

Tourist map of Rhine valley, associated with William Drury Holden's 1847 *Swiss Journal*. Drury-Lowe Collection Dr F 105/9

# ON THE ROAD

Travellers were very much concerned with the practicalities of getting from A to B as they spent so much time literally on the road.

Crossing the Channel was difficult and dependent on the weather. Reliability and speed were greatly improved by the invention of steam ships in the 1820s. But travellers still frequently complained of seasickness.

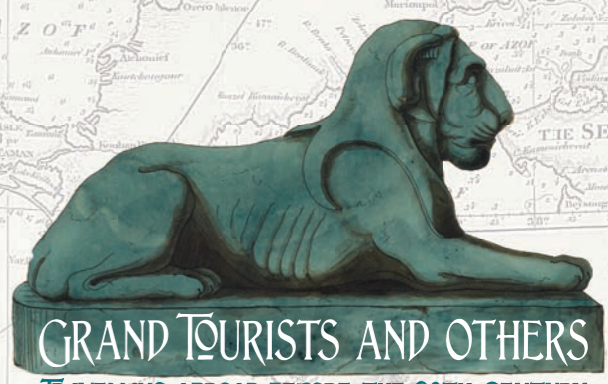
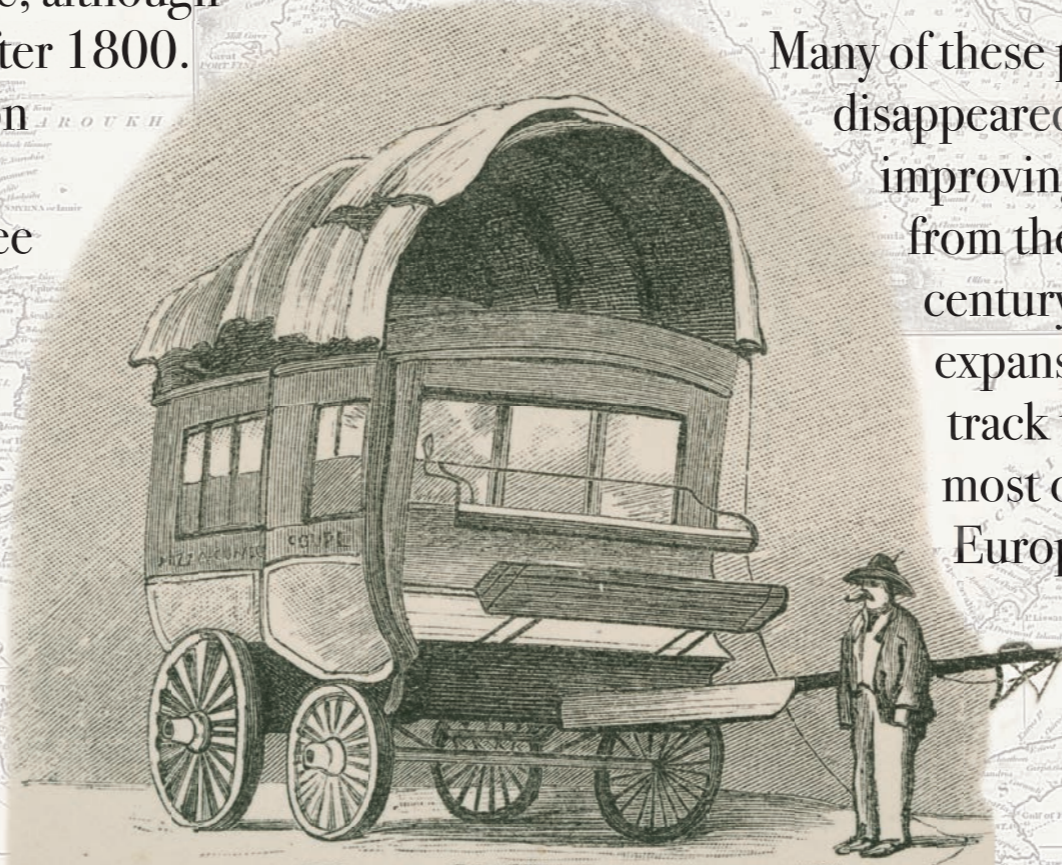
On arrival in France, Customs officials had to be dealt with and carriages hired. Travel by carriage on roads was slow and uncomfortable, although roads improved after 1800. Travellers relied on servants to secure drivers and to agree the cost. Often things did not go to plan.

Travellers used maps and plans, but also relied on guides and local knowledge.

Guidebooks provided some information about routes and the best means of transport. Road-books were small, specialised guides that concentrated on these practicalities.

Alongside the main hazards of travel, notably robbery, bad weather and sickness, travellers commented on difficulties with accommodation. Inns and hotels were condemned for not being sufficiently 'English' and the 'foreigners' who ran them were rogues. Food and drink was at best regarded as strange, and, at worst, poisonous!

Many of these problems disappeared with improving services from the mid-19th century, and the expansion of rail track to cover most of Western Europe by the start of the 20th century.



GRAND TOURISTS AND OTHERS  
TRAVELLING ABROAD BEFORE THE 20TH CENTURY

NOTE. Dr F 105/6 April 37

HÔTEL DE L'OURS À GRINDELWALD  
Canton de Berne en Suisse.  
Veuve WETTACH, propriétaire.

1844		
July 16 1847	Break, pain, beer	2
	Dinner	12 50
	Cafe	2 50
	Logement	5
		2 50
	Service	3
		32 50



Bill from Hotel de L'Ours à Grindelwald, inserted in William Drury Holden's 1847 *Swiss Journal*. Drury-Lowe Collection Dr F 105/6

Late 19th-century advertising card for the Hôtel de Rome et Pension Suisse, Venice, Italy.

Diligence, from Samuel Hole, *Nice and its Environs* (London, 1831). A diligence was an early form of public coach service. Card and Diligence from private collection of Ross Balzaretto.