

My Silk Road Journey: Zhu He



It is 1307 C.E. and your name is Zhu He and you are a Hui (“who-ay”) Chinese merchant living in the Muslim Quarter of Xi’an/Chang’an during the Yuan Dynasty under the Mongols. You wish to trade Chinese silk, porcelain and tea at your final destination in Cairo, and will be making a sea voyage on a Chinese ship to get there. Your first stop after you leave Xi’an will be the port city of Guangzhou. You will then stop for a visit to Malacca where you trade some of your goods for cinnamon and nutmeg to sell in the market in Cairo. You then stop in Ahmedaba to trade more of your silk and porcelain for pepper, also for the market. Because you are a devout Muslim you will use the opportunity this trip provides to make the Hajj in Mecca. After your completion of the Hajj, you journey up the Red Sea to Cairo to sell your collection of goods at the market in downtown Cairo, make some purchases of Arabic glass ware and textiles to bring back home, and attend lectures at Al-Azhar University. After spending some time in Cairo, you have sold all of your goods, made a good profit, and so you now make the long voyage back home.

Break down of required writing (more is fine, but this is minimum for your character):

- 2 paragraphs/3 images on who you are, your religion, the city you live in, and the dynasty you live under. Also talk about the goods (silk, tea, porcelain) you are trading. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
- 1 paragraph on the city of Guangzhou (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it’s in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you).
- 1 paragraph/1 image about the ship you are on and what the trip was like to Malacca.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about the city of Malacca (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it’s in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and also talk about cinnamon & nutmeg you purchased there.
- 1 paragraph/2 images about the city of Ahmedaba (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it’s in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you) and the pepper you purchased there.

- 1 paragraph/2 images about Mecca and the Hajj
- 2 paragraphs/3 images about Cairo (the buildings, the religion, the architecture, the kingdom/empire it's in, etc. – whatever is in the information on the website I provided for you), the Khan-el-Khalili market, and Al-Azhar University.
- 1 paragraph/1 image where you reflect on your journey as you head home (people you met, cultures experienced, good times, bad times, hopes for when you get home, etc.)

Information on Hui Chinese: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/nationality/hui/>

Information on Islam on the Silk Road:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/religion/islam/islam.html>

Information on Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty of China:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/mongols/mongols.html>

Information on Chinese Silk: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Information on Chinese Porcelain during Yuan Dynasty:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/mongols/mongols.html>

The Silk Route (Sea Voyage) and city of Guangzhou (scroll down the article) <http://www.the-silk-road.com/journal9.html#a03> and Chinese ships in the 14th century (1300s C.E.)

<http://www.iro.umontreal.ca/~vaucher/Genealogy/Documents/Asia/asiaShips.html>

Information on Xi'an/Chang'an where you live:

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/china/xian/xian.html>

The Silk Route (Sea Voyage) and city of Guangzhou (scroll down the article) <http://www.the-silk-road.com/journal9.html#a03>

Information on Malacca: <http://www.2malaysia.com/malacca/history.htm>

Information on Ahmedaba history: <http://ahmedabadonline.in/Profile/History/> and culture:

<http://ahmedabadonline.in/Profile/Culture/> and historical monuments:

<http://ahmedabadonline.in/TouristPlaces/Monuments/>

Information on Mecca and the Hajj:

http://www.sacredsites.com/middle_east/saudi_arabia/mecca.html

Information on Cairo: <http://www.city-data.com/world-cities/Cairo-History.html>

Information on the Khan el Khalili market: <http://www.suite101.com/content/the-khan-el-khalili-market-in-islamic-cairo-a120817>

Images and Information for Arabic glassware:

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/igls/hd_igls.htm and Arabic-Egyptian textiles:
<http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/objects/49005/community/posse/>

Information on Al-Azhar Mosque and University: <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/egypt/cairo-al-azhar-university>

GENERAL RESOURCES ON THE SILK ROAD:

Modern Travel Journal Example: <http://www.jodypoesy.com/html/alterredbook.html>

Silk Road Travelers Maps (go to Silk Road Travelers, hit the arrow tab and scroll down to your traveler for map of where he traveled to): <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/maps/maps.html>

Information on Cities and Architecture of the Silk Road:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/cities.html>

Art and Culture from the Silk Road from the Art Institute of Chicago:
http://www.artic.edu/aic/education/trc/borrow/Selfguide_FINAL_new_.pdf

Cultures of the Silk Road:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/timeline.html>

Religions of the Silk Road:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/religion/religion.html>

Trade Routes of the Silk Road:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Camels and Horses on the Silk Road:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

The Importance of Silk:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Map of the Silk Road and images of goods sold on it:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/trade/trade.html>

Cross-Cultural Exchange on art/goods produced:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/exchange/exchange.html> (click on image of goods to the left for information on products)