THE NAO VICTORIA EXPERIENCE

In the Nao Victoria Experience, visitors gain access to the replica of the Nao Victoria, the most famous ship in navigation history, to experience with all five senses the life aboard this type of Spanish ships, in which the Spaniards navigators sailed around the world discovering continents, islands and routes.

Moreover, it shows the historical context of the first sailing around the world as well as of the main maritime exploration of the Modern Age. Visitors discover the difficulties that man faced in his search of ocean knowledge, as well as the great efforts made to discover transoceanic routes, until finally circling the world and uniting the planet.

But the replica of the Nao Victoria is not empty. Not only a work of art in naval carpentry, this vessel has got her history as, during 2004-2006, 20 young men manned her around the world, becoming the first historical replica of a ship to circumnavigate the Earth. Visitors can learn onboard about the experience of these young men, who sailed during two years the same way the discoverers did five centuries ago.
On September 8th, 1522, eighteen men culminated the greatest exploit in navigation history under the rule of Captain Juan Sebastian Elcano, aboard the Spanish ship named nao Victoria: the first sailing around the world. After more than three years sailing and suffering, these men were the first to sail the largest oceans in the world and made known the actual dimension of the globe.

The expedition, composed by 5 naos and 243 crew members, left Seville, Spain, on August 10th, 1519, under the command of Ferdinand Magellan. The “Spice Route Armada”, as it was known, was funded by the Spanish crown. It aimed at opening a route by sailing west to the Spice Islands, the Moluccas (Indonesia).

For three years, the expedition crossed three oceans, toured the South American coast of the Atlantic along Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina until eventually discovering the Strait of Magellan. They crossed the immense Pacific Ocean, discovering islands and archipelagos, finally reaching the Philippines and the Moluccas. The only surviving ship, the Nao Victoria, made the way back captained by Juan Sebastian Elcano. Sailing across the Indian Ocean, they reached the African continent, rounded it and sailed north to Spain. Finally, on September 8th, 1522, eighteen men arrived in Seville aboard the Nao Victoria, culminating the greatest feat in the history of navigation of all time: the First Circumnavigation of the Globe.

SAILING AROUND THE WORLD. 2004/2006

In 2004, this replica of the Nao Victoria set out to emulate the first round-the-world navigation, with the purpose of disseminating the contribution of Spanish navigators to the discoveries.

She sailed off from Seville with a crew of 20 men, and from 2004 to 2006 she covered up to 26,894 nautical miles while visiting 17 countries in 5 continents, becoming the first historical replica of a ship to circumnavigate the Earth.

It was a unique, unrepeatable approximation to the History of Discoveries, which allowed to know how was life and suffering for those men aboard the naos, what they felt when sailing into the unknown, which were their fears and emotions, how they faced the night or the storms and how their ships were.