

'ABDU'L-BAHÁ'S GREAT VOYAGE

'Abdu'l-Bahá was finally free! After nearly a lifetime of exile and imprisonment for his faith, the eldest son of Bahá'u'lláh was released in 1908. In 1911, despite poor health at age 67, he embarked on an epic series of journeys to share the Bahá'í message of justice and unity. Over three years, he transformed the hearts of people in nine countries on three continents.

After about a year in Egypt, 'Abdu'l-Bahá went to Europe on the *SS Corsica*.



Visited Paris, site of the first Bahá'í community in Europe. Photographs were made of him, and they were given as gifts throughout his travels.

In New York City, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "I find a strong movement for universal peace emanating from America." In his 140 published talks in North America, "peace" appears over 200 times!



Dedicated the cornerstone for the Bahá'í Temple in Illinois. He invited diverse people to dig the earth around the stone, then declared, "The Temple is already built."



Aug. 11

Sept. 4–Oct. 3

Oct. 3–Dec. 2

Mar. 25

Apr. 14

Apr. 23

May 1

Aug. 16–23

1911

Shared the Bahá'í teachings in London and Bristol. In his last talk, he said, "I . . . have met in this London of the West with extreme kindness, regard and love, and I am deeply thankful and happy."



Departed for the U.S. on the *SS Cedric* (above), arriving in New York on April 11. Some had urged him to sail on the *Titanic*, which tragically sank on April 15.

Spoke about race unity at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He challenged racism by inviting Louis Gregory, an African American Bahá'í, to an important luncheon. Then, at the home of Alexander Graham



Bell (left), he impressed scientists with his wisdom.



Gave several talks at Green Acre Bahá'í School in Maine, which he said would one day be the site of a Bahá'í university and another Bahá'í Temple.

On the 100th anniversary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's heroic travels, his initiative stands as a tribute to the power of sacrifice and devotion. He gave hundreds of talks in universities, churches, synagogues, halls, and homes. He met with scholars, officials, journalists, clerics, activists, and families. Today, over five million Bahá'ís around the world draw inspiration from his courageous example as they work to build global peace.



Visited Montreal, the first Canadian Bahá'í community. The home of May and William Sutherland Maxwell (above), where he stayed, is a Bahá'í shrine. Their daughter (right) later married 'Abdu'l-Bahá's grandson, Shoghi Effendi (right).



Departing from New York on the *SS Celtic*, 'Abdu'l-Bahá said, "Exert yourselves with heart and soul so that, perchance, through your efforts the light of universal peace may shine . . ."

Returned to Paris, where many Bahá'ís from the East and Iranian nobles came to meet him.

During a third visit to Paris, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's health was poor, but he met with many Bahá'ís and dignitaries. When he received flowers for his birthday on May 23, he urged Bahá'ís to instead celebrate the Declaration of the Báb, which occurred on the same day. The Báb was Bahá'u'lláh's forerunner.



Returned to Haifa, Israel, bringing his historic journeys to a close.



Aug. 30–Sept. 9

Oct. 8

Dec. 5

Dec. 13–Jan. 21

Jan. 21–Mar. 30

Apr. 1–May 1

May 1–June 12

June 13

Dec. 5

1913



Spoke at Stanford University in California. Later, a full issue of *The Palo Altan* newspaper was devoted to him.

Returning to England, he spoke at a homeless shelter on Christmas and paid for food and lodging for 500. He spent several days in Scotland at the home of Jane Whyte, probably the first native Scot to become a Bahá'í.



Traveled to Germany, Hungary, and Austria. His visitors included Baroness Bertha von Suttner, the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.



Sailed from Marseilles, France, to Egypt on the *SS Himalaya*. In Ramleh, near Alexandria, he often walked in the rose garden as he dictated letters.

