Personal Arms and Protective Clothing

By the time of the voyage of the San Salvador, Spanish authorities had laid down the basic arms any foot soldier was expected to carry. Soldiers embarking on the San Salvador would have carried an assortment of equipment including short-sleeved mail shirts, leather jackets, quilted gambesons, short pikes, small buckler shields, swords and daggers. Crossbows were still commonly used on the battlefield, with the matchlock arquebus becoming more popular as the century wore on.

**Weapons**

1a: 54 inch two-handed sword
1b: 32 inch sword
1c: Narrow-blade sword
1d: Sword belt
2: Pike
3: Halberd
4: Arquebus
5: Crossbow
6: Crossbow windlass
7: Crossbow bolt
8: Breech-loading gun

**Armor and Protection**

1a: Ox hide shield (adarga)
1b: Metal target shield
2a: Chapal de fer ("war hat")
2b: Cabada helmet
2c: Cabacete helmet
2d: Burgonada helmet
3: Burgondina (vest reinforced with metal)
4: Three-quarter plate armor

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the Soldier

Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo had himself campaigned as a crossbowman during the conquest of Mexico. By the time of the San Salvador expedition however, he had risen far beyond these ranks, to become the owner of a highly valuable warhorse. It is likely he brought one of these on board the San Salvador to use in the event of extended military operations on shore. He would have worn a costly suit of three-quarter armor, not only for protection, but also as a sign of his wealth and social standing.