



PASSPORT

to the

The Silk Road

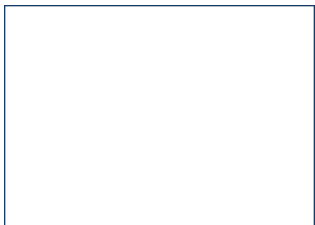
Connecting Cultures, Creating Trust

© 2002 Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

On the National Mall, Washington, D.C.

June 26 — 30, July 3 — 7, 2002



Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Name

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Date of Issue

Authority

CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

listing of the related exhibitions around the Smithsonian Institution. You can visit the museums all year round, to continue your Silk Road journey any time you want.

www.folklife.si.edu

Get schedules for this summer's Festival (the above site has them, too). Learn more about the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival as well as Smithsonian Folkways Recordings and other projects and educational resources of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

www.silkroadproject.org

Learn more about the Silk Road Project, Inc., Silk Road events around the world, Silk Road music, especially the Silk Road Ensemble, and the instruments they play.

Thank you for visiting the Folklife Festival!

Page 5, photo © 2001 Axel Nickolaus.

Page 6, photo © Jean-Luc Ray, Aga Khan Foundation.

Page 9, photo by Tara Todras-Whitehill, 2001.

WELCOME TRAVELER!

**ARE YOU READY TO HAVE A
SILK ROAD ADVENTURE?**

THIS PASSPORT WILL SHOW YOU HOW.

IMAGINE that you had to walk the distance from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles and back again. Along the way you would cross mountains and deserts, and maybe get lost in a sandstorm or be attacked by bandits. That's a little bit what it was like to travel along the length of the ancient Silk Road.

WHY DID PEOPLE MAKE THE TRIP? Mostly to earn money by buying, selling, and transporting silk and other goods. It was their job. But along the way they also had adventures, met new people, learned new ideas, heard new music, and encountered new religions.

At the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, you'll meet artists, musicians, dancers, and storytellers who carry on traditions passed down from earlier times from places along the Silk Road. They come from many lands, from Japan to Italy and lots of places in between. By being here, they show how important it is for people of different cultures to share their knowledge.

INSTRUCTIONS

(1) INVESTIGATE! It is important to know as much as possible before starting a long journey. Study the Silk Road Facts in this passport. Look at the fold-out map of historic Silk Road routes, and find out what Silk Road regions and cultures are represented here at the Festival.

(2) CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE! Use the fold-out **Festival Site Map** to decide where to go. **Passport Stations** are located all around the Festival, marked by large red "camel" signs. Silk Road **Passport Guides** at each station will give you a list of questions to answer. These questions will help you to learn more about each area of the Festival. The Guides will help you find answers to the questions, and will stamp your passport for each right answer.

(3) START YOUR JOURNEY! Travel around the Festival site learning the answers to the questions and getting your passport stamped. Continue traveling until you have answered at least eight of the questions (four questions, for kids under seven years old). Chart the route you have walked on the **Festival Site Map** by drawing a line connecting the stations. Take notes or draw pictures on the **Travel Journal** pages of this passport.

INSTRUCTIONS

(4) GET YOUR REWARD! When you have completed your journey, go to the **Family Activity Tent** located in the Family Oasis area to get your **Official Token**. This is your reward for making a successful journey. Share your adventures with other travelers on the **Big Travel Log** or the **Great Wall Mural** in the Family Activity Tent. And take this passport home with you to help you remember your big adventure.

Many traditions of the Silk Road have become part of life in America, too. Look for some of them as you travel through the Festival site. You may be amazed at what you'll learn!

TRAVELERS ON THE SILK ROAD

The Silk Road was thousands of miles long, but not many travelers made the whole journey. Most traders, for instance, went only part of the way, sold their goods, and returned home again. Other traders would carry the trade goods on the next stage of the trip. So usually things, as well as ideas, traveled much further than people did. But a few people did make very long journeys. Here are some of the most famous ones:

A Chinese Buddhist monk named **Xuanzang** (say "shwahn dzahng") went to India in the 7th century. His mission was to bring back Buddhist holy books from India to China, to help people improve their understanding of Buddhism. Buddhism is still a major religion in China today.

The most famous Silk Road traveler of all, **Marco Polo**, went from Venice to Beijing in the late 13th century. When he returned to Italy, after a journey that lasted 24 years, he wrote a book that inspired many other Europeans, like Christopher Columbus, to want to travel to China too.

One year after Marco Polo died, **Muhammad Ibn Batuta** left his native country, Morocco, to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, and then he spent over 20 years traveling all around Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. His writings about what he found helped people understand how large and interesting the rest of the world was.

In the 19th century, several European explorers went to Central Asia to study ancient sites along the Silk Road. The term "Silk Road" was invented by the German scholar Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen in 1877.

Yo-Yo Ma is a traveling musician. Doing that job for 25 years has given him the opportunity to learn about how musical instruments and styles traveled from west to east and east to west, especially along the Silk Road. He is the founder and leader of the Silk Road Ensemble, musicians from different countries who play music, old and new, from all along the Silk Road.



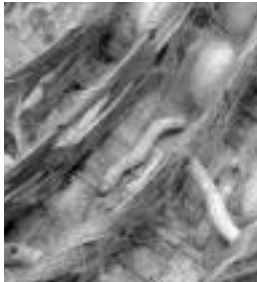
SILK ROAD FACTS

SILK

The Chinese discovered how to make silk more than 4,000 years ago. The process is very complicated and takes a great deal of knowledge and skill. The Chinese kept the method of making silk a secret for many centuries.

Silk fibers are made by caterpillars. One ounce of silkworm eggs produces enough caterpillars to eat a ton of mulberry leaves — their favorite food. When they get big, the caterpillars spin cocoons and get ready to change into moths.

But when the cocoons are finished, people boil them and unwind the fibers to make silk thread, which can be woven into cloth. About 2,000 silkworms are needed to make one pound of silk thread (enough for one dress).



SILK ROAD FACTS

Regular trade along what we call the Silk Road began around 100 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era, or also B.C.). The Chinese government used silk as a kind of money to buy horses in Central Asia for their army to use. Some of the silk was traded further west, even as far as Rome. Silk was very expensive, and the Roman government tried to stop people from spending so much money for it, but of course that didn't work. Rich Romans wanted silk cloth because it was beautiful and luxurious, and the silk trade grew more and more.

By about the year 600, people in Central Asia and the Middle East had learned the secret of making silk. By then, though, the Silk Road was used to trade not only silk but many other high-value goods as well, from glassware to gold and silver to jade to medicine. Trade continued even after silk cloth was being made in the West.

STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

Silk Road travelers enjoyed learning new kinds of music in the different lands they visited. So musical styles and musical instruments easily spread from place to place. The names of some of the instruments are interesting.

An ancient Greek instrument with many strings was called the *kithera* (say "ki-ther-a"). That word lives on today in the names of the "guitar" and the "zither," as well as the Indian instrument called the sitar.

The most important stringed instrument in Bukharan (say "boo-car-ren") music, played in present-day Uzbekistan and other nearby Central Asian countries, is called the *tar*. It has a long neck, a small body, and a single string. Another instrument in the same family has two strings; it is called the *dotar*. Can you guess what the "do" of "dotar" means?

Horses are very important in Mongolian culture, and the basic instrument of Mongolian music is the *morin huur* (say "moo-rin hoor") or "horse fiddle." Like a violin, it is played with a bow. The end of its long neck, near the

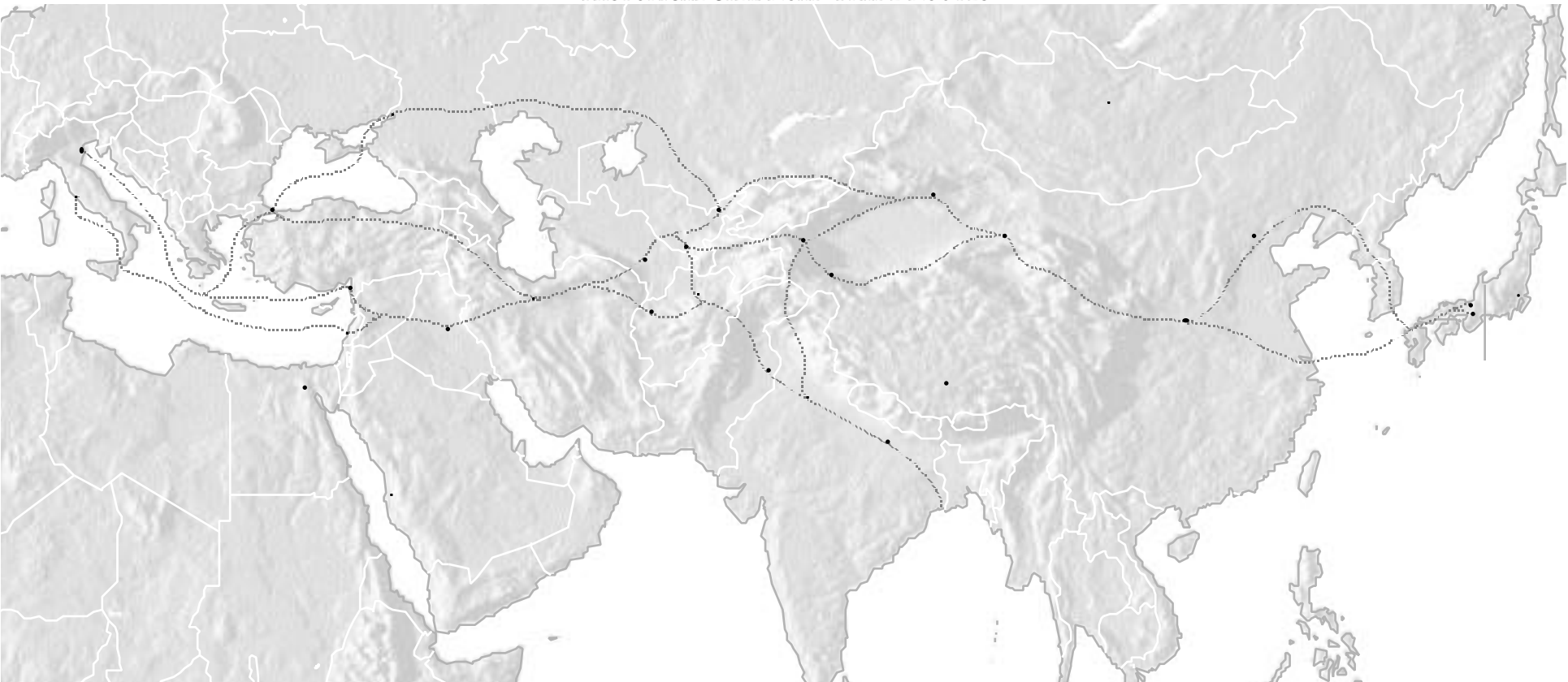
tuning pegs, is always carved in the shape of a horse's head. A lot of music for the *morin huur* imitates the rhythms of horses as they walk, trot, or gallop.

A guitar-like instrument spread to China from Central Asia almost two thousand years ago. The Chinese called it the *pipa* (say "pee-pah"), a word that sounds like the instrument being played. The same instrument is called *biwa* (say "bee-wah") in Japanese. Music for the *pipa* sometimes creates sound effects, such as wind and rain, or tells exciting stories of journeys and battles.

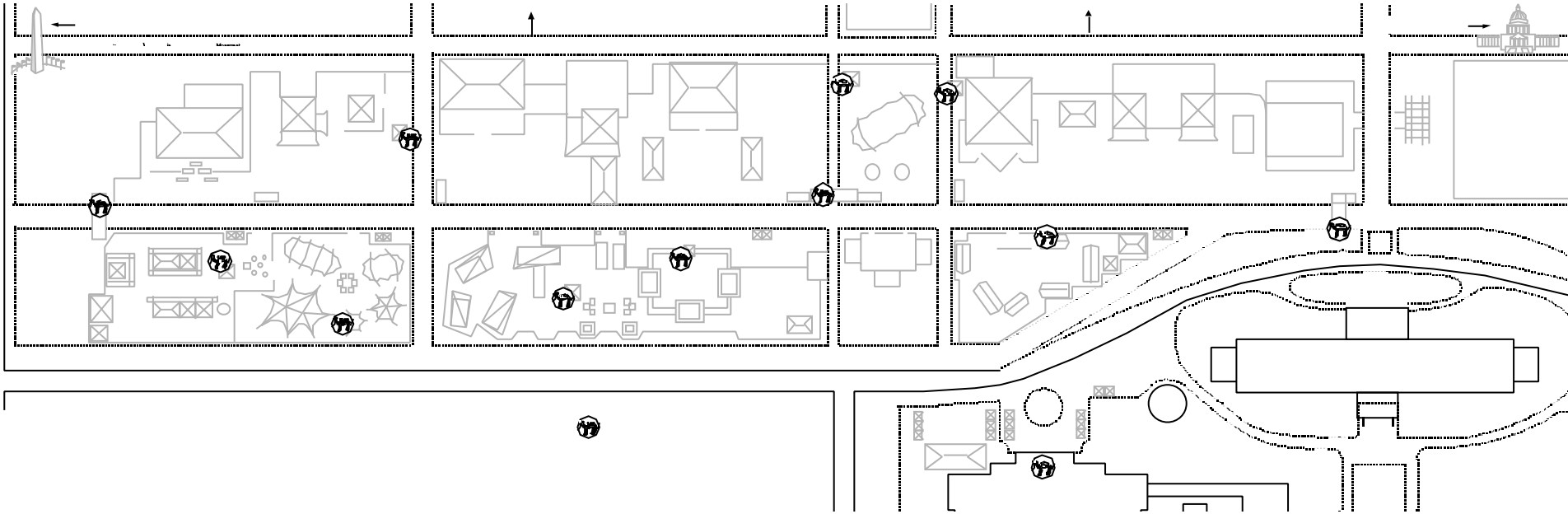
You will hear many of these instruments played at the Festival. You can also hear them on the Smithsonian Folkways recording, *The Silk Road: A Musical Caravan*, and Sony Records, *Silk Road Journey: When Strangers Meet*, which are available at the Marketplace tent at the Festival.



HISTORICAL SILK ROAD TRADE ROUTES



FESTIVAL SITE MAP



This Festival Site Map shows where the Passport Stations are. Each Station is marked with a large red "camel" sign.



The Stations are open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. You can get your passport stamped at any station when you have answered questions correctly. For more information, ask a Passport Guide at any Station.

Here are the names of the Passport Stations, listed from east (closest to the Smithsonian Castle) to west (closest to 14th Street):

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1) Nara Gate | 5) Nomads | 9) Istanbul Crossroads |
| 2) Xi'an Tower | 6) Samarkand Square | 10) Family Oasis:
Family Activity Tent |
| 3) Paper Garden | 7) Ceramics Courtyard | 11) Jewel Garden |
| 4) Freer Gallery/Bazaar | 8) Silk Grove | 12) Venice Piazza |

PASSPORT STAMPS

PASSPORT STAMPS

TRAVEL JOURNAL

Record your adventures here in writing and/or pictures.

Where I went:

TRAVEL JOURNAL

What I saw:

TRAVEL JOURNAL

Whom I met:

TRAVEL JOURNAL

The coolest thing I learned:

CONTINUE YOUR JOURNEY

While you are visiting the Festival, don't miss the fun at the **Family Activity Tent** in the Family Oasis area. You can learn a martial arts move, touch a silkworm cocoon, write Chinese characters with a brush, watch an Indian puppet show, or make a Silk Road-type musical instrument from recycled stuff. Check the daily schedule (available at **Passport Stations**) for program times.

The Freer Gallery of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the National Museum of African Art, and the National Museum of Natural History — all part of the Smithsonian Institution — have great Silk Road exhibitions and other programs. Drop by and see them!

Back home, you can find lots of information about the Silk Road at these Web sites:

www.silkroadproject.org/smithsonian

Great stuff here on the Festival. Learn more about Silk Road traditions. Look at photos of events to help you remember what you saw, or catch up on what you might have missed. Are you writing a school report? This site will be a big help. Tell your teachers about the free materials they can download from this site. See a map of the Silk Road and check out the lists of books and links to other Web sites. Click on "Continue the Journey" for a