ROUTES OF CALIFORNIA EXPLORERS



EXPLORATIONS IN EARLY CALIFORNIA

1492	COLUMBUS searched for routes from Spain to Asia. Instead, he landed in San Salvador, West Indies.
1500	
1519	MAGELLAN attempted to find a passage through South America. He sailed around tip of South America (through the "Straits of Magellan") and on to the Philippines where he was killed. His ship sailed back to Spain—the first ship to sail around the world. Trade began between Spain and the Philippines. (See Manila Galleons, pg. 23.)
1535	CORTES searched for gold north from Mexico and found Baja California.
1536	CABEZA DE VACA led a land expedition from Florida to Mexico. Indians told of treasure in the north.
1539	ULLOA led three ships looking for gold and passage to Atlantic Ocean (the mythical Straits of Anion) instead discovered that Baja California was a peninsula, not an island.
1542	CABRILLO landed in San Diego Bay, the first European to reach Alta California. After his death, his crew continued up the Oregon coast looking for a passage to the Atlantic.
1565	MANILA GALLEONS sailed back to Mexico from the Philippines via Northern California to catch the favorable trade winds.
1578	CERMENO searched for a harbor in Alta California and crashed in Drakes Bay.
1579	DRAKE sailed up the California coast.
1600 •	•••••
1602	VISCAINO led an exploration party to find harbors for Spanish Galleons. Along the way he named San Diego Bay, Santa Catalina Island, Santa Barbara Channel and located a suitable harbor in Monterey Bay.
1602-1768	No explorations occured in Alta California
1700	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
1768	GALVEZ sent missionaries and soldiers to Alta California to discover a land route in order to build Missions.
1769	PORTOLA AND FATHER SERRA founded missions and established a land route. They founded the city of San Diego, arrived at Monterey Bay and discovered San Francisco Bay.
1770	FATHER SERRA continued to establish missions in Alta California and wanted families to settle the land.
1774	ANZA led settlers from Sonora Mexico across deserts and mountains to San Gabriel Mission. He founded the Presidio at San Francisco.
1776-1781	The cities of San Francisco, San Jose and Los Angeles were founded.