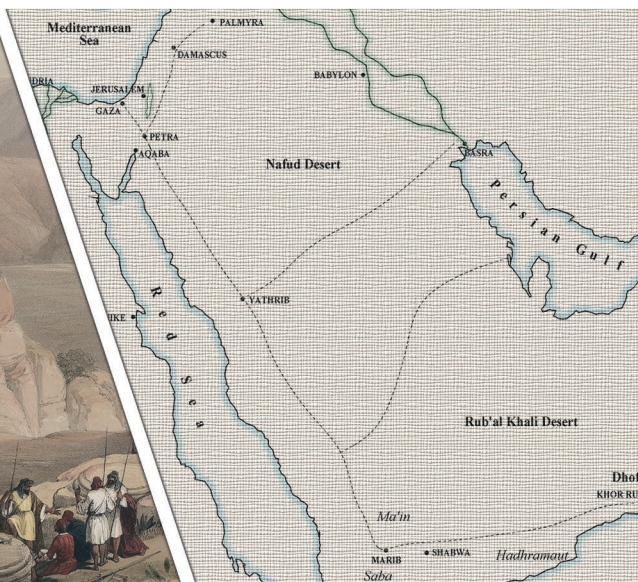


GURPS®

Fourth Edition

Hot Spots:™

THE INCENSE TRAIL™



Written by **MATT RIGGSBY**
Edited by **NIKOLA VRTIS**
Cartography by **MATT RIGGSBY**

GURPS System Design ■ **STEVE JACKSON**

GURPS Line Editor ■ **SEAN PUNCH**

GURPS Project Manager ■ **STEVEN MARSH**

Production Artist ■ **NIKOLA VRTIS**

GURPS FAQ Maintainer ■

VICKY "MOLOKH" KOLENKO

Chief Executive Officer ■ **PHILIP REED**

Chief Creative Officer ■ **SAM MITSCHKE**

Chief Operating Officer ■ **SUSAN BUENO**

Director of Sales ■ **ROSS JEPSON**

Page Design ■ **PHIL REED** and **JUSTIN DE WITT**

Prepress Checker ■ **NIKOLA VRTIS**

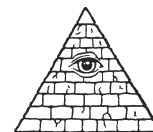
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STEVE JACKSON GAMES

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INTRODUCTION

When Baron von Richthofen coined “the Silk Road” in the late 19th century, he was neither the first nor the last to come up with a name for a trade route. Other conduits for travel, exploration, and the search for riches have been given equally apt names: the Tea-Horse Road connecting Tibet and China, the nigh-legendary Northwest Passage allowing a direct connection between Europe and Asia, and so on. One of the earliest is known as the Incense Trail. Like the Silk Road (and all the other trade routes named for notable goods), it carried far

more than incense, though it did provide the outside world with immensely lucrative supplies of frankincense and myrrh. And even in the years of classical antiquity, it produced goods which traveled across the hemisphere. The Incense Trail was one of the first, if not the very first, trade routes developed to carry valuable goods to multiple civilizations, and like so many of the ones that followed, it combined exotic luxuries, political intrigue, hostile environments, military conquest, and potential riches for adventurers willing to brave all of that.

May [the gods] curse anyone who sells this tomb or who buys it or gives it in pledge or makes a gift of it or removes from it body or limb or who buries in it anyone other than Kamkam and her daughter and their descendants.

– *Inscription on a Nabatean tomb*

RECOMMENDED WORKS

No other works are necessary to use this setting, but it ties into several of them. There’s considerable overlap with **GURPS Hot Spots: The Silk Road**. The region is also adjacent to societies covered by **GURPS Egypt** and **GURPS Imperial Rome**.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Matt Riggsby is trained in anthropology and archaeology, and, like the rest of his generation, toils in computers. He works for an international medical software company and lives with his lovely and talented wife, above-average child, and several dogs who still get lost easily.

Additional Art Acknowledgments

P. 5: Haghe, Louis, lithographer, and Roberts, David, artist. *El Deir Petra March 8 1839/David Robert*. Published between 1844 and 1845. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, loc.gov/item/2002717535.

P. 7: Altar, ca. 232. Purchase, 1895, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, [metmuseum.org](https://www.metmuseum.org).

P. 10: Camel and riders, ca. 1st century B.C.-1st century A.D. From the Bequest of Lillie P. Bliss, 1931, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, [metmuseum.org](https://www.metmuseum.org).

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