

# European Discovery and Exploration of Australia: The Complete History

The European discovery and exploration of Australia is a fascinating and complex story that spans several centuries. From the first Portuguese sightings in the 16th century to the British colonization in the 18th century, European explorers played a major role in shaping the history of this vast continent.



## Navigating by the Southern Cross: A History of the European Discovery and Exploration of Australia

by Marita Woywod Crandle

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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## Early Portuguese Explorations

The first Europeans to sight Australia were Portuguese explorers in the early 16th century. In 1524, a Portuguese expedition led by Cristóvão de Mendonça landed on the coast of Western Australia and claimed the land for the Portuguese crown. However, they did not establish any permanent settlements and left the continent largely unexplored.

## **Dutch Explorations**

In the 17th century, the Dutch began to explore the coast of Australia. In 1606, a Dutch expedition led by Willem Janszoon landed on the coast of Western Australia and named it New Holland. The Dutch also explored the coast of Northern Australia and New Guinea.

## **British Explorations**

The British began to explore Australia in the late 18th century. In 1770, a British expedition led by James Cook landed on the coast of eastern Australia and claimed the land for the British crown. Cook named the continent New South Wales.



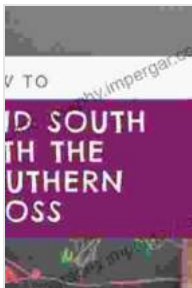
In the years that followed, British explorers continued to explore the coast of Australia. In 1798, a British expedition led by Matthew Flinders circumnavigated the continent and proved that it was a single landmass. In 1803, a British expedition led by George Vancouver explored the coast of Western Australia.

### **The Impact of European Exploration**

The European discovery and exploration of Australia had a profound impact on the indigenous population and the environment. The arrival of Europeans brought new diseases, which decimated the indigenous population. European explorers also introduced new plants and animals to the continent, which had a negative impact on the native ecosystem.

Despite the negative impacts of European exploration, it also led to some positive developments. The arrival of Europeans brought new technologies and ideas to Australia, which helped to improve the lives of the indigenous population. European exploration also led to the establishment of new settlements and the development of new industries.

The European discovery and exploration of Australia is a complex and fascinating story that has had a lasting impact on the continent. From the first Portuguese sightings in the 16th century to the British colonization in the 18th century, European explorers played a major role in shaping the history of this vast continent.



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