

From past glory to present times.

The Conquistadors

Conquistadors, which means conquerors, were soldiers, explorers and adventurers at the service of the Portuguese empire. “conquistador” comes from the Reconquista that took place in 1492. The Reconquista consisted in the re-conquering of the Iberian Peninsula. The Portuguese colonized a large part of the world from the 15th to 17th century for both Portugal and Spain. The most renowned discovery is Christopher Columbus’s: the New World (1492). Ferdinand Magellan discovered the Philippines in 1521. He was the first man to travel all over the world. All conquistadors had Iberian or European origins. Catholic clergy was used during the different con-

quests for political responsibility. They were teachers or interpreters too. It was a way of prestige and out of poverty. Not all Conquistadors were Christian. Spanish women didn’t have the right to travel to the New World if they were not married and accompanied by their husband. A lot of young European men joined the army because it

was a way out of poverty: all conquistadors were looking for prestige and money. The two most famous conquistadors were Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro they conquered the Aztec and the Incan Empire. During the 1650s, troops were mercenaries. After the 17th century, states invested in permanent troops.

Ferdinand Magellan

Ferdinand Magellan was born in 1480 and he died April 27th, 1521. He undertook the first expedition that linked the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. This endeavour lasted from 1519 to 1522. It was the first circumnavigation of the Earth. Magellan did not finish the entire travel, because he was killed during the Battle of Mactan (in the Philippines). During this travel, he also gave his name to

the Magellanic Penguin. The fleet provided by King Charles V for the travel included five ships. 237 men from several nations were members of the crews. Merely one ship out of five returned to the harbour of departure and only 18 men out of the original 237 men were on board. All the other were dead because of different battles or health problems during the travel.



The Algarve

You are on holidays, you are a tourist or you want to move to a paradisiacal place but not far from the civilization? The region of Algarve is made for you! The Algarve is the region situated in the south of Portugal and is one of the favourite destinations of vacationers. It’s a region where you can do, and especially see an infinity of beautiful things. There are many tourist places in the Algarve: Roman monuments or sites, like the Cerro da Vila’s Roman ruins, an old Roman villa. There are a lot of castles and bulwarks in Algarve which were built by the Moors (The Moors were inhabitants of Morocco), like for example the cas-

tle of Silves or the castle of Aljezur. You can also see the fortress of Sagres, situated on heights of Saint Vincent Cap. There are many museums in this region of Portugal: the Naval museum, the museum of archaeology, but also the museum of wine or art. If you are not interested by archaeological sites or museums, there are a lots of beaches (about 150

beaches like Cabanas and Tavira beaches), nightclubs, golf clubs, places made for escapades of all kinds or places where you will discover majestic and magnificent landscapes, and so many other things that you can discover when you will be there!

