Description

Based on the accounts of British and Anglo-Irish travelers, Creating Irish Tourism charts the development of tourism in Ireland from 1750 to 1850.

'A survey that brings historical detail, literary analysis and the wider cultural context wonderfully together...an admirably clear, concise and informative read.'
—Glenn Hooper, Research Fellow, Open University, UK, and author of Travel Writing and Ireland, 1760-1860

Although modern tourism did not begin in Ireland, it developed there rapidly after 1750, making the island one of the first counties in which tourism became a driving economic and cultural factor. Based on the accounts of British and Anglo-Irish travelers, this book charts the development of tourism in Ireland from its origins in the mid-eighteenth century to the country's emergence as a major European tourist destination a century later.

Given its scenic attractions and proximity to Great Britain, Ireland's position as a tourism Mecca might seem inevitable. Yet Creating Irish Tourism reveals that tourism in Ireland, as anywhere else in the eighteenth century, had to be invented. Through the descriptive accounts of travel writers, the sites had to be identified and defined in ways that made them attractive and meaningful to potential visitors. In addition to period travel writing, this study draws upon recent scholarship in the fields of tourism and travel studies to produce the first investigation of the history of the initial century of Irish tourism.

Readership: Students and scholars interested in Irish Studies and Travel and Tourism Studies; general readers who have been – or plan to be – tourists in Ireland.

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About the Author

William H. A. Williams completed his PhD from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1971. He has since worked as a lecturer, project director, and educational consultant, and has retired as Professor Emeritus from the Union Institute, College of Undergraduate Studies in Cincinnati, Ohio. His recent publications include Tourism, Landscape and the Irish Character: British Traveling Writing in Pre-Famine Ireland, 1750-1850.