

BERMUDA TRIANGLE

A mysterious area in the Atlantic Ocean where paranormal events and unexplained disappearances are alleged to occur.

The Bermuda Triangle is bounded by Florida, Bermuda, and Puerto Rico. It is also called the Devil's Triangle, Limbo of the Lost, Hoodoo Sea and the Twilight Zone. Numerous planes and ships have vanished there without a trace, often in good weather or near a landing site or port. Just before disappearing, crews have made radio contact indicating that nothing was amiss. In rare instances missing ships have been found, but without their crew or passengers. It was named in 1945, after the disappearance of six Navy planes and their crews on December 5, a sunny, calm day with ideal flying conditions. Prior to that scores of ships of all sizes reportedly had vanished in the area. Strange phenomena have been reported since Christopher Columbus's voyage to America. Other phenomena witnessed in the area include bright lights or balls of fire; sudden explosive red flares in the sky; and [UFO](#) activity. Airplane crew members report sudden power failures, instrument failures, and their inability to maintain altitude. In the lore of fishermen, the Bermuda Triangle is inhabited by monsters that kidnap ships. One theory is that unusual weather conditions are responsible, other theories propose that phenomena are caused by alignments of the planets, time warps that trap ships and planes, forces emanating from the unknown ruins of [Atlantis](#), or cosmic tractor beams sent from UFOs to kidnap ships and people. Skeptics claim misleading information and sensationalist reporting have created a false mystery, adding that most disappearances can be attributed to bad weather, abandonment, or explainable accidents. They say that incidents that occur in the Triangle are automatically considered mysteries because of the legends. Analysis also suggests that the number of disappearances is about the expected average for the 250,000 square miles (647,000 sq. km) of empty ocean that form the Triangle.

In the past 100 years, the Bermuda Triangle has claimed over 1000 lives. In reality, that is only 10 a year

[1872: The Mary Celeste](#)

[1945: The disappearance of 5 Navy avengers - Flight 19](#)

1947: Army C-45 Superfort vanishes 100 miles off Bermuda.

1948: Four-engined Tudor IV lost with 31 lives.

[1948: DC-3 lost with 32 passengers and crew.](#)

1949: Second Tudor IV vanishes.

1950: Giant US Air Force Globemaster lost.

1950: American freighter, SS *Sandra* (350 ft), sinks without a trace.

1952: British York transport plane lost with 33 aboard.

1954: US Navy Lockheed Constellation vanishes with 42 aboard.

1956: US Navy seaplane, Martin p5M, disappears with crew of ten.

1962: US Air Force KB-50 tanker plane lost.

1963: *Marine Sulpher Queen* vanishes without a trace.

1967: Military YC-122, converted to cargo plane, lost.

1970: French freighter *Milton latrides* disappears.

1972: German freighter *Anita* (20,000 tons), lost with crew of 32.

[1997: Passengers disappear from German yacht.](#)

The tale of Flight 19 started on December 5th, 1945. Five Avenger torpedo bombers lifted into the air from the Naval Air Station at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, at 2:10 in the afternoon. It was a routine practice mission and the flight was composed of all students except for the Commander, a Lt. Charles Taylor.

The mission called for Taylor and his group of 13 men to fly due east 56 miles to Hens and Chicken Shoals to conduct practice bombing runs. When they had completed that objective, the flight plan called for them to fly an additional 67 miles east, then turn north for 73 miles and finally straight back to base, a distance of 120 miles. This course would take them on a triangular path over the sea.

About an hour and a half after the flight had left, a Lt. Robert Cox picked up a radio transmission from Taylor. Taylor indicated that his compasses were not working, but he believed himself to be somewhere over the Florida Keys (the Keys are a long chain of islands south of the Florida mainland). Cox urged him to fly north, toward Miami, if Taylor was sure the flight was over the Keys.

It is almost impossible for a pilot to get lost if he has the right equipment and uses it properly.