



A HISTORY DIVE

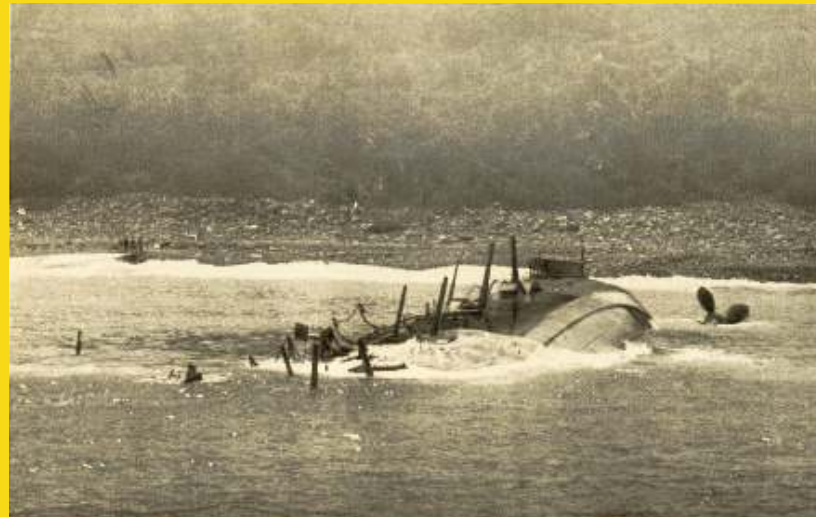


SANTIAGO DE CUBA, A HISTORY DIVE

Christopher Columbus became the symbol of a new era and his arrival in America meant the emerging engine of a great empire, in whose frontiers rise up the sun.

The loss of the battleship cruise Christopher Columbus would determine the defeat of a fleet, and would close a chapter of more than 400 years.

"Santiago de Cuba, diving in history" is a real archeological park of the underwater cultural heritage in the flotsams of the Cuban-American War of 1898.



1898, W.R Hearst, sinking of the Armored Cruise Christopher Columbus

In the lethargy of more than 112 years it seems to rest sleeping in a channel of sand, silt and alluvium mud which fatigued giant with a coloring shelters polichrome of tons of coralline polyps, gorgóneas and esporangios, like I move witness of the disaster... the one that was a magnificent exponent of the Garibaldi's stock. Who had imagined that the Armored Cruise Christopher Columbus, that beautiful and powerful prototype of the armada, pride of the crown and the Spanish admiralty, would have already marked his fatal and premature destination in the Guerra Hispanica Cuban North American 1898.

Bounced to the water in the navy of Sestri Ponenti, of Ansaldo, in Genoa, September of 1896, 16 would succumb later two years, under the apparent superiority of the North American Squad, the incredible folly and the absurd pride of who you/they decided their tragic and sterile from the Iberian Peninsula final... Coincidences of the history, with the Columbus collapsed in the blues and crystalline waters of the Caribbean, more than four centuries of Spanish presence in the America that conquered and it put to the feet of The Crown the great Genoese admiral, Christopher Columbus. To few miles of him, along the oriental south coast of Cuba, they are the other jetsams of the squad commanded by the Vice-admiral Juan Pascual Cervera and Collide you.

Many historians coincide in highlighting that the conflict political military among Spain and United States of America was the event more important internacional of final of the XIX century, because it not only modified the course of the history of Philippines, Rich Port, Cuba, and Spain; but rather it also began to change the world geopolitical scenario. United States, opened like a new power and he/she began to have a significant influence in the destinations of the world.

The beaches "The Mule" in Ocuja of the Turquino, "Juan González", "Bueycabón", "Ranch Cruz", "Green Sea" and the own bay santiaguera constitutes true archaeological places in those that



Jetsam Armored Cruise Christopher Columbus



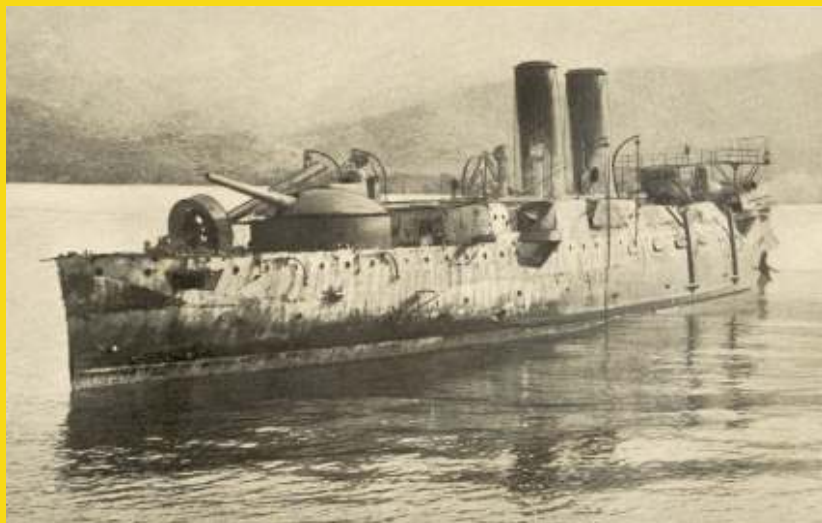
Jetsam Armored Cruise Christopher Columbus

they lie with different conservation grades, and collapsed by the time and the history the remains of what was the one feared Squad of Operations of the Antilles: the Armored Cruises "Christopher Columbus", "Admiral Oquendo" and "Biscay"; the destroyers "Furor" and "Pluto", and in a singular way the North American "Merrimac", coal merchant used exactly one month before the combat like main element of a plan concocted to obstruct with their sinking the channel of exit of the bay santiaguera. Today it constitutes an exceptional opportunity for the technical diving.

It is singular also that the element that unchains the conflict, or at least the main reason that justified it to the public light, was the sinking of a ship, in this case the mysterious explosion of the Maine in the Havanan bay February 15 1898. Different opinions and discrepancies still exist for the origin and the causes of the catastrophe, I didn't seize with the evident consent that it was, in fact, manipulated by the press of the time and the politicians of the belligerent parts.

It is a true privilege to enjoy today of the immersions in these jetsams located in an environment of spectacular beauty, in which the Sierra Teacher mountain range enters in the Caribbean in an abrupt and irregular way, slanted by canyons and beds of rivers and estuaries that extend in upholstered deltas of smooth songs and low areas that form humedales covered with swamps to the ensenachos coat and virgin creeks: ecosystems that sustain an incredible biological diversity.

When diving in the plot of the jarcias and ironworks of the arboladuras, masts with their cofas, boilers that teach their fluceria discovered by the action of the sea and the bleakness, canyons and ammunition of different calibers denote the origin of these machines designed for the combat immediately, and they surprise us from emotion when thinking that next to these sunken remains they perished more than 300 officials and Spanish marines, forced to the sacrifice and a real one



1898, W. R. Hearst, Armored Cruise Biscay after the battle



Jetsam Armored Cruise Biscay

suicide, for supposedly to save the honor of the Spanish empire, and to justify the loss of the war before a powerful enemy.

The scenarios of the historical conflict today they rise unharmed in Santiago from Cuba. The beaches "Siboney" and "Daiquiri", for where the North American troops disembarked; "Sawmill", where it is outlined the Cuban strategy that would allow Shafter and Sampson to take the city; "The Guásimas", where you combatted so crudely; or the "Strong of the Slip", those "Hills of the Boiler" and "San Juan", combined monumentario, this last one, in which the soldier's unknown mambí remains rest and he/she surrenders homage to the soldiers of the three belligerent armies.

In those dramatic days of the history, the world wakes up every morning I attempt when happening of Santiago from Cuba. Dozens of correspondents in the scenarios of the conflict; cartoons, pictures and big regular, printings on board, evening editions of the big newspapers, and two magnates generate a new form of making journalism, able to build the news and to influence in the events. The setting in scene of a battle mediática that accompanies to the wars of the present.

Today, under the shade of a slender and Creole ceiba in San Juan, surrounded by a trench of rifles Máuser, with their soaked bayonets and escorted by thick brass canyons, gigantic books highlight to relief the names of the wounded and fallen soldiers in combat. In front of the "Tree of the Peace" or rather of the capitulation, on marble columns he/she rises energetic before the bewilderment, the Cuban general's airy letter Calixto García Iñiguez... for this time, to the mambises, they were prevented to enter to the heroic Santiago.

It is a privilege, to know the history through these jetsams, exceptional witness of those events, and to decipher the language that you/they bequeath us, a treasure of the Cultural Patrimony Subacuático, in which the right of the future generations is conserved of penetrating in a transcendent page of the universal history.



1898, W. R. Hearst, Cruise Armored Admiral Oquendo after the battle



Remains of the Cruise Armored Admiral Oquendo

Program

Days 1 and 2

Day 1

Arrival to Havana. Accommodation in local hotel (Occidental hotel)

Delivery of didactic materials

Day 2

Welcome meeting at the hotel. Conference by a specialist in Cuban-American-Spanish War. Delivery of identifications for this cultural trail

City tour: Maine Monument, historical center, Malecon (pointing Maine sink site).

Visit to Morro Castle and La Cabaña Fortress, part of the area declared World Heritage by UNESCO. Visit to General Captains Museum at the Arms Square.

Visit to the other squares of the Historical Center, snack included in one of them.

Lunch at local restaurant (Floridita restaurant or La Piña de Plata restaurant). Visit to the Revolution Museum (Mainly War of 1898 halls).

Transfer to the airport. Flight to Santiago de Cuba or Holguín.

Transfers and arrival to Santiago de Cuba city.

Accommodation in local hotel (Melia Santiago hotel, Versailles hotel or San Juan hotel)

Dinner at the hotel. Free night

THE ACCOMPANIST WILL DO ENTIRE DAY PROGRAM AS THE DIVER



Program

Day 3

Day 3

Welcome meeting in a prepared hall in Melia Santiago hotel, with ships maquettes and projection machine

Conference from an specialist of Conservation Bureau about Spanish-Cuban-American War and the underwater heritage of the coast of Santiago de Cuba city.

Visit with an specialist to some of the places of Santiago city where this war took place.

Visit to monumental Site San Juan hills. Each member of the group will leave a flower in Unknown Mambi Soldier Grave. Visit to the Spanish-Cuban-American War Museum.

Visit to San Pedro de la Roca Fortress. The specialist will bring an explanation in the naval combat hall.

Lunch in Marina Punta Gorda and departure by sea to the flotsams'98 area.

Diving in Oquendo ship and snorkeling for the accompanist

Time to enjoy the sunset

Return to the hotel. Dinner

Free night.



Program

Day 4

Day 4

Briefing about the American ship Merrimac and characteristics and conditions of diving.

Departure to Marina Marlin in Punta Gorda, tour by Santiago bay, visit to Cayo Granma and seafood lunch.

Diving schedule in Merrimac ship, located inside of the bay, depends on high tide (it could be in the morning or in the afternoon) and environmental conditions in the bay in order to have the largest visibility for this technical diving.

Visit to Emilio Bacardi Museum

Return to the hotel

Resting

Before dinner, briefing about Destroyer Plutón and Furor flotsams.

Dinner at the hotel.

Free night.

The accompanist will do entire day program altogether, except Merrimac ship diving.



Program

Days 5 and 6

Day 5

Diving in Remains of torpedos chaser of West Indies Operation Fleet.

Departure by sea from international Marina Punta Gorda to the coast of Santiago city

All day diving, with diving instructors from Marlin Marina and the specialist in the subject.

Diving in the FLOTSAMS: torpedo chaser Pluton and the second diving in the Torpedo chaser Furor

Snack on the boat.

Return to the marina. Lunch at El Morro restaurant.

In the afternoon, city tour: starting by the maquette of the city, joined by specialists from conservation bureau. At the end of the tour, time to enjoy a drink at La Barrita del Caney.

Departure by road to Sierra Mar hotel

Check in and dinner at the hotel

Conference about diving area of flotsam battleship cruise "Vizcaya".

THIS DAY, IN THE MORNING, THE ACCOMPANIST WILL VISIT "LA GRAN PIEDRA" AND "LA ISABELICA". THEY WILL JOIN DIVERS DURING LUNCH AT EL MORRO.



Day 6

Departure from the Marina of the Sierra Mar hotel to Aserradero, where Vizcaya ship is located. There, first diving of the day.

Lunch at cayo Damas, where divers will join accompanists who would return back from catamaran excursion.

In the afternoon, the second diving in coral reefs of the diving area of the Sierra Mar hotel

Return to the hotel.

Dinner and last briefing of the program: battleship cruise Christopher Columbus.

Program

Day 7

Day 7

Departure by road from the hotel to "La Mula". Transfer to the floatsam C. Columbus.

Diving. Snack on the boat.

For accompanists, swimming day in La Mula river, next to Turquino peak, the highest Mountain of Cuba.

Return to Sierra Mar hotel.

Lunch and check out

Departure to Santiago de Cuba city, to visit the monumental site San Juan hills, specially the Tree of Peace, where surrender of the city took place during the war in 1898. Specialists will explain these dramatic facts, about the negotiation and the actions of each one of the 3 arms during these crucial events.

Delivery of diplomas from Cubatur Agency and the Conservation Bureau to each client for the accomplishment of this Cultural Trail in the floatsams of the war of 1898 in Santiago de Cuba city, fulfilling all the standards for the world heritage preservation.

Dinner at the hotel

Party last night at Casa de la Trova.



GENERAL CONDITIONS

Basic program for divers with or without accompanist, including a Cubatur guide, specialized in this program.

- Accomodation in 5, 4 or 3 stars hotels in half pension
- Minimum required from 10 to 15 persons
- Departures every 15 days, with steady days from 1st September
- Additional departures without supplement prices will be available in case of some groups of divers interested in this program (minimum: 8 persons), otherwise supplement prices will be fixed
- Promotional price for the starting program, Season 2010/2011
- Signing and fulfilling of diving regulations for the areas of the flotsams 1898 in the bay and the coast of Santiago de Cuba, due to its conditions of underwater heritage
- Payment of the right to film in the flotsams during diving, according to the equipment to be used. According of the amount of diversings, it will be paid as part of the package or "in situs"



specialtours@cubatur.cyt.cu

High season

22 December 2010 at the 31 of March 2011

Lowseason

1 November at December 21 2010

1 April at October 31 2011

Obligatory supplement Peak Season

24, 25 y 31.12 15.00 GBP

Supplement Has dinner of Elegance

31/12 37.00 GBP

Prices of right to filming and
photographing

Underwater photocamera: 25 CUC per
diving

Underwater videocamera: 75 CUC per diving

DAYS OF EXIT

2, 9, 16, 23 y 30 October 2010

6, 13, 20 y 27 November 2010

4, 11, 18 y 25 December 2010

1, 8, 15, 22 y 29 January 2011

5, 12, 19 y 26 February 2011

5, 12, 19 y 26 March 2011

2, 9, 16 y 23 April 2011

7, 14, 21 y 28 May 2011

4, 11, 18 y 25 June 2011

2, 9, 16, 23 y 30 July 2011

6, 13, 20 y 27 August 2011

3, 10, 17 y 24 September 2011

1, 8, 15, 22 y 29 October 2011

Net Prices in GBP

High

Low

DBL- 1104

DBL- 985

SGL- 1204

SGL- 1085