

THEORETICAL MODELS APPLIED TO TOURISM

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This paper aims to gather, present and discuss the most important tourism theoretical models described in the specialized literature. Eleven theoretical models were analyzed which aim to represent and systematize the characteristics elements and relations of tourism. The models were divided into two groups: spatial models and systemic models. Among the spatial models, Leiper's was considered the most import while Beni's is the one that represents best the systemic model.

KEY WORDS: *tourism; tourism theory; tourism models.*