



## El Galeón: A Successful Journey 500 Years in the Making

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During the months of April through July, El Galeón: The Viva Florida 500 Voyage traveled the east coast of Florida. With a crew from Spain, this replica sixteenth century vessel traveled from Palma de Mallorca in Spain to Puerto Rico and then along the east coast of Florida on a route very similar to that travelled 500 years ago by Old World explorers like Juan Ponce de León.

El Galeón docked at Miami, Cape Canaveral, Fort Lauderdale and St. Augustine. At each stop, the ship welcomed visitors who learned about the vessel and viewed an exhibit about Florida history developed by the Florida Department of State. To see images of the ship and their stay in Florida, visit the [Nao Victoria Facebook Page](#).

The visit of El Galeón was a fortunate exchange, providing Florida with a visual understanding of the instruments and engineering that brought two continents closer together five centuries ago. The ship, crew and exhibit continue to tell the story of Florida and the role that European explorers played in the development of our nation. El Galeón is now docked in New York City until August 22. Then, either at the end of this year or in the early part of spring of 2014 El Galeón will return to St. Augustine. The ship's owners, the Fundación Nao Victoria in Spain, have signed a contract stating that St. Augustine will be the North American homeport for El Galeón at least through 2015.



*Photo by Alejandro Mallado Erbez,  
Fundación Nao Victoria*

The visit of El Galeón was made possible by VISIT FLORIDA, The Florida Department of State, Greater Miami Convention and Visitor's Bureau, National Air Sea and Space Foundation, Space Coast Office of Tourism, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau, St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra and the Beaches Visitor and Convention Bureau, The City of St. Augustine and the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Federal Commission.