

# Travelling | Tourism | Tourism of the early nineteenth century

One contemporary enthused: "To me the Nile was source of never-ending interest and delight; ... the country road from which you see a chapter in the history of the humours of Egypt." (Douglas Sladen)

For centuries, the Arab and Ottoman world – particularly Palestine and the Holy Land – had drawn individual travellers from Europe including merchants, pilgrims, artists, scientists and adventurers. Up until around the middle of the 19th century these individuals had relied largely on their own ingenuity with regard to financing journeys, making their own way across often uncharted lands, and securing reliable modes of transport and lodgings. As such, few systems or networks were in place for those who ventured to the region and most had to make do with what local culture had to offer. Merchants could rely on a network of khans or caravanserais. The more affluent travellers, often from well-connected families, travelled with the help of key contacts within the European communities of the Arab and Ottoman world, residing on the way to and at their destination with government or consular officials from their own countries or those allied to them. Pilgrims, meanwhile, depended on the networks and facilities of their religious communities, with monasteries and other religious foundations often serving as hostels for visitors. Itineraries were determined by the purpose of travel.



**Working Number:** TR2 099

**Name:** Voyage Dans Le Levant

**Holding Museum:** Istanbul Archaeological Museums

**Date:** 1819

**Materials:** Paper

**Curator Justification:** Before the mid-19th century, travellers setting out on journeys to the East had no access to guidebooks to help them prepare for their journey, but relied on individual travelogues written by those who had visited before them. These authors in general mixed facts with fanciful imaginations, but nevertheless gave readers a useful flavour of what to expect.



**Working Number:** FR 009

**Name:** Description de l'Egypte: frontispiece

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:** 1821–1830

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** This early French publication about Egypt, comprehensively researched and written by scientists and scholars working in the country in the wake of Napoleon's invasion in 1798, did much to stoke Europeans' initial fascination with the country and their desire to visit its fabled sites and cities for themselves.



**Working Number:** DZ 164

**Name:** Delacroix's journal (volume 3)

**Holding Museum:** Musée National des Beaux-arts

**Date:** 1895

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Travelogues, not surprisingly, reflected the preoccupations of their authors. Many artists

were inspired by the diaries of the French painter Eugène Delacroix, who travelled extensively in Morocco and Algeria in 1832.



**Working Number:** TR2 095  
**Name:** Constantinople et le Bosphore de Thrace  
**Holding Museum:** Istanbul Archaeological Museums  
**Date:** 1841  
**Materials:** Paper  
**Curator Justification:** Travellers with all sorts of motives and objectives aimed for Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire, or at least passed through the city on their way to the Levant and beyond. The author of this book, a former French ambassador, had plenty to tell those who planned to visit.

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**Working Number:** GR 024  
**Name:** View of Constantinople  
**Holding Museum:** Benaki Museum  
**Date:** 1851  
**Materials:** Engraving on paper  
**Curator Justification:** Early European visitors to the East relied first and foremost on ships routed either down the Danube and across the Black Sea, or across the Mediterranean. Before the introduction of steamers, progress was dependent on the weather and, thus, many travellers would wait for weeks or even months for favourable winds.



**Working Number:** FR 048  
**Name:** North African caravan, in the west of the Sahara  
**Holding Museum:** National Library of France  
**Date:** 1888  
**Materials:** -  
**Curator Justification:** In the absence of modern land transportation, earlier travellers relied largely on the traditional transport modes of the region such as horses, donkeys or camels. Some, indeed, chose to undertake parts of their journey with a local caravan, often in disguise so as not to attract unwanted attention.



**Working Number:** FR 017  
**Name:** The railway  
**Holding Museum:** National Library of France  
**Date:** 19th century  
**Materials:** -  
**Curator Justification:** With the gradual introduction of railway systems throughout the Middle East and North Africa from

the mid-19th century onwards, the progress of travellers in the region was revolutionised and helped set the scene for the onset of modern tourism.



**Working Number:** UA 055

**Name:** The Great Khan of Damascus

**Holding Museum:** Sharjah Art Museum / Sharjah Museums Department

**Date:** Printed 1836–1838

**Materials:** Coloured steel engraving

**Curator Justification:** Traditional lodgings in the Middle East and North Africa were not designed for foreign tourists and catered largely for local needs. Some travellers stopped at khans and caravanserais, designed as such to provide shelter for merchants. All guests required their own carpet as a bed and a coat as a blanket.



**Working Number:** LB 110

**Name:** Photograph showing Khan Antun Bey Square

**Holding Museum:** Beirut Municipality

**Date:** 1853

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** In the 19th century, Beirut was one of the most important arrival points for Western tourists. In the city, some khans were specially designated for travellers, but comfort was still very basic. The first lodgings in the region, designed to meet the standards of comfort expected by Western tourists, sprung up in the 1840s.



**Working Number:** UK 004

**Name:** Madame Josephine the Landlady of the Hotel Constantinople in a Turkish Dress

**Holding Museum:** The British Museum

**Date:** 1840

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Accommodation specifically set up to cater for foreign tourists first appeared in the region in the second half of the 19th century. Madame Josephine's lodging house in the Pera district of Constantinople was among the earliest hotels to cater for a Western clientele that included Germans, Russians, French, British and even Americans.



**Working Number:** FR 076

**Name:** Cairo: houses and gardens in the French quarter. Flaubert in the foreground.

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:**

**Materials:** 1852  
**Curator** -  
**Justification:** Many European visitors to the region arrived with recommendations to contact accommodating, reliable and helpful compatriots during their visit to the East. Many headed straight to those quarters of the city reserved for foreign communities, such as the Pera district in Constantinople or the Frankish quarter in Cairo.



**Working Number:** DZ 057  
**Name:** The Swedish consulate  
**Holding Museum:** Musée Public National des Antiquités  
**Date:** 1832  
**Materials:** -  
**Curator**  
**Justification:** Important visitors, such as aristocrats or other members of European high society, tended to be accommodated in the diplomatic missions or embassies of their countries during their sojourn to the East.



**Working Number:** UA 013  
**Name:** Encampment of the Awlad Said Mount Sinai 1839  
**Holding Museum:** Sharjah Art Museum / Sharjah Museums Authority  
**Date:** Published 1849  
**Materials:** Lithograph  
**Curator**  
**Justification:** Away from cities and towns, early European travellers to the East relied on whatever accommodation was available. Those crossing desert regions relied on tents – like the Scottish painter David Roberts who crossed the Sinai with the help of Bedouin guides from the Awlad Said in the 1830s.



**Working Number:** UK 129  
**Name:** Monastery on Mount Carmel  
**Holding Museum:** The British Library  
**Date:** 1893  
**Materials:** -  
**Curator**  
**Justification:** Christian parties tended to travel in denominational groups organised and looked after by their respective religious communities. At their destination, in the Holy Land in particular, they could count on the hospitality of Christian hostels or monasteries.



**Working Number:** UK 160  
**Name:** Djouni. The residence of Lady Hester Stanhope  
**Holding Museum:** Victoria and Albert Museum

<b>Date:</b>	c. 1835
<b>Materials:</b>	Brown ink and wash
<b>Curator</b>	On rare occasions, prominent Europeans chose to settle permanently in the region. Lady Hester Stanhope's isolated home, an abandoned monastery on a hill top near Joun, Lebanon, attracted visitors from all over the world who were eager to meet the fascinating archaeologist and adventurer.
<b>Justification:</b>	

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