The Cape of Good Hope was discovered by Bartolomeu Dias, a Portuguese navigator, in 1488. This was a significant achievement as it provided a new route to the Spice Islands and the East. The voyage was part of the Age of Discovery, a period characterized by the expansion of European influence and the exploration of new lands.

The Cabrillo Expedition

Cabrillo's expedition was significant because it was one of the earliest European explorations of the West Coast of North America. Cabrillo's voyage was a part of the Spanish Empire's efforts to expand its territory and to assert its presence in the Americas.

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From the tower of the rehabilitated old lighthouse, visitors behold one of the great seascapes of the world: An inspiring scene comprising the ocean, bays, islands, mountains, foothills, valleys, and plains which surround the city of San Diego.

Also to be seen from the light tower is Bal­last Point, where Cabrillo probably landed, and where Sebastian Vizcaino, who applied the name of San Diego to the bay, is generally believed to have held Holy Mass when he visited the bay in November 1602. On this spit of land extending from Point Loma into San Diego Bay was also situated Fort Guijarros, a coastal defense of Spanish and Mexican California. Today the site is occupied by part of Fort Rosecrans Military Reservation.

About Your Visit
Cabrillo National Monument is near the southern tip of Point Loma, that arm of land forming the west side of San Diego Bay. It is 10 miles from downtown San Diego, and can be reached by following Pacific Boulevard (U.S. 101) to the highway junction at the U.S. Marine Corps Base, from which a well-marked road leads to the monument.

The area is open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Since the monument is within a military reservation, all visitors must be out of the reservation by 6 p.m.

Administration
Cabrillo National Monument, established on October 14, 1913, and containing about 81 acres, is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this monument is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of the people.

A superintendent, whose address is Box 6173, San Diego, Calif., 92106, is in immediate charge of the monument.

America's Natural Resources
Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America’s Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation’s water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.


CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT CALIFORNIA

Cover: Detail of Andre Homen’s Planisphere of 1559.

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