

Ancient Discovery Challenges Long-Held Theory About America's First Inhabitants

A remarkable archaeological discovery off the coast of California is prompting researchers to revisit one of the longest-standing theories about how the first people arrived in North America.

According to one report by the Daily Mail, scientists studying California's Channel Islands say evidence from the region suggests some of the continent's earliest inhabitants may have reached the Americas by boat rather than exclusively traveling through an inland ice-free corridor after crossing the Bering Land Bridge.

Among the most significant discoveries is Arlington Springs Man, whose remains were found on Santa Rosa Island and are believed by scientists to be at least 13,000 years old. Because the remains were discovered on an offshore island, researchers say the finding raises the possibility that some of North America's earliest people were already accomplished seafarers.

Dr. John Johnson, curator of anthropology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, described the proposed coastal migration route by saying, "All the way from Japan to Baja California, there are kelp forest ecosystems that have very similar suites of animals."



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He continued, "This connects with the whole idea of a coastal migration, an ancient coastal migration where people would have been using watercraft and going around glaciers when they

encountered them and working their way down until they came to California.”

Researchers have dubbed the concept the “kelp highway” hypothesis, suggesting early people traveled along the Pacific coastline by following rich coastal ecosystems.

While archaeologists continue to debate exactly how the first Americans reached the continent, the discovery does not change the Bible’s teaching that humanity shares a common origin.

Scripture teaches that all people descended from Adam and Eve and, after the Flood, from Noah and his family before spreading across the earth. Discoveries such as these help researchers better understand the routes our ancestors may have taken, even as the details of that history continue to be explored.

As excavations continue on the Channel Islands and beneath the surrounding Pacific waters, scientists hope additional evidence will shed further light on one of the earliest chapters of human history.

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