

SHAH ABBAS AND THE PILGRIMAGE TO MASHHAD: UPDATE 1: FROM ISFAHAN TO THE KHURASAN HIGHROAD

ABSTRACT:

This is the first of two linked papers exploring the 1000km walk of Shah Abbas from Isfahan to Mashhad in 1601. It fleshes out the first part of the Shah's walk, by presenting results from two field trips to Iran. Using a mix of current local knowledge and data from Google Earth, Shah Abbas' exact halts are comparatively easy to identify. Travellers' accounts from Shah Abbas' Iran are then used to provide near-contemporary descriptions for many of the stopping places. A positive trial is also described of the practicality and accuracy of the rope-measurement (*tanab*) system used along the way.