



Ferdinand Magellan

March 22, 1519:

King Charles the First has made a wise decision this day. He has allowed me and about two hundred and fifty others to travel on an important expedition to the Spice Islands. He has made me the commander of the Trinidad, leading four other ships which include the Juan de Cartagena, the Conception, the Victoria, and the Santiago on this important quest for wealth. In terms of wealth, King Charles the First has promised one-fifth of the expedition's profits, so I have gladly accepted this offer and will be looking forward to the voyage that will begin in the coming months.

September 20, 1519:

The journey to the great riches of the Spice Islands has begun. More Spanish crewmen have been added for the voyage as they [Spanish Monarchy] suspect me of betraying them, but this will not slow down the truth of this voyage. We have left the port at Spain.

March 20, 1520:

We have encountered a severe winter in this exclusive part of the world. The decision has been made to anchor at Puerto San Julian in our recently acquired land in this southern part of the world. We will spend the next few months in rest at Puerto San Julian as we wait for the winter to pass by.

Supplies will also be replenished in the next few months for the coming challenge of the voyage [the Pacific Ocean]. We will stay here till the date of August 24, 1520.

September, 1520:

A terrible calamity has befallen our crew members at the Santiago who were sent to scout the coast. All of the members were rescued except for one unfortunate fellow. Nevertheless, the voyage will go on with our four remaining ships.

October, 1520:

We have resumed the voyage after our unfortunate loss. We will continue our trek southward to round the southern tip of the new lands [South America].

November 1520:

An important discovery of a strait which will lead us across the new lands has been made. We are looking forward to crossing over this important strait to lead us over the unknown sea [the Pacific Ocean].

March 6, 1521:

After many months of difficulties including starvation and a shortage on supplies, we have reached the island of Guam. My crew and I have gratefully drunk our fill of water at this important stop, as we continue to replenish our severely depleted supplies. Around the island, I have witnessed many sailboats. I welcome this new company unlike our months of solitude and isolation. There have been thieves at this island too, though, stealing our important small boats from the beloved Trinidad. The voyage will go on.

March 16, 1521:

We have reached a chain of islands where there is a large population of people. They seem to be at war with one another. We will sail cautiously and carefully through this area as we travel on to the Spice Islands.

April 27, 1521:

On this day, our great leader Ferdinand Magellan has died from the savage natives of the island of Mactan. I, one of his most trusted commanders, will continue the account of this important voyage through his valued journal. The Spice Islands seem ever nearer.

September 6, 1522:

After facing many difficulties, we have finally reached the port of Sanlucar de Barrameda in Spain. I, one of the only 18 survivors of this great expedition, am proud to say that we have successfully circumnavigated the entire Earth. The Spanish have inherited a great honor, and the wealth we have acquired will more than make up for the expenditure of our voyage. Unfortunately, though, we have lost many precious lives on this ordeal around the “world” expedition.