

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



Thank you - your ongoing membership makes Leonardo English possible.

If you have questions we'd love to hear from you: hi@leonardoenglish.com

Episode #156
The Grand Tour
7th May, 2021

[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:00:11] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:21] I'm Alastair Budge and today we are going to be talking about the time in the 17th and 18th centuries where young, [aristocratic](#)¹ British men used to go on long tours through Europe, taking in art, culture, and all sorts of other pleasures that were either unavailable, or not allowed, back at home.

[00:00:43] The name of this tradition was The Grand Tour.

¹ belonging to the high social class

The Grand Tour

[00:00:46] It is a fascinating topic, and we'll learn about where exactly these men went, and why, how they travelled, what they did, and what the goal was for such an adventure.

[00:00:59] Before we get right into today's episode, I want to remind you that you can become a member of Leonardo English and follow along with the subtitles, the transcript and its key vocabulary over on the website, which is leonardoenglish.com.

[00:01:14] Membership of Leonardo English gives you access to all of our learning materials, all of our bonus episodes, so that's more than 150 different episodes now, as well as two new ones every week, plus access to our awesome private community where we do live events, challenges, and much, much more.

[00:01:34] Our community now has members from over 50 countries, and it's my mission to make it the most interesting place for curious people like you to improve their English.

[00:01:44] So, I would love for you to join me if that is of interest, - and I can't see a reason why it wouldn't be - then the place to go to is leonardoenglish.com.

[00:01:55] So, The Grand Tour.

[00:01:58] It's a particularly interesting subject to us today for two reasons.

[00:02:04] Firstly, as for many of us, especially in Europe, in normal times international travel has changed from a luxury to a normality.

The Grand Tour

[00:02:15] Cheap flights, smartphones, things like Airbnb mean that travelling from one country to another is something that can be done relatively cheaply, easily, and in a short period of time.

[00:02:29] The Grand Tour was the complete opposite.

[00:02:32] And secondly, for much of the last year, and for who knows how much longer, international travel has been something that has been **out of reach**² for most of us, it is something that we simply haven't been able to do.

[00:02:46] So for those of you **longing for**³ foreign trips, perhaps this episode will give you some inspiration, and make you think a little bit more about the kind of trips that you might like to take.

[00:02:59] Let's start with some dates.

[00:03:01] The expression "Grand Tour" was **coined**⁴ – or used for the first time – in 1670 by an Englishman called Richard Lassels, who wrote one of the early guidebooks, 'The Voyage of Italy'.

[00:03:16] Lassels was describing a **phenomenon**⁵ which was becoming increasingly common in Britain of the 17th century and continued right through to the start of

² not able to be achieved

³ having a strong desire for

⁴ used for the first time

⁵ a situation that happens or exists

The Grand Tour

railways in the 1840s, but with a long, unexpected break brought about by the French Revolution and [subsequent](#)⁶ Napoleonic Wars [so, the period from 1789–1815].

[00:03:40] This [phenomenon](#), of The Grand Tour, was one of a large, extended cultural trip that became an expectation initially for the very wealthiest of British [aristocrats](#)⁷, for the people right at the top of society.

[00:03:57] Some Swedish and Germans took part as well, and towards the final stages of the Grand Tour, some wealthy Americans also participated, but in general it was very much a British [affair](#)⁸.

[00:04:12] Young gentlemen, and it was mainly men, not women, would set off from London on this mighty adventure.

[00:04:20] They would travel by horse and [carriage](#)⁹, with a large group of servants behind them.

[00:04:26] The routes would vary, but they would typically go south to Paris, some would stop off in The Netherlands, some to Switzerland and Germany, and the more adventurous might go to Spain, Greece, or Turkey.

⁶ happening after something else

⁷ people who belong to the high social class

⁸ a matter that is a concern of a particular group

⁹ a vehicle with 4 wheels, usually pulled by a horse and used in the past

The Grand Tour

[00:04:41] But the most important destination, and the place they could not miss, was Italy.

[00:04:49] Why, you might ask?

[00:04:51] Well, the reasons were similar, but slightly different to the reasons that most modern tourists go to Italy.

[00:04:59] The education of the British upper classes had always been based on a [rigorous](#)¹⁰ study of Latin and Greek, with an [accompanying](#)¹¹ knowledge of classical [antiquity](#)¹².

[00:05:11] It was through a knowledge of the classics that an [aristocratic](#) British man was expected to understand the world, and going to Italy was a way of experiencing it all [firsthand](#)¹³.

[00:05:24] Most young men of the [aristocratic](#) or upper-class would not be expected to go to university – or if so, it was mainly for reasons that were more to do with pleasure and social connections, rather than study.

¹⁰ extremely careful and accurate

¹¹ happening at the same time

¹² the distant past, the ancient times

¹³ from personal experience

The Grand Tour

[00:05:40] However, especially because of the influence of Enlightenment writers such as John Locke, who **emphasised**¹⁴ the importance of learning through experience, the attraction of travelling abroad grew; how much better, they thought, to see these classical wonders and other beautiful things **firsthand**.

[00:06:02] There's a quotation from the famous Dr Samuel Johnson [who was the author of the most famous English Dictionary] that **sums it up**¹⁵ quite nicely.

[00:06:13] He wrote, in 1776:

[00:06:15] "A man who has not been in Italy, is always **conscious**¹⁶ of an **inferiority**¹⁷, from his not having seen what it is expected a man should see."

[00:06:26] So, there was this expectation that a man should see Italy, he should go and **witness**¹⁸ the great works of art, the buildings, so that he could understand ancient Rome, and therefore, the world.

[00:06:39] To do this, he needed to go there, of course, but most of these young travellers would also be accompanied by a private tutor, called a Cicerone, a guide who would educate these young men and explain these great works to them.

¹⁴ gave special value to

¹⁵ presents a brief description or summary

¹⁶ having knowledge of something

¹⁷ the condition of being lower in status or quality

¹⁸ see

The Grand Tour

[00:06:55] These guides would accompany the young men for their whole trip, which would typically take about 2 years.

[00:07:02] We're not talking about having a private guide for a couple of hours in a museum - we're talking about a full, private tutor for two entire years.

[00:07:13] As well as visiting these great sights, these young men would often be expected to buy certain things to take home, as [souvenirs](#)¹⁹.

[00:07:22] But, again, we're not talking about mini [replicas](#)²⁰ of the Colosseum or postcards, they would often buy large [marble](#)²¹ statues, Renaissance paintings, and real Roman [antiquities](#)²².

[00:07:36] Much like some people nowadays might collect [fridge magnets](#)²³, or might buy a t-shirt from every city they travel to, these young men might buy full statues and works of art to take back home and display in their large houses.

[00:07:53] One of the early Grand Tourists, a man called Thomas Howard, otherwise known as the 14th [Earl](#)²⁴ of Arundel, set off in 1613.

¹⁹ things you buy to help you remember a place

²⁰ the exact model of something, especially on a smaller scale

²¹ a type of hard rocky material used to make statues

²² things or sites belonging to the distant past

²³ small magnets used as a decoration on fridges as a reminder of a place

²⁴ a rank of nobility

The Grand Tour

[00:08:03] By the time that he died in 1646 he had 700 paintings that he had collected during his travels, and had earned the nickname “The Collector [Earl](#)”.

[00:08:16] Since there were few museums anywhere in Europe before the close of the eighteenth century, Grand Tourists often saw paintings and sculptures by gaining [admission](#)²⁵ to private collections, and many were [eager](#)²⁶ to [acquire](#)²⁷ examples of Greco-Roman and Italian art for their own collections.

[00:08:37] There was already a well-organised system in the major Grand Tour city destinations of Rome and Venice that [ensured](#)²⁸ that these wealthy visitors could buy the fine paintings of the places that they had visited.

[00:08:51] These oil paintings were even given a name in Italian – “vedute” or what they’d seen; the famous Venetian painter Canaletto specialised in such city view oil paintings.

[00:09:05] In addition they could have [grandiose](#)²⁹ paintings taken of themselves, sometimes standing by notable works of art.

²⁵ the fact of being allowed to enter a place

²⁶ wanting very much to do something

²⁷ get, buy

²⁸ made sure, certain

²⁹ intended to seem great and important

The Grand Tour

[00:09:15] Although the costs involved are very different, the motivation would have been similar to anyone today who takes a picture of themselves on holiday and shares it on Instagram.

[00:09:27] It's basically the 17th or 18th century equivalent of taking a selfie and putting it on social media, [albeit](#)³⁰ a much more expensive one.

[00:09:38] When they returned to Britain, of course these young Grand Tourists would want to put their paintings and statues on display, for everyone to see, and you can [trace](#)³¹ the influence that various Italian styles have had on British architecture - it is due in a large part to these Grand Tourists returning with objects they had bought on their travels.

[00:10:02] Now, if this all sounds incredibly [sophisticated](#)³², and you are thinking that it's amazing that these young men were so interested in art and culture, when young people today aren't travelling for the same cultural reasons, there is another aspect to The Grand Tour that was a big attraction, and expectation, for these young men.

[00:10:25] These young men were very rich, they had no responsibilities, and were very far away from home, and from anyone they knew.

³⁰ although

³¹ find the origin or development of something

³² complicated and showing wide knowledge and experience

The Grand Tour

[00:10:35] When they returned home, they would typically get married to another [aristocratic](#) young woman, and return to society life, so it does not take much imagination to think that many took their time on the Grand Tour to experience pleasures that were not so [readily](#)³³ available at home.

[00:10:55] [Gambling](#)³⁴, sex, and [excessive](#)³⁵ drinking were expectations for these young men, and there are multiple reports of men [striking up](#)³⁶ relationships with local women, and taking advantage of the fact that they were so far away from home and nobody would know what they got up to.

[00:11:15] Of all the grand tourists, the most [notorious](#)³⁷ [pleasure-seeker](#)³⁸, who acquired [status](#)³⁹ and [fame](#)⁴⁰ equivalent to the most [outrageous](#)⁴¹ of rock stars was the poet Lord Byron.

³³ easily, without any problem

³⁴ playing games of chance for money

³⁵ more than reasonable or acceptable

³⁶ starting

³⁷ famous for something bad

³⁸ a person who searches for amusement or enjoyment

³⁹ social position

⁴⁰ the state of being known

⁴¹ shocking and unacceptable by most

The Grand Tour

[00:11:29] Not long after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, in 1815, he set off to travel in Italy and in particular to live in Venice, where his multiple [affairs](#)⁴², often with the wives of [prominent](#)⁴³ Venetian citizens, were written up in his letters which he sent home.

[00:11:47] A [footnote](#)⁴⁴ here has to do with the long-term influence of the classical world of Italy and Greece on the British imagination.

[00:11:56] Byron's love of these countries and their civilisations, which was shared by fellow, radical poet, Percy Shelley, became influential, not only in the support that these two [dashing](#)⁴⁵ poets gave to the nationalist liberation movements of the first few decades of the 19th century, but the affection and high standing in which the British upper classes held Greek civilisation in particular.

[00:12:23] This is thought to have been a major factor behind the British support of Greek independence, which was [crucial](#)⁴⁶ in [enabling](#)⁴⁷ Greece to break free from Ottoman rule and secure its independence in 1830.

⁴² sexual relations

⁴³ very well known and important

⁴⁴ additional information

⁴⁵ attractive in a confident and stylish way

⁴⁶ very important and necessary

⁴⁷ making something possible to happen

The Grand Tour

[00:12:38] Now, you will be, I am sure, wondering about some of the [practicalities](#)⁴⁸ of the whole business.

[00:12:44] How did they actually get from one city to another?

[00:12:48] Where did they stay?

[00:12:49] What did they do on a daily basis?

[00:12:52] How was tourism different?

[00:12:55] Although the Grand Tour was only possible for men with considerable wealth and [leisure](#)⁴⁹, considerable free time, the actual travelling itself would not have been comfortable.

[00:13:08] To give you some indication of how long it would take to cover one stage of the journey, the [passage](#)⁵⁰ from London to Paris would take at least three days – now, you can do the same trip in just over two hours on the Eurostar.

[00:13:23] In general, a Grand Tourist could expect to cover a maximum of 20 miles each day, around 30 kilometres a day.

⁴⁸ details that involve the actual doing rather than theories or ideas

⁴⁹ free time

⁵⁰ journey

The Grand Tour

[00:13:31] Although, when in the major cities, the grand tourist would rent [luxurious](#)⁵¹ accommodation, he had to put up with whatever was available when in transit, when he was on the road.

[00:13:43] There are many accounts of [fierce](#)⁵² arguments about costs, as the hosts – the [innkeepers](#)⁵³ or [hoteliers](#)⁵⁴ would understandably be wanting to charge as much as possible, given the wealth of their guests.

[00:13:57] Perhaps the most dramatic stage in the journey was crossing the Alps: the most [luxurious](#) way of doing this was to hire a [sedan chair](#)⁵⁵ – a chair on sticks - which was carried by at least four strong men, in which you would be carried via Mont Cenis, which is close to the well-known ski resort, Val d'Isère.

[00:14:20] Security was also an issue.

⁵¹ very comfortable and expensive

⁵² violent and frightening

⁵³ people who own an inn, a kind of motel in the past

⁵⁴ hotel owners

⁵⁵ an enclosed chair on sticks, carried by people

The Grand Tour

[00:14:22] As you can imagine, given how easily **identifiable**⁵⁶ these rich people were, they would be **targeted**⁵⁷ by **thieves**⁵⁸ and people seeking to trick them out of their money.

[00:14:33] As well as often hiring local guides and protectors, they tried to avoid carrying too much cash on them, but **relied**⁵⁹ on what were called letters of credit, provided by their bank in London and **enabling** bankers in Rome or Venice to issue them with local currency.

[00:14:53] Having crossed the Alps and full of **anticipation**⁶⁰ for Italy's treasures, both **animate**⁶¹ and **inanimate**⁶², they proceeded first to Turin or Milan.

[00:15:04] Tourists would aim for famous festivals such as the Carnival in Venice each early Spring or Holy Week in Rome.

[00:15:12] They would then make their way slowly south through Lucca, Florence, Siena and Rome.

⁵⁶ able to be recognised

⁵⁷ selected as an object of attack

⁵⁸ people who steal other people's property using force or threats

⁵⁹ depended

⁶⁰ a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen

⁶¹ having life

⁶² not alive

The Grand Tour

[00:15:19] Naples became a popular destination after the discovery and [excavations](#)⁶³ of Herculaneum and Pompeii in 1738 and 1748.

[00:15:30] In the latter part of the 18th century, the tourists had the additional excitement of seeing the volcano at Mount Etna [erupting](#)⁶⁴, and they would return to Britain with samples of [lava](#)⁶⁵.

[00:15:45] A different attraction in the last two decades of the 18th century was provided by the [lavish](#)⁶⁶ entertainment of the British [ambassador](#)⁶⁷ in Naples, Sir William Hamilton, and his beautiful young wife, Lady Emma Hamilton.

[00:16:00] She not only became the [mistress](#)⁶⁸ of the naval commander and hero, Horatio Nelson, but [sensationally](#)⁶⁹ lived with him and her [diplomatic](#)⁷⁰ husband.

[00:16:11] Sometimes, the grand tourists were able to load their paintings and sculptures onto a convenient British sailing ship at Naples and return home by sea;

⁶³ the acts of removing earth in order to find very old objects and ruins of the past

⁶⁴ exploding (for a volcano)

⁶⁵ hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano

⁶⁶ expensive, plentiful and impressive

⁶⁷ an important person who works in a foreign country as a representative of his or her own country

⁶⁸ a woman having a relationship with a married man

⁶⁹ in a way that causes great public interest

⁷⁰ someone who manages international relations

The Grand Tour

more often than not they would return on land, revisiting Rome before heading to Venice through cities such as Loreto, Ancona and Ravenna.

[00:16:33] Tourists would leave Italy through Vicenza, Verona, Mantua, Bologna, Modena, Parma, Milan, and Turin.

[00:16:41] And then the return [itinerary](#)⁷¹ might also include Vienna, Dresden, Berlin and Flanders.

[00:16:48] The grand tour had many consequences for British life, and laid some of the [groundwork](#)⁷² for the kind of tourism that exists today.

[00:16:59] One consequence that is rarely mentioned happened because of the restrictions brought about by the Napoleonic Wars.

[00:17:07] Because the grand tourists were [barred from](#)⁷³ the European continent, and the habit of touring had been established over the previous hundred years, [aristocratic](#) Brits had to visit their own country, they had to stay in Great Britain

[00:17:22] This [coincided with](#)⁷⁴ the beginnings of the Romantic movement in poetry which celebrated the beauty of wild and mountainous places; therefore the British

⁷¹ a detailed route of a journey

⁷² work that acts as a basis for something that will be done later

⁷³ not allowed to visit

⁷⁴ happened at the same time as

The Grand Tour

upper classes started visiting the Lake District in Northern England – a **rugged**⁷⁵ wild and **uncultivated**⁷⁶ place celebrated particularly in the inspiring poetry of William Wordsworth.

[00:17:46] They also visited some of the **wonders**⁷⁷ of the early Industrial Revolution – bridges and factories in particular.

[00:17:54] This **boost**⁷⁸ to domestic tourism will have been a factor, along with the start of railways, in the beginnings of mass tourism, initially **pioneered**⁷⁹ by a man called Thomas Cook whose railway tours of Italy were amongst the first foreign holidays offered to groups of middle-class tourists in 1864.

[00:18:16] The Grand Tour also had a **profound**⁸⁰ influence on the development of British artistic taste, affecting everything from the rise of the great country house to such products as Wedgwood pottery with its classical designs.

⁷⁵ wild and not easy to travel over

⁷⁶ not used to grow crops (plants)

⁷⁷ things of quality that cause admiration

⁷⁸ increase

⁷⁹ done for the first time

⁸⁰ very deep and strong

The Grand Tour

[00:18:32] Neoclassical architecture, imported from Italy, affected not only [domestic](#)⁸¹ architecture in the UK but also, as the British Empire grew, the architecture of its [far-off](#)⁸² colonies, such as India and South Africa.

[00:18:46] At a human level, these wealthy young men returned to the homes, sometimes carrying with them unfortunate and [debilitating](#)⁸³ diseases [acquired](#)⁸⁴ as a result of their adventures; perhaps the [sketchbooks](#)⁸⁵ and diaries that they had taken had received less attention than was ideal, but the [civilising](#)⁸⁶ effect of contact with the great [artefacts](#)⁸⁷ of the classical and Renaissance world will, for many of them, have improved their emotional life – their sensibility, to use a word that was fashionable at the time for describing their character and feelings.

[00:19:23] And in terms of global influence, The Grand Tour was an influential step on the path towards modern tourism.

⁸¹ relating to one's own country

⁸² being far away

⁸³ making someone ill and weak

⁸⁴ got, caught (for a disease)

⁸⁵ small books with empty pages meant for drawing

⁸⁶ educating

⁸⁷ objects of cultural and historical interest made by people

The Grand Tour

[00:19:32] It was, in many ways, the complete opposite of modern tourism, where you can [hop on](#)⁸⁸ a plane with just a [rucksack](#)⁸⁹ and land in another country in a couple of hours, [wander](#)⁹⁰ around the city, eat some nice food, and then return home the next day without really knowing anything about where you have just been.

[00:19:51] But there are, of course, many things that are exactly the same. The wish to experience new things, the desire to remember what you have seen, and the joy of adventure.

[00:20:03] Luckily, such joys are much more available to everyone than they were in the time of the Grand Tour, where only the very richest in society could [participate](#)⁹¹, but this has of course come at a cost.

[00:20:17] Tourism is responsible for 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions - most of which comes from flying - and many of the world's most beautiful tourist destinations are [flooded](#)⁹² with so many tourists that the character of the city has been changed.

⁸⁸ jump on

⁸⁹ a backpack, a bag carried on someone's back

⁹⁰ walk around slowly in a relaxed way

⁹¹ take part, be involved in something

⁹² crowded, full of people

The Grand Tour

[00:20:34] Venice, one of the [must-see](#)⁹³ destinations for the Grand Tourists, is a modern-day Disneyland, and although tourism does bring €2 billion a year to the city, it has forever changed its character.

[00:20:49] For cities such as Venice, Florence, and Rome, cities that were [cherished](#)⁹⁴ by the grand tourists, the impact of COVID-19, and the huge drop in [inbound](#)⁹⁵ tourism, has helped them remember what life was like before mass tourism.

[00:21:06] Of course, for many, especially those involved in the tourism industry, the effects have been [devastating](#)⁹⁶, but for others, it has been a refreshing reminder of what their city is really like [at its core](#)⁹⁷.

[00:21:20] And for those of us who are tourists, perhaps not being able to travel internationally has made us more [appreciative](#) of the real luxury that cheap travel is, and has made us more [appreciative](#) of the beauties that exist nearer to home.

[00:21:37] When you think of these Grand Tourists, who would spend months at a time just to see the artistic [wonders](#) of ancient Rome for the first time, perhaps this will

⁹³ highly recommended as worth seeing

⁹⁴ loved, protected and held dear

⁹⁵ towards a particular point

⁹⁶ causing a lot of damage

⁹⁷ at the most true, central and important part

The Grand Tour

make all of us all the more [appreciative](#)⁹⁸ and careful of the treasures that we are lucky enough to visit.

[00:21:54] OK then, that is it for today's episode on The Grand Tour.

[00:22:01] I hope it's been an interesting one, that you've learnt something new, and that it's made you think a little bit more about the relationship that you'll have with tourism, when it is again possible

[00:22:12] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode. I know that many of our members are huge fans of travel, so I'd love to know what your thoughts are about these grand tourists.

[00:22:25] For the members among you, you can head right into our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:22:35] And as a final reminder, if you enjoyed this episode, and you are wondering where to get all of our bonus episodes, plus the transcripts, subtitles, and key vocabulary, then the place to go for that is leonardoenglish.com.

[00:22:49] I am on a mission to make Leonardo English the most interesting way of improving your English, and I would love for you to join me, and curious minds from 50 different countries, on that journey.

⁹⁸ showing that we understand how good they are

[00:23:01] The place you can go to for all of that is leonardoenglish.com. You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:23:12] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Aristocratic	belonging to the high social class
Out of reach	not able to be achieved
Longing for	having a strong desire for
Coined	used for the first time
Phenomenon	a situation that happens or exists
Subsequent	happening after something else
Aristocrats	people who belong to the high social class
Affair	a matter that is a concern of a particular group
Carriage	a vehicle with 4 wheels, usually pulled by a horse and used in the past
Rigorous	extremely careful and accurate
Accompanying	happening at the same time
Antiquity	the distant past, the ancient times

The Grand Tour

Firsthand	from personal experience
Emphasised	gave special value to
Sums it up	presents a brief description or summary
Conscious	having knowledge of something
Inferiority	the condition of being lower in status or quality
Witness	see
Souvenirs	things you buy to help you remember a place
Replicas	the exact model of something, especially on a smaller scale
Marble	a type of hard rocky material used to make statues
Antiquities	things or sites belonging to the distant past
Fridge magnets	small magnets used as a decoration on fridges as a reminder of a place
Earl	a rank of nobility
Admission	the fact of being allowed to enter a place
Eager	wanting very much to do something
Acquire	get, buy

The Grand Tour

Ensured	made sure, certain
Grandiose	intended to seem great and important
Albeit	although
Trace	find the origin or development of something
Sophisticated	complicated and showing wide knowledge and experience
Readily	easily, without any problem
Gambling	playing games of chance for money
Excessive	more than reasonable or acceptable
Striking up	starting
Notorious	famous for something bad
Pleasure-seeker	a person who searches for amusement or enjoyment
Status	social position
Fame	the state of being known
Outrageous	shocking and unacceptable by most
Affairs	sexual relations

The Grand Tour

Prominent	very well known and important
Footnote	additional information
Dashing	attractive in a confident and stylish way
Crucial	very important and necessary
Enabling	making something possible to happen
Practicalities	details that involve the actual doing rather than theories or ideas
Leisure	free time
Passage	journey
Luxurious	very comfortable and expensive
Fierce	violent and frightening
Innkeepers	people who own an inn, a kind of motel in the past
Hoteliers	hotel owners
Sedan chair	an enclosed chair on sticks, carried by people
Identifiable	able to be recognised
Targeted	selected as an object of attack

The Grand Tour

Thieves	people who steal other people's property using force or threats
Relied	depended
Anticipation	a feeling of excitement about something that is going to happen
Animate	having life
Inanimate	not alive
Excavations	the acts of removing earth in order to find very old objects and ruins of the past
Erupting	exploding (for a volcano)
Lava	hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano
Lavish	expensive, plentiful and impressive
Ambassador	an important person who works in a foreign country as a representative of his or her own country
Mistress	a woman having a relationship with a married man
Sensationally	in a way that causes great public interest
Diplomatic	someone who manages international relations
Itinerary	a detailed route of a journey

The Grand Tour

Groundwork	work that acts as a basis for something that will be done later
Barred from	not allowed to visit
Coincided with	happened at the same time as
Rugged	wild and not easy to travel over
Uncultivated	not used to grow crops (plants)
Wonders	things of quality that cause admiration
Boost	increase
Pioneered	done for the first time
Profound	very deep and strong
Domestic	relating to one's own country
Far-off	being far away
Debilitating	making someone ill and weak
Acquired	got, caught (for a disease)
Sketchbooks	small books with empty pages meant for drawing
Civilising	educating

The Grand Tour

Artefacts	objects of cultural and historical interest made by people
Hop on	jump on
Rucksack	a backpack, a bag carried on someone's back
Wander	walk around slowly in a relaxed way
Participate	take part, be involved in something
Flooded	crowded, full of people
Must-see	highly recommended as worth seeing
Cherished	loved, protected and held dear
Inbound	towards a particular point, incoming
Devastating	causing a lot of damage
At its core	at the most true, central and important part
Appreciative	showing that we understand how good they are

We'd love to get your feedback on this podcast.

What did you like? What could we do better?

What did you struggle to understand?

English Learning for Curious Minds | Episode #156
The Grand Tour

Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com