



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **PHOENICIA'S ARRIVAL SPARKS INTEREST IN ANCIENT PUNIC TIMES AT THE HISTORIC PORT OF CARTHAGE, TUNISIA**

The replica 600 BC Phoenician merchant ship, Phoenicia, has arrived at the ancient Phoenician settlement of Carthage, Tunisia which marks one of the most historic ports of call in the 17,000 mile voyage to circumnavigate Africa.

Led by Philip Beale, the British Captain and Adventure Travel Director ([www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.com)) and an international crew of ten, Phoenicia is attempting to illustrate that Phoenician mariners could have achieved the first circumnavigation of ancient Africa 2,500 years ago in ships of their own construction. The replica 600 BC vessel "Phoenicia" was constructed in Arwad Syria, using information from a 6th century Mediterranean wreck and traditional timbers and has since withstood some of the world's most challenging sailing conditions during the two year circumnavigation of Africa.

Carthage is one of the key settlements on the Phoenicia map and this modern day expedition goes some way towards marking the achievements of this often overlooked civilisation which rose to prominence in the Mediterranean from 1200BC.

The origins of Carthage are steeped in legends, myths and historical accounts as to how the Phoenicians' greatest colony was founded. It is widely believed that Carthage was founded by Phoenician colonists from Tyre under the leadership of Elissa (Queen Dido) around 814 BC. It became a large and rich city and thus a major power in the Mediterranean. Ultimately the exercise of political and military power would lead to the Punic wars with the Romans but until then Carthage enjoyed several centuries of growth and prosperity. They pursued their cultural and religious beliefs with vigour as evidenced by the widespread occurrence of child sacrifices found in Carthage's ruins.

Carthage will be one of the final ports during Phoenicia's voyage before crossing the Mediterranean and returning to her homeland in Syria. For more information on Phoenicia including a live satellite tracking device visit [www.phoenicia.org.uk](http://www.phoenicia.org.uk).

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## Photographs

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)). Philip Beale is Managing Director of adventure tour company Pioneer Expeditions who organise bespoke and group travel to some of the worlds most remote destinations ([www.pioneerexpeditions.com](http://www.pioneerexpeditions.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 20m long replica Phoenician ship was built in Arwad Island, an ancient Phoenician city state just off the Syrian coast, by Syrian shipwright Khalid Hammoud.

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Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

Approved by the Royal Geographical Society  
(with the Institute of British Geographers)



**PHOENICIA**  
THE PHOENICIAN SHIP EXPEDITION

6). The next stage of the voyage will depart from Carthage on 19/20th September onwards to Malta, the Lebanon and Syria at the end of October 2010.

7). 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>.

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