

# Safarium a place for exploring and visualizing travel (Pers. safar) in the early modern world

**ABOUT** Safarium is a digital public history project that allows researchers, scholars, students, and the public to identify and visualize historic journeys of the early modern period (14th-18th centuries). Safarium endeavors to promote transregional historical studies that involve complementary sources produced by authors of disparate cultures and geographies. By searching locations in Safarium's database, users can identify travel accounts across languages that comment on the queried locale. Users are also presented with maps reflecting the itineraries and routes contained in associated travel accounts. Safarium strives to put users in touch with sources they may be unaware of due to research specialties or language limitations. Because instances of early modern travel writing number in the thousands, Safarium is a **project** in the fullest sense of the word. Safarium aims to be community-oriented, educational, and collaborative. It is designed for classroom use – to familiarize students with both early modern history and the digital humanities.

## OBJECTIVES

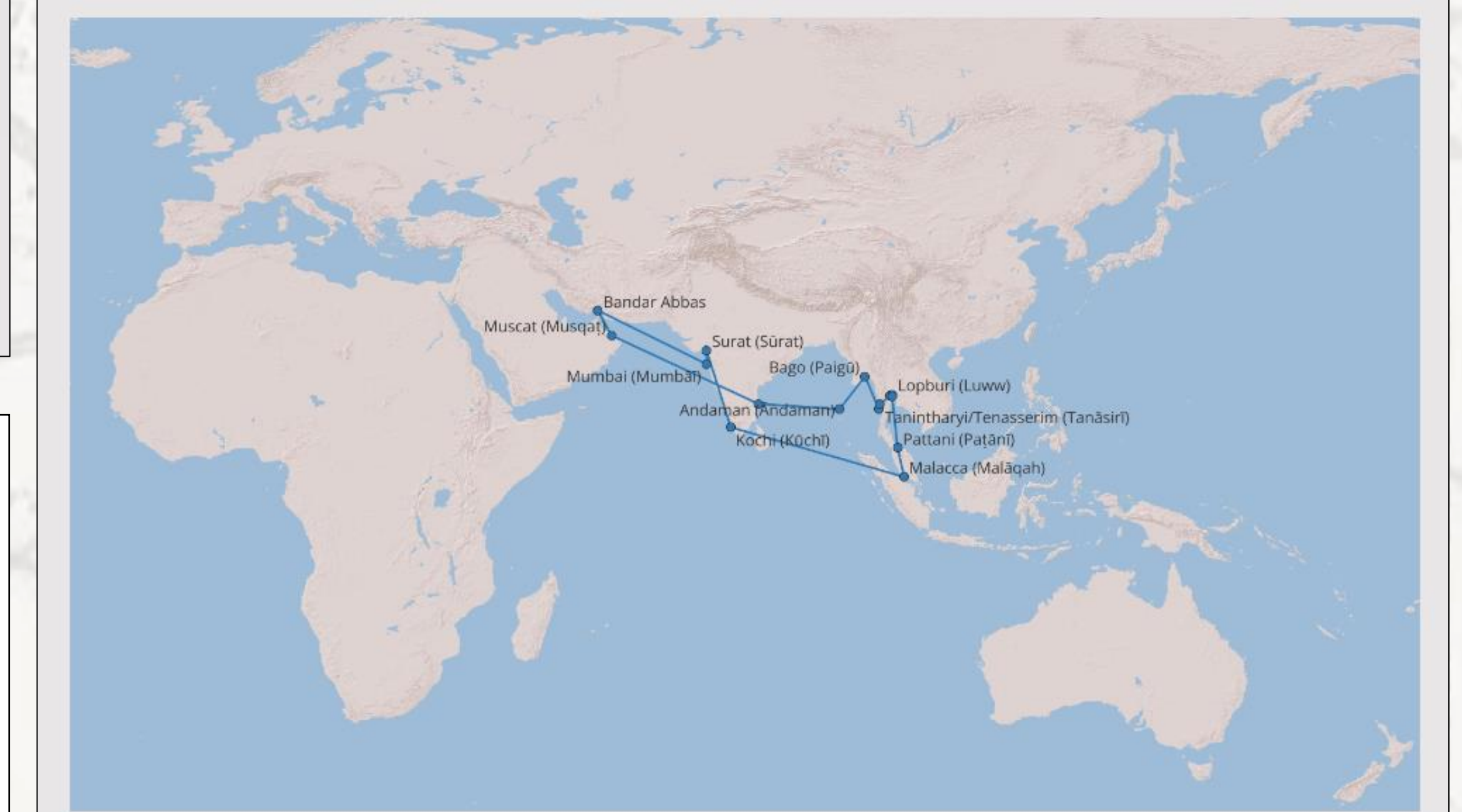
- Inclusive scholarship:** Safarium strives to overcome western-dominated and colonial narratives by pointing researchers, teachers, and students toward complementary sources of various origins.
- Community:** Safarium is a project for public use that encourages the participation of both professional and amateur scholars. All one needs to contribute is the ability to read a single language.
- Pedagogy:** Safarium endeavors to be not only a public digital exhibit but also an educational platform for use in a classroom setting. It can be a medium for teaching students how to **do** history in the 21st century by employing digital tools and methods that are relevant across a variety of fields.

## Search the collection

**Safinah-yi Sulaimani (Ship of Sulaiman)** Muhammad Ibrahim, Muhammad Rabi' ibn circa 1688

Text type	Text language	Creation place	Travel purpose	Travel start	Travel end
Manuscript	Persian	Iran	Diplomacy	26/06/1685	24/05/1688
Text digitized	Digital link	Reference edition	English translation		
No		Muhammad Rabi' ibn Muhammad Ibrahim, Safinah-yi Sulaimani: Safarnamah-yi Safir-i Iran bih Siyam 1094-1098 h.q. ed. Abbas Faraj (Tehran: Daneshgah-i Tihiran, 1999).	Muhammad Rabi' ibn Muhammad Ibrahim, The Ship of Sulaiman, trans John O'Kane (New York: Columbia University Press, 1972)		

Itinerary	Location	Arrival date	Page in text	Notes
	Bandar Abbas	1685-06-27	10	
	Muscat (Muscat)	1685-07-11	15	Departs 16850715
	Chennai/Fort St. George (Chinapatan)	1685-08-17	19	Departs 16850916
	Andaman (Andaman)	-	32	Does not stop, only passes by
	Bago (Paigū)	-	34	Does not stop, only passes by
	Myeik (Mergui) (Miraj)	-	34	-
	Tanintharyi/Tenasserim (Tanāsiri)	1685-12-09	40	-
	Suphan Buri (Sūhān)	-	43	-
	Lopburi (Luwu)	-	49	-
	Ayutthaya (Shahr/Shahr Nāv)	1686-11-26	72	Departs 16861231
	Pattani (Patāni)	-	216	-
	Malacca (Malāqah)	1687-03-29	217	-
	Kochi (Kūchi)	-	217	-
	Surat (Sūrat)	-	223	-
	Mumbai (Mumbā'i)	1688-04-07	227	-
	Bandar Abbas (Bandar 'Abbasi)	1688-05-25	230	-



A number of digital tools may be employed for extracting itineraries from travel texts and mapping their routes. Safarium aims to not only familiarize users and students with the early modern world through travel writing but also with the modern tools and methodologies that might be used to explore that world and our own. Tools employed so far include: **Text Analysis** ABBYY FineReader | Voyant | AI chatbots **Mapping** QGIS

## METHODS AND TOOLS

## PEDAGOGY



SCAN ME

One of Safarium's primary objectives is to provide a model for making pre-modern historical studies relevant for today's students. In pursuit of this objective, I have developed an experimental course in which students interrogate notions of modernity through the study of pre-modern travel accounts. Over the duration of the course, students examine a travel account of their choice, extract its itinerary, map the itinerary, and add it to Safarium's database. In this way, students also become familiar with digital tools and methods that have applicability beyond the humanities. Scan the QR code to see the syllabus.

## NEXT STEPS

- Database search enhancement
- Map overlays
- OCR/HTR for non-Latin character texts
- Pilot course syllabus
- Develop system for public participation
- Database expansion

## VIEW THE SITE



SCAN ME