

Marco Polo

IWS

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Marco Polo (1254 - 1324)

**Marco Polo was a great
traveler and merchant**



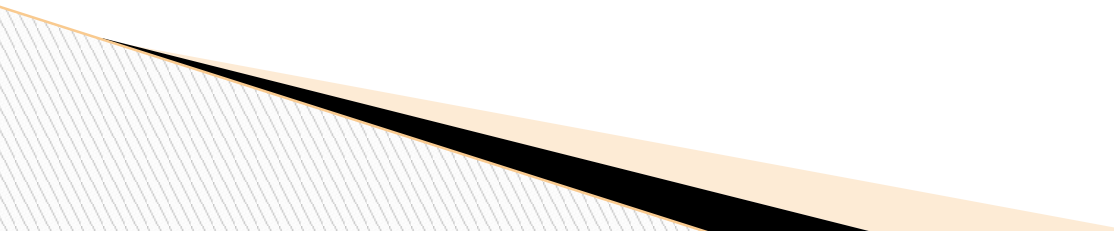
Marco Polo was born on the island of Korcula (the territory of modern Croatia).



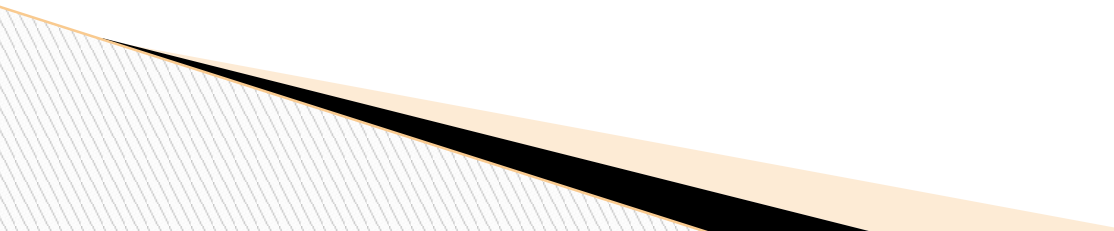
The island of Korcula



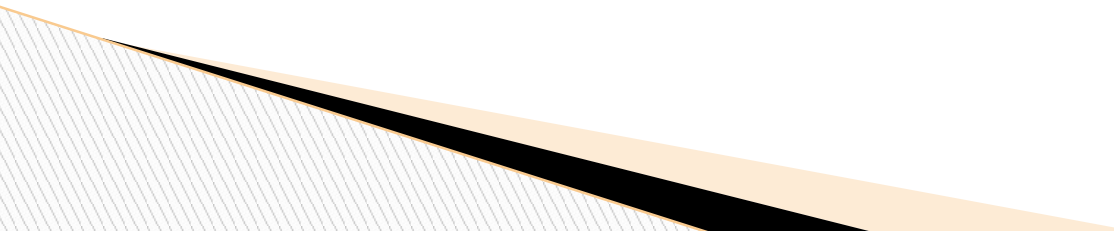
The book of Marco Polo is one of the most popular objects of historical research. The bibliography, compiled in 1986, contains more than 2300 scientific works in only European languages. From the very moment of his return to the city of history from the trip were perceived with distrust. Peter Jackson as one of the causes of mistrust mentions the reluctance to accept his description of the well-organized and hospitable Mongol Empire, which ran counter to



the traditional Western notion of barbarians. In turn, in 1995 Francis Wood, curator of the Chinese collection of the British Museum, published a popular book in which she questioned the very fact of Polo's journey to China, assuming that the Venetian did not travel beyond Asia Minor and the Black Sea, but simply used the known to him description of the travels of Persian merchants. For example, in his book, Marco Polo writes that he helped the Mongols during the siege of the Sungian base in Sanyang, but the siege of this base ended in 1273, that is, two years before his arrival in China. In his book there are other shortcomings that cause questions from researchers.



The first Chinese city, which the Polo family reached in 1275, was Shaozha (modern Dunhuang). In the same year, they reached the summer residence of Khubilai in Shandu (in the modern Chinese province of Gansu). According to Polo, the khan was delighted with him, gave various assignments, did not allow him to return to Venice, and even for three years kept him governor of Yangzhou City. In addition, the Polo family (according to the book) participated in the development of the army of the khan and taught him to use catapults during the siege of fortresses.



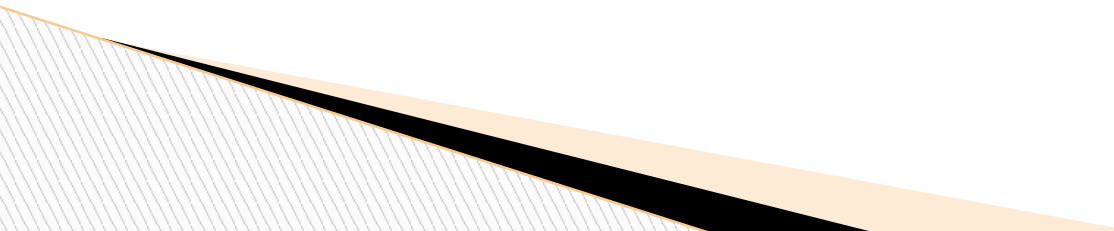


The city of Dunhuang.



city of Honsu

Description of life Polo in China rarely follows a chronological order, which is a problem in determining the exact route of his travels. But its description is quite accurate geographically, it gives orientation to the sides of the world and distances in terms of the days of the route: "To the south of Panshin, in one day, the road is the big and notable city of Caiu." In addition, Polo describes the daily life of the Chinese, mentioning the use of paper money, the typical crafts and culinary traditions of various areas. He stayed in China for fifteen years.



THANK YOU

A watercolor illustration of autumn leaves and berries. The leaves are in shades of red, pink, and orange, with some having white vein patterns. Small green berries are clustered on thin stems. The text 'THANK YOU' is written in a black, serif font, with 'THANK' on the top line and 'YOU' on the bottom line. The illustration is centered around the text, with leaves and berries framing it from the sides and bottom.