# TIMELINE:  The Life and Exploits of Sir Francis Drake
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## The Exploits of Sir Francis Drake   ©DrJohnFreedman

| 1543 | Born in Tavistock, Devon |
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| 1552 | Family moved to Kent to escape persecution of Protestants by Catholics |
| 1556 | Apprenticed on a merchant ship trading with France & Holland |
| 1566 | 1st voyage to Caribbean, via West Africa, on a slave-trading ship owned by John Hawkins |
| 1569 | 2nd slave-trading voyage to Caribbean, with Hawkins, ending with Spanish betrayal and attack |
| 1570-71 | The turn to piracy - gave up commercial ventures- raided Spanish ships in Caribbean |
| 1572-3 | Licensed ('privateer') raid on Nombre de Dios, Panama - taking of the silver-laden mule train |
| 1577-80 | Circumnavigation for plunder & pillage; claims 'New Albion' (N California) for England |
| 1586 | 'The Great Expedition'  - successful raids on Santo Domingo, Cartagena, St. Augustine |
| 1587 | 'Singeing the beard of King Philip' – Raid of Cádiz (and Algarve, Lisbon, Azores) |
| 1588 | Defeat of the Spanish Armada |
| 1589 | The 'English Counter-Armada' expedition -  unsuccessful attacks on Coruña and Lisbon |
| 1596 | Drake & Hawkins final expedition: raiding San Juan & Panama- unsuccessful, and both die of illness |

For a more detailed timeline of Drake and Hawkins' exploits, see:
http://timelinesandsoundtracks.blogspot.com/2017/04/francis-drake-timeline.html

**James Michener on Sir Francis Drake in Caribbean, Chapter 4, 'The Spanish Lake':**

" A short, muscular fellow of undistinguished parentage. All gristle and nerves."
"Only five feet four, of a stocky build with a bullet-like head and a jutting chin covered with a closely trimmed beard.
His dominant feature was a pair of sharp blue eyes which could flash fire."

*"This man will make the oceans quake,*
*When he comes to take*
*The Spanish Lake:*
*Sir Francis Drake! "*
-16th-century nursing rhyme

"Traveler, you who sail into the Caribbean in silvered yacht or gilded cruise ship,
pause as you enter these waters to remember that deep below rests Sir Francis Drake
who helped determine the history of this onetime Spanish Lake."