

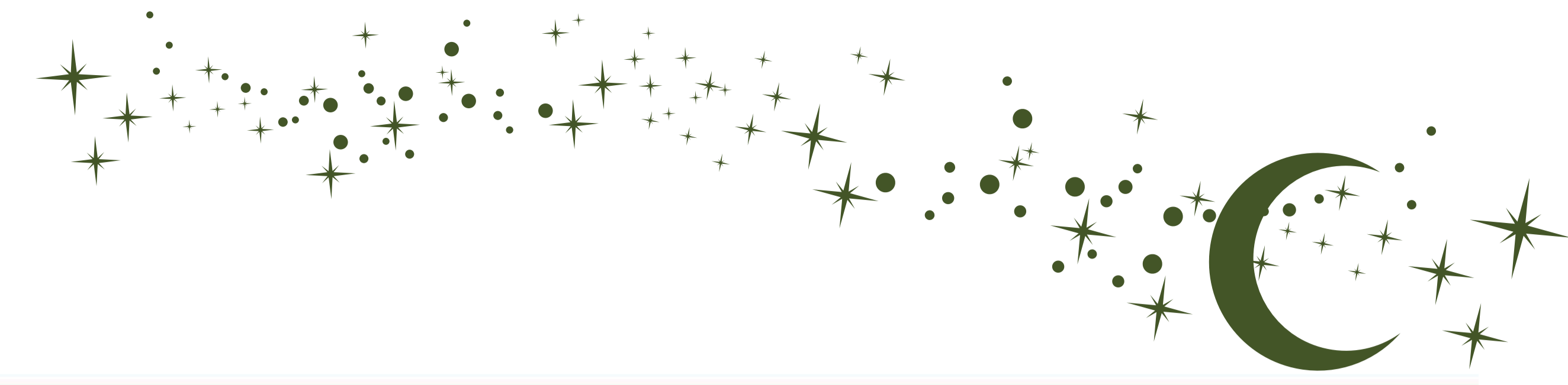
Ibn Battuta

Muhammad ibn Battuta more known as Ibn Battuta was born on February 25th, 1304 in Tangier, Morocco. He was part of the Berber, (also known as Amazigh) tribe Luwata and his full name was Muhammad ibn Abdullah ibn Muhammad ibn Ibrahim al-Lawati ibn Battuta. Ibn Battuta is probably the greatest world traveler of his time. And it all started with the intention to perform the Hajj. He was 21 years old and had just completed his studies in law. His famous world tour started in 1325 CE from Tangier to Mecca with the aim of performing the Hadj (pilgrimage).

His route started from the coast of North Africa to Cairo in Egypt after which he crossed the Nile before he did the same over the Red Sea and reached Mecca. He could not enter Mecca immediately because of a ongoing rebellion which had just started and therefore returned back to Cairo. He then moved from Cairo to Damascus in Syria, where he spent the month of ramadan. After a while staying in Damascus, he finally visited Medina and Mecca where he had completed his Hajj. Ibn Battuta's trip did not end with this Hajj and he did not return home, but continued to travel the world.

Here are the travels Ibn Battuta completed in 29 years:

- Visit to the Il-Khanate in Iraq and Iran. Through Najaf, Basra, Isfahan and Shiraz he reached Baghdad, where he met the Khan Abu Sa'id. He also visited the trading city of Mosul, Diyarbakir and Tabriz after which he returned to Mecca in circa 1328
- His next journey began from the South of Mecca (circa 1331) and visited Aden and from there he came further along the African coast to Mogadishu, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Kilwa and other cities. He also appeared in South Arabia and went over the Arabian peninsula for a third visit to Mecca.
- He traveled to the Black Sea through Egypt, Syria and Anatolia and followed the Dnieper and Volga to Bulgaria from Kaffa in the Crimea. From Astrakhan, he returned to Constantinople, from where he went through Urgench, Bukhara, Samarkand, Balkh, Kunduz and Kabul from where he eventually arrived in the Indus (Hindustan).
- In India/Hindustan Ibn Battuta got the post of qadi or judge thanks to Muhammad bin Tughluq, the sultan of Delhi. He worked on this post for 8 years from 1334 to 1342. In 1342 he departed as the sultan's Envoy to the Court of the Chinese Yuan dynasty. The caravan with whom he sailed, stopped at Jalali where he got involved in skirmishes with Hindu rebels in which Ibn Battuta got robbed and was captured. However, he remained unharmed and was later released by these rebels, he was happy when he found his travelling caravan after a few days wandering alone. He accompanied them to reach his next destination. The expedition reached Cambay and continued the trip to Calicut, where they would sail with three ships to China.



Travels of Ibn Battuta 1325-1354 CE



The Dhow. Tradeships muslims used on the Indian ocean. Ibn Battuta also traveld in these.



Trade caravan on camel back. Today and much as in the time of Ibn Battuta.