
Marco Polo and The Old Silk Road

The Silk Road is an extensive interconnected network of trade routes across the Asian continent connecting Asia with the Mediterranean world, as well as Africa and Europe. The Silk Routes were important paths for cultural, commercial and technological exchange between traders, merchants, pilgrims, missionaries, soldiers, nomads and urban dwellers from China, India, Persia and Mediterranean countries for almost 3,000 years.

Extending over 5,000 miles, the routes enabled people to transport goods, especially luxuries such as silk, satin and other fine fabrics, musk, other perfumes, spices and medicines, jewels, glassware and even rhubarb, as well as serving as a conduit for the spread of knowledge, ideas and cultures between different parts of the world. Trade on the Silk Road was a significant factor in the development of the great civilizations of China, India, Egypt, Persia, Arabia, and Rome, and in several respects helped lay the foundations for the modern world. Although the term the Silk Road implies a continuous journey, very few who traveled the route traversed it from end to end.

Marco Polo (1254-1324), is probably the most famous Westerner traveled on the Silk Road. He excelled all the other travelers in his determination, his writing, and his influence. His journey through Asia lasted 24 years. He reached further than any of his predecessors, beyond Mongolia to China where he became a confidant of Kublai Khan (1214-1294). He traveled the whole of China and returned to tell the tale, which became the greatest travelogue.

AirSea Packing has extensive knowledge dealing with imports and exports from Asia. For more information on importing or exporting items to or from Asia, please contact our New York office.

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