

The Third Voyage 1498-1500

Back in Spain, the King and Queen decided to finance another voyage for Columbus, who was still looking for the mainland of China. Columbus set sail from Sanlucar, Spain on May 30, 1498 with six ships. After leaving the Canary Islands, three of the ships set a direct course for Hispaniola and Columbus took the other three on a more southern route in hopes of finding the mainland. During July and August, his explorations took him to the islands of Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, and Margarita. Land that he thought was another island turned out to be the mainland of South America. He turned his ships towards his colony on Hispaniola in late August. Trouble awaited Columbus at Hispaniola; there were food shortages and rebellion among the colonists and Columbus proved to be a better explorer than administrator. Rumors reached Spain, and a representative was sent to investigate in 1500. As a result, Columbus was arrested and sent back to Spain in chains. Arriving in humiliation in October, Columbus was able to vindicate himself with the King and Queen. But the seeds of doubt had been planted, and Columbus would not fully regain his former stature.

