

The Second Voyage 1493-1496

Columbus departed on his flagship, the *Mariagalante*, from Cadiz, Spain on September 25, 1493. This expedition was comprised on 17 ships and some 1200 men and boys. This voyage included soldiers, colonists, priests and “gentlemen of the court” in addition to horses and other livestock. Unlike his first voyage of “discovery”, this was a voyage of colonization. Again, the fleet stopped in the Canary Islands and left there on a return voyage to Hispaniola on October 12-exactly a year after his first new world landfall. Land was sighted on November 3 and this time Columbus discovered Dominica, Gaudeloupe and Jamaica. On November 27 Columbus reached the sight of La Navidad on the coast of Hispaniola. He was greeted by ominous silence, and upon landing, discovered that the fort had been destroyed and his men massacred. The escalating differences between the Spaniards and Natives had ended in violence; a pattern that would continue for generations. He then founded the colony of Santo Domingo and after a decisive battle with the Natives in 1495, he took control of the island of Hispaniola. Amid rumors of brutality to Spanish and Native alike, Columbus left the colony in charge of his brothers and sailed to Spain in March 1496 to meet with Queen Isabela and King Ferdinand. He arrived in Cadiz, Spain on July 31, 1496.

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