

Hill's Resorts of the Indian Himalaya: Actors, Places and Practices from the British Raj to the Post Independence Age

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Colonization has been an important part of tourism diffusion outside of Europe during the 19th century, especially through the British Raj. As a matter of fact, British subjects have transferred their tourist's practices from Europe to their colonial Empire. They created in the Himalayas some places specifically dedicated to their own recreation, as health resorts and pleasure place. The heritage resulting from this history is the development of small cities with a specific architecture and morphology, characteristic of the colonial way of life.

The Post Independence time could have been the ruin of such places, in so far as India had to first face underdevelopment. However, they had become the favorite destination of the Indian domestic tourist, as a middle class was emerging, especially in the 1980's. They had also developed some administrative functions, a sign of their urbanity among the mountainous areas where they stand. The aim of this paper is first to examine the relationships between colonial resorts and European models of tourist's practices and places, and then their role in the emergence of an Indian domestic tourist space.