



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Reconstruction of the Syrian pilgrimage caravan routes in the Middle Ages

JACQUEMET J. 1*

¹ Archaeology, geography, Lyon, France

*Corresponding author

Abstract

During the Middle Ages, the Syrian caravan on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca comprising several thousand people, travelled from Damascus to Mecca in 40 days, stopping at stations of varying size and nature. Considering, the Karak Maan section of the road, in actual Jordan, Medieval texts do not mention station between these two towns, which are 100 km apart. However, it is certain that the pilgrims had to rest. The present paper will deal with our PhD research on this section of the route. Combining archaeological surveys and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), drawing on resource availability and geographical features to inform our assumptions, we seek to recreate the pathways and hypothesize potential stops. This research seeks to explore how and why roads have been modified by both natural and political influences during Middle Ages. From a broader perspective, it aims to shed light on the historical geography of the Mecca pilgrimage, key element to the religious, political and economic life of the region.

Keywords

Archaeology, geography, Jordan

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