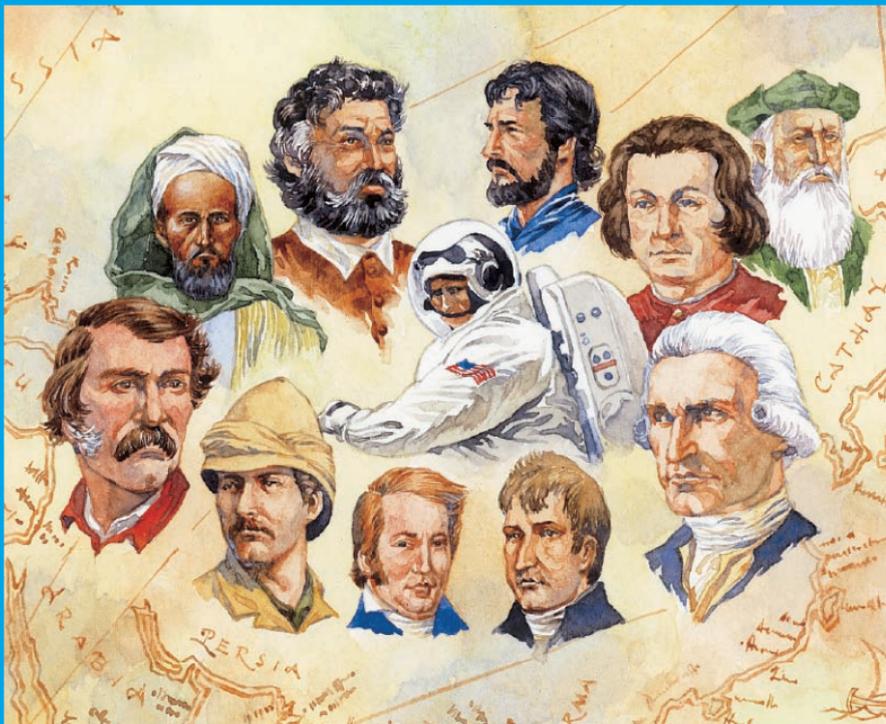


David Angus
GREAT EXPLORERS

Marco Polo • Ibn Battuta • Christopher Columbus • Bartolomeu Diaz
Vasco da Gama • Ferdinand Magellan • Captain Cook • Lewis and Clark
Livingstone and Stanley • The Apollo Mission

Read by **Frances Jeater, Sam Dastor, Kerry Shale**



1	Introduction	2:20
2	Marco Polo 1254–1324	9:28
3	The Polos at Kublai Khan's Palace	5:29
4	Ibn Battuta c. 1304–1368	6:54
5	Ibn Battuta in India	7:40
6	Christopher Columbus 1451–1506	6:11
7	The Second Voyage	7:31
8	The Third Voyage	3:19
9	The Fourth Voyage	4:02
10	Bartolomeu Diaz c. 1450–1500	
	Vasco da Gama c. 1460–1524	9:10
11	Ferdinand Magellan c. 1480–1521	8:55
12	Magellan's search for the route to the Pacific	8:05

13	Captain Cook 1728–1779	7:05
14	The Endeavour sets sail – August 26th 1768	6:30
15	The Second Voyage	6:25
16	Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery	5:27
17	1803-1804 The Corps assembles	5:08
18	Winter 1804	8:18
19	Dr David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley	5:59
20	Attacked by a lion in Mabotsa	7:44
21	Henry Morton Stanley	7:20
22	The Apollo Mission to the Moon	7:54
23	The Launch of Apollo 11 – July 16th 1969	8:28

Total time: 2:35:37

David Angus

GREAT EXPLORERS

The great explorers have always been independent, strong-minded individuals. They are going where no one else has been before, so they have to be bold, courageous, totally self-motivated – and driven by their ideas.

It doesn't matter whether the goal is to see what is on the other side of the hill, the ocean, the continent or even on another planet: the same determination must exist. Vasco da Gama was in the port to welcome Christopher Columbus returning from his historic voyage across the Atlantic, and looking at Columbus, da Gama will have acknowledged that they had similar qualities.

These two were different men from the 13th-century Marco Polo, who was more of a merchant than an adventurer; and they were different again from the 18th-century Captain Cook: a quieter, controlled Englishman as much interested in expanding scientific knowledge as gung-ho exploration. But there would have been a mutual respect between all these men, and they would all have recognised the bravery

and achievement of those on the Apollo 11 Mission. In this case, the men knew where they were going (unlike Columbus who only had a hazy idea) but also knew that their survival depended, in the end, upon a knife-edge of computer calculations and space theory. Subsequent deaths in space missions illustrate only too graphically how dangerous it is to travel at the limits of man's practical experience.

Of course, international travel now is very easy. We can all fly across the Atlantic or the Pacific to holiday destinations. We mix with people from different continents, people with very different habits and expectations. If we are walking in remote regions, we generally have a guide who speaks the language, understands the customs, and can introduce us gradually to the glories of the country – and advise us where to be cautious. But Bartolomeu Diaz and Magellan, Columbus and Cook had no guides. Lewis and Clark occasionally managed to enlist help from local tribes, but they still had to find routes over impassable stretches of land; and when they were

expecting to find the Pacific, they suddenly had to deal with the Rocky Mountains – a very different prospect!

Quite quickly, travelling in the footsteps of these figures became commonplace. Bartolomeu Diaz sailed down the West African coast in 1488, discovering the tip of southern Africa which he called The Cape of Storms. He was superseded less than 10 years later by Vasco da Gama, who finished off the job, discovering the sea route to India. Within decades of Columbus's great achievement, ships were plying across the Atlantic by the hundreds. And only 50 years after Magellan, Sir Francis Drake went round the globe in The Golden Hind. It took less than a generation for settlers to follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, marking out the territory of the United States of America.

The challenges that remain to the contemporary explorer are different. Space is perhaps the biggest frontier. But if little of the land mass of Planet Earth remains to be discovered, the same cannot be said of the oceans. The sea covers two thirds of the Earth's surface, and much exploration still needs to be done in its depths. And there remain other journeys requiring considerable fortitude – the high and

forbidding mountains, the hot deserts of sand and rock, the icy wastes of Antarctica.

Perhaps equally important, if not quite so historic, are those less spectacular but nevertheless challenging journeys which stretch most of us to the limits of our capacity, where we can experience for ourselves different sights and ways of life beyond (what we see through) the living-room television portal. When Christopher Columbus sailed into the unknown, he took with him the Travels of Marco Polo. It clearly wasn't enough for him to read about adventure in his armchair – he had to go and do it for himself!

Notes by Nicolas Soames

Marco Polo 1254–1324

Marco Polo, born in Venice into a merchant family, travelled to China at the age of 17 in 1271 – a very dangerous land journey through little-known territory. For nearly 20 years, he travelled the massive empire then ruled by the Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan.

It was an extraordinary time for the young Marco living as he did in the heart of the most powerful country on earth – and with customs and values totally different from his European ideas. This map gives an idea of his travels.



Ibn Battuta c. 1304–1368

Less an explorer and more a spiritual traveller, Ibn Battuta nevertheless spent his life going around the Islamic world which, by the 14th century, covered a considerable portion of the world. His motivation was not riches or fame, but an inner peace and

understanding though because of his personality and understanding of law, he spent a lot of his time working within the societies he visited. Much of his journey was on foot. He hardly ever trod the same road twice.



Antarctic or Southern Ocean

Christopher Columbus 1451–1506

Born in Genoa, Italy, but, while in the service of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, crossed the Atlantic in 1492, making landfall in the Caribbean. He went on three further voyages across the Atlantic, and still

thought he had discovered the Indies, or perhaps China – without realising it was the American continent.



Bartolomeu Diaz c.1450–1500

The Portuguese sailor Bartolomeu Diaz took the first steps to discover the Eastern route to India by sailing against difficult winds down the west coast of Africa. Before his journey in 1488, no one knew how far

South Africa went. He rounded the tip which he called the Cape of Storms (later changed to the Cape of Good Hope) and showed that there was a route to India.



Antarctic or Southern Ocean

Vasco da Gama c. 1460–1524

A tough Portuguese captain, Vasco da Gama completed the next stage, travelling around the Cape of Good Hope, sailing up the east coast of Africa and finally across the Indian Ocean to Calicut. Thus he established the route to India.

His next challenge was to make the first direct contact between Europe and the Indian civilisation – Muslim traders had generally acted as the go-betweens beforehand.



Ferdinand Magellan c. 1480–1521

Magellan was born in Portugal, but it was for the neighbouring rival Spain that he went on his epic journey to circumnavigate the world in 1519. He led his fleet through the mountainous seas at the tip of South America, in the sea passage later called

after him, The Straits of Magellan. After months in the Pacific he reached the known world again in the Philippines but was killed on a beach on the island of Mactan. But it was his leadership that had taken his expedition, the first in mankind's history, around the world.



Captain Cook 1728–1779

Captain James Cook was a different kind of explorer. On two spectacular journeys to the South Pacific he showed a new, scientific attitude. Bravery was commendable and required, but preparation and a more understanding relationship with his men indicated that this was a different age from the more gung-ho times of

previous centuries. Cook is remembered not only for his accurate charting of New Zealand and Australia but for showing how scurvy, the scourge of sailors, could be held at bay with fresh fruit and vegetables. Yet his trips, in a broad-bottomed collier called *The Endeavour*, were important.



Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery

America had won its independence from its colonial masters, but it was such a vast new country that no one really knew just the extent and character of the land mass. Someone had to walk, ride or row from east to west for the first time – and this was the

job accomplished by Meriwether Lewis, who was a soldier and Secretary to Thomas Jefferson; and Matthew Clark, another soldier. It took over two years to reach the Pacific and return. It was such a well-organised event that only one man was lost.



Dr David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley

The meeting of Livingstone and Stanley was a very different enterprise. David Livingstone, a widely respected explorer and missionary, had disappeared in Africa. Henry Morton Stanley, a journalist, set out to find

him and, when he did, uttered the famous words: 'Dr Livingstone, I presume'. The interest here was the meeting of two enterprising and individual men who epitomised the exploration of Africa in the 19th century.



Antarctic or Southern Ocean

The Apollo Mission

Neil Armstrong was not alone when he made that historic step, the first by a man on the moon. He was watched by 500 million people from all over the world, glued to their television sets. The very

nature of exploration had changed beyond all recognition. It was a new frontier, hugely dangerous but with a symbolism that everyone could appreciate. Theoretically, mankind was no longer confined to his planet.



Sam Dastor studied English at Cambridge and trained at RADA. His early theatrical experience included a spell at the National Theatre under Sir Laurence Olivier. In the West End he has appeared as Ariel to Paul Scofield's Prospero and in three of Simon Gray's plays – *Melon*, *Hidden Laughter* and *Cell Mates*. For the RSC he has been seen in *Timon of Athens*, *Tales from Ovid* and a world tour of *A Servant To Two Masters*. His many television appearances include *I, Claudius*; *Yes, Minister*; *Mountbatten*; *Julius Caesar* and *Fortunes of War*. He has also appeared in the films *Made*, *Jinnah* and *Such A Long Journey*, recorded over 1000 broadcasts for the BBC and read numerous audiobooks including *Kim* and *A Passage To India*.



Frances Jeater's theatre work has included Gertrude in *Hamlet*; an American tour of *Much Ado About Nothing*; Middle and Far-East tours of *Harvey*; and *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, Haymarket Theatre, London. Favourite TV: *Gift of the Nile*, filmed in Egypt. Frances has always enjoyed working for BBC Radio Drama and recording audiobooks. She also read Chaucer's *The Wife of Bath* and read the part of Mrs. Eynsford Hill in *Pygmalion* for Naxos AudioBooks.



Kerry Shale has performed his acclaimed one-man shows around the world. Other theatre work includes *Aunt Dan and Lemon*, *The Normal Heart*, *True West* and *The Odd Couple*. His TV credits include *Cracker*, *Sharpe's Rifles* and *Sherlock Holmes*. Films include *Yentl*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *102 Dalmations* and *Max*. He has won three Sony Awards for radio acting and writing. He has also recorded Poe's *Dupin* stories and *Conquest of Mexico* for Naxos AudioBooks.



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Music programmed by Sarah Butcher

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