

TRAVEL MEMORIES

Correspondence as a Historical Source for Tourism

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Several areas of study use correspondences and other personal files as source, eg, history, education and anthropology. Letters are widely used among historians as vehicles to access the past. In this sense, this article aims to reflect on the letters as a source of historical research for tourism, by understanding that theoretical and methodological support of other sciences are necessary in order to provide a breakthrough in social knowledge of travel and tourism. In this article the proposed dialogue with historiography makes possible new research on travel, tourism and its relationship to broader social conjunctures. Correspondences can reveal various aspects of the history of travel and tourism, such as the profile of travelers, the reasons for travel, routes, destinations, services used, the impressions of the place visited, the vision of the traveler, habits, material goods, knowledge and cultures, the social meanings of travel, some consequences of economic, social and cultural rights of this process, return, among others.

KEYWORDS: *Correspondence, history, travel, tourism.*