

Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese seafarer.

Like, Columbus before him, Magellan sought a shorter route to the Indies/a western route to the Spice Islands.

In 1519, Magellan left Spain with five ships and more than 200 men. He sailed past Africa, and on to South America.

Magellan discovered a route of 350 miles that led from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. This passage is now called the Strait of Magellan.

By the time he discovered the Strait of Magellan, one ship had been lost and one had returned to Europe. The remaining ships continued for several months, until they reached Guam.

When they had reached Guam several of the men had died, and Magellan himself was later killed during a fight in the Philippines.

After Magellan was killed, his crew continued, and eventually reached Spain.

Only 19 people survived the entire journey.

The sailors who survived the entire journey were the first to circumnavigate the world. One of these men was Antonio Pigafetta.

