Niccoló Polo Encyclopedia Article

Niccoló Polo

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fl. 1200s

Venetian merchant and trader who made several extended trips into central Asia to the court of Kublai Khan. He made the first trip, 1253-1269, with his brother Maffeo; the second, 1271-1295, with his son Marco and Maffeo. They were among the first Europeans to visit this part of the world. The account of their travels published by Marco encouraged Europeans to extend their explorations and trade during the subsequent Age of Exploration.