

Remarkable Discovery: 1857 Wreck Holds Hidden Gold Treasure

Chief scientist Bob Evans looks at gold bars recovered from the S.S. Central America steamship that went down in a hurricane in 1857 in a laboratory Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018, in Santa Ana, Calif. More than \$50 million worth of gold bars, coins and dust described as the greatest treasure in U.S. history is about to make its public debut in California.

More than \$50 million worth of gold bars, coins, and dust that's been described as the greatest treasure in U.S. history is about to make its public debut in California after sitting at the bottom of the ocean for more than 150 years.

The 3,100 gold coins, 45 gold bars and more than 80 pounds (36 kilograms) of gold dust recovered from the wreckage of the S.S. Central America steamship are now sitting in a makeshift laboratory just south of Los Angeles.

Bob Evans, the chief scientist on the original voyage that discovered the wreck and its treasure in 1988, is now painstakingly cleaning each piece of gold by hand, soaking it in a solution and brushing off rust and grime that accumulated as the treasure sat 7,000 feet (2,134 meters) below sea level.

Wow, the story of the sunken treasure from the California Gold Rush is truly captivating! Can't wait to see it on display in Long Beach.



