

ROUTE No. XIV_a.

YÁRKAND TO KHOTAN.

AUTHORITY CAPTAIN CHAPMAN (COMPILED FROM NOTES BY RAMCHAND).

FROM YÁRKAND TO KHOTAN, BY KARGHÁLIK.

FROM Karghálík to Egun, two tash, across a ravine and for four miles across desert, and then entering cultivated land which continues for two miles, after which there is desert close up to Egun, beyond Egun desert, at three miles a Langar (Gombaz) with tank and two old tombs; eight miles beyond this through a bare desert to a place where a tank (containing about 20 mussuks of water) is prepared and covered in. Water is brought to this daily (one donkey load) from a distance of ten miles, under the orders of the Hakim of Gúma. Beyond this 10 miles through desert to Chúlák (Langar), where there is a tank. This is the usual halting stage, and there is a post here for the examination of passports.

From Chúlák, 13 miles, to Serik Langar through desert. These Langars are all comfortably fitted up for travellers. Four miles beyond this is another Langar, where are trees and water; at this point the road divides, one going direct to Khotán and the other to the Gúma Bazaar; six miles to Gúma by taking the direct road, and not going to Gúma about four miles are saved, but all Rahdaris (passports) have to be shewn to the Hákim of Gúma.

Gúma is a considerable place; its district comprises that of Sánju. It extends from Egun to Piálmá in the Khotán direction, and southward as far as the Sánju pass. Gúma, for three miles through cultivated ground, then through desert for 12 miles to Mocha. Here is a comfortable rest-house prepared by a Mullah where travellers are entertained. A road diverges at this point to Sánju, which is distant 15 miles.

From Mocha (or Moji) for about 14 miles through desert to Zungoé or Jhanguiá; here is a small bazaar, and the place is surrounded by a wall built in the time of Habbibúlla; cultivation beyond this for some two miles, where there is a Langar, after which there is desert for 12 or 15 miles. Here there is a Langar, but no tank, only a well of extreme depth from which water is drawn. Five miles to Piálmá. Here there is a small bazaar. From Piálmá 15 miles to Ak-Robát. Here is a new rest-house prepared by the Amír's orders where travellers are entertained; there are two wells in the court-yard, which is 100 feet square: these wells are deeper than the one at the last Langar. Here there is a very high pole upon which a bell is hung, in order that during storms of sand travellers may be directed to the rest-house; during the night it is customary to place a light on the top of this pole for the same purpose. There is a regular establishment for the care of the serai. From Ak-Robát five miles to the Mazár of Imám Mahomed Shah. This stands in the middle of a desert; a large number of pigeons are kept by the Shaik custodian, for which a regular allowance of grain is made; the road is through a heavy sandy desert. There is a high pole at this point with a bell on it similar to the one at Ak-Robát. Through desert for five miles to Jawa: this is a small village of 20 houses, also surrounded by a wall in the time of Habbibúlla; there is a post for the inspection of passes and for search for gold and jade carried out of the Khotan District without permission. This is the point where the Atalik halted before the capture of Khotan, and from whence he enticed Habbibúlla into his camp. To the east of this village is a considerable stream flowing from the Sánju Diwán, which is crossed by a wooden bridge built after the fashion of Kashmir bridges. This is about 20 yards across. On the other side is a regular rest-house for the Hakim of superior construction. From this point cultivation and habitations extend uninterruptedly to Khotan at a distance of 25 miles.

Ten miles from Jawa the Kárákásh is crossed, where the breadth of the bed of the stream is about 400 yards. On the bank of the Kárákásh there is also a rest-house built to accommodate travellers detained by the rising of the river.