

Magellan Was First!

Ferdinand Magellan led the first ships to sail around the world. The voyage, from 1519 to 1522, helped prove that Earth is round.

Magellan led a crew of 241 sailors and a **fleet**, or group, of five ships. The voyage began in Spain on September 20, 1519. The fleet traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to South America. They sailed around that continent's coast until they reached the Pacific Ocean.

Many men died during the journey because of illness or starvation. Storms destroyed some of the ships. Magellan himself was killed in a battle in the Philippines. The remaining crew and ships continued sailing toward Spain.

On September 6, 1522, one ship and 18 crewmen returned to Spain, completing the first voyage around the world.