



**Following Saint Paul's Journey to Rome
29 July – 17 August 2024 (Year I) Cyprus to Bodrum**



29 July to 17 August 2024
Gyrne to Bodrum

DRAGONFLY

Our home 29 July – 17 Aug

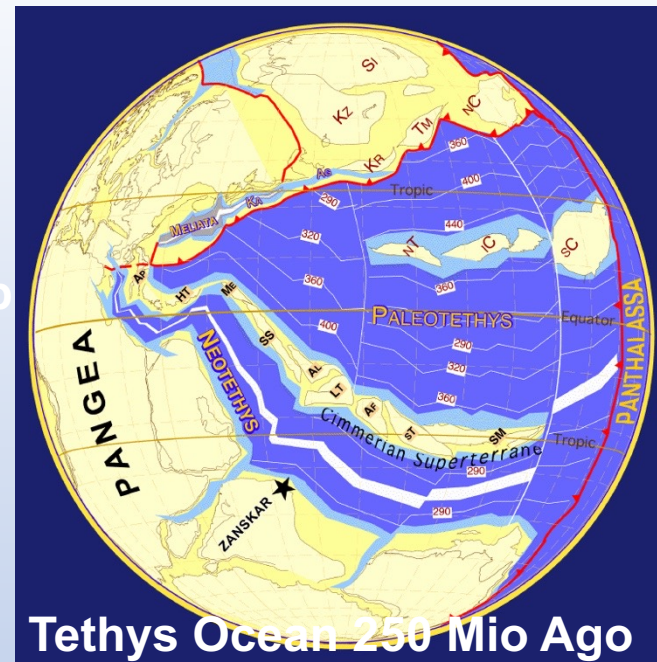
- Two-masts 34 meters high
- 5 en-suite, air-conditioned bedrooms.
Dining areas on the afterdeck and indoor
- Captain Mustafa and his well-trained crew of 2 deck boys, a chef and 2 hostesses
- Rubber dingy for excursions, snorkeling, diving equipment, canoes etc.
- We have sailed on the Dragonfly from Corfu to Venice in 2019



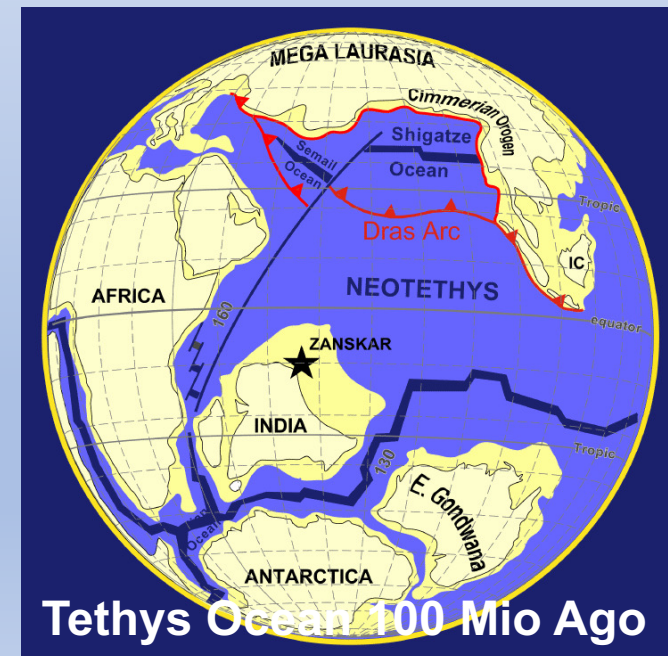
Topography

Plate Tectonics Shape Topography

- This year's trip takes us into the Eastern Mediterranean, which is one of the cradles of human civilization.
- The Eastern Basin is the last reminder of the once mighty Tethys Ocean, which separated the European & African continental plates
- The Tethys Sea opened about 250 million years ago. Its western end closed 150 million years later forming the Mediterranean
- The Med's geological history is complex. The collision of the African and European Plate over 100 million years created new mountain ranges and subduction areas.
- It also made the region prone for earthquakes to this day.
- Volcanoes rose and flattened. On their edge vapors rose rich in gold, silver & copper, the metals mined by early civilizations.
- Over its existence with the rising Atlas mountains closing the access to the Atlantic, the Mediterranean evaporated more than once. The rivers Nile, Don, Dnjepr, Danube, Po, Rhone & Ebro do not compensate for the evaporation losses. The Med depends on flows from the Atlantic.
- The plate collision created Lebanon, the Anatolian Plateau, Cyprus, the Apennines, the Alps and the Pyrenees.
- We will sail along these mountain ranges every day.



Tethys Ocean 250 Mio Ago

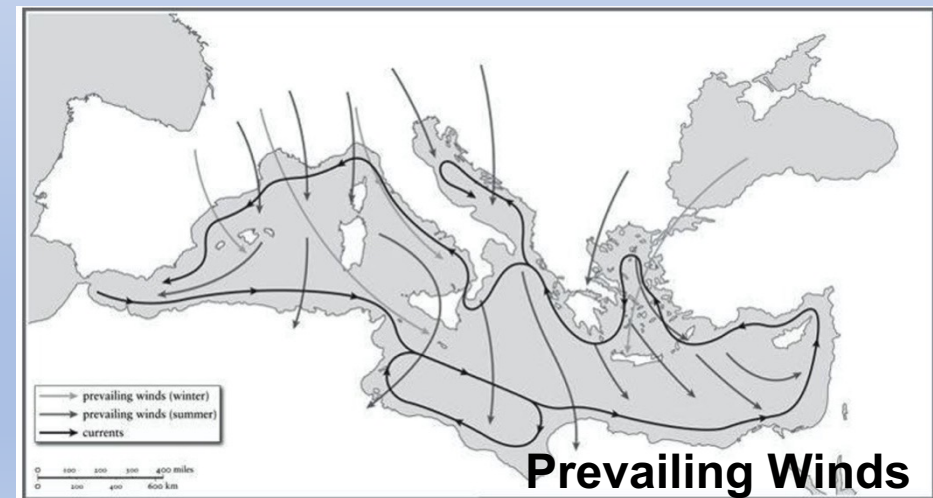
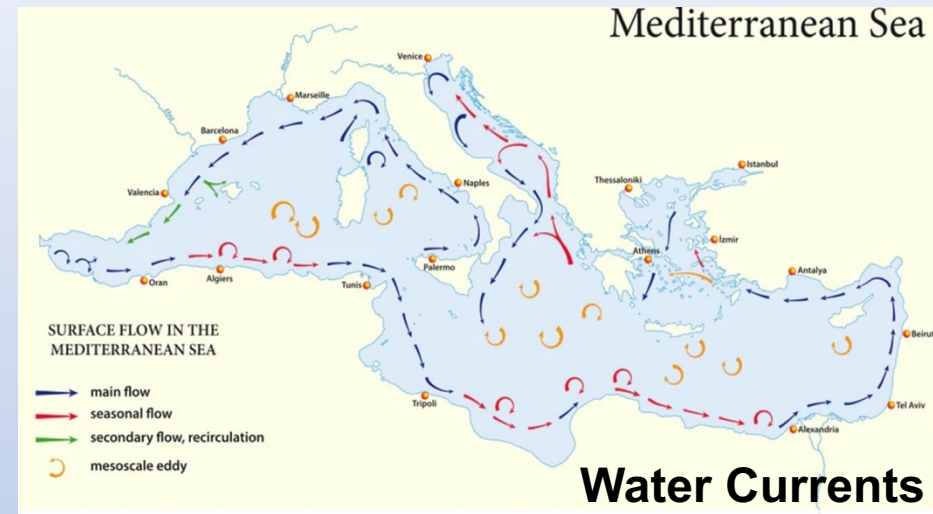


Tethys Ocean 100 Mio Ago

Water and Wind

Sea currents flow east, wind blows from the north

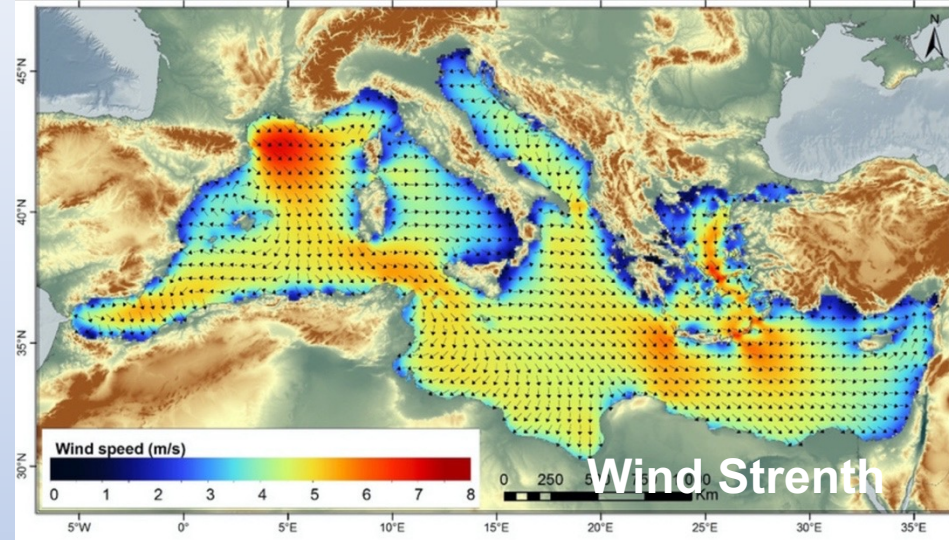
- The Mediterranean's only access to open oceans are the 8-mile wide Straights of Gibraltar.
- Due to the Med's high evaporation rate, 1 million cubic meters flow every second from the Atlantic into the Mediterranean
- Without the inflow, the Med would dry out in a good 100 years
- Water currents are driven by the inflow from the Atlantic. The currents flow west to east.
- The low salinity water follows the north African coast and eventually reaches Cyprus & Anatolia
- Winds blow primarily from the north. The Mistral from France, the Bora from Croatia, the Meltemi from Greece.
- Occasionally, the hot Scirocco from the Sahara reverses the predominant wind pattern.
- Locally, there are powerful thermal systems caused by the interaction between mountains and sea
- The combination of wind and sea currents sets the course for sail ships: West to East follows the African coast; East to West the northern coasts



Environments shape Civilizations

Trading from the late Neolithic to the Age of Metals

- Geography, geology, sea currents and winds shape the Mediterranean
- The mountain ranges close to the shores and the Med's high evaporation rates created thermal weather and wind systems
- As humid air rises, it cools down. Rain falls. Large forests grew in Cyprus, Lebanon & Anatolia.
- The rivers' sediments feed maritime life. People started fishing, made boats from Cedar trees and use the thermal winds for sailing.
- Cyprus – beyond the horizon – was settled by 9'000 BC. Copper shipped from 5'500 BC.
- Phoenicians exported lumber to Egypt in 3'500BC
- The Eastern Basin was the cradle of Mediterranean sea faring and exploration
- Fernand Braudel was the first historian to write about this in his monumental work "The Med. and the Med. World in the Age of Philippe II, in 1949
- During the age of sails, the trade routes we follow in 2024 did not change



Fertile Crescent

The Rise of Agriculture

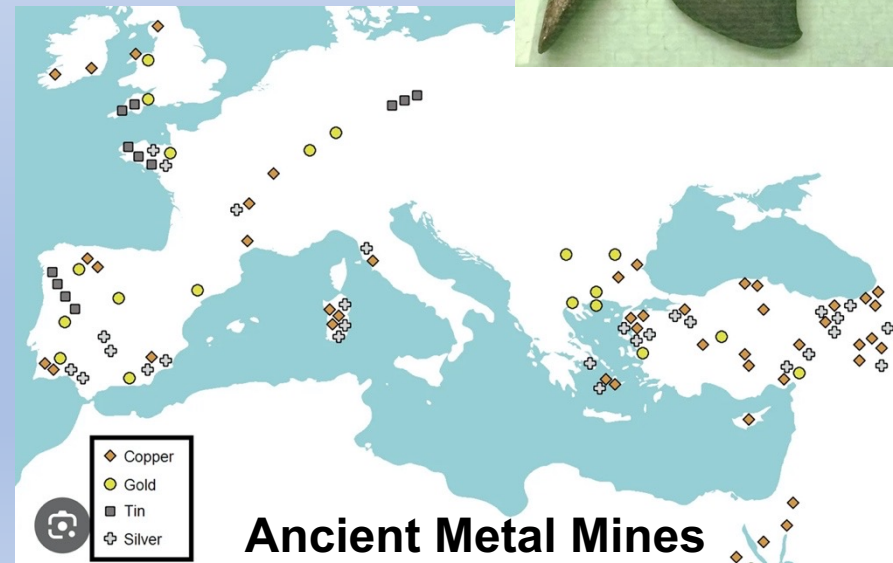
- Lebanon, Anatolia and Cyprus were also part of the fertile crescent, where agriculture began and the first cities were founded
- Wheat, peas and lentils were domesticated around 11'000 BC; goats and cattle at about the same time. Olives followed by 5'000 BC; grapes by 3'500 BC
- 90% of the calories we consume today in Europe have their roots in this region.
- The oldest town we know about is Jericho dating to 10'000 BC. There were probably others.
- Many ancient villages were found in Mesopotamia dating from 7'000 BC. Ur, the oldest Sumer city, was built by 5'000 BC.
- These ancient places traded with each other. Their products are still found throughout the region.
- Trading of agricultural goods and seaborne trade fused with the discovery of copper, first mined in Cyprus and Anatolia
- Soon, lumber, olive oil, wine, wheat, barley and other goods were shipped on the sea lanes using the Eastern Basin's thermal wind system.



Copper & Bronze Age

Metals replace stone tools

- The metal age begins in the mid-5th millennium with the discovery of copper in the Near East
- The discovery coincides with the invention of wheels (originally for pottery) and the first writing systems
- Large primary states appear in Anatolia (5'200 BC), Mesopotamia (3'700), Egypt (3'300)
- Copper melts at 1'085 C in charcoal fired kilns and is relatively soft.
- Still, it was widely used for almost 1'500 years until it was replaced by the stronger bronze alloy
- Tin melts at 232 C; bronze, the much harder tin-copper alloy at 1'250 C
- Tin came primarily from Afghanistan and was one key factors for establishing long-distance trading
- For the 1st time ever, mankind had access to a fungible material from which weapons, tools, pots & jewelry could be made.
- Copper is recyclable and was frequently recast. In that sense it stored value and was ideal for trading.
- The copper age ended by 2'500 BC



Cyprus – Copper Kingdoms

Independent Kingdoms thrive

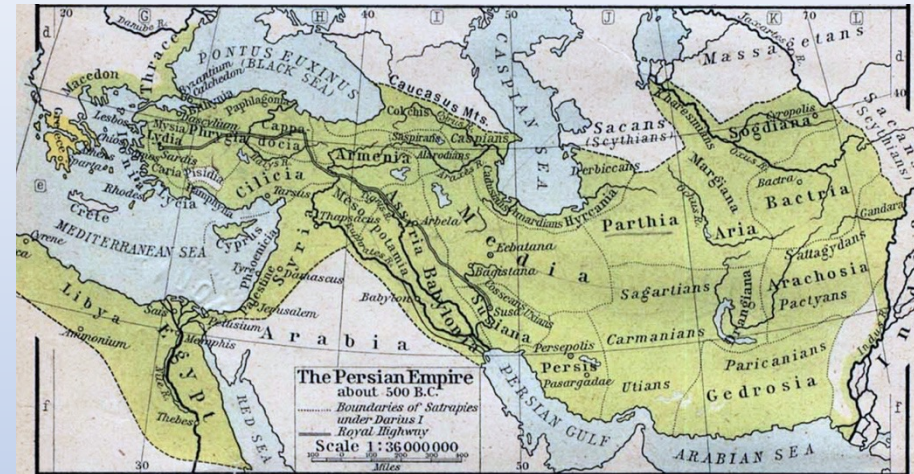
- The copper mines made Cyprus wealthy and the center of the first maritime trading system
- The prevailing wind system made Cyprus a mandatory stop on the voyage west
- There were many waves of immigrants from Mycenae and Phoenicia. These settlers built their own colonies.
- Excavations of a Bronze Age towns found gold jewelry from Egypt, pottery from Minoan, silver artifacts from Anatolia, wine amphorae from the Levant, seals from Mesopotamia, semi-precious stones from India, Lapis Lazuli from Afghanistan and amber from the Baltics.
- Cyprus was an international trading hub. Its wealth supported 12 independent Kingdoms.
- Still, the Egyptian Pharaoh, the Phoenician town of Tyre and the Assyrians claimed Cyprus as their vassal. We know that it paid tributes to the Hittite Empire and later became a Persian province.
- Cyprus was vital for anyone with naval operations in the Eastern Basin, be it Crusaders, Venetians or the British.
- We are going to visit copper age towns in Enkomi (near Salamis) and Apliki (near Solis)



The Persians, Alexander and his Successors

A new world of large empires (550 BC – 200 BC)

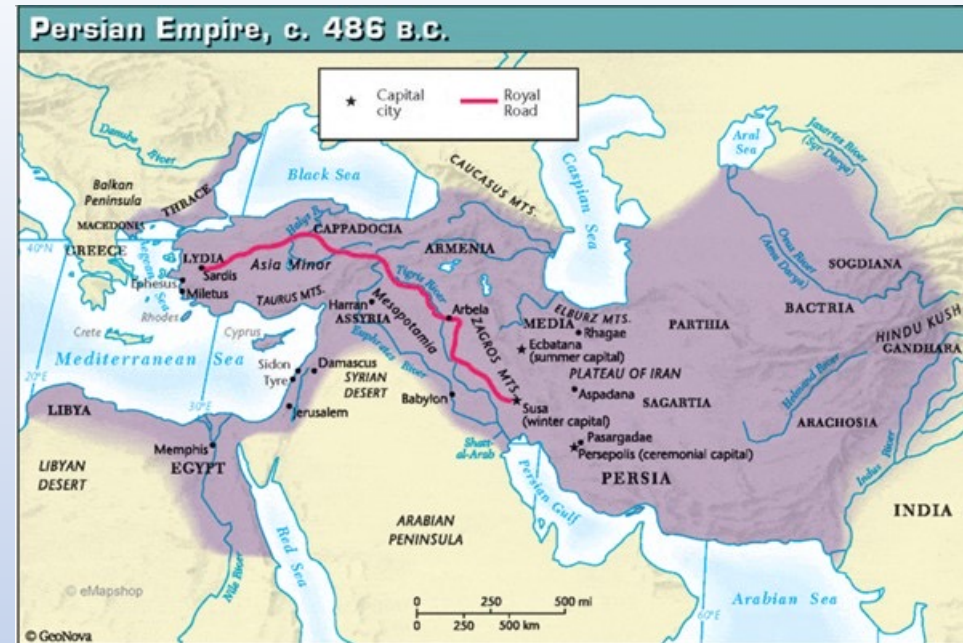
- The end of the Bronze Age in 1200 BC did not lower the demand for copper. Copper and bronze remained in daily use.
- Cyprus and southern Anatolia (Lydia) remained wealthy and important trading hubs
- New powerful empires emerged though which the world had not seen before (Persia, Alexander, his successor states).
- At their base was the domestication of the horse, the use of iron and an efficient state organization.
- These empires connected the Mediterranean, Africa and India and boosted long-distance trade
- Their vast armies needed constant supplies
- It was a time when ship building was scaled up. We will visit shipyards where 300 ships could be assembled at the same time
- We will also visit the original Kyrenia ship in Girne in Northern Cyprus and the place where the Uliburnu ship was found on the Anatolian coast



The Achaemenid Empire

The World's largest

- The first Persian Empire was established by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC
- Cyrus had conquered the Kingdoms of Lydia and Babylon. He governed as King of Kings, left people their local culture and religion and let the Jews return to Israel.
- Phoenicia and Cyprus enjoyed considerable freedom under Persian rule. They provided the Empire with large number of ships, a trading network and significant tax revenues
- Persia had a centralized administration, the first standing army ever, a well-maintained imperial road system and an imperial postal service.
- From 499 – 449 BC, Persia was at war with many Greek states and fought large land & sea battles. Its large fleet came from the towns of Phoenicia, Caria and Cyprus – our sailing route
- Persia's hegemony and its rule of law benefitted the economy. Agriculture and trade boomed.
- Not only trading goods, but also Mesopotamia's and India's large scientific knowhow became now accessible to the western world.



Alexander the Great

356 to 323 BC

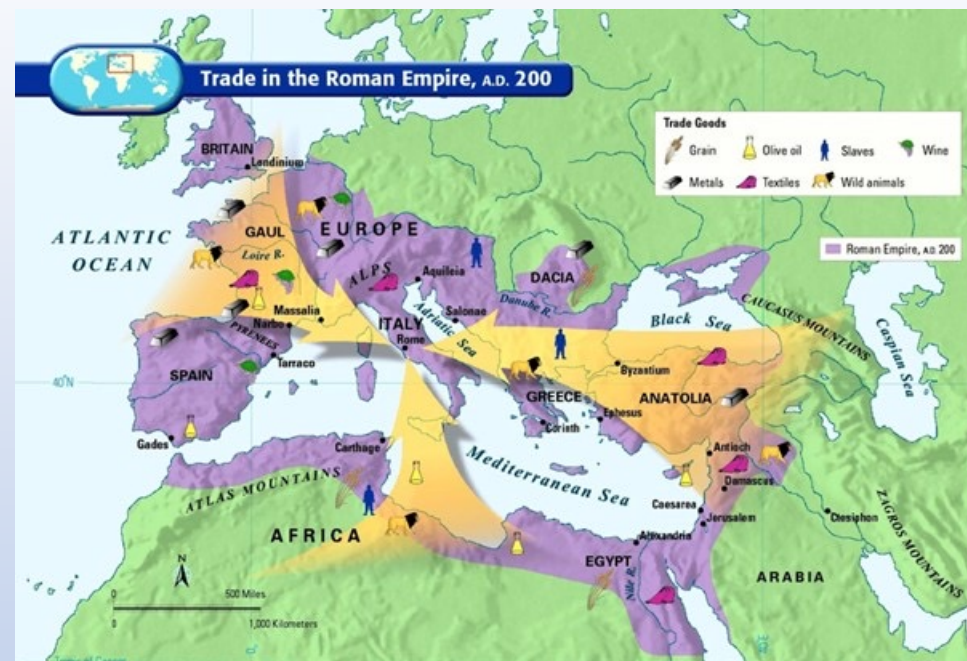
- In the 4th century BC, Macedonia discovered large silver deposits within its boundaries
- Phillip II, Alexander's father, spent the wealth on his army. Defeating Athens in 338 BC, he became the Greek Hegemon
- Upon his father's death, Alexander crossed the Dardanelles and attacked Persia in 334 BC with 55'000 soldiers and 120 ships
- After several successful battles in Anatolia, he reached Syria in 333 BC, besieged Tyre & conquered Egypt in 332 BC
- His other campaigns led him to Babylon (331), Persia (330) and India (326)
- Alexander died in Babylon in 323 BC
- He was succeeded by his generals who split the Empire. Ptolemais got Egypt, Phoenicia and Cyprus, Seleucius Mesopotamia, Persia and parts of Anatolia
- Alexander bestowed the Hellenistic culture on the Middle East. Greek became its language. We will find his name in many towns we visit.



PAX ROMANA

47 BC to 625 AD

- After its victory over Carthage (201 BC), Rome's interests turned east
- To avoid taking sides in the frequent wars between Seleucia and Ptolemaic Egypt, many Greek cities sought alliance with Rome
- These alliances dragged Rome into wars with Seleucia (lead by Hannibal) and Macedonia. By 191 BC, most of Greece was under Roman control; Anatolia followed 81 BC. Egypt in 47 BC
- The Seleucid-Ptolemaic wars and the ensuing instability allowed Cilician pirates from to gain control of major ports and raid the trading routes
- The pirate activities became so disruptive that Rome had to dispatch Pompey in 67 BC to deal with them. He destroyed >1'300 ships, killed thousand and enslaved the rest – we will visit several pirates' ports.
- For the following 700 years, the Mediterranean enjoyed the PAX ROMANA. Economy & long-distance trade prospered. Towns developed.
- Trading links go India and China opened.



Trading with Egypt and India

30 BC to 475 AD

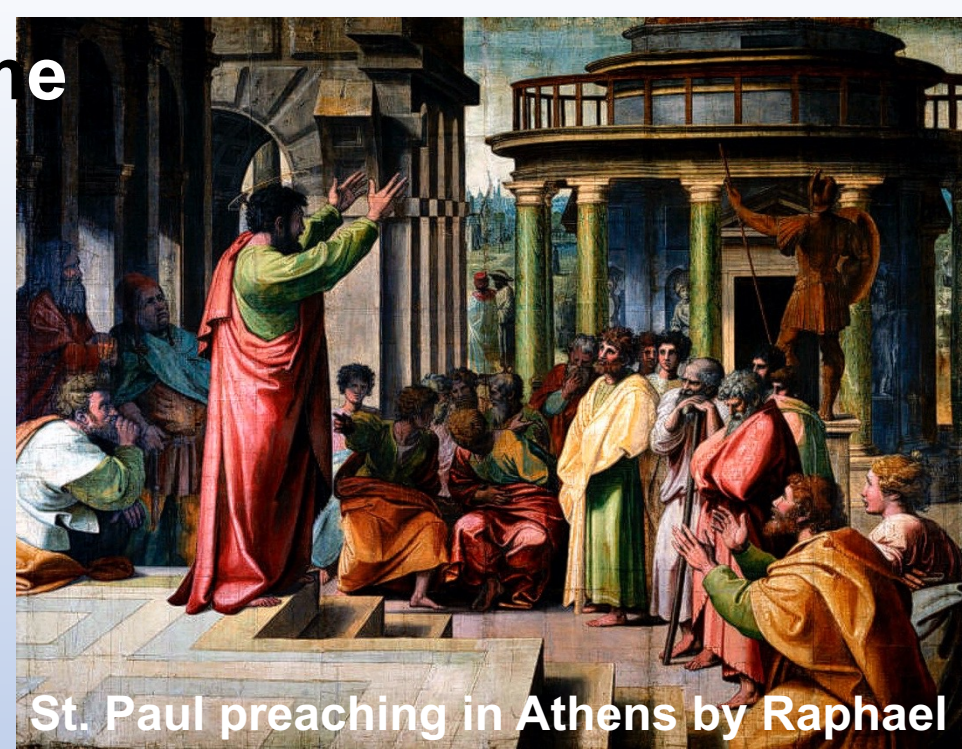
- With the adoption of the Cura Annona by Augustus, Roman citizen got free grain
- In one of my blogs (D-49), I estimated that Rome would have to import 365'000 tons of wheat per year by roughly 1'200 cargo ships
- 40% of the grain was imported from Egypt; the rest from Sicily and Carthage.
- It took a Roman cargo ship 14 days to reach Alexandria but almost two months to return via Caesarea, Cyprus, Knidos, Crete
- The 300-ton freighters were not only loaded with Egyptian grain but also with luxury goods from India and China
- Silk, cotton, spices, pearls and precious stones arrived via the Red Sea
- Slaves, gold, ivory from Africa's eastern coast
- The trade in luxury goods was immensely lucrative and contributed 80% of Rome's annual tax revenue (800 Mio. sesterces)
- Rome wanted Egypt for the money!



Saint Paul's Journey to Rome

Travelling on a grain freighter

- In 57 AD, upon return from his 3rd mission, Paul was arrested in Jerusalem's Temple for having brought "impure" gentiles with him
- Knowing he could not get a fair trial he claimed his right as Roman to be tried by the Emperor
- Guarded by 100 Legionnaires, he was escorted to Caesarea and put on a ship to Rome.
- The ship sailed along the traditional route via the Levant, Cyprus, Lydia and Crete
- Paul's prison terms were lenient. He could visit fellow Christians in Sidon and Myra.
- Off the Island of Crete, the boat got into a severe storm and was shipwrecked in Malta 14 days later.
- St Paul reached Rome a year after his departure. Under house arrest he waited 2 years for his trial
- He is said to have been caught by Nero's frantic prosecution of Christians. He was beheaded.
- St Paul and his teaching contributed 14 of the 21 books in the New Testament



St. Paul preaching in Athens by Raphael



Byzantine Empire I

Christian “Rome” in the East

- Byzantium is the heir to the Roman Empire and lasted from 475 to 1453 AD
- It was Europe’s predominant Christian power despite frequent invasions by Persians, Arabs, Bulgars, Normans, Turks and Crusaders
- Emperor Justinian (527 – 565) was its most prominent ruler. He won Italy and Africa back, built the Hagia Sophia, founded the European silk industry, codified Roman Law and unified the Church (trinity, hierarchy, organization)
- Several waves of plague ravaged Byzantium over the centuries. Its army, navy, civil administration and 1/3 of population were lost
- Its most critical moments were the Arab sieges of Constantinople (677, 717) and the loss of its grain supply from Egypt (642)
- However, it remained Europe’s most powerful Christian nation with 5 m people (Rome had 50 m at its peak). Constantinople was Europe’s wealthiest and most sophisticated town
- All our sailing destinations in 2024 were part of the Byzantine Empire



Arab Conquests

Islam's Rise after 634 AD

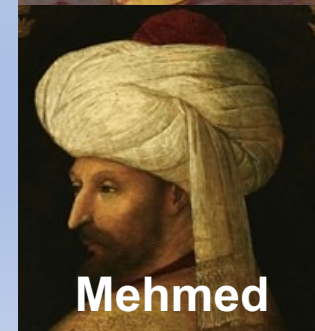
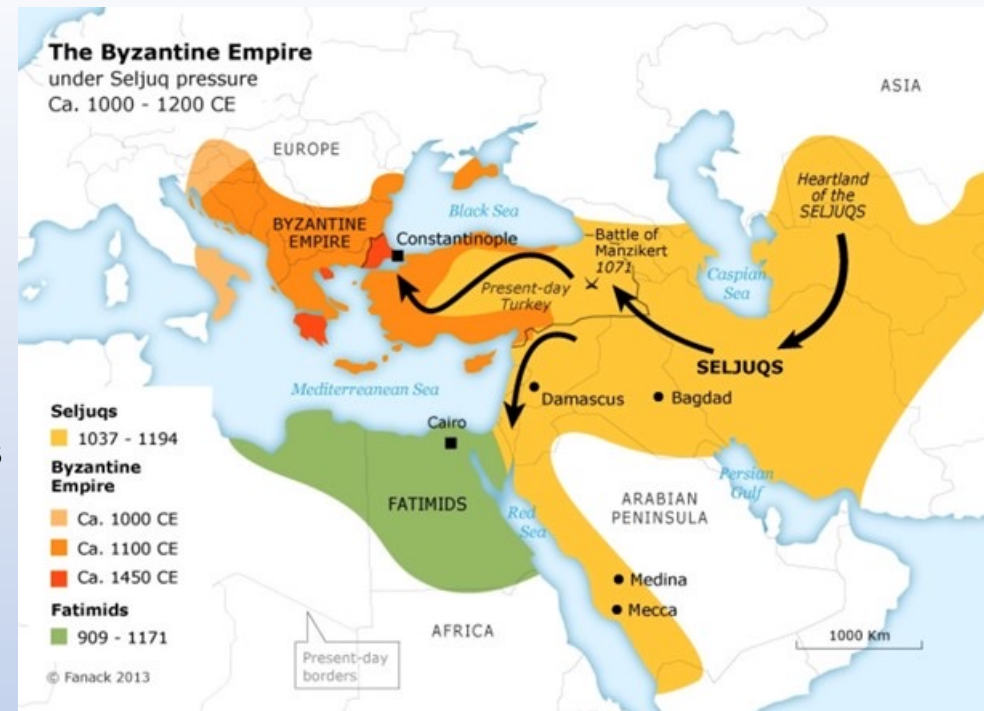
- Two centuries of war between Byzantium and the Persians (502 – 628 BC) left both Empires exhausted and in financial ruin.
- Neither could pay their Arab auxiliaries who took matters in their own hands and overrun the armies of both empires after 632 AD.
- The Quran though was only written down 200 years later. The victorious Arab warriors may have been Christians which would explain why so few could take over so much territory so quickly. Nobody resisted.
- By 661 AD, the Rashidun Caliphs controlled Arabia, the Persian Empire, Palestine, Syria to the Taurus, Egypt and Libya (dark orange on map on upper right)
- By 677 the Umayyad Caliphs had the naval force to attack Constantinople. They tried a second time in 717/8.
- The unified Mediterranean split into a Muslim south and Christian North.
- In 2024, we sail along this religious borderline



Byzantine Empire II

Seljuks and Ottoman Turks

- Although Byzantium stopped the Arabs, it lost Syria, the Levant, Egypt, Africa and Spain.
- Italy was lost to the Langobard and Normans.
- Under Emperor Basil I, Byzantium regained its strength. A revitalized economy supported his campaigns. Bulgar & Rus People converted to Christianity. (988 AD)
- However, in 1054, the Christian Church split into Catholic and Orthodox.
- In 1071, Seljuk Turks invaded and decisively beat Byzantium at Manzikert. The Seljuks settled in deserted inner Anatolia.
- In 1095, Emperor Alexios asked Pope Urban II for military assistance against the Seljuk – the 200 years of Crusades began
- The 4th Crusade sacked Constantinople 1204
- The Byzantine Empire never fully recovered and could not resist the ascent of the Ottoman, a branch of the Seljuk Turks.



Ottoman Empire I

Turks are more Greek than Turkish

- One of the Seljuk tribes, the tribe of Osman, had moved to Western Anatolia. Here they lived for almost a century under Byzantine rule.
- Often hired by Byzantine nobles to intervene in the never-ending civil wars, they eventually threw off their masters.
- By 1381 the Ottomans controlled western Anatolia and Macedonia.
- Had Timur Tamerlane not defeated the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I in the battle of Ankara in 1402, Constantinople would have fallen earlier.
- The end of Byzantium resembles the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 AD when 2/3 of the Roman Legions were German mercenaries
- Ottomans were seen by local Greeks as guarantors of peace and stability – good rulers you could live with
- When the Plague hit in 1347, the Ottomans replaced the vanished Byzantine administration. And that was it.
- Roman culture replace Celtic culture in France, as Turkish culture replaced the Greek way of life in Anatolia.



Ottoman Empire II

Ruling the Middle East for 400 Years

- The Ottoman Empire was originally a land power. The army had modern guns and was professionally led. It took European leaders 200 years to learn how to defeat an Ottoman force in the field.
- Not surprisingly the Ottoman Empire paid little attention to the sea and the islands (Venice owned Crete & Cyprus; the Knights Rhodes)
- However, with the conquest of the Mamluk Empire in 1517 (Syria, Levant and Egypt), the Ottomans had to secure their sea lanes of communication. Under Admiral Barbarossa they built a powerful 300 galley navy.
- Rhodes was besieged twice and taken in 1522.
- Malta was unsuccessfully attacked in 1565
- Famagusta besieged in 1570 and taken in 1571 (Shakespeare's Othello plays there).
- Until the War of Crimea in 1853, the Ottomans had full control of the Middle East.
- With the digging of the Suez Canal 1859 – 1869 European Powers started to interfere
- The British Empire secured control over the canal in 1875 and made Egypt a protectorate in 1882
- Cyprus became British in 1878



Mosque of Famagusta





Week One
Nicosia to Alanya
27 July to 3 August

Sailing Nicosia to Alanya A Cilician Experience 27 July to 3 August 2024

- Suggested meeting time: 27 July 2024, afternoon; meeting point TBD
- We get on the boat on 29 July 2024 afternoon
- Meeting point: Turkish Nicosia (TBD)
- Travel arrangements to Nicosia Airport: by participants individually
- Accommodation between 27 and 28 July: by participants
- Travel arrangements from Antalya Airport to home: by participants
- Dress code: casual clothing, swimwear and hiking shoes
- Please remind us of your dietary requirements/restrictions



Week One 27 July – 3 August 2024



Nicosia (Northern Cyprus) to Alanya (Turkey)

Nicosia

Saturday, 27 July 2024

- Our trip begins in Nicosia where we will stay in a small-town hotel for the night.
- Nicosia was founded in the Bronze Age by 2'500 BC and was one of Cyprus' 12 kingdoms.
- It did not prosper like the other coastal cities and was insignificant by Roman times. In the 4th century, it became the seat of a bishop
- Nicosia's time came with the Arab raids in the 7th and 8th century, which destroyed the island's capital Salamis, just north of Famagusta.
- In 965, Byzantium made Nicosia the provincial capital of the island.
- Captured during the 3rd crusade, Cyprus was a Frankish Kingdom from 1192 to 1489 when it became Venetian.
- Venice heavily fortified Nicosia, Famagusta and Kyrene. To no avail. They fell in 1571 – an event that led to the seanbattle of Lepanto
- The Ottoman ceded Cyprus to the British in 1878. By 1960 became independent and was divided in 1974 atter the Turkish invasion.



Büyük Han, the old caravanserai

Famagusta – Salamis - Enkomi

Sunday, 28 July 2024

- Whilst the Dragonfly is on the way from Bodrum to Girne, we will use the day to visit Cyprus.
- We are going to see the Roman capital, Salamis, Famagusta, the Venetian town & Enkomi, the copper age settlement near Salamis.
- Salamis was a typical Hellenistic-Roman town. Spacious, wealthy, with a big port. Thanks to the Pax Romana, it did not need walls. The Roman fleet protected it well.
- The town was unprepared for the Arab raids in 647 AD and never recovered from its destruction.
- Famagusta is younger and was a small port until the Crusaders developed it in 1192
- Genoa took it over in 1372 but lost it to Venice by 1489. After the siege of Rhodes in 1522, the Venetians heavily fortified it with modern bastions.
- During the Ottoman invasion in 1570, Famagusta was defended by 5'200 men, it held for 1 year.
- When it raised the white flag, the Venetian leader Bragadin was flayed alive. The epic siege is the background for Shakespeare's Othello.



Girne to Solis - Apliki

Monday, 29 July 2024

- Coming from Salamis, we reach Girne on Sunday evening by coach and have dinner in town. We again stay in a small hotel.
- Girne (Kyrenia) was important for Venice. Since Anatolia was controlled by the Ottoman, Venetian ships followed the coast of Cyprus
- Given its importance, Venice heavily fortified the harbor. Despite significant expenses, it fell quickly to the invading Ottomans in 1570. The Venetian garrison was very small.
- Next to the Venetian Castle is the Kyrenia Ship museum where the famous boat from the 4th century BC is exhibited – see my blog D - 82
- We will also visit the old Crusader Castle of St. Hilarion, which towers high over Girne and offers a fab view on town and surrounding sea.
- After lunch, we will meet the Dragonfly and set sail to Hellenistic Solis, a town to the west which was the port of large copper mine in Apliki.
- If possible, we will visit the now closed mine



Solis to Arsinoe - Nagidos

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

- With sunrise, we will set sail to cross the 75 km from Solis in Cyprus to Arsinoe in Cilicia, Turkey. The crossing will take 4 to 5 hours. We arrive by lunch.
- This part of the Anatolian south coast has been Turkish since the early 13th century when it was taken over by the Seljuk Turks.
- Its history dates back far earlier. Both Arsinoe and Nagidos were ancient Cilician towns which minted their own Staters, the predecessor to our coins.
- We know relatively little about these two towns. They both were mentioned by the Greek geographer Strabo. Excavations only started in the 1970s.
- Both towns were conquered by Alexander the Great in 330 BC, then became part of Ptolemaic Egypt in 270 BC. Could not find anything on their Roman time
- The history of the Softa Castle is better documented. Built by Byzantium to protect the coast against Arab raids, it was captured by the Seljuk leader Atabeg.
- The castle is 140 meters above the sea and worth a climbing expedition.



Arsinoe to Marmure & Anemurium

Wednesday, 31 July 2024

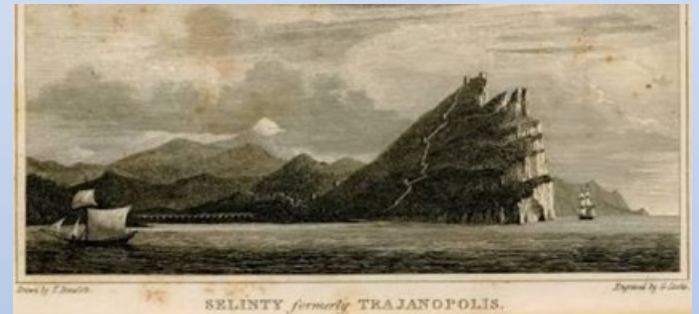
- As we continue sailing west, we get deeper into Cilician territory
- Our first stop is Mamure Castle - built by Armenia on the ruins of a old Byzantine fort. Its purpose was to protect the Crusaders' supply lines.
- The Seljuq captured it together with Alanya in 1221 and wasted no time to fortify it further. They gave it today's shape. Mamure castle is one of the best examples of Seljuq military architecture
- The Ottomans took it over by 1469 and used it to the 18th century as caravanserai.
- Our second stop is Anemurium, a town we – again - know relatively little about. It was well established during Roman time, captured by Sassanian (Persian) troops in 260 AD when its slow decline started.
- It was eventually abandoned in the 7th century when Arabs raided the coast
- Despite our limited knowledge, the Anemurium site is impressive. Many buildings are still pretty intact. Even its harbor pier is still visible.



Anamurium to Selinus

Thursday, 1 August 2024

- Today, it will take 4 hours of sailing to reach Selinus
- Selinus is the first Phoenician colony we visit. It was established in 600 BC on the border of Persia and Lydia
- We again know very little about the town, but it was one of the strongholds of Cilician pirates which Pompey defeated in 67 BC. Maybe that is why so little of its origins survived.
- Next time the town is mentioned in written records is 117 AD. On his return from campaigning in Mesopotamia, the Roman Emperor Trajan died here of his wounds.
- His tomb where his body was kept for 12 years is still visible at the foot of the town hill.
- The hill became a fortress during the Byzantine Empire to protect the coastal plane against Arab invaders. It was later captured by the Armenian Kingdom, a crusader state
- Like Alanya, the Seljuk conquered it in 1221 but given its lesser strategic value and the silted harbor, the town was abandoned
- It takes half an hour to climb up to the Byzantine fort.



Selinus to Alanya

Friday, 2 August 2024

- Found by Hittites, the Bronze Age Anatolian Kingdom and competitor to Egypt, Korakesion (Alanya) became part of Persia in 530 BC, joined Alexander in 333 and 10 years later Ptolemaic Egypt.
- The wars between Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empire had disastrous consequences for the long-distance trade that usually passed through its port. With no jobs, the sailors of Korakesion joined the Cilician pirates.
- Korakesion's strategic position was so strong that in 142 BC one of its leaders seized the crown of the Seleucid Empire – albeit only for six years
- After Caesar was taken prisoner, the Roman Republic decided to fight the Cilician pirates. Pompei was given a large fleet and defeated them right here. Their ships were burnt; the town levelled; the pirates executed; their women & children enslaved.
- 1'300 years later, in 1221, the Seljuk took Alanya with no resistance. The town is ever Turkish since.
- The Seljuk immediately recognized the strategic value of the port and the fortress and made it their strong hold on the Mediterranean. The fortification are a masterpiece of Seljuq military architecture.



**Piri Reis Map
of Alanya**

Alanya and its Seljuk Fortress



**Model of the Grain Ship
Used by Saint Paul, the
Apostle**

**Week two
Alanya to Göcek
3 – 10 August 2024**

Sailing Alanya to Göcek

A Lydian Experience

3 - 10 August 2024

- Guests: ABC (Master 1), DEF (Master 2), HIJ (Twin), KLM (Twin 12), NOP (Double 1)
- Meeting time: 3 August 2024, 14.00 pm
- Meeting point: Alanya Yacht Harbor
- Travel arrangements to Antalya Airport: by participants individually
- Travel arrangements from Antalya Airport to home: by participants
- Dress code: casual clothing, swimwear and hiking shoes
- Please remind us of your dietary requirements/restrictions

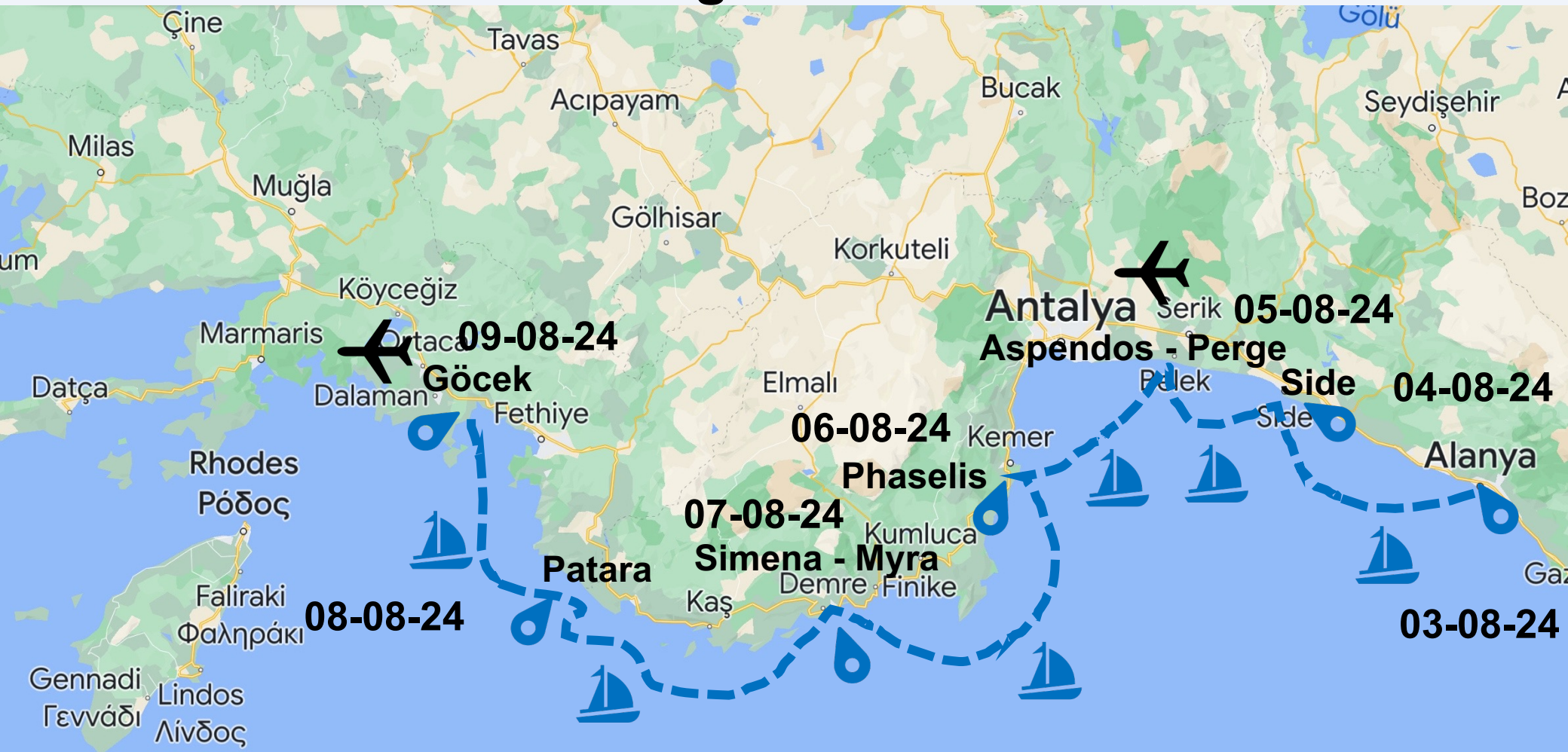


Dragonfly



Side - Slave Trading Port

Week Two 3 – 10 August 2024



Alanya to Side

Sunday, 4 August 2024

- Today we sail to Side, a well-known ancient site in Turkey. Greeks founded Side in 700 BC
- Alexander liberated the town from Persia in 333 BC. Upon his death in 323 BC, it transferred to Ptolemaic Egypt.
- The Seleucid and Ptolemaic were in constant conflict over the spoils of Alexander's heritage. Wars were fought over the possession of the Levant, southern Anatolia and Cyprus.
- With the collapse of their ancient trade routes people on the Anatolia coast became pirates. Side and Alanya were their centers.
- Side hosted the biggest slave market in antiquity. Rome's landowners were big buyers here and left it untouched for decades.
- However, when the Pirates attacked Roman shipping, Rome sent Pompey in 67 BC
- Under Roman rule, Side became a prosperous olive oil producing town with 60'000 citizens
- Its decay started with the Arab raids in 700 AD

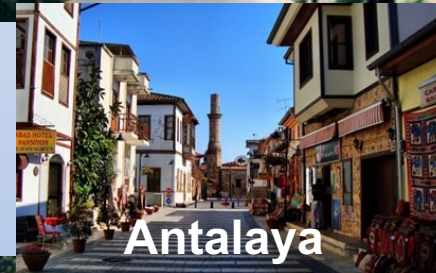


Side to Aspendos & Perge Monday, 5 August 2024

- Our next stop will be Aspendos and Perge – Antalya was Perge’s harbor – we go by taxi.
- Aspendos was an agricultural center. But its architecture betrays its wealth. By 546 BC it was Persian. Alexander took it by 333 BC.
- He fined Aspendos with 4’000 horses and 100 talents of gold – not shabby for a small town. Have no idea what they did wrong.
- Perge was the capital of the Roman province of Pamphylia - 15 km to the east of Antalya.
- Founded by Hittites, there is no news about it until Alexander. It became Roman by 133 BC
- St Paul & St Barnabas stopped 2x to preach
- Under Constantine the Great, Perge became an important center of Christianity
- Antalya is Turkey’s largest tourist town. I find it rather unattractive – to be diplomatic
- The Seljuq conquered Antalya in 1207. It was their first Mediterranean port.



Aspendos



Antalaya



St Paul

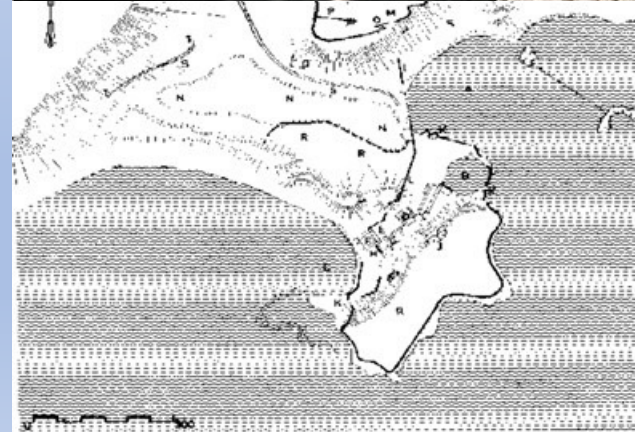
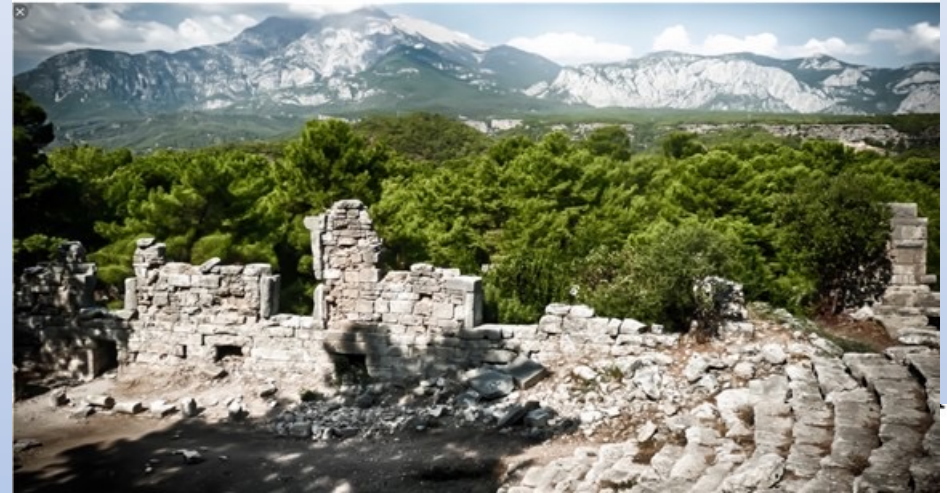


Perge

Antalya to Phaselis

Tuesday, 6 August 2024

- The next day will be the longest sailing day for this week. It will take us five hours to cross from Antalya to Phaselis.
- Phaselis was the most important port town in eastern Lycia. Set up by Rhodes in 700 BC, it actively traded with Cyprus, Greece, Egypt and Phoenicia
- As other Lycian cities, it was conquered by Persia and later by Alexander the Great, who made it his winter quarter in 334 BC
- After Alexander's death, it became part of the Ptolemaic Empire and was from 160 BC associated with Rome.
- The town had a very peaceful & prosperous development during Roman times.
- The harbor became obsolete when Arabs overrun Phoenicia and Egypt in 625 AD. The town's olive oil export business and its grain import collapsed.
- It had to be abandoned like many other towns on the Lydian coast.



- A NORTH HARBOUR
- B CENTRAL HARBOUR
- C SOUTH HARBOUR
- D TETRAGONOS AGORA
- E AGORA OF DOMITIAN
- F AGORA
- G MAIN STREET
- H HADRIAN'S GATE
- J THEATRE
- K CITY FORTIFICATIONS
- L AQUEDUCT
- M SPRING
- N SWAMP
- O ACCESS TO OUTER FORT
- P WALL OF OUTER FORT
- Q TEMPLE
- R RUINS OF HOUSES
- S NECROPOLEIS
- T ANCIENT ROADS OLYMPOS - PHASELIS ATTALEIA
- U MODERN ROAD TEKIROVA - KEMER
- V PRESENT ACCESS TO THE RUINS

Phaselis to Kekova & Myra

Wednesday, 7 August 2024

- Early morning, we will sail for another four hours, further into the heart of Lycia and arrive in Simena, which is sheltered by the long island of Kekova
- The village lies in the middle of a Lycian necropolis, which sank under water during a big earthquake.
- The hill is dominated by a Byzantine castle to “deter” pirates. More likely, it was built to protect the harbor against Arab raiders
- We also will visit the old Lycian port town of Myra – it is half an hour away by taxi
- Saint Paul visited his Christian fellows there when changing ship in Myra. The port is now completely sedimented.
- Myra also has one of the the best preserved and impressive amphitheater. Built into the hill behind the town.
- Not much else of ancient Myra survived except the Church of Saint Nicolas where he was a bishop
- In the waters near Kervoka, the Uluburun ship was found. Dated from 1’300 BC. It carried 10 tons of copper from Cyprus. The boat is now in Bodrum



Kekova to Patera & Xanthos

Thursday, 8 August 2024

- Early Thursday morning, we set sail to the 18 km long Patera beach. It will take 4 hours.
- We will disembark at the eastern part and take a taxi to Patera and Xanthos, a bit further inland
- Xanthos was Lycia's largest town. Its warriors are mentioned in Homer's Iliad. It fiercely resisted the Persian assault in 540 BC, sacrificing wives & children before making a final, suicidal attack.
- After its fall, Xanthos was rebuilt and played a key role in the Persian administration of Lycia
- The fortified hills of Patara, situated 15km south, protected a natural harbor. It was Lycia's primary seaport and the harbor of its fleet. The harbor is silted today and can still be seen
- Both towns joined Alexander in 334 BC and became part of Ptolemaic Egypt upon his death.
- The Romans granted both independence in 167 BC.
- By 46 AD, they became Roman and were integrated into the Province of Asia.



Patara



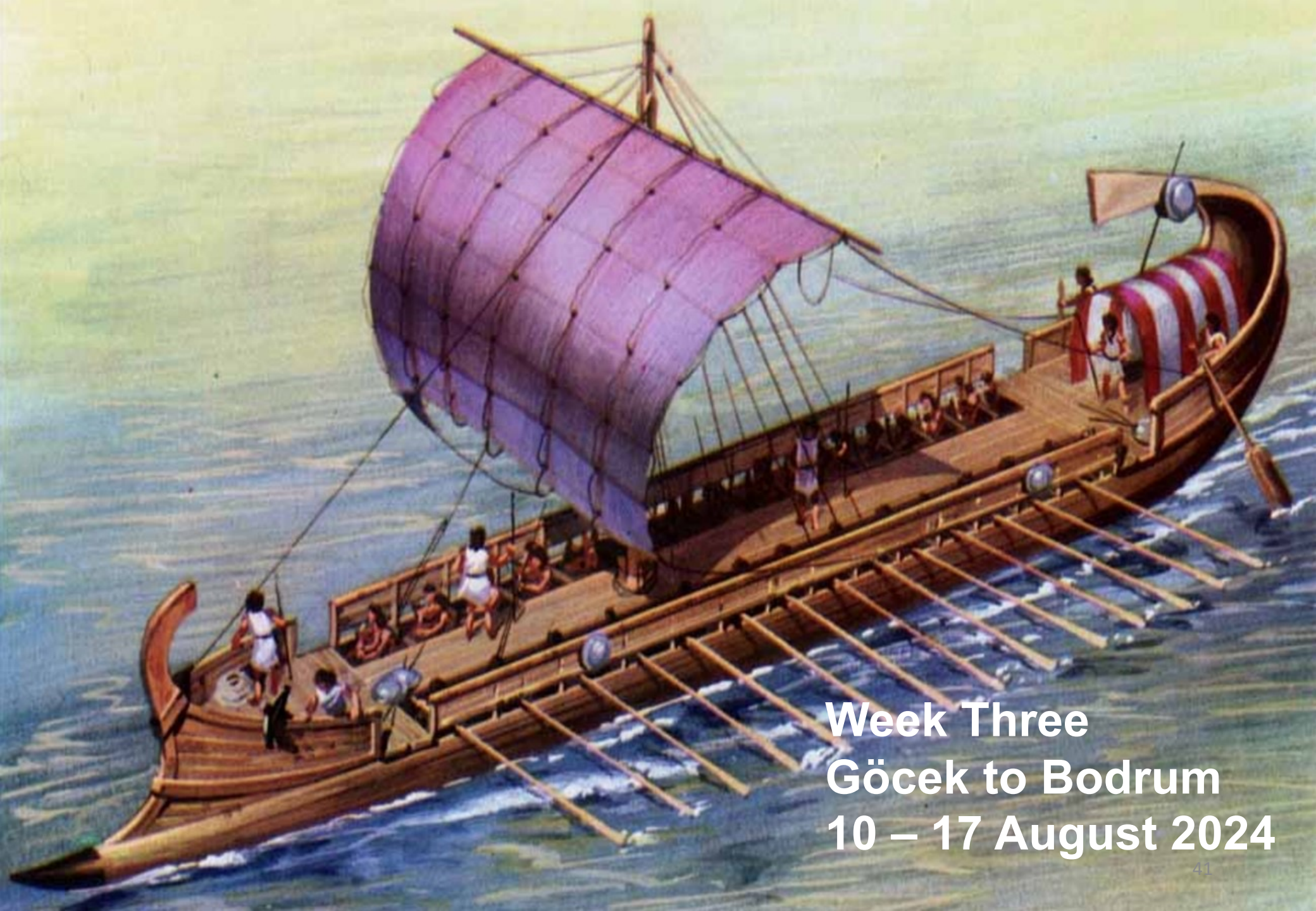
Xanthos

Patara to Saint Nicolas

Friday, 9 August 2024

- On our last full day, we will sail to the monastery of Saint Nicolas.
- The Santa Claus story is distorted to such an extent that it is challenging to tell
- Nicolas was a bishop in nearby Myra who cared for kids and liberated several from slavery.
- He was the patron saint of merchants, sailors, repenting thieves, students and many more, and lived from 270 to 343 AD.
- Nicolas was an important figure in the young Christian Church & attended the Council of Nicaea in 325 where Constantine the Great settled major ecclesiastical disputes
- Saint Nicolas was buried in Myra. When the Seljuk Turks conquered the area, a few Italian merchants from Bari used the confusion to steal his relicts
- The bones arrived in Bari in 1087 and are now buried in the Basilica San Nicola in Italy.
- Towards the evening we sail to Göcek for the change of crew the following day





**Week Three
Göcek to Bodrum
10 – 17 August 2024**

Sailing Göcek to Bodrum

A Carian Experience

10 - 17 August 2024

- Guests: ABC (Master 1), DEF (Master 2), HIJ (Twin), KLM (Twin 12), NOP (Double 1)
- Meeting time: 10 August 2024, 14.00 pm
- Meeting point: Göcek Yacht Harbor
- Travel arrangements to Dalaman Airport: by participants individually
- Travel from Dalaman Airport to Göcek Yacht Harbor: Take a taxi – there are plenty
- Return travel from Göcek to Dalaman airport: HBA will order taxis for 09.00 am – ETA at airport is 10.00 am
- Travel arrangements from Dalaman Airport to home: by participants
- Dress code: casual clothing, swimwear and hiking shoes
- Please remind us of your dietary requirements & restrictions



Week Three 10 – 17 August 2024



Göcek to Bodrum

Göcek to Bedri Rahmi Koyu

Saturday, 10 August 2024

- On our first day, we will make a short hop to the Carian Graves in Bedri Rahmi Koyu, which the locals call Tasyaka
- Besides being a popular anchor place for Gulets, it has several Carian graves
- We will see more Carian graves tomorrow in Kaunos, Caria's informal capital. Caria was politically never united.
- Caria spanned from Ephesus to Kaunos. Probably of Minoan origin, it was a mix of Crete and Greek culture with its own language and writing
- Small, it was an easy prey for the Achaemenid Empire after the fall of Lydia
- The Carian fleet fought on Persia's side in the long Persian wars
- Under Roman rule, it was part of the province of Asia.



Bedri Rahmi Koyu to Kaunos

Sunday, 11 August 2024

- On our second day, we will sail to Kaunos, the old, informal capital of Caria
- Over the last 2'000 years, the sediment rich Dalyan River cut Kaunos off the open sea which is today 8 km away. It did not fill the town's harbor though. It is one of the few ancient ports still intact
- Kaunos was a rich trading city with access to a large hinterland. Its main trading products were salt, timber and tar for waterproofing ships. The Dalyan river was the border between Lydia and Caria.
- Kaunos is the oldest city we visit this summer. It dates back to the 9th century BC
- It was independent until conquered by Persia
- During the decline of the Seleucid Empire, Kaunos came under Roman influence
- With the Arab raids in 700 AD the town was given up. The silting over the centuries made the delta a paradise for Malaria mosquitos
- When the Ottomans arrived in the 15th century, they settled far inland to avoid the disease.



Kaunos to Loryma

Monday, 12 August 2024

- A good 4 hours sailing west from Kaunos lies the old Carian town of Loryma
- Very few ruins are left – we found them in 2017 looking for terraces, a citadel and shards
- Despite its complete disappearance, it must have been an important town in Roman times
- It is still a titular see in the Catholic Church and its bishop Joseph attended the Council of Constantinople in 879 AD.
- Loryma has a well protected harbor built by Rhodians for keeping parts of their fleet there.
- The impressive 6th century BC town walls still stand strong – always admire the masonry
- Loryma is only 20 nautical miles from Rhodes which explains why the Rhodians wanted to control this natural harbor. You do not want your enemies having a staging point for an invasion.
- Sadly, there is little literature about Loryma and its history



Dislice Adasi to Knidos

Wednesday, 14 August 2024

- It is time to sail to the most western part of our journey this year. It will take about 4 hours
- Some historians believe Knidos was founded in the first half of the second millennium BC. By 500 BC, Knidos was an influential town.
- It was part of the Dorian Hexapolis. Its two ports made the perfect harbor where ships could sit out unfavorable winds.
- During the Persian wars it fought on Persia's side. After the Greek victories, it allied with Athens.
- Knidos also hosted games for Apollo and was the site of the famous Temple of Aphrodite
- It remained an important port under Roman rule
- This was Saint Paul's last stop in Anatolia. We do not know a lot about his time here
- Abandoned after the Arab raids by 700 BC, the the Knights of St John used the ruins as a quarry to fortify Rhodes. Despite the systematic looting, the layout of Knidos is still visible.



Knidos to the Bay of Akyaka

Thursday, 15 August 2024

- On Thursday morning, it is time to say goodbye to the fascinating ruins of Knidos
- We will head west for a few hours into the Bay of Akayaka and anchor in a quiet place
- This was the hinterland to both Knidos and Halikarnassos (today Bodrum)
- The area was controlled by Byzantium until the time of the crusades but then lost in 1204 after the sack of Constantinople.
- The Knights of St John controlled the area since 1306. After the fall of Jerusalem in 1244 and Acre in 1291, they had to look for a new base and found it in Rhodes and the surrounding mainland.
- For almost 200 years, the Ottoman took no interest into the south-western corner of Anatolia
- It changed with the conquest of the Mamluk Empire in 1517 which put the Egypt and the lucrative commerce with India under Ottoman control. Now the sea lanes became important
- The Knights of St John had to go.



Bay of Akyaka to Bodrum (Halicarnassus)

Friday, 16 August 2024

- Bodrum is our final destination for this year
- Founded by Dorian Greeks at the same time as Knidos, it developed differently.
- Knidos was well suited for long-distance trading. Halicarnassus controlled the hinterland.
- The Persians made it the capital of Caria.
- After the Persian wars, it associated with Athens but was later reconquered by Persia
- The town was famous for its Mausoleum, the giant tomb for King Mausolus in 377 BC.
- The Knights of St John dismantled it to build the Fort of St Peter which today dominates the port
- It is a Museum today and hosts the Uluburun ship.
- Bodrum was a quiet corner during Ottoman times. Fishing and sponge diving was its only business.
- All this changed with the arrival of the B-737 and the DC-9. Bodrum became the summer residence for affluent people from Istanbul
- In 1965, it had 25'000 inhabitants. Today it counts 200'000 and is a loud tourist spot.



Bodrum – Final Destination

17 August 2024

- Arrival time: 16 August 2024, evening. We plan to have our closing dinner in Bodrum
- Return travel from Bodrum Harbor to Milas – Bodrum Airport: HBA will arrange a van for all of us at 9.00 am. ETA at airport: 10.00 am
- Travel arrangements from Milas - Bodrum Airport to home: by participants
- Our journey along Saint Paul's route to Rome continues in July 2025. It will lead us from Rhodes along the Dodecanes to Crete and eventually to Navarino on the Peloponnese
- In 2026, we will travel from Malta to Pozzuoli and from there by bike on the Via Appia to Rome
- There is a good chance that we can continue on the Dragonfly in 2025 since the boat already had a EU charter license in 2019



Dragonfly



Rhodes Town Walls with Cannon Balls

