

The Travels of Ibn Battuta – A Virtual Tour

**Berkeley ORIAS, a division of UC Berkeley
(Office of Resources for International and Area Studies)
has created a Virtual Tour website that includes an entire section
based on the travels of Ibn Battuta.**

**The Home Page for this section can be found at:
<https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta>**

This Virtual Tour has sixteen different sections that tell of his incredible stories and sequences of events that took place during his travels. Within the sections are maps, photographs and videos that validate and expand on key parts of Ibn Battuta's travel story. The entire tour is not just the story of Ibn Battuta but a total cultural learning experience of the Muslim world.

Below are direct links to each of the sixteen sections. For each unit, I have created some easy to find yet critical questions for each content area. When you answer these questions, please use full sentences for your answers.

1. Introduction: <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta>

In 1325 C.E., when he was just 20 years old, Ibn Battuta began to travel. What was his main reason for travelling?

How many miles and how many different countries had he visited over his journeys?

What is meant by the term "Dar al-Islam?"

2. Across North Africa to Cairo: 1325 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/across-north-africa-cairo-1325>

What is a "Qadi?"

When he reached the city of Constantine, what gifts did Ibn Battuta receive from the governor?

What part of Islamic law is this act of gift-giving related to?

According to the historian, Ross Dunn, what is the relationship at this time between a Muslim man and woman?

Who were the Mamluks?

What sights did Ibn Battuta see while he was around the region of Alexandria in Egypt?

3. In Cairo: 1326 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/cairo-1326>

How did Ibn Battuta describe life in Cairo, Egypt in 1326?

Ibn Battuta described a “caravanserai.” What was this and how large was it?

4. Cairo to Jerusalem, Damascus, Medina, and Mecca: 1326 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/cairo-jerusalem-damascus-medina-and-mecca-1326>

What is so special about the city of Hebron?

Where are the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock located?

Why is the city of Damascus in Syria described as an “International Supermarket?”

What is an important ritual kept by Muslims during the holy month of Ramadan?

5. The Hajj - from Medina to Mecca: 1326 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/hajj-medina-mecca-1326>

Why did Ibn Battuta visit the city of Medina a holy place for Muslims?

Ibn Battuta describes the main rituals observed during the hajj. What were they?

6. Iraq and Persia: 1326 – 1327 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/iraq-and-persia-1326-1327>

Before Ibn Battuta went to Iraq and Persia, who were the previous rulers of the region?

What effects of cultural diffusion did Ibn Battuta find in Iraq and Persia?

7. The Red Sea to East Africa and the Arabian Sea: 1328 – 1330 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/red-sea-east-africa-and-arabian-sea-1328-1330>

While in this region, Ibn Battuta traveled by Dhow. What is a Dhow?

Why is the city of Aden classed as a major trading center? What could you buy there?

How do the monsoon winds effect trade in the Indian Ocean?

8. Anatolia: 1330 – 1331 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/anatolia-1330-1331>

According to Ibn Battuta, how were Christians treated in Anatolia, Turkey?

What are Sufi Whirling Dervishes?

9. Lands of the Golden Horde & the Chagatai: 1332 – 1333 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/lands-golden-horde-chagatai-1332-1333>

What happens if you are found out having a stolen horse?

Why did Ibn Battuta become upset when he was in the city of Kaffa?

Ibn Battuta meets Kipchak Khan Ozbeg, King of the Golden Horde. Where was Ozbeg when the meeting took place?

What was life like if you were a wife of a Khan or Great Ruler? Explain with evidence from this section.

10. Delhi, the Capital of Muslim India: 1334 – 1341 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/delhi-capital-muslim-india-1334-1341>

Why would Ibn Battuta not agree with the ways of the Sultan of Delhi?

What took place during a parade of the sultan through the streets of Delhi?

While in India, Ibn Battuta records that he ate very well, especially samosas. What are they made of?

11. Escape from Delhi to the Maldiv Islands and Sri Lanka: 1341 – 1344 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/escape-delhi-maldiv-islands-and-sri-lanka-1341-1344>

On his route from Delhi to China what happened to Ibn Battuta and what were the results of this encounter?

When he arrived in the port of Calicut, Ibn Battuta saw junks. What are they and how are they described?

What was the relationship between Muslims and Hindus in this region?

What are the two major exports of the Maldives?

12. Through the Strait of Malacca to China: 1345 – 1346 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/through-strait-malacca-china-1345-1346>

Why did Ibn Battuta not like China?

13. Return Home: 1346 – 1349 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/return-home-1346-1349>

Who were the Mughals?

What were some of the effects of the Bubonic Plagues witnessed by Ibn Battuta?

What happened to Ibn Battuta's mother while he was on his way home?

14. On to Al-Andalus and Morocco: 1349 – 1350 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/al-andalus-and-morocco-1349-1350>

What is the Alhambra in Granada, Spain?

15. Journey to Mali: 1350 – 1351 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/journey-mali-1350-1351>

Who was Mansa Musa?

What happened to the value of gold when Mansa Musa took his hajj to Mecca?

How did Ibn Battuta cross the Sahara Desert to Mali?

Ibn Battuta has positive and negative reactions to society in Mali.

What were some of the positive?

What were some of the negative?

16. Writing the Rihla: 1355 <https://orias.berkeley.edu/resources-teachers/travels-ibn-battuta/journey/writing-rihla-1355>

What was The Rihla?

What do we know about Ibn Battuta after completion of The Rihla?

If you had traveled with Ibn Battuta:

What part of the trip would have impressed you the most?

What part of the trip would have least impressed you?

Explain your answers in detail based on the units that you have just completed.