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Dominican authorities to show Columbus' "remains"

SANTO DOMINGO. - Christopher Columbus' supposed remains, which are kept in a coffer in this capital's Columbus Lighthouse, will be on public showing on Thursday, as it has been done since 1992 to mark Hispanic Day.

The Columbus Lighthouse, a huge cross-shaped mausoleum built in honor of the Discoverer, has been conducting a series of activities since October 1, which will conclude on the 12th, when as is already tradition one of the Dominican Cathedral's priests liberates his supposed remains.

Most historians agree that Columbus died on May 20, 1506 in Valladolid, and that, following his wishes, was buried in the cathedral at Santo Domingo. However, last August 31 the researcher Jose Antonio Llorente, director of Granada University's Genetic Identification Laboratory, said that at least part of the remains conserved in the Spanish city Seville "are those of Christopher Columbus."

Dominican Republic's authorities have historically not ardently claimed having Columbus' remains, because of the traditional belief that he represents a "curse."

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Columbus Lighthouse. Photo dominicanrepublik.com



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