

# MAPS AND THE FIRST VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD

THE EXPEDITION OF  
MAGALLANES AND ELCANO

## Opening hours:

Monday- Saturday: 10 h -18 h

Sunday: 9 h - 15 h

**Guided tour** (on Mondays):

[museodesantacruz@jccm.es](mailto:museodesantacruz@jccm.es)

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NIPO online: 198-26-031-1

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## Museo de Santa Cruz

Temporary exhibitions room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

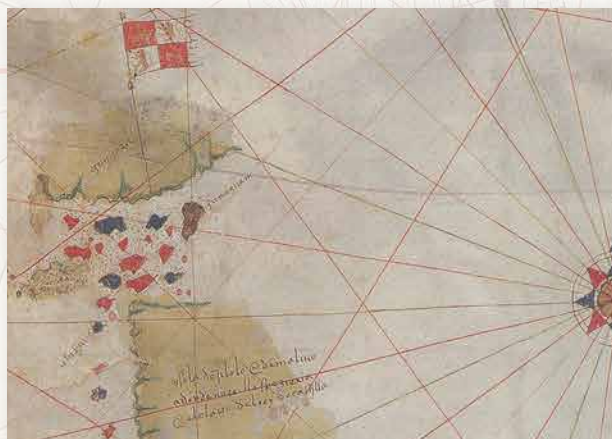
C/ Cervantes 3

45001 - Toledo

From 14 May to 18 October 2026



**T**he first circumnavigation of the globe, which began in 1519 and concluded in 1522, is the greatest feat of exploration in history, comparable to more recent milestones such as the landing on the Moon. This Spanish expedition was spearheaded and led by the Portuguese-born Ferdinand Magellan, who had emigrated to Spain, and commanded on the return voyage to Seville by Juan Sebastián Elcano, a native of Guetaria (Guipúzcoa, Spain), after their captain-general had been killed in combat in the Philippines. In addition to opening a western route to the economic wealth of the Maluku or Molucca Islands “where the cloves and spices of the King of Castile originate” – as a legend on the 1526 map by Giovanni Vespucci from 1526 – the first circumnavigation of the globe definitively proved “the roundness of the world,” in the words of Elcano himself in his letter to Emperor Charles I.



*Detail of the Spice Islands (Moluccas) in The Padrón Real (Royal Patron) of Giovanni Vespucci*

**T**his exhibition takes visitors on a cartographic journey through the most interesting aspects of the voyage: its background, preparations, course, and consequences. Starting with the geographical concepts of the ancients, we will explore the unexpected discovery of the American continent, the Treaty of Tordesillas by which Spain and Portugal divided up the world, the cartographic espionage between the two, the spice trade as the true objective of the expedition, and the first maps of the Strait of Magellan and the Moluccas, all set against the backdrop of 16th-century Spain.



*View of Seville (1588)*

**A**mong the items on display are original atlas, maps and views of cities from that era, as well as highly accurate facsimile reproductions of nautical charts, maps, globes, and historical documents related to the expedition, all of which are of great interest in commemorating such an incredible feat.



*Map of the Strait of Magellan (1640)*

## CARTOGRAPHIC ONLINE RESOURCES

**M**ost of the items in the exhibition belong to the cartographic and documentary collections of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional, and their details can be accessed via our online catalogue:

[www.ign.es/web/biblioteca\\_cartoteca](http://www.ign.es/web/biblioteca_cartoteca)

Full details of the exhibition and its contents are available at:

[www.ign.es/web/ign/portal/ic-salas-exposiciones](http://www.ign.es/web/ign/portal/ic-salas-exposiciones)

