



Ibn Battuta

Hello, my name is Ibn Battuta. I am 21 years old, and I live in Morocco. My journey started in June 1325. I wanted to undertake the Hajj. This is a special journey for Muslims to visit Mecca, the holy city. Mecca was 3000 miles from my home. A very long way! I travelled by land, and I never used the same road twice. It meant I was able to see many wonderful and interesting places.

It was very hard to get to Mecca. It took me a year and a half. I travelled on foot and by camel. I used the sun, moon and stars to guide me. I could look at them and work out which way to go.

Mecca is a very special place for Muslims. I was in awe when I finally arrived. Mecca was wonderous. I loved it so much that I came back many times. I spent many months there. Going to Mecca showed me I loved travelling. I liked seeing new places. I liked having new experiences. I liked meeting new people. I wanted to explore more.

I didn't return home until 1354. My whole journey had taken 29 years. I had travelled 75,000 miles. I had visited 44 countries. I had seen some of the greatest wonders of the world – like the great wall of China and the pyramids in Egypt. I had met princes and princesses, kings, queens and emperors!

When I returned home, I started a new life. I wrote the story of my travels and became a judge.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

Why did Ibn start his journey? What did he want to undertake?

E

What is the Hajj?

R

How long did it take Ibn to get to Mecca?

R

How did Ibn know where he was going?

V

Ibn thought Mecca was wonderous. Can you think of any other words he could have used?

V

Ibn 'travelled on foot'. What does this mean?