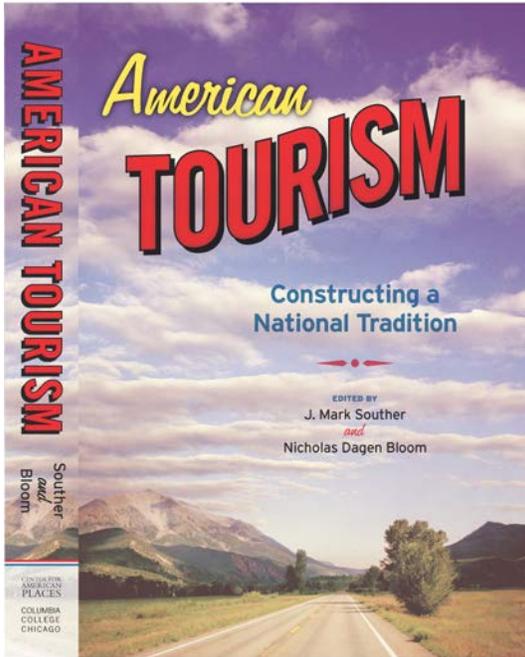


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American Tourism:
Constructing a National Tradition

Edited by J. Mark Souther and
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With a wide-ranging list of case studies—iconic, eccentric, discovered, transformed, and invented—this study of American tourist sites draws on the best and most lively younger scholars of the American landscape, and the result is both accessible and impeccable. Woven through the survey are central themes that undergird our American conception of place and its significance. From the Grand Canyon to Disneyland, the authors offer a dynamic history of places that paradoxically promise a sense of national history, but are themselves in near-constant states of change, both in their physical and their symbolic guises.

—Peter Bacon Hales, Professor, Art History, The University of Illinois at Chicago, and author of *Silver Cities*, *Atomic Spaces*, and numerous other studies of the changing American landscape

American Tourism reveals the remarkable stories behind the places Americans love to visit. From Independence Hall to Las Vegas, and from Silver Springs to Seattle's Pike Place Market, the collection draws back the curtain on many of America's most successful tourist traps to reveal the carefully hidden backstory of transforming places into destinations. Readers will discover that a powerful creative process, rather than chance, has separated the enduring attractions from the many failures that litter the highways and byways of tourism history.

American Tourism's thirty-five lively, illustrated essays tap the expertise of the country's leading academic and public historians, writers, and tourism professionals. The contributors illuminate the visionaries who crafted iconic destinations and the business models that sustained the attractions once the founders had passed from the scene. In each essay the authors also highlight the design choices that made places memorable, the cultural work that turned places into experiences, and the long-term impact (both good and bad) of these sites on their locales, regions, and the nation as a whole.

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