

Mājid b. Ahmad
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MĀJID ibn-AHMAD, navigator and explorer (XVth cent.) like his father and grandfather and particularly reputed for his nautical experience in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, the South China Sea and the East -Indian archipelago. He is said to have accompanied Vasco da Gama to India (1497) and to have assisted him greatly by the very good maps and nautical instruments in his possession. Popular belief in his native Najd credited ibn-Mājid with the invention of the compass, a fact illustrating how highly his contemporaries thought of his seafaring capacities. He left a number of treatises on theoretical and practical navigation, some of them, following the custom of his time, composed in verse.

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