

# JUAN SEBASTIÁN ELCANO

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# INDEX

INFORMATION. PAGE 3

ORIGINS. PAGE 4

START OF THE TRIP. PAGE 5

MAP EXPEDITION. PAGE 6

ARRIVAL IN THE MOLUCCAS. PAGE 7

ELCANO TAKES COMMAND OF THE EXPEDITION. PAGE 8

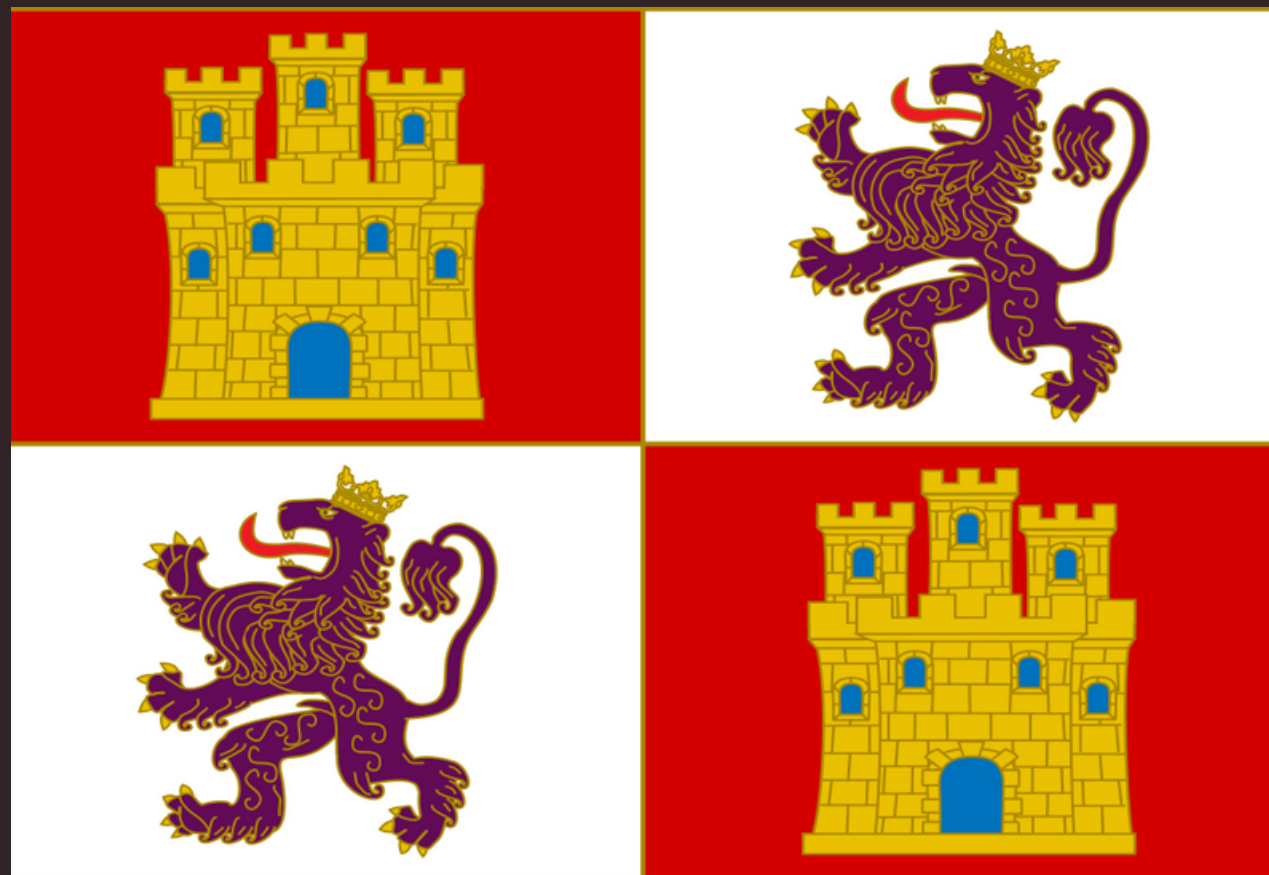
ARRIVAL IN SPAIN. PAGE 9

SECOND EXPEDITION OF THE MOLUCCAS. PAGE 10

# INFORMATION

Juan Sebastián Elcano was a Spanish sailor who completed the first round the world in the Magallanes-Elcano expedition, by being at the head of the expedition after the death of Fernando de Magallanes.

He was born in 1486 Guetaria, Guipúzcoa, Castilla's crown and he died on August 4, 1526 in the Pacific Ocean.



# Origins

His parents were Domingo Sebastián de Elcano and Catalina del Puerto. It is believed that Juan Sebastián belonged to a wealthy family of fishermen and sailors, who had their own house and boat with which they engaged in trade. First-born of nine siblings, biographical data of some of them are known. Domingo, named after his father, was a priest and parish priest of Guetaria. Martín Pérez, Antón Martín and Ochoa Martín were sailors like Juan Sebastián and they took part with him in García Jofre de Loaísa's expedition. Martín Pérez was the pilot of one of the ships of this expedition. He also had a half-sister, María, his father's illegitimate daughter. His mother Catalina would survive the death of Juan Sebastián, since he mentioned her as heir in his will.

# Start of the trip

The expedition had begun in Seville on August 10, 1519, the date on which the departure of the squadron of five ships was announced, led by Fernando de Magallanes, descending the Guadalquivir until it reached Sanlúcar de Barrameda (Cádiz), a port that overlooks to the Atlantic Ocean.

# Expedición de Magallanes-Elcano

10/08/1519

# Primera circunnavegación mundial

08/09/1522



# Arrival in the Moluccas

The expedition was plagued with setbacks and difficulties. After the death of Magellan in the Philippines, in 1521, during a skirmish with the natives, Gonzalo Gómez de Espinosa was elected head of the expedition and at the head of the nao Victoria Juan Sebastián Elcano became captain. After arriving at the Moluccas islands, the objective of the trip, the return to Spain began.

# Elcano takes command of the expedition

The Trinidad was sailing poorly and stayed in the port of Tidore to be repaired and return through the Pacific to Panama. Elcano finally takes command of the expedition back. He had the problem of returning to Spain with what was left of the expedition, without knowing the way back through the Pacific, and it seemed crazy to try, so he chose to sail the Portuguese seas to the west, bordering Africa on known routes and with possibilities of making washes. Enrique de Malaca (a slave that Magellan had acquired on a previous trip) continues to be part of the expedition and may have been the first person to circumnavigate the globe when the expedition reached Malacca.



# Arrival in Spain

As Pigafetta recounts, after crossing the Indian Ocean and going around Africa, he was the first European to complete the circumnavigation of the globe, as he managed to complete the expedition and reach the port of departure, Sanlúcar de Barrameda, on September 6 of 1522 in the Nao Victoria, along with 17 other survivors, which was the achievement of an imposing feat for the time. Elcano, eager to get to Seville, barely stopped at Sanlúcar de Barrameda. On the same day of arrival, he took a boat at his service to tow the Victoria down the Guadalquivir to Seville, due to the poor condition of the ship. The officers of the Casa de la Contratación de Indias in Seville prepared a boat with 12 oars, loaded with fresh provisions. The city authorities and the members of the full House of Contracting were waiting on the dock, along with a large audience that was watching the arrival of the rickety ship.

## **Second expedition to the Moluccas**

After granting a will on July 26, being already very ill, but healthy of understanding and natural judgment, he died of scurvy on August 4, 1526, aboard the ship Santa María de la Victoria, another ship different from the one with the one that completed the circumnavigation of the world, but with the same name, when he participated in the expedition of García Jofre de Loaísa to the Moluccas. At that time, among the witnesses who signed his will was another famous Spanish sailor, Andrés de Urdaneta.