San Salvador 1542

The Ship
A 200 ton galleon built by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo on the Pacific coast of Guatemala in 1539, now brought to life as an historically accurate replica vessel.

The Voyage
San Salvador, flagship of an expedition under the command of Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, set sail on a voyage for California in June 1542, intending to explore the North Pacific and eventually reach Asia.

The People
Over 170 Spaniards, Portuguese, and other Europeans, together with indigenous helpers from New Spain and Central America, as well as Africans, set out on the expedition. They met and established friendly relations with the Native American communities of coastal California.

The Legacy
San Salvador and her epic journey resulted in the first visit by Europeans to the port of San Diego and their first encounter with the original peoples of California. She symbolizes our seafaring past and our origin as a community of many races and cultures.