Charting Odysseus' epic voyage

Nearly 3,000 years after it was first told, Homer's epic tale of Odysseus' 10-year journey home – through monsters, temptations, and the wrath of the gods – remains a timeless story that continues to captivate audiences around the world



*Movie adaptation by Hollywood director **Christopher Nolan** stars **Matt Damon** (above) as **Odysseus**, King of Ithaca*



1 Troy: Trojan War ends after 10-year siege with fall of city. Odysseus departs for Ithaca with fleet of 12 ships

2 Ismaros: Odysseus raids city of ***Cicones*** – Trojan allies – before counterattack forces retreat

3 Lotophagi: Crew members eat lotus fruit and lose all desire to return home

4 Cyclopes: Odysseus blinds one-eyed giant ***Polyphemus*** to escape captivity, enraging sea god ***Poseidon***

5 Aeolia: Wind god ***Aeolus*** gives Odysseus bag of winds to guide fleet home. Crew opens it too soon and is blown back off course

6 Lamos: Giant cannibal ***Laestrygonians*** destroy most of fleet

7 Aeaea: Sorceress ***Circe*** turns Odysseus' men into swine

8 Underworld: Following Circe's directions, Odysseus travels to edge of world to consult blind prophet ***Tiresias*** for guidance home

9 Sirens: Odysseus ties himself to ship's mast while crew blocks ears with beeswax to survive deadly songs

10 Scylla and Charybdis Crew sails through strait between six-headed monster and massive whirlpool – losing six men

11 Thrinacia: Crew eats sacred cattle of sun god ***Helios*** despite warnings, bringing destruction in violent storm

12 Ogygia: Sea nymph ***Calypso*** detains Odysseus for seven years

13 Scheria: Hospitable ***Phaeacians*** provide Odysseus with ship to sail home

14 Ithaca: Odysseus finally reaches home, infiltrates palace disguised as beggar, slays suitors vying for ***Penelope's*** hand and reclaims throne

● *For centuries, scholars have tried to map the Odyssey without reaching consensus. Map follows World History Encyclopedia, drawing on modern scholarship to illustrate one possible route rather than definitive itinerary*

Sources: World History Encyclopedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica

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