



Discover Early America with Christopher Columbus

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Why should you be part of this once-in-a-lifetime journey?

You should want to be a part of this journey because you will see history as it happens. It is not every day that a can go back in time to see such a historical event. Be a voice for Christ and spread his word to the native people. Columbus was the first to land in the Caribbean and was known to treat the indigenous people harshly. According to historians, on his first day in the New World, Columbus ordered the seizure of three indigenous people to use as servants ("Why Columbus Day Courts controversy"). You can be the voice of reason, spread the teachings of Christ not just with the Gospel but with action. Show the indigenous people what it means to be a Christian and what it means to live by faith.

Expectations

You should expect to endure a long journey on the sea, which will see many hardships on a cramped ship. There will be cultural differences that you will have to navigate with the indigenous populations and the sailors themselves. As a Christian missionary, sharing the word of God and spreading his teachings to the indigenous peoples and the crew is expected.

Suggestions for a smooth trip

Food and water will be scarce, so pack some extra snacks and water for when the supplies get short. If you get seasick, please bring something to help keep your lunch down. Bring any tools that could aid in hunting, fishing, and exploring with the settlers. Bring suitable containers that will assist in keeping your food as fresh as possible. There are reports that much of the food had worms and larvae in it ("The Ships Of Christopher Columbus Were Sleek, Fast—And Cramped"). Bring bags lined with plastic so that all of your belongings do not get wet; you can bring long john clothes to keep you warm and any other garments that can save you dry on the ship. Another helpful item that you can get will be wet wipes to keep up with your hygiene to keep foul smells and diseases away. The trip will be difficult, so anything you can bring to ease the harsh environment will be significant.

What should you watch out for?

One of the biggest things to remember is that you are in a time and place that is very different than what you left. People treat others that are different than them in ways that are not accepted today. You may experience things you thought you never would, so be prepared to encounter such behavior.

You should also expect to encounter animals such as snakes along the shoreline that could be venomous. There could also be other dangerous animals you meet, so you must be careful when you are out and about with other settlers and the indigenous peoples. Some sharks call the ocean home, so if you are on the beach fishing or diving for pearls, be sure to take extreme care while in the ocean.

How should you approach Christopher Columbus and his crew?

Christopher Columbus was a devout Christian, so approaching him with the teachings of Christ would be a great start. Using scripture would be a great way to find common ground with Columbus so that you will gain his trust and confidence. Continue to use the word of God as to why they should treat the natives with dignity and respect. Using the Parable of the Good Samaritan, teaching that you should, love thy neighbor as you love yourself (Luke 10:27). Try getting across to Columbus and his crew that it is far more beneficial to work with the natives rather than treat them as slaves or people to be used for personal gain. Get them to understand how much we can learn from the natives if we treat them as equals.



Brief History of Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. He was a lifelong sailor; he went out to sea as a young boy and became an experienced sailor. Columbus would move to Portugal, where he would start to seek support for his journey west. He would finally receive support from the King and Queen of Spain, who would finance his voyages to the New World in hopes that he would bring back gold and riches with him ("Christopher Columbus"). The whole point of Columbus' trip was to find a way to China and India by going west instead of the usual route around the Horn of Africa. Although Columbus could not make it to India, he was able to find new lands that today are the Bahamas. He would also go the present-day Haiti and Cuba during his voyage. Columbus was also a devout Christian and believed that it was part of his mission to spread the word of God to the natives (Smith). Columbus would make four journeys total to the new land in the name of the Spanish King and Queen. Columbus's voyage would start a new age of exploration that would lead to North America and other lands colonized.

How can you make a difference?

As a member of this journey, you have the opportunity to witness history as it is happening. With that said, you also have the benefit of knowing the outcome of such an arduous journey. We must start treating each other with dignity and respect from the time of discovery. We can also share our knowledge with the natives with them reciprocating in kind. Sharing our understanding of how to combat disease with medicines and proper hygiene would give the native people a leg up and prevent death from the common cold. We have the opportunity to change things for the better and spread the word of Christ. If you decide to join us on the fantastic journey of discovery, you will be a part of history that changed how people viewed the world.

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