

Return to Titanic

On 15 April 1912 the largest passenger steamship ever built hit an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic Ocean. *Titanic* had left Southampton, England, five days earlier and was on her first voyage.

In 1985, the explorer Dr Robert Ballard found the wreck of *Titanic*. He went back to *Titanic* nineteen years later to see how it had changed.

1. It was during the Cold War. I was on a secret mission when we found *Titanic*. The US Navy had agreed to pay for our new underwater video technology. In return we had agreed to use technology to look for two submarines which had disappeared in the 1960s.

2. Not at first because many ships had sunk in that area. When we realized it was *Titanic*, we jumped for joy. Then we realized we were celebrating something where people had died.

3. I saw champagne bottles with the corks still in. The box holding the bottles had disappeared long ago. Suddenly, I noticed a woman's shoe. Nearby, I saw a pair of smaller shoes - perhaps they belonged to a child. I felt that the people who had died here in 1912 were speaking to me again. But I knew that other people had been there since my first visit. Hollywood filmmaker James Cameron had been there. A New York couple had even got married. I was disappointed. It was exactly what I didn't want to happen. I'd asked people to treat *Titanic's* remains with respect. The story of *Titanic* is not about the ship, it's about the people.

See the whole story on the National Geographic Channel *Titanic: The Final Secret*.

Read the interview with the man who discovered the wreck of *Titanic*. Match the question with the paragraphs. There are some questions which are not mentioned. -

1. Did you know you were looking at *Titanic* when you saw the first pieces of debris?
2. How did you discover *Titanic*?
3. How long did it take to locate *Titanic*?
4. Tell me about the experience of seeing *Titanic* again in 2004.
5. When did you find out about how *Titanic* sank?