Carrack

A carrack is a commonly three-masted sailing ship popular in Mediterranean countries in the 15th century. It is characterized by a rounded stern with a high superstructure called a forecastle and a second low superstructure at the bow. The first and second masts, called the foremast and mainmast respectively, had square rigging, while the last mast, the mizzenmast, had lateen rigging. A bowsprit was located at the bow.

Carracks were the first ships in Europe suitable for long oceanic voyages, due to their size and capacity, allowing for the transportation of supplies for distant journeys. The carrying capacity of a carrack ranged from 800 to even 2000 tons, and its armament consisted of ballistae and cannons. The crew generally numbered between 100 and 200 people.

Portuguese and Spanish explorers of the 15th and 16th centuries greatly favored this type of ship. Famous carracks include the "Santa Maria" from Christopher Columbus's expedition, the "São Gabriel" of Vasco da Gama, the first ship to circumnavigate the globe, namely the "Victoria" from Magellan's expedition, as well as the "Mary Rose" of King Henry VIII and the "Peter von Danzig."

In the 16th century, the carrack was transformed into the galleon. The Northern European counterpart of the carrack is the hulk.