

West African explorers

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Early Explorers of Africa

Replica of the Boa Esperança, image by Hernâni Viegas, Lagos, Portugal, 2013.

Launching the Portuguese Slave Trade in Africa · African Laborers for a New Empire: Iberia, Slavery, and the Atlantic World · Lowcountry Digital History Initiative

Although Portuguese, Magellan was funded by rival Spain in his quest to open new spice routes. These vessels could be found navigating the Nile and Niger rivers. Despite accomplishments during the Age of Discovery, little was known about the vast continent.

Richard Lemon Lander: Explorer of West Africa

Add to that the fact that crossing the Sahara would have been no easy task when obstacles such as the hot and dusty environment, the thousands of miles of dust, sand and high winds existed. Though São Tomé became an important sugar producer, the island also collected slaves for trans-shipment to Elmina, many of whom would be sold to local merchants and used to transport gold from the interior. These boats are usually six to eight feet across and about fifty feet long.

The Reception of African Art in the West

African ships often crossed these large lakes to get from place to place and traded with other African civilizations along the way.

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