

# Maps for Building and Understanding Europe

Erasmus+ Project 2016 - 2018

## *Greatest Navigators*

# *Vasco da gama*



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# Vasco da gama

*Portuguese navigator and explorer who was born in Sines, Portugal in 1469 and died in Cochin - India on December 24, 1524.*

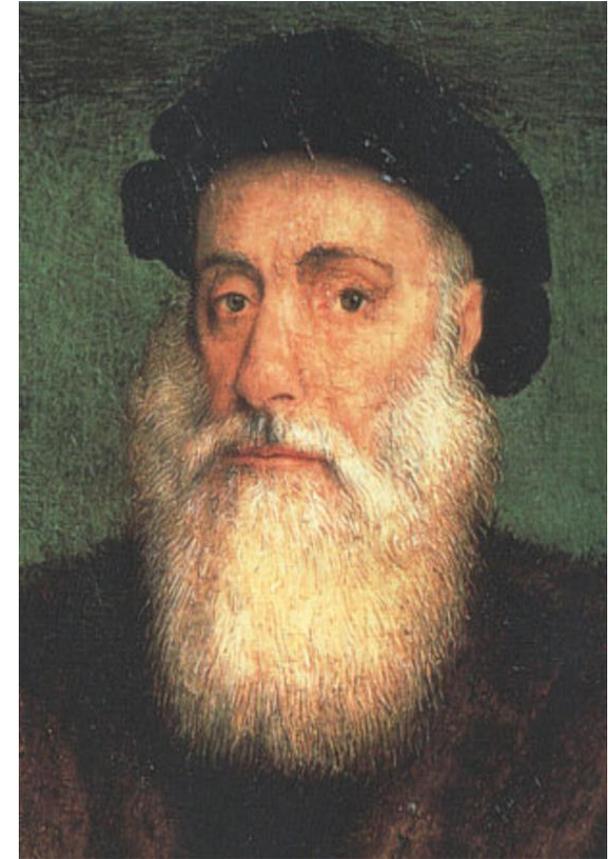
*Vasco da gama studied in Évora, where he learned mathematics and navigation.*

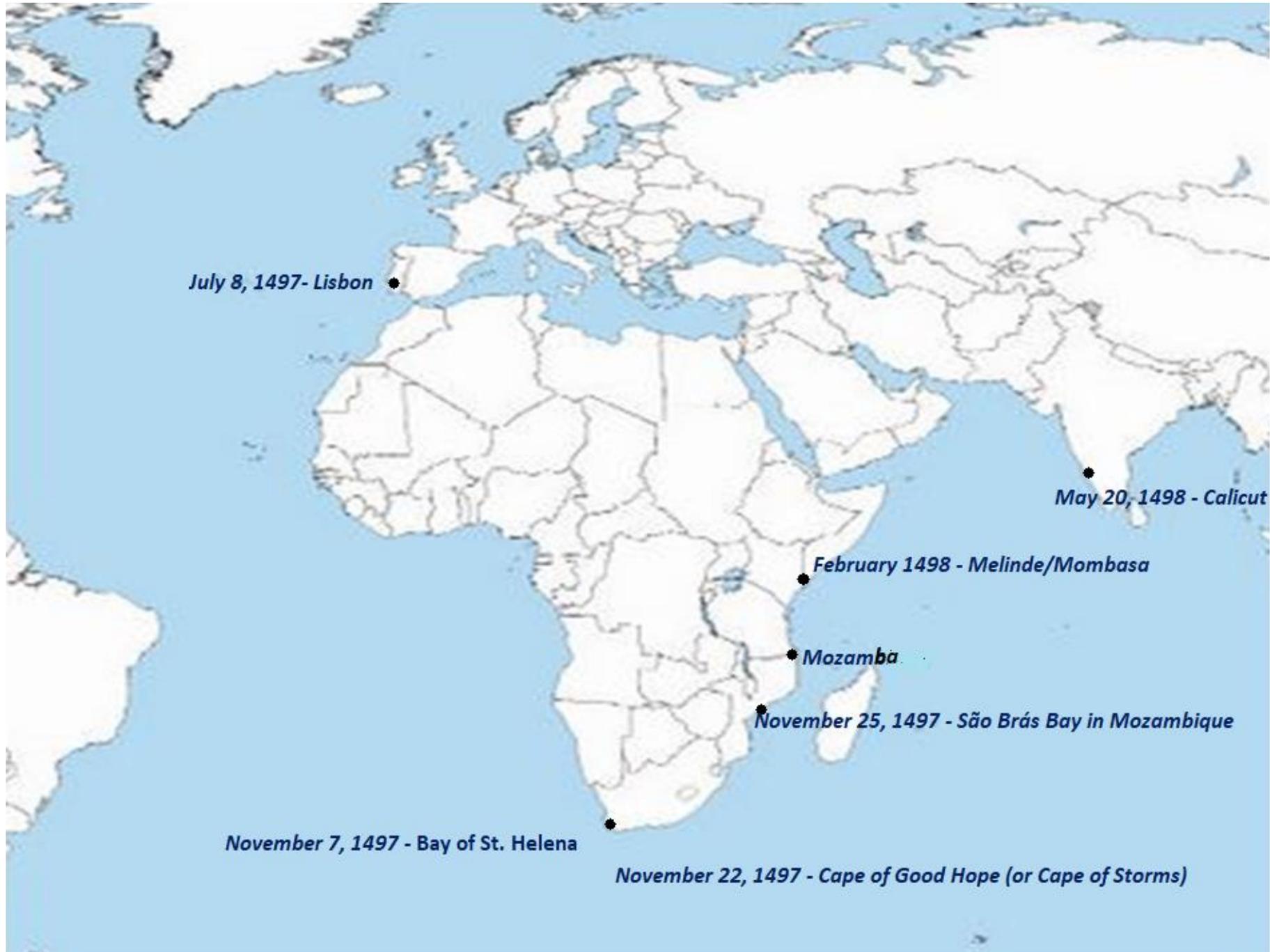
*Due to his advanced knowledge on astronomy he may have studied with the astronomer Abraham Zacuto.*

*In 1492, João II sent him to the Port of Setúbal, and to the Algarve to capture French ships in retaliation for the looting done in time of peace against the Portuguese navigation. A task that Vasco da Gama executed quickly and effectively.*

*A few years later he is blamed for a voyage whose purpose was to find the seaway to India. Vasco da Gama would have to end the Arab monopoly of the lucrative spice trade, opening the way to European commerce.*

*As we shown in the map below which contains the events chronology:*





July 8, 1497 - Lisbon

May 20, 1498 - Calicut

February 1498 - Melinde/Mombasa

Mozambã

November 25, 1497 - São Brás Bay in Mozambique

November 7, 1497 - Bay of St. Helena

November 22, 1497 - Cape of Good Hope (or Cape of Storms)

- **July 8, 1497** - the fleet commanded by Vasco da Gama departed from Lisbon with the aim of discovering the maritime route to India. There were about 150 men distributed over three ships: S. Gabriel, S. Rafael, Berrio and a small vessel with supplies.
- **November 7, 1497** - they arrived at the Bay of St. Helena. There they anchored the navy for 9 days to make repairs on ships, to replenish drinking water and fresh food, before doubling the Cape.
- **November 22, 1497** - Captain-General Vasco da Gama is in very dangerous and turbulent waters. Look for the sea route to India. At the site where many wrecked boats, many lives were lost. He and his seamen, about 170 men, also fear not to return to their homeland. Vasco da Gama is sailing off the Cape of Good Hope, formerly called Cape of Storms. This name was not put in vain, because for many years no one was able to double it.
- **November 25, 1497** - São Brás Bay in Mozambique. The navy reached the coast of Mozambique, after having suffered strong storms and a revolt of the seamanship. On the East African coast, the Muslim-controlled territories were part of the Indian Ocean trade. In Mozambique they meet the first Indian merchants. Initially they are well received by the Sultan, who confuses them with Muslims and offers two pilots. Fearing that the population would be hostile to the Christians, they tried to keep the misunderstanding, but after a series of misunderstandings, they were forced by a hostile crowd to flee from Mozambique, and they left the port firing their cannons against the city. The Portuguese became known as the first Europeans to visit the port of Moçamba, were received with hostility and soon left.
- **February 1498** - Vasco da Gama headed north, landing at the friendly port of Melinde/Mombasa's rival, where he was well received by the sultan who provided him with an Arab pilot, expert in the Indian Ocean, whose knowledge of the monsoon winds allowed him to guide the expedition to Calicut on the southwest coast of India.
- **May 20, 1498** - Vasco da Gama's squadron launched anchor in Calicut, an open port of spices on the famous Malabar coast of India. This was the first spice market on India's great trading platform, where the ships of the Java Sea met those of Hormuz and Aden.

# *Vasco da gama*

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