



# 驛站

## Roads and Relay Hostels

Roads and relay hostels, or inns, built during the Tang and Song dynasties greatly improved communication and trade throughout the vast land of China. By the late 700s, relay hostels, which offered horses and food for travelers, had been built along the main travel routes of China and provided places for government officials to stay for the night during long journeys. The roads allowed official inspectors, tax collectors, and messengers to more easily move throughout China. Some messengers traveled on horseback, while others were trained to run on foot, delivering government mail across hundreds of miles. The new roads also increased trade by providing a way for merchants selling rice, tea, silk, and seafood from the coast to trade their goods all over China.