

Call for Papers
7th symposium on tourism imaginaries
Paris, 17-19 june 2027

When cruising is the destination.
Tourist imaginaries of roads, railways, waterways and
airways

The 7th symposium on tourism imagery invites us to consider **the imagery of travel** (as opposed to that of destinations), emphasising **transport as an essential element of the tourism experience**.

Cruises, road trips, caravan journeys and trips on certain legendary trains, both past and present, have a particularly strong appeal, giving travel and means of transport the leading role in the tourist experience and sometimes pushing the destination into the background. Even if these are not “travels for nowhere” and even if we hope to arrive at a destination at the end, relationships and encounters, intrigues and pleasures, and inconveniences unfold in these moving scenes (love scenes in *The Love Boat*, crime scenes in *the Orient Express*) that are modes of transport. More commonly, long-haul tourist flights, boat or yacht cruises, and caravan itineraries play a decisive role in the general imagination of travel.



The themes of the conference include:

Transport as a form of travel

- forms of tourism linked to travel as much as, if not more than, stopovers: travel on the Trans-Siberian or Orient Express, river and sea cruises, road trips, hiking or cycling, space tourism, etc.
- *world* tours (around the world, around Italy, etc.), where the focus is as much on the route as on the stops
- walking tours and variations on Segways, Trabants, etc.

The tourist experience of transport

- The place of transport (its pleasures and inconveniences?) in the tourist project, experience and memory
- Tourist practices during transport: panoramic views and travelling, preparing for the trip and stopovers, daydreaming, reading guidebooks, boredom, etc.). In particular, emotions and sensations specific to tourist transport
- experience of local transport: the metro, rickshaws, camels and elephants, gondolas, driving on the left, etc.
- transport that is not a tourist experience: night flights - except for members of the Mile High Club - standardised international airports, etc.
- the place of transport in travel stories and albums, in tourist films

Tourist transport locations

- locations (stations, ports, airports, etc.) and means of transport (historic roads or trains, ocean liners, transport museums, etc.) as tourist attractions and travel experiences
- 'tourist traps': small trains, tuk-tuks, 2 Chevaux cars, horse-drawn carriages, etc., specifically designed for visiting tourist attractions
- Tourist facilities on means of transport: panoramic trains, cruise ship decks, in-flight magazines, activities offered on board
- Trains, aeroplanes and cruise ships as exotic and picturesque locations

Tourism without transport:

- What does the absence of travel mean for tourism and tourists?
- Are virtual tourism and tourism on your doorstep really tourism?



Practical information

Important dates

Proposals are due by 15 November 2026. Authors will be notified of the outcome of their proposals by 30 November 2026.

A publication will be prepared following the conference (full texts to be submitted by 15 September 2027). Authors are therefore encouraged to focus on original topics that could be developed into a chapter for the book.

Submission guidelines

Authors are invited to send a 500-word abstract followed by a biographical note of no more than 250 words.

Abstracts should be sent to maria.gravari-barbas@univ-paris1.fr and Jean-Francois.Staszak@unige.ch.

