

# PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 15/07/2010

- Starts -

## PHOENICIA REACHES THE AZORES

**82 days at sea, over 3500 miles, 8 crew members onboard and Phoenicia has completed one of the most challenging passages of the entire voyage.**

In the early hours of the morning on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July a replica Phoenicia ship, based on designs of a 600BC Phoenician cargo ship, anchored at Flores, the most westerly island of the Azores, having completed the epic passage from St. Helena.

“Phoenicia”, led by British adventurer and entrepreneur Philip Beale, is attempting to illustrate that Phoenician mariners achieved a circumnavigation of Africa almost 3,000 years ago - long before the European explorer, Bartholomew Dias, had even rounded the Cape of Good Hope. The project has involved in-depth research into Phoenician history, ship construction and design as well as building a 21m LOA wooden replica Phoenician ship in Syria which was launched by Syria’s First Lady in August 2008.

The most recent leg from St. Helena to the Azores has shown how the replica ship withstood challenging conditions in the Atlantic Ocean and, at points, looked closer to landfall in the Americas. Many academics and followers of the expedition think that the Phoenician’s could have made landfall in the Azores and possibly even the Americas. This latest leg of the voyage goes some way to proving that the winds and currents in the north Atlantic may well have blown vessels on this course before they encountered the westerly winds to enable them to make progress east towards the Phoenician colonies in the Mediterranean.

Phoenicia is now just 3 months away from her anticipated homecoming to Syria to complete the circumnavigation. Forthcoming ports will include Gibraltar, Carthage, Alexandria, Beirut, Tartous and Arwad island.

Follow the progress of the ship and daily blogs from the crew online [www.phoenicia.org.uk](http://www.phoenicia.org.uk).

- Ends -

### Press Contacts

Alice Chutter, Phoenicia Project Manager (Based in the UK)  
Telephone +44 (0)7896 564289. Email [info@phoenicia.org.uk](mailto:info@phoenicia.org.uk)  
[www.phoenicia.org.uk](http://www.phoenicia.org.uk)

### Photographs

Photograph attached. Please credit Photographer: Leon Harmse.  
High resolution photographs are available to download from an exclusive press page on the Phoenicia website. Please visit <http://www.phoenicia.org.uk/pressphotos.htm>.

### **Facts for Press**

- 1). Phoenicia, the Phoenician Ship Expedition, aims to re-create the first circumnavigation of Africa, believed to have been achieved by Phoenician mariners in 600 BC.
- 2). The Phoenician Ship Expedition is being led by British adventurer Philip Beale, whose most recent venture was to lead the 2003-04 Borobudur Ship Expedition ([www.borobudurshipexpedition.com](http://www.borobudurshipexpedition.com)).
- 3). The Phoenicians were arguably the first 'global' civilisation. From around 1200 BC they established a civilisation on the coast of Syria, Lebanon and Palestine which spread throughout the Mediterranean and lasted nearly one thousand years.
- 4). The vessel is a replica Phoenician ship which was built using traditional Phoenician construction methods and materials. The ships design specification has been created using evidence from relevant shipwrecks and archaeological finds of artefacts such as vases and coins, as well as advice from eminent scholars and shipwrights.
- 5). The 21m long replica Phoenician ship was built in Arwad Island, an ancient Phoenician city state just off the Syrian coast, by Syrian shipwright Khalid Hammoud.
- 6). There will be a multi-national crew of up to 16 people on any one leg of the expedition.
- 7). The next stage of the voyage will depart the Azores in approximately 5 days time and return through the pillars of Hercules to the Mediterranean.
- 8). Phoenicia is approved by the Royal Geographical Society and full details of the expedition's sponsors can be viewed online: <http://www.phoenicia.org.uk/supporting-our-sponsors.htm>.