

Foreign Travellers Who Visited India

India has been a centre of attraction and fascination for tourists worldwide since ancient times because of its customs, faiths, rich culture, and other national offerings. Most foreign travellers who visited India wrote about the country from their perspective and understanding. Some wrote about the monuments and architecture, while others penned down India's economic and social life.

Some of the ancient travellers to India were as follows

- Ptolemy (130 A.D.)
- Deimachos (320-273 BC)
- Fa-Hien (Chinese) in 405-411 AD when Gupta Empire was ruling India.
- Hiuen Tsang (Chinese) in 630-645 AD during the rule of Harshavardhana
- I-Tsing (Chinese)
- Al-Masudi (Arab)
- Al-Biruni (Khwarazm)

Important Foreign Travellers Who Visited India

The Indian subcontinent has experienced voyages from travellers worldwide from time immemorial. Here is the list of the important foreign travellers who visited India, along with the details of their visit and major contributions.

Ancient Travellers to India	Timeline	Details
Deimachos	3rd Century B.C.	Deimachos was Seleucid Empire's Greek from the 3rd century BC. He worked as the ambassador to Bindusara's court (he was the son of Chandragupta Maurya and Mauryan's second ruler).
Megasthenes	302-298 B.C.	Megasthenes was Seleucus's ambassador who visited the country when India was under Chandragupta Mauryan's supremacy. On his visit to India, he wrote a book called INDICA based on India. He introduced Chandragupta Mauryan as 'SANDROCOTTUS.'
Fa Hein	405-411 A.D.	He was a Buddhist monk from China who came to India during Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) region. On his tour to India, he visited Lumbini, i.e., Buddha's birthplace. His travelogue was called "Records of Buddhist Kingdom."

Hiuen Tsang	630-645 AD	Hiuen Tsang was another Buddhist monk from China who came to India during Harsha Vardhana's supremacy. He wrote "the Records of Western World", also called Si-Yu-Ki. He was called to King Harshavardhan's court after becoming a guest to the Kamarupa ruler, Bhaskar Varman.
I-Tsing	671-695 AD	I-Tsing visited India during the reign of Harshavardhana. He was a traveller from China who came to India because he called for Buddhism. He wrote various biographies on the monks of India.
Al Masudi	957 AD	Al Masudi was a traveller who visited India from Arab in the middle of 10th century A.D. He described his views on India in his book, Muruj-ul-Zehab.
Al Beruni (Abu Rehman Mahamud)	1024-1030 AD	Along with Mahmud of Ghazni, Al Beruni visited India. He was a Persian scholar (the first Muslim scholar) who came to India. He explained India in his book 'Tahqiqi-e-Hind'. For his contribution, he has also been titled the father of Indology.
Macro Polo	1292-1294 AD	Macro Polo came during the reign of Rudramma Devi of Kakatiyas. He was a European scholar who entered India from the South. He wrote "THE BOOK OF SIR MARCO POLO," which gives an invaluable account of Indian economic history.
Ibn Batuta	1333-1347 AD	He travelled to India from Moroccan in the 14th century during the rule of Mohammed Bin Tughlaq and wrote "RIHLA."
Nicolo Conii	1420-1421 AD	Nicolo was a merchant from Italy who came to India during the reign of Devraya I of the Sangam dynasty of the Vijayanagar Empire.
Abdul Razak	1443-1444 AD	He was a Persian scholar. He was also an ambassador of Persia. He visited during the reign of Dev Raya II of the Vijaynagar empire.
Duarte Barbosa	1500-1516 AD	Duarte Barbosa was a Portuguese traveller who visited India in the early 16th century. His writings include the Vijayanagar empire's people and government.
William Hawkins	1608-1611 AD	William Hawkins visited India during Jahangir's reign. He was the ambassador of James I of England.
Thomas Roe	1615-1619 AD	Thomas Roe also visited India during Jahangir's reign. He was an English diplomat who visited India to seek protection for the factory set up by the English at Surat. He wrote a Journal of the Mission to the Mughal Empire had a great contribution to Indian History.

Francois Bernier	1656-1717 AD	Francois was a physician and scholar from France. His patron was Daneshmand Khan, a noble at the court of Aurangzeb.
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Arab Travellers To India

Sulaimān at-Tājir: The first Arab traveller to India was Sulaimān at-Tājir. He was a Muslim writer, traveller, and merchant from Siraf (presently known as Iran). He travelled to China and Bengal (India) in 850 A.D and penned down his voyages. He is considered an important part of history for travelling to Tang China, Guangzhou in 851 A.D.

Al-Masudi: Al-Masudi visited India in 957 A.D. He was a historian and traveller from the Arab who is called the Herodotus of the Arabs. He was the first traveller from the Arab who mixed the idea of scientific geography and history. He explained his journey to India in his book Muruj-ul-Zehab he has explained his journey.

