



## Magellan's Early Life and Career

Magellan was born in 1480 to a noble family in the Northern Portugal town of Sabrosa. He had served the Portuguese navy and was an experienced seaman. He had traveled to India, Africa, and the Far East many times through the Cape of Good Hope with the Portuguese. However, after Magellan had an argument with the Portuguese king, he left the country and decided to sail for Spain instead. This is how Magellan's journey to the New World (1519-1522) began.

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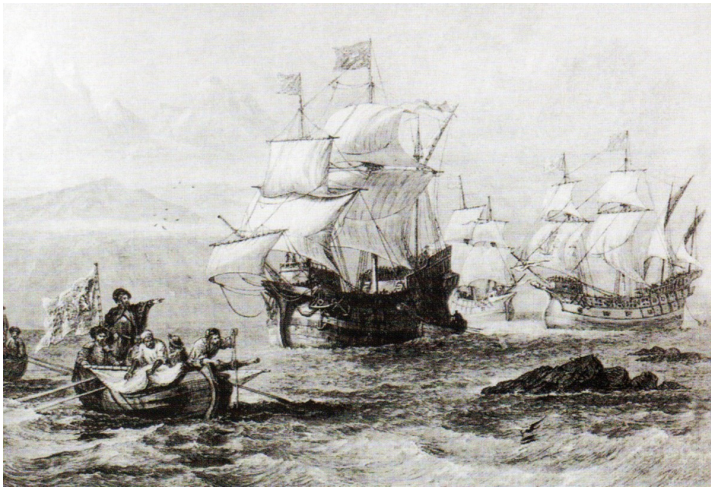
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# FERDINAND MAGELLAN

**SAMANTHA AND LOIS**



# The Beginning of the Voyage

Magellan set off to the new world in 1519. Since the treaty of Tordesillas was created, the Spanish could not go through the Indian Ocean to get to Southeast Asia, so they needed a new way to get there. Magellan was sent by the Spanish king to find a new route to Asia. It took 2 months to convince Charles V, ruler of the Holy Roman Empire, to finance the trip. It was eventually funded by him in 1518. Aside from being put in charge of the *Victoria*, Magellan was also in charge of 4 other ships. It took one year to prepare the ships and crew.

## Risks on the Sea

Magellan and his other crewmates set off from Sanlúcar, Spain on September 20, 1519. They brought trading goods such as printed handkerchiefs, glass beads, and bells that were for attaching to the feet of hunting birds. They were armed with many weapons: 1000 lances, 60 crossbows, 120 spears, and several canons. The ships were equipped with navigation instruments such as astrolabes and quadrants. The other officers disliked Magellan because he was the only Portuguese officer, and they plotted against him. However Magellan still continued. On October 21, 1520, the ships entered the area of water now known as the Magellan strait. It was narrow and dangerous, with strong winds. This turmoil caused the group to lose 2 out of the 5 ships they had. It took 38



days to travel through, but they finally reached the pacific ocean on November 28, 1520. During their time in the pacific, they went 3 months and 20 days without any fresh supplies until they finally landed in the Philippines.

## Returning Home

Unfortunately, when the sailors were in the Philippines, they got into a local war with the natives. Magellan was killed, however some of his seatmates did make it back after 3 years out at sea. 18 out of 270 crew mates arrived back in Europe on the last ship left, the *Victoria*, on September 6, 1522. They were the first people to circumnavigate the world and proved the world was round. However, the most important result of their explorations was succeeding in finding a new route to Asia for Spain so that they could also enjoy the exotic goods of these distant lands.