HMS Beagle Research Guide

Prepared by the ANMM Vaughn Evans Library

**HMS Beagle** is best known as the ship on which naturalist Charles Darwin sailed during 1831 to 1836. As a survey ship the *Beagle* undertook significant work in Australian waters. Find information resources on the ship, Darwin's voyage and the people who undertook it and accounts of other voyages.

**Some books from our collection to get started with your research**

**About the Beagle**


**Darwin’s voyage and it's significance**


Darwin's armada: how four voyagers to Australasia won the battle for evolution and changed the world By Iain McCalman. - Camberwell Viking, 2009. 508.0924 DAR This new publication looks at Darwin, Huxley, Hooker and Wallace and how they forged the Darwinian revolution in Australasia.

**Accounts of voyages in the Beagle**


The Beagle letters / Charles Darwin; edited by Frederick Burkhardt; with an introduction by Janet Brown Cambridge, UK; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2008. 508.0924 DAR

A narrative of the voyage of HMS Beagle: being passages from the narrative / by Captain Robert FitzRoy, R. N., together with extracts from his logs, reports and letters, additional material from the diary and letters of Charles Darwin, notes from Midshipman Philip King and letters from Second Lieutenant Bartholomew Sullivan; selected and edited by David Stanbury. London: Folio Society, 1977. RARE 910.45 FIT


Charles Darwin's The voyage of the Beagle: the journals that revealed nature's grand plan / Michael Kerrigan; photography by Wolfgang Kaehler. Glasgow: Saraband, c2005. 508.0924 DAR

Darwin in Australia


Crew of the Beagle


Official logs

The Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) contains microfilms of original logs held in UK collections. Links to the following Libraries Australia records show the items and what libraries hold copies.


Maritime archaeology

What happened to the *HMS Beagle*?

For nearly 10 years Dr Robert Prescott of the University of St Andrews has been trying to locate the remains of the *HMS Beagle* with several digs on the Essex marshes. Listen to a BBC Radio 4 podcast *Hunting the lost Beagle* (http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/darwin/beagle.shtml) about latest developments in the "Hunt for the Beagle".

Web based resources

Here are some useful Darwin and *Beagle* web based resources:

The [Works of Charles Darwin online](http://darwin-online.org.uk/) is a comprehensive and well respected website.

The [Darwin Correspondence Project](http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/) a joint UK and American academic initiative has copies of his letters online.

About Darwin (http://www.aboutdarwin.com/) is another good web site.

The [Beagle Project](http://www.thebeagleproject.com/) is a project to build a replica of the *HMS Beagle*. The [Darwin200 project](http://www.darwin200.org/) commemorates the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and his achievements. Coordinated by the Natural History Museum in the UK. The website has lots of events news and information including an interactive *Beagle* voyage. The National Archives and Learning Curve in the UK have produced a podcast geared for school audiences called *Darwin's voyage: HMS Beagle 1831-36* which can be downloaded from [http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/podcasts/podcasts.xml](http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/podcasts/podcasts.xml). This is an entertaining and fresh look at Darwin's voyage using accounts drawn from official documents such as the ships logs held at the National Archives and makes a good introduction. Visit the museums' blog (http://anmm.wordpress.com/) to see a series of posts on the building of a model of the *HMS Beagle* (http://anmm.wordpress.com/category/making-hms-beagle/), commissioned for the Museum's exhibition *Charles Darwin voyages and ideas that shook the world*. This exhibition opens on the 20 March 2009 and is showing until the 23 August 2009. [Find out more](http://www.anmm.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=2&c=2263) about the exhibition.

Basic facts about the *HMS Beagle* including length, date of build, type and fate can be found at The National Maritime Museum UK's *Beagle FAQ's* (http://www.nmm.ac.uk/explore/sea-and-ships/facts/faqs/ships-and-vessels/hms-beagle-faqs).

The [wikipedia entry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Beagle) has a concise history of the vessel and linked [wikimedia commons](http://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Category:HMS_Beagle&oldid=18013765) resources.

The [wapedia entry on The voyage of the Beagle](http://wapedia.mobi/en/The_Voyage_of_the_Beagle) has links to electronic copies of many of the original texts.