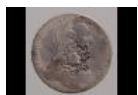


# Travelling | Tourism | Travelling equipment

"I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move." (Robert Louis Stevenson, c.1870)

Travellers undertaking journeys into what was often unfamiliar territory tended to carry with them a few equipment essentials, which, for example, might provide basic protection or help deepen their insights along the way. Some travelled light so as not to feel encumbered, but most preferred to be surrounded with a significant array of what they considered essential items or, indeed, comforts. Scientists and scholars for example, might carry maps as well as scientific instruments, equipment, and containers to store archaeological finds, specimens and samples. Items that most travellers saw as essential regardless of the purpose of their journey included maps, travel and guide books – which they hoped would prepare them for what to expect at each stage of their journey – as well as cameras and medicines, money, weapons, passports and permissions to pass and, perhaps most important of all, water containers. In addition, travellers to and across the Middle East and North Africa relied on local staff to ease their progress. These included translators, Bedouin guides and even cooks, the latter carefully trained to be mindful of the kinds of cuisine a foreign stomach, unfamiliar with local dishes and foodstuffs, was able to digest.



**Working Number:** AT 045

**Name:** Theresian thaler

**Holding Museum:** Kunsthistorisches Museum, Coin Cabinet

**Date:** 1780

**Materials:** Silver

**Curator Justification:** An essential prerequisite for the 19th-century traveller was access to sufficient funds throughout the trip. Those on the road could be confident that the Maria Theresia Taler was widely accepted everywhere.



**Working Number:** JO 059

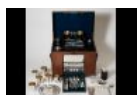
**Name:** Ten Ottoman piasters

**Holding Museum:** Numismatic Museum (Ahli Bank)

**Date:** 1896

**Materials:** Silver

**Curator Justification:** Ottoman currency was accepted throughout the sultans' domains, but by the late 19th century a wide range of foreign and European currencies was also in circulation.



**Working Number:** PT 028

**Name:** Travel case

**Holding Museum:** Ajuda National Palace

**Date:** c. 1860

**Materials:** Wood, metal, silver, ivory, glass

**Curator Justification:** Travel cases like this one would have been among the essential equipment carried by European upper-class travellers in the 19th century. While undoubtedly attracted by the "authentic" as much as the romantic aspects of travel across the "Orient", these travellers,

nevertheless, were not prepared to surrender certain comforts that they were used to enjoying at home.



**Working Number:** DZ 127

**Name:** Khol vial

**Holding Museum:** Musée Public National des Antiquités

**Date:** 1895

**Materials:** Turned wood and carved ivory

**Curator Justification:** Europeans were not alone in their pursuit of remedies. In many parts of the Arab and Islamic world, locals relied on natural remedies and prophylactic treatments. For example, Kohl has always been popular in the region as an ointment to protect the eyes.



**Working Number:** JO 007

**Name:** Arabic eye liner, kohl and perfume container

**Holding Museum:** Jordan Museum for Costumes and Jewellery, Department of Antiquities

**Date:** Late 19th century – early 20th century

**Materials:** Hand embroidered

**Curator Justification:** This receptacle combines a kohl applicator and a perfume container. In Arab and Islamic culture, perfumes have always been held as an essential part of daily hygiene, and some – like 'Ud or camphor – are believed to have health-inducing qualities. People of the region, therefore, frequently carried perfumes and essences.



**Working Number:** UK 058

**Name:** Water flask

**Holding Museum:** The British Museum

**Date:** c. 1853

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Good health and, indeed, life itself is impossible without water. Every traveller, whether journeying alone or in a convoy or caravan, had to ensure that water was readily available. In the often-challenging climatic and geographic conditions of the Middle East and North Africa, access to fresh water could regularly pose a serious challenge.



**Working Number:** TR1 001

**Name:** Astronomical instrument: Qiblanuma

**Holding Museum:** Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts

**Date:** Hegira 1151 / AD 1738–9

**Materials:** -

**Curator**  
**Justification:**

Foreign travellers as well as those living in the region relied on navigational skills, whether by observing the movement of the stars or using instruments like this qibla compass. This particular instrument is designed to help pilgrims find their way to Mecca from a wide range of start points.



**Working Number:** AT 039

**Name:** Map of the Network of Caravans

**Holding Museum:** Austrian State Archives

**Date:** 1856

**Materials:** -

**Curator**  
**Justification:** In the wake of Europe's closer involvement in the Middle East and North Africa, extensive mapping of the region was carried out for a wide range of purposes. Travellers, on exploratory, commercial, political, or indeed purely touristic journeys, often referred to the maps that had been drawn initially up by scientists and military engineers.



**Working Number:** FR 135

**Name:** Map of the desert between the Nile and the Red Sea, including Mount Zabara [...] and the remains of the ancient trade route between Egypt and India

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:** 1820

**Materials:** -

**Curator**  
**Justification:** Crossing the desert held a fascination for many European travellers and explorers. Increasingly, the paths that they followed – led by indigenous guides without whom they would have been lost – were recorded in detailed maps for the benefit of all those who would follow.



**Working Number:** FR 156

**Name:** Map of Algeria's commercial routes to the "Pays des Noirs" [Guinea]

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:** 1850

**Materials:** -

**Curator**  
**Justification:** It is probably fair to say that the complex networks of arteries crossing the region developed first and foremost for the purposes of trade. By the 19th century, modern road networks improved the conveyance of goods and made travel easier and quicker for those who wanted to discover the "Orient" for their own, diverse reasons.



**Working Number:** TR2 088

**Name:** Description de L'Egypte: Antiquités Planches

**Holding Museum:** Istanbul Archaeological Museums

**Date:** 1809–1829

**Materials:** Paper

**Curator Justification:** Scholars, scientists, archaeologists, explorers, adventurers and tourists all tended to write detailed diaries, logbooks and travelogues while journeying to the Ottoman Empire and North Africa. Publications such as this one about Egypt soon led to a European craze for travelling, inspiring many to set out and see the marvels described for themselves and often accompanied by the books that had inspired them.



**Working Number:** TR2 091

**Name:** Constantinople et le Bosphore de Thrace

**Holding Museum:** Istanbul Archaeological Museums

**Date:** 1841

**Materials:** Paper

**Curator Justification:** Perhaps the most important port of call for Europeans was Constantinople. Countless travelogues about the city were published written by British, French, German and other early tourists. These combined some useful factual information along with a healthy degree of Orientalist fantasy.



**Working Number:** TR2 099

**Name:** Voyage Dans Le Levant

**Holding Museum:** Istanbul Archaeological Museums

**Date:** 1819

**Materials:** Paper

**Curator Justification:** A wealth of ancient sites and locations sacred to Christianity meant that the Levant held a particular fascination for Europeans. Publications like this book enabled them to plan their travels and prepare for the challenges that the journey might hold.



**Working Number:** UA 017

**Name:** Dala'il al-Khayrat (Guidelines to Blessings) by Abu Abdallah Muhammad ibn Sulayman al-Jazuli

**Holding Museum:** Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation / Sharjah Museums Authority

**Date:**

**Materials:** Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century

**Curator Justification:** Paper, ink, watercolour, gold

Muslim travellers and pilgrims, particularly when journeying to the Holy sites of Mecca and Medina, might carry some instructive reading with them.

The Dala'il al Khairat was a popular book of prayer that also prepares the reader spiritually and practically for visiting Islam's most sacred locations.



**Working Number:** FR 146

**Name:** Illustrated dictionary of Tunisia: the people and things of Tunisia

**Holding Museum:**

**Date:** National Library of France

**Materials:** 1912

**Curator:** -

**Justification:** As European tourism to the Arab and Ottoman world as well as North Africa increased in the early 20th century, systematic publications emerged that aimed to give visitors and others a comprehensive overview of the fascinating peculiarities and the people of a country or location.



**Working Number:** SP 053

**Name:** Description of the Arab monuments of Granada, Seville and Córdoba: the Alhambra, the Alcazar and the Great Mosque

**Holding Museum:**

**Date:** National Museum of Decorative Arts

**Materials:** 1885

**Curator:** Paper, ink; printed

**Justification:** The legendary and romantic sites associated with Southern Spain's Arab-Islamic legacy were widely known across Europe, mainly from the many publications that ranged from the exquisitely detailed artistic studies of the British artist Owen Jones to the fabled stories of the Alhambra by Washington Irving. Large numbers of wealthy tourists flocked to the region with their guide books and related publications close to hand.



**Working Number:** QT 014

**Name:** Matchlock gun

**Holding Museum:** Weaponry Museum

**Date:** 19th century

**Materials:** Iron

**Curator:** When travelling in the Middle East and North Africa, a friendly reception was not always guaranteed as robbers might be lurking along the wayside in remote areas or wild animals might attack the camp at night. As a result, weapons were an essential part of the traveller's equipment. Ironically though, on occasion, safe passage was guaranteed by gifting or handing over the weapons to the perpetrators.



**Working Number:** TR2 072

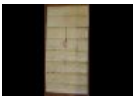
**Name:** Silverware used on the Orient Express

**Holding Museum:** Istanbul Railway Museum

**Date:** 19th century

**Materials:** Metal

**Curator Justification:** Wealthy Europeans insisted on travelling in style and comfort wherever they went. Silver tableware sets such as this one, together with fine china, crystal glassware, tablecloths, carpets and even furniture, often accompanied a party and would be set up every day, even in a tent, while navigating the desert.



**Working Number:** GR 036

**Name:** Firman

**Holding Museum:** Benaki Museum

**Date:** Hegira 1234 / AD 1819

**Materials:** Paper and ink

**Curator Justification:** Few Europeans were capable of navigating the region entirely alone, and relied on the support of local expertise. First and foremost was the need for local translators or dragomans, who, as they were often versed in several languages as well as cultural diplomacy, were able to negotiate or mediate on behalf of the traveller throughout the journey.



**Working Number:** FR 047

**Name:** A bedouin and his camel/dromedary

**Holding Museum:** National Library of France

**Date:** c. 1870

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** Many European explorers and adventurers relied on Bedouin expertise to cross uncharted desert landscapes, even if sometimes they claimed later that they had undertaken the journey and "discovered" new lands entirely on their own. Indeed, rarely do these 19th-century travellers acknowledge the extensive and often essential support of their local guides.



**Working Number:** UA 013

**Name:** Encampment of the Awlad Said Mount Sinai 1839

**Holding Museum:** Sharjah Art Museum / Sharjah Museums Authority

**Date:** Published 1849

**Materials:** Lithograph

**Curator Justification:** The Awlad Said, a large clan belonging to the Sawalha tribe and traditionally based in the

Southern Sinai, accompanied the Scottish artist David Roberts during his traversal of the Sinai.



**Working Number:** AT 035

**Name:** Cook

**Holding Museum:** Kunsthistorisches Museum, Egyptian Collection

**Date:** 1912–1929

**Materials:** -

**Curator Justification:** As many European travellers found the local cuisine disagreeable, a cook would be employed to travel with the entourage, who was charged with preparing meals to suit the European palate.

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**Working Number:** PT 085

**Name:** Pharmacy bottles

**Holding Museum:** Pharmacy Museum

**Date:** c. 1890–1910

**Materials:** Glass

**Curator Justification:** These bottles were used as containers for Cinchona (quina) bark, which was believed to prevent foreign diseases such as fevers and, notably, malaria, as it contains the alkaloid quinine. The bottles were used by Europeans travelling to non-European territories that were often unknown to the European community; hence precaution was mandatory in order to ensure safe and healthy expeditions.

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**Working Number:** PT 086

**Name:** Portable pharmacy

**Holding Museum:** Pharmacy Museum

**Date:** c. 1880–1900

**Materials:** Wood, glass, white metal, brass

**Curator Justification:** While travelling to non-European territories, it was considered mandatory to have a personal portable pharmacy kit at hand. This case carried myriad medicines aimed at protecting its owner from the most common diseases one could encounter while abroad.

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