

# The Ships of Christopher Columbus

## The Fleet of 1992-Spanish Ship Reproductions



The Government of Spain had the Columbus Ship reproductions built to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christopher Columbus' epic voyage to the New World and to promote closer relations between Spain and the United States of America. The Sociedad Quinto Centenario in collaboration with the Spanish Navy was entrusted with the management of the ship construction.

After careful analysis of existing information on Columbus 1492 fleet, plans for the construction of the ships went forward. After careful study of existing shipyards and wood ship builders in Spain, the construction of the vessels was awarded to the following:

Santa Maria: Constucciones Navales in Isla Cristina  
Huelva, Spain-built in 1991

Pinta: Joaquin Castro in La Guardia

Nina: Pontevedra, Spain – built in 1991  
Arsenal Naval Militar in Cartagena  
Cartagena, Spain-built in 1989

The ships were christened and launched by members of Spain's Royal Family in 1989. They embarked on a tour of Mediterranean and Atlantic ports of Europe in 1990 and 1991. In 1992, they embarked on the Imagine America Tour which took them to 18 cities in the United States including Corpus Christi.

The ships came to their permanent home in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1993. The Nina is now berthed at the Lawrence St. T Head in downtown Corpus Christi; the Pinta and Santa Maria are located at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History on Chaparral St.

Dimensions of the replicas are as follows:

**Santa Maria**

Type: Nao  
Hull Length: 26.60 mtrs  
Hull Breadth: 7.96 mtrs  
Depth: 3.24 mtrs  
Cargo: 104.65 tons  
Crew: 26

**Pinta**

Type: Caravel  
Hull: 22.75 mtrs  
Breadth: 6.60 mtrs  
Depth: 2.21 meters  
Cargo: 51.66 tons  
Crew: 17

**Nina**

Type: Caravel  
Hull: 21.40  
Breadth: 6.28  
Depth: 2.00  
Cargo: 48.66  
Crew: 16