

Return to the Titanic



One of our reporters had the opportunity to interview who discovered the wrecks of *Titanic*. Listen and match the questions with the paragraphs.



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?

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 in 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 the 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'd belonged to a child. I felt that 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*.