

My Silk Road Journey:

Gianni Pavia



It is 1460 C.E., you are a Roman Catholic merchant of Venice interested in benefitting from the money to be made from trade. By ship, you must travel to Bursa, a wealthy city in the new Ottoman Empire and establish trade contacts there. From there you will go to Baghdad to pick up Arabic glassware, though Venetian glassmakers are making progress in developing their craft - the most luxurious glassware is currently found in the areas of southwest Asia. Once you have secured the items for shipment out of Baghdad and back to your home in Venice, you head to Isfahan to pick up samples of goods such as woven Persian rugs that you are interested in importing to Europe. While there, you decide to hire a guide and go on horseback to Samarkand to check out lap dogs that are coming from East Asia that European noblewomen have become very interested in. Once in Samarkand, you pick a breeding pair of Pekinese to take with you. This has been a long but profitable trip, and now you make the journey back home to Venice.

Character 2 - Gianni Pavia:

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, etc.. And why you are taking this journey (okay to talk about planned destinations).
- 1 paragraph/1 image on taking a 15th century European ship across the Mediterranean to Bursa. You may experience beautiful, calm seas or sea sickness or storms or trouble with the Ottoman navy, etc. etc.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Bursa (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 Ottoman Empire.

- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Baghdad (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 Arabic glassware.
- 1 paragraph/2 images on the city of Isfahan (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 Persian rugs.
- 1 ½ - 2 paragraphs/2 images on horse trip to Samarkand, the city of Samarkand itself (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 lap dogs (especially Pekinese).
- 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 the merchants of Venice: http://www.tours-italy.com/venice-about-merchants_of_venice.htm

Information on the history of Venice: http://www.tours-italy.com/venice-about-history_of_venice.htm , the building of Venice http://www.tours-italy.com/venice-about-building_venice.htm and sights of Venice <http://touritaly.org/tours/venice/venice01.htm>

Information and images of European ships:
<http://www.ahrtp.com/EarlyShipsOnline/>

Information on Islam on the Silk Road:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/exhibit/religion/islam/islam.html>

Information on Bursa:
<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/turkey/bursa/bursa.html>

Information on the history of Baghdad (make sure you read the entire entry for Baghdad which was a fantastic place in the 700s & 800s but was in decay after the Mongol invasions of the 1200s) <http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2003/634/bo2.htm> and architecture (ignore the more modern buildings)
<http://www.skyscrapercity.com/showthread.php?t=1093703>

Images and Information for Arabic glassware

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/igls/hd_igls.htm

Information on Isfahan (during Seljuq/Seljuk Period):

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/iran/isfahan/isfahan.html>

Information on Persian rugs: <http://www.oriental-rugs-history.com/persian-rugs.html>

and image: <http://www.rugs-oriental.net/antique-persian-rug.html>

Horses on the Silk Road:

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

Information on Samarkand: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/cities/cities.html#>

Information on the history of lap dogs: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lap_dog

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)