

**By S Bhattacharya**

Travel is as old as mankind on the earth. The man at the beginning of his existence roamed about the surface of the earth in the search of food, water, shelter, securities, and better habitat. However, in course of time, such movements were transformed into wanderlust. Travel has always depended upon technology to provide the means or mode of travel. The earliest travelers walked or used domesticated animals. Travel was originally inspired by the need for surviving (food, shelter, and security), the desire to expand trade and quest to conquer.

About five thousand year ago, changes in climate, dwindling food and shelter conditions hostile invaders made the people leave their homes to seek refuge elsewhere like the Aryans left their homes in Central Asia due to climate changes. Perhaps, this leads to the development of commerce, trade, and industry. According to linguists, the word ‘travel’ was first used in the **14th century**. However, people started to travel much earlier. When thinking about travel in history, Most of the time people like Hu En Sang, Marco Polo or Christopher Columbus, Vasco Da Gama are coming. However, they were not really travellers in a modern sense. They were explorers.

During Hindu and Chinese civilization a movement of religion, education and culture began. Christian missionaries, Buddhist monks and other traveled everywhere carrying religious messages and returned with fantastic images and opinions about alien people.

Wealthy Romans would often go to their summer villas. It was purely for leisure. Well-developed network of roads was the reason they could travel safely and quickly. For centuries, movement of people continued to grow due to the efficiency of transport and the assistance and safety, which the people could travel. During the middle Ages, most of the journeys were pilgrimages. The only things that connected this world with the saints’ people were worshipping. Wealthy people were travelling in

the caravans or by using the waterways. By the end of the **15th century**, Italy had become the intellectual and cultural center of Europe. It represented the classical heritage for both the intelligentsia and the aristocracy.

**During the 16th Century**, travel comes to be considered as an essential part of the education of every young Englishman. Travel thus became a mean of self – development, and education in its broadest sense. The educational travel was known as ‘**Grand Tour**’. They would go on a long journey during which they were visiting famous European cities. Such as London, Paris, Rome or Venice, and were learning about their art, history and architecture.

**Mid-19th century** definitely marks a real beginning of modern tourism. It is the time, when middle class started to grow. They have found a way to travel easily around Europe. The industrial revolution brought about significant changes in the pattern and structure of British society. Thus, the economy of Britain was greatly responsible for the beginning of modern tourism. After the Second World War, with the rise of air travel, people started to travel more and more. Travel **developed during the early 20th century** and facilitated by the development of the automobiles and later by airplanes.

Improvements in transport allowed many people to travel quickly to places of leisure interest so that more people could begin to enjoy the benefits of leisure time.

However, the developments of rails, roads, steamships, automobiles, and airplanes helped to spread technology across the globe. Earlier travel was a privilege only for wealthy people but with the industrial revolution, the scenario altogether changed. Transportation, as well as accommodation, became affordable to middle and working-class citizens. It also created a large and prosperous middle class and because of great improvement in transportation systems in latter half of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 19th century, an increasing number of people began to travel for pleasure. Essentially, with the development of jet travel, communication, new technology, tourism, and travel became the world’s largest and fastest-growing industry.



