

# The Travels Of Marco Polo Complete Illustrated

the venetian adventurer marco polo traveled from europe to asia in the late thirteenth century as immortalised in his seminal work of travel literature it describes polo s assorted travels throughout asia and his experiences in the sumptuous court of kublai khan composed at a time when very little was known about the far east polo s account opened new vistas to the european mind allowing western horizons to expand his description of japan set a definite goal for christopher columbus in his journey of 1492 while polo s detailed discoveries of spices encouraged western merchants to seek new sources and break trading monopolies the wealth of geographic information recorded by polo was widely used in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries fuelling an era of great european discoveries delphi s medieval library provides ereaders with rare and precious works of the middle ages with noted english translations and the original texts this ebook presents marco polo s complete text with illustrations an informative introduction and the usual delphi bonus material version 1

beautifully illustrated with images relating to polo s life and adventures features the complete extant works of marco polo in both english translation and giovanni battista ramusio s original italian text the complete yule cordier 1903 translation with hundreds of illustrations and footnotes concise introduction to the text superior formatting easily locate the sections you want to read with individual contents tables features four bonus biographies discover polo s medieval world contents the translation brief introduction to marco polo the travels of marco polo c 1300 the original text the italian text the biographies marco polo 1832 by james augustus st john sir marco polo the venetian and his travels in asia 1893 by w h davenport adams marco polo 1904 by john h haaren marco polo 1911 by henry yule and charles raymond beazley

volume 1 of 2 volume set one of the greatest books of all time a vast treasury of invaluable observations on the peoples and geography of the near east and asia in the 13th century detailed descriptions of cities customs laws crops animals political systems much more 200 illustrations 32 maps and site plans

it was perhaps the first book to achieve best seller status before the invention of the printing press it was certainly the most controversial did venetian trader and explorer marco polo 1254 1324 actually reach the court of kublai khan serve the emperor as his emissary and journey the distant lands of cathay for 17 years as he relates in his travels of marco polo the question still hasn t quite been settled today but whether polo experienced firsthand the wonders of ancient china retold tales he heard from arab travelers along the silk road or simply invented half his stories this remains a delightful read for fans of history adventure and medieval literature

in 1271 marco polo set out on a journey to china to meet the mongol emperor kublaï khan he returned with stories that would take a lifetime to tell featuring exotic creatures strange customs extraordinary legends and political intrigues the travels of marco polo reveals the fantastical treasures of the east in the words of the legendary medieval explorer conjuring up a forgotten world filled with mystery where wonder lurks around every corner marco polo tells his tale with extraordinary clarity and energy

his journey through the east began in 1271 when still a teenager he set out of venice and found himself traversing the most exotic countries his acceptance into the court of the great emperor kublai khan and his service to the vast and dazzling mongol empire led him to places as far away as tibet and burma lands rich with gems and gold and silk but virtually unknown to europeans later as a prisoner of war marco polo would record the details of his remarkable travels across harsh deserts great mountain ranges and dangerous seas as well as of his encounters with beasts and birds plants and people his amazing chronicle is both fascinating and awe inspiring and still serves as the most vivid depiction of the mysterious east in the middle ages edited and with an introduction by milton rugoff and an afterword by howard mittelmark

recounts marco polo s life and his travels and explorations of asia

of all that i have named ptolemy as the latest possessed the greatest extent of knowledge thus towards the north his knowledge carries him beyond the caspian and he is aware of its being shut in all round like a lake a fact which was unknown in the days of strabo and pliny though the romans were already lords of the world but though his knowledge extends so far a tract of 15 degrees beyond that sea he can describe only as terra incognita and towards the south he is fain to apply the same character to all beyond the equinoctal in these unknown regions as regards the south the first to make discoveries have been the portuguese captains of our own age but as regards the north and north east the discoverer was the magnifico messer marco polo an honoured nobleman of venice nearly 300 years since as may be read more fully in his own book and in truth it makes one marvel to consider the immense extent of the journeys made first by the father and uncle of the said messer marco when they proceeded continually towards the east north east all the way to the court of the great can and the emperor of the tartars and afterwards again by the three of them when on their return homeward they traversed the eastern and indian seas nor is that all for one marvels also how the aforesaid gentleman was able to give such an orderly description of all that he had seen seeing that such an accomplishment was possessed by very few in his day and he had had a large part of his nurture among those uncultivated tartars without any regular training in the art of composition his book indeed owing to the endless errors and inaccuracies that had crept into it had come for many years to be regarded as fabulous and the opinion prevailed that the names of cities and provinces contained therein were all fictitious and imaginary without any ground in fact or were i might rather say mere dreams howbeit during the last hundred years persons acquainted with persia have begun to recognise the existence of cathay ramusio vindicates polo s geography the voyages of the portuguese also towards the north east beyond the golden chersonese have brought to knowledge many cities and provinces of india and many islands likewise with those very names which our author applies to them and again on reaching the land of china they have ascertained from the people of that region as we are told by sign john de barros a portuguese gentleman in his geography that canton one of the chief cities of that kingdom is in 30 $\frac{2}{3}$  of latitude with the coast running n e and s w that after a distance of 275 leagues the said coast turns towards the n w and that there are three provinces along the sea board mangi zanton and quinzai the last of which is the principal city and the king s residence standing in 46 of latitude and proceeding yet further the coast attains to 50 seeing then how many particulars are in our day becoming known of that part of the world concerning which messer marco has written i have deemed it reasonable to publish his book with the aid of several copies written as i judge more than 200 years ago in a perfectly accurate form and one vastly more faithful than that in which it has been heretofore read and thus the world shall not lose the fruit that may be gathered from so much diligence and industry expended upon so honourable a branch of knowledge

the travels of marco polo vol 1 2 is a captivating anthology of exploration and adventure chronicling the awe inspiring journeys of marco polo and expertly transcribed by rustichello of pisa this seminal work captures the diverse and often extraordinary cultures landscapes and peoples encountered during polo s epic travels across asia and beyond with a range of styles blending factual narration with vivid storytelling the collection allows readers to traverse both real

and mythical realms offering a rich tapestry of medieval exploration that establishes it as a critical work in the canon of travel literature the anthology is a product of the collaboration between marco polo a venetian merchant with firsthand experience of the lands he describes and rustichello of pisa a gifted scribe known for his ability to bring stories to life in written form together they create a narrative deeply embedded in the historical context of the silk road and the complex cultural exchanges of the 13th century this collection aligns with the era s literary movements of discovery and curiosity showcasing diverse voices and perspectives that paint a multifaceted picture of the medieval world readers are invited to immerse themselves in the richly detailed accounts of this anthology gaining insights into the vast expanses of the world as seen through the eyes of polo and transcribed by pisa the travels of marco polo is not just a journey into distant lands but also an exploration of diverse human experiences and ambitions offering invaluable lessons in history culture and the relentless pursuit of knowledge this two volume set is essential for anyone interested in the early dynamics of global interaction and the legacies of medieval exploration in this enriched edition we have carefully created added value for your reading experience a succinct introduction situates the work s timeless appeal and themes the synopsis outlines the central plot highlighting key developments without spoiling critical twists a detailed historical context immerses you in the era s events and influences that shaped the writing a thorough analysis dissects symbols motifs and character arcs to unearth underlying meanings reflection questions prompt you to engage personally with the work s messages connecting them to modern life hand picked memorable quotes shine a spotlight on moments of literary brilliance interactive footnotes clarify unusual references historical allusions and archaic phrases for an effortless more informed read

now in a handsome and newly revised hardcover edition the extraordinary travelogue that has enthralled readers for more than seven centuries marco polo s vivid descriptions of the splendid cities and people he encountered on his journey along the silk road through the middle east south asia and china opened a window for his western readers onto the fascinations of the east and continued to grow in popularity over the succeeding centuries to a contemporary audience his colorful stories and above all his breathtaking description of the court of the great kublai khan mongol emperor of china offer dazzling portraits of worlds long gone the classic marsden and wright translation of the travels has been revised and updated by peter harris with new notes a bibliography and an introduction by award winning travel writer colin thubron

the travels of marco polo vol 1 2 is a monumental exploration of medieval experiences across vast and diverse landscapes this collection spans a rich tapestry of genres from anecdotal narratives geographic descriptions to historical accounts capturing the curiosity and thirst for knowledge intrinsic to the 13th century its narratives traverse through bustling bazaars imperial courts and mystical lands offering a plethora of voices and stories that collectively forge a path of discovery among its significant sections tales of the great khan s court and the intricate network of silk road trading routes stand out illustrating the blend of myth and reality that characterizes medieval travel literature the collaborative efforts of marco polo a venetian merchant and rustichello of pisa a skilled writer are instrumental in bringing these epochal adventures to life their diverse backgrounds melding the mercantile prowess of

the west with the literary finesse of the italian peninsula give the work a distinctive voice that resonates with the spirit of exploration this anthology aligns itself with the broader medieval tradition of travel tales offering a window into cross cultural exchanges and the burgeoning global consciousness of the era recommended for anyone eager to delve into historical currents and narratives this anthology offers a distinct synthesis of observation imagination and recorded history it allows readers to explore numerous cultures through the lenses of polo s travels presenting a chorus of perspectives that transcends the limitations of time the depth of exploration makes it a valuable educational resource fostering an appreciation for the multicultural dialogues that have shaped our histories

i have not told half of what i saw marco polo a lot of ink has been spilled covering the lives of history s most influential figures but how much of the forest is lost for the trees in charles river editors legends of the middle ages series readers can get caught up to speed on the lives of important medieval men and women in the time it takes to finish a commute while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known marco polo 1254 1324 is an instantly recognizable name and he is known for his travels but it s safe to say that his influence and importance has been greatly overlooked in the nearly 700 years since he died born in venice marco polo was in a fortuitous position to participate in the mediterranean trade but he was still a young man when he went on the journey that would make him famous and greatly inspire the age of exploration though he was destined to become famous marco polo was simply following in the footsteps of his own family and it s believed that he was already a teenager before he met his father and uncle who had been traveling to the far east and according to marco polo had met kublai khan the famous grandson of genghis khan a few years later they set off for asia again this time with marco polo and they would not return to venice for 24 years when they came back they had allegedly traveled about 15 000 miles and brought back plenty of riches and treasure marco polo was hardly the only european merchant or trader who traveled to the far east but it was his written account of his travels that would generate extreme interest in asia having described such a rich land full of desired resources marco polo s travels became a source for european cartographers of the era and they became the impetus for men like christopher columbus who added his own annotations to marco polo s account and used it as a reference for his own legendary expedition in search of the far east centuries later historians have scoured over the account and what was written in an effort to validate its authenticity leading to sharp debates today legendary explorers the life and legacy of marco polo chronicles the life and travels of the venetian merchant while analyzing how his account influenced subsequent explorers along with pictures of important people places and events you will learn about marco polo like you never have before in no time at all

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