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American Cruise Lines Celebrates the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's Discovery of the Hudson River

The year 2009 officially marks the 400th anniversary of the voyage of English Captain Henry Hudson, who led the first European expedition that sailed up the river that now bears his name. In 1609, a decade before the *Mayflower* landed in New England, the Dutch East India Company commissioned Hudson to find a quick passage to China.

Traveling the Northeast coast on his ship the *Half Moon*, Hudson entered New York Bay. Thinking he found what he was looking for, he and his crew sailed as far north as present day Albany. While he realized this was not a passage to China, he did note the region's beauty, natural abundance and commercial advantages. He also traded goods with Native Americans who lived along the shore. Hudson returned to Europe without the silk, spices, and stoneware he had expected to find. Instead he carried beaver furs, and word of a land with vast resources.

Today the Hudson River maintains the majestic beauty discovered by Hudson 400 years ago and is filled with historic sites that mark the areas past 400 years of development. You can follow the path of Henry Hudson's historic journey on an American Cruise Lines Hudson River Fall Foliage Cruise. Autumn is the perfect time to explore this beautiful and historic part of our country. From the New York City harbor to the mountains of upstate, spectacular fall colors create a stunning setting for a journey along one of America's most distinctive waterways. Join American Cruise Lines in wishing the Hudson a happy 400 years!