

Navigation

A large part of Navigation today has its roots in the inventions and knowledge of Muslims. Muslims were explorers and master navigators who travelled from the farthest reaches of the world to Makkah from 7th century onwards and used diverse methods to navigate through the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Red Sea and Persian Gulf. Kamal, a celestial navigation device that determines latitude, originated with Arab navigators of the late 9th century and allowed for the earliest known latitude sailing. This was the earliest step towards the use of quantitative methods in navigation.

Ahmed Muhiddin Piri, a Turkish Admiral and Cartographer wrote Kitab-i-Bahriyye (The Book of the Mariner / The Naval Handbook) in 1513 C.E., which is a manual that laid the foundation for modern sea travel.

European sailors in the Mediterranean did not start using the magnetic compass until the mid-13th century, having learnt of it from the Muslims during the time of the Crusades.

[\[View Source1\]](#)

[\[View Source2\]](#)

[\[View Source3\]](#)

