

Primary Source 1

The Genoese Pilot's Account of Magellan's Voyage

On August 10, 1519, Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Spain on a voyage around the world. The following is from an account by a sailor who took part in Magellan's expedition. In his account, the sailor sometimes refers to Magellan as "the Captain-major."

A Sailor's Account

They navigated from this island of St. Matthew along the coast until they reached another bay, where they caught many sea-wolves and birds; to this they gave the name of "Bay of Labors;" it is in thirty-seven degrees; here they were near losing the flag-ship in a storm. Thence they navigated along the said coast, and arrived on the last day of March of the year 1520 at the Port of St. Julian, which is in forty-nine and one-third degrees, and here they wintered, and found the day a little more or less than seven hours.



Image credit: Buel, J. W. *Around the World with Great Voyages*. 1892. The Columbia Syndicate, Philadelphia, PA.

The killing of Mendoza

In this port, three of the ships rose up against the Captain-major, their captains saying that they intended to take him to Castile in arrest, as he was taking them all to destruction. Here, through the exertions of the said Captain-major, and the assistance and favor of the foreigners whom he carried with him, the Captain-major went to the said three ships which were already mentioned, and there the captain of one of them was killed, who was treasurer of the whole fleet, and named Luis de Mendoza; he was killed in his own ship by stabs with a dagger by the chief constable of the fleet, who was sent to do this by Fernando de Magelhaes [i.e., Magellan] in a boat with certain men. The said three ships having thus been recovered, five days later Fernando de Magelhaes ordered Gaspar de Queixada to be decapitated and quartered; he was captain of one of the ships, and was one of those who had mutinied.

Pigafetta, Antonio, Baron Henry Edward, and John Stanley Stanley. The First voyage round the world, by Magellan. Oxford University: Haluyt Society, 1874.

