

TOURISM AND RAILROAD HERITAGE
A Case Study of Valley Railroad (Trem da Vale) of Ouro Preto and Mariana,
State of Mina Gerais, Brazil

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This paper presents an analysis of the importance for tourism of the industrial railroad heritage based on the case study of the Trem da Vale. In the requalification of this heritage, new cultural equipment and material for leisure have been created the railroad area meant for both the local community and visitors. The aim of the study was to understand the practices adopted for the enhancement and interpretation of this heritage. The perception and appropriation by the tourists and/or visitors related to the recovery of this heritage has also been considered in the questionnaires completed by the visitors of Ouro Preto and Mariana railroad stations. The data made available suggest that the tourists and/or visitors have given support to the recovery of the railroad heritage for tourist purposes. Other findings are that heritage interpretation adds value to the site and tourist satisfaction.

KEY WORDS: *railroad heritage, cultural heritage interpretation, Trem da Vale: Ouro Preto - Mariana.*