

Robert Ballard

Deep-Sea Explorer and Discoverer of the Titanic and Life at the Bottom of the Sea

Robert D. Ballard, Ph.D. is Founder and President of the Ocean Exploration Trust; Professor of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography. He is an Explorer-At-Large at the National Geographic Society, Commissioner for the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and a Research Scholar at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He served in the U.S. Navy for more than 30 years and continues to work with the Office of Naval Research.

A pioneer in the development of deep-sea submersibles and remotely operated vehicle systems, he has taken part in more than 155 deep-sea expeditions. In 1985, he discovered the RMS *Titanic*, and has succeeded in tracking down numerous other significant shipwrecks, including the German battleship *Bismarck*, the lost fleet of Guadalcanal, the U.S. aircraft carrier *Yorktown*, and John F. Kennedy's boat, *PT-109*. He has also discovered hydrothermal vents and "black smokers" in the Galapagos Rift and East Pacific Rise in 1977 and 1979.

The author of numerous books, scientific papers, and articles, he has been featured in several *National Geographic* television programs, including "Secrets of the *Titanic*" a five-part mini-series, "Alien Deep with Bob Ballard" and, in 2019, "Expedition Amelia." He was a special advisor to Steve Spielberg on the futuristic television show *seaQuest DSV*.

His honors include 22 Honorary Doctorates, *National Geographic's* highest award, the Hubbard Medal, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Medal. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2014. Dr. Ballard's autobiography, *Into the Deep*, was released Father's Day 2021 and National Geographic television special, "Bob Ballard: An Explorer's Life" aired June 14.