This paper is an historical analysis of the early organized tourism in the city of Petrópolis through the narratives and images produced at the beginning of the 20th century. As a general objective, this paper intended to analyze how the construction of the so-called “tourist nature” of Petrópolis originated, by means of a historical perspective. The specific objective was to understand and identify the main narratives and images which support this cultural construction, emphasizing its origins between 1900 and 1930. The study was developed with the resource of the existing technical and scientific literature as well as documentary and iconographic research which depicted narratives and images of tourism in Petrópolis at the outset of its organization. The aim of this work was not only to propose the insertion of Petrópolis in a possible chronology of Brazilian tourism, but also to provoke and sensitize researchers of the field to the need of investments in empirical researches of historical nature in the field of tourism in the different Brazilian cities, as well as in Brazil as a whole.

KEY WORDS: history, tourism, Petrópolis/Brazil, narratives, images.