

## Titanic

### Source 1: The Luxurious Titanic

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1 Luxurious, grandeur, spectacular...these are just a few of the adjectives you might hear if someone is talking about the R.M.S. Titanic. The Titanic was built in 1912 and is still known as one of the most luxurious ships of its time. Many times the ship has been described as a “floating palace” because it was built with the finest craftsmanship and detail, unlike any other ship before its time.



2 One of the most well-known parts of the Titanic was the grand staircase. Passengers felt honored to be able to walk upon this beautiful masterpiece. The staircase was made of polished oak, wrought iron, and a variety of boutique glass. Above the staircase, you could find a magnificent dome that gave the illusion of natural light at any time of day. At the top of the grand staircase stood a clock with detailed and intricate carved wood surrounding it. Passengers descended the grand staircase daily when they were on their way to the first-class dining room.

3 There were 10 decks on the ship. Passengers’ rooms and public areas were located on the Promenade, Bridge, Shelter, Saloon, Upper, Middle, and Lower Decks. The three remaining decks were reserved for the crew, cargo, and machinery. The highest deck of the ship was the Boat Deck. First and second class passengers were able to stroll along the deck or rest on benches. Some people also played a game similar to horseshoes, called quoits, on the Boat Deck. The ship’s lifeboats could also be found on this deck.

4 The Bridge Deck was 550 feet long and extended the whole length of the ship. It was broken up by the Forecastle and the Poop Deck. The Poop Deck was located at the stern or back of the ship. The third class passengers were allowed to stroll along this deck. This deck was not as spacious as the Boat Deck, as it was also crowded with cargo and other equipment.

5 Passengers on the Titanic were provided with amenities such as a swimming pool, Turkish baths, squash courts, and a first-class gym. This was the first time such features were included on a ship. The gym was only available to first-class passengers who had to pay one shilling (about 25 cents) to use the gym. They would pay a fee to Thomas McCawley, the gymnasium steward. While visiting the gym, passengers could use dumbbells, rowing machines, and other typical items found in a gym, as well as a mechanical horse and mechanical camel. Interestingly enough, some passengers used the rowing machines to stay warm while the Titanic was sinking and were able to get on a lifeboat and survive.

6 There were three classes of passengers on the Titanic. First-class passengers were the wealthiest passengers on the ship and had the most luxurious accommodations. They could spend their day visiting many places on the ship, including a dining saloon, reception room, restaurant, lounge, reading and writing room, smoking room, and cafés. One of the cafés was a Parisian café modeled after cafés in Paris. They



enjoyed spending their days socializing and enjoying the many sites and activities on the ship. In the evenings, they enjoyed a delicious dinner in the First-Class Dining room which spanned the full width of the ship and could seat 532 passengers at one time.

7 The accommodations for the second-class passengers could be found spread out over seven decks. The Second-Class Dining Room was an elegant room decorated with mahogany furniture and a piano to entertain the guests while they enjoyed their meal. Privacy was hard to come by in the second-class cabins. Their beds were built into the walls of the cabin, and each cabin had two to four beds per cabin. Each cabin had a washbasin and chamber pot in case anyone felt seasick. The second-class passengers used communal bathrooms instead of having a bathroom in their cabin. You may be surprised to know that the Titanic had much higher standards than other ships at that time and the treatment of second-class passengers on the Titanic was equivalent to the treatment of first-class passengers on other ships.

8 The third-class passengers on the ship were referred to as the “steerage.” There were over 1,000 third-class passengers on the ship. While the third-class areas of the ship were the least luxurious, they still had nice accommodations to enjoy their trip. The General Room was the main meeting room for the third-class passengers. The Third-Class Dining Room was located on the Middle Deck and could hold 470 guests at one time. One difficult aspect for the third-class was there were only two bathtubs to share with all 710 third-class passengers.

*“The Luxurious Titanic” written for educational purposes.*



## Source 2: Robert Ballard Finds the Titanic

9 In April 1912, the RMS Titanic was on its maiden voyage when it tragically sunk after hitting a massive iceberg in the dark Atlantic Ocean. Over 1,500 passengers lost their lives on this night. Explorers were anxious to find the shipwreck of the Titanic and learn more about the luxurious ship whose builders had claimed it was “unsinkable.”

10 Many explorers attempted to find the Titanic wreckage without much luck due to lack of technology and resources. Seventy years passed before an explorer named Robert Ballard finally succeeded in finding the Titanic. He had dreamed of finding the Titanic since he was a little boy, and with his determination and perseverance, he succeeded.

11 In 1985, while taking photographs of submarines for the US Navy, Robert Ballard had the opportunity to search for the Titanic. He only had 12 days to search for the wreckage in an area of the Atlantic Ocean that was five times the size of New York. One tool he used to search for the Titanic was sonar. Sonar is the use of sound to detect underwater objects. He also used an underwater sled called Argo to search for the ship. The underwater sled floated just above the ocean floor as it was towed behind the ship and sent pictures and video back to Robert Ballard and his crew on their search ship called The Knorr. After days of searching for the ship and only seeing mud appear on their video screen, Robert Ballard was feeling discouraged when all of a sudden he spotted one of the Titanic’s huge boilers on the bottom of the ocean floor. He had found the Titanic!

12 In 1986, Robert Ballard returned to the scene of the wreckage and used a small submarine called Alvin to travel to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean so that he could get a closer look at the Titanic. It took Ballard and his crew two and a half hours to travel to the bottom of the ocean to see the wreckage. While exploring the shipwreck, his crew used a small robot called J.J. to take pictures of the remains of the Titanic. They were surprised to see that the ship was sitting upright on the ocean floor.

13 After visiting the shipwreck for the second time, Robert Ballard left two plaques on the wreckage of the Titanic. One of the plaques was in memory of the passengers who had lost their lives on the tragic evening in 1912, and the other plaque asked any explorers who visited the shipwreck to leave it in peace and not to remove any of the artifacts. Many explorers visited the ship after Robert Ballard and did not respect his wishes. Since its discovery, many artifacts have been brought to land to be further researched and put in museums. Who would you agree with, Robert Ballard who wanted to leave the remains in peace, or the explorers who decided to put the artifacts in museums?

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