



1. A caravan passes the Pamirs along the ancient Silk Road.
2. The Bo'nan section of the southwestern route of the Silk Road in Yongping is full of twists and turns. It was a post road more than 2,000 years ago.
3. This three-color Tang earthenware camel carries five musicians and dancers. Three of them, with high noses, upturned mustaches, and deep-set eyes, are apparently from Central Asia. The other two are Chinese. The figures suggest close cultural contact between China and the West in ancient times.
4. The third-largest ocean in the world, the Indian Ocean stretches over an area of some 74.2 million square kilometers (28.93 million square miles). It lies south of Asia and between Africa and Oceania and extends far south, to Antarctica. More than 2,000 years ago, Chinese ships sailed the ocean to reach Sri Lanka and a number of countries on the Indian Peninsula.
5. The *Sohar*, a wooden ship built after ancient Arab seagoing vessels, sailed from the Sultanate of Oman for China along the ancient sea route and reached its final destination, Guangzhou, in June 1981 after 216 days at sea.

The Silk Road on Land and Sea

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Chapter I

Ancient Chinese Silk

