

Great Journeys of Asia

a few topics on
River, Rail, Road & Religious Travels

Join FOM's Asian Study Group for some armchair travelling as we explore Great Journeys of Asia. Our study will cover all types of journeys; historical expeditions, river or sea voyages, iron horse (rail) travel, road trips, religious pilgrimages and literary excursions.

River & Sea

- Alfred Russell Wallace & his journey through the Malay Archipelago
- Zheng He - early Ming Dynasty mariner
- The Mekong - 6 countries, amazing biodiversity & many uses
- Longest Asian river & busy waterway - the Yangtze
- Explorations along the Irrawaddy River
- Imperial capitals along the sacred Ganges
- Cruise lines in Asia

Road & Foot travels

- The travels of Marco Polo
- Ibn Battuta and his medieval journey from Morocco to China
- Hiking trails in Asia
- Migrations in Asia
- Scaling Mount Everest
- Karakoram Highway - one of the world's best road trips
- Most dangerous roads in Asia
- Fortified mountain passes of China

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Rail

- Paul Theroux - *The Great Railway Bazaar, Riding the Iron Rooster*
- The Shinkansen - a history of the Japanese bullet train
- Railways in China
- Railways in India
- China's Belt & Road Initiative - transforming trade journeys by building infrastructure
- The Jungle Train, Malaysia
- Eastern & Oriental Express, Bangkok to Singapore
- The Reunification Express, Vietnam
- The Trans-Siberian Railway

Religious

- The Hajj - Annual Islamic Pilgrimage to Mecca
- Pilgrimages in India (Kumbh Mela, Char Dham, etc.)
- The Buddhist Journey to Enlightenment
- Kumano Kodo - ancient pilgrimage routes in Japan

Other

- *Journey to the West* - 16th c. Chinese classic novel
- The Australian Aboriginal Walkabout - a rite of passage journey
- A journey you have undertaken - for example: "My journey through Mongolia" or "Travels in Central Asia" or "Sailing among remote Indonesian islands."
- Air Travel in Asia - transforming tourism and business