# History of Coffee

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:John_Frederick_Lewis_004.jpg)

A coffee bearer, from the Ottoman quarters in Cairo, Egypt, in the year 1857.

The history of coffee goes at least as far back as the 10th century, with a number of reports and legends surrounding its first use. The native (undomesticated) origin of coffee is thought to have been Ethiopia. The earliest substantiated evidence of either coffee drinking or knowledge of the coffee tree have been in the 15th century, in the Sufi monasteries of Yemen. By the 16th century, it had reached the rest of the Middle East, Persia, Turkey, Horn of Africa, and northern Africa. Coffee then spread to the Balkans, Italy and to the rest of Europe, to Indonesia and then to America.