone on a trip to learn something new? If so, where?  
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How do we record our travel memories now days?  
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