

Mapping the WORLD

In Muslim Spain, the passion for keeping travelogues thrived, inspiring the compilation of the most comprehensive World Atlas (the up-side down Atlas) of the time by a highly celebrated Moroccan scholar Al-Shareef Al Idrisi (1099CE-1166CE or 1180CE).

He also made 70 regional maps, which he produced charting previously undocumented territories, the accuracy of which were unrivalled. He plotted the entire continents of Europe, Asia and Africa, north of the Equator two centuries before Marco Polo. He was so remarkable that he was nicknamed the stroke of the Arabs. He described continents joined at Suez and identified mountain ranges including the Mountains of the Moon, and the source of the Nile in present day Uganda. He also determined the circumference of the earth to be about 23,000 miles (it is actually about 25,000 miles). Apart from the distinguished geographers and mapmakers, professional Muslim tourists also contributed their knowledge by providing detailed accounts of their travels.



DUBAI'S
al Siraaaj
CULTURAL CENTRE

