



## HMS Resolution I's journey

Voyage duration: 1772 – 1775.

A sister ship HMS *Adventure* accompanied the first voyage of HMS *Resolution* (called HMS *Resolution I* in the *Sea Chest Secret* exhibition).

HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure* were Whitby built collier ships (built to carry coal). HMS *Resolution* was smaller than HMB *Endeavour*, being 33.5 metres long and 10.7 metres wide across the beam. HMS *Resolution* carried 112 people on board, HMS *Adventure* carried 80.

Destinations: Plymouth (United Kingdom) – Cape Town (South Africa) – Antarctic Circle – Dusky Bay (New Zealand) – Tahiti – Tongan Islands – south ice pack – Easter Island – Marquesas – Tahiti – Tuamoutu Islands, Society Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu – New Caledonia – Norfolk Island – Cape Horn (South Africa– Kerugelen Island – Plymouth).

There was great rivalry between the British, French and Spanish in exploring the southern hemisphere and claiming land for their country. From the HMB *Endeavour* voyage, Cook had shown there was no predicted southern continent off the coast of Chile. However, the British government and King George III wanted to ensure that there were no land masses left 'undiscovered' and 'unclaimed' as British territory. Cook did not believe there was a mysterious southern continent (apart from Australia) and the HMS *Resolution I* voyage confirmed this.

Two Whitby colliers similar to HMB *Endeavour* were purchased and were renamed HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure*. HMS *Resolution* was smaller than HMB *Endeavour* and HMS *Adventure* was even smaller again and was used as a scout ship in difficult terrain. Almost one year after Cook had returned from the three year HMB *Endeavour* journey, HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure* set sail from Plymouth at 6.00am, 13 July 1772. Cook had been promoted to Commander and captained HMS *Resolution*, while Lieutenant Tobias Furneaux was made commander of HMS *Adventure*.

Many of the HMS *Resolution I* and HMS *Adventure* crew had already sailed on HMB *Endeavour*. The naturalists appointed on board were a father and son team - the Reinholds and astronomers Wales and Bayly (who improved the recording of longitude) and artist William Hodges. On HMB *Endeavour*, Cook and Green measured longitude by using lunar observations, which proved difficult in bad weather and on moving decks. HMS *Resolution I* was the first ship to carry a chronometer, which made longitudinal measurements far more accurate.

The two ships sailed down towards Antarctica and were the first ships to cross the Antarctic Circle on 17 January 1773. On 8 February, HMS *Resolution* and HMS *Adventure* were separated due to gales and heavy fog, but they had established an agreed rendezvous in New Zealand. On the way, HMS *Adventure* pulled into a Tasmanian bay (named Adventure Bay after the ship) for five days. Then on 18 April 1773, the two ships were reunited in New Zealand.

Together, the two ships headed for Tahiti and the Society Islands where Omai was taken aboard HMS *Adventure*. Omai travelled back to England where he became a celebrity and returned to the Pacific on HMS *Resolution II*. When the ships were sailing back towards New Zealand via Tonga, they were separated again during a gale. While harboured in New Zealand, eleven crewmembers of HMS

*Adventure* were killed while collecting wood and water. The two ships did not reunite until both had returned home to England in 1775.

