

Ancient Maritime World VIII
International Workshop / Summer School 2025

The Strait of Messina

Crossroads of the Mediterranean, Volcanic Lighthouses, Home to Skylla and Charybdis, Aiolos and Hephaistos

from/to Reggio di Calabria – Sept 13th–27th

The Strait of Messina has been a crossroads of the Mediterranean and a melting pot of historical developments since early Greek and Phoenician colonisation. Although a direct link between the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas and with the landmarks of Stromboli and Aitna visible from afar, the passage of the Strait has long been a nautical challenge due to the dangers posed by Skylla and Charybdis. Historical and archaeological sites in the region between Stromboli and Syracuse offer numerous examples to illustrate and discuss the different role of the sea as well as of maritime routes for the development of ancient history and culture. The spectrum of topics ranges from early Greek times to late antiquity. These are e.g. Early Greek colonisation in Magna Graecia, Syracuse's maritime empire, Rome's First Punic War, Sextus Pompeius and Sicily, the Strait of Messina in a globalised Roman world, etc.

The Workshop/Summer School is organised as a sailing excursion and leads from Reggio di Calabria into the Strait of Messina and its surrounding area between Stromboli and Syracuse. It is directed at advanced students, doctoral students as well as postdocs in all fields of classical antiquity. Various topics of individual places are discussed and lectures given on topics such as ancient seafaring, navigation, meteorology, sea routes, etc. Participants are expected to give a presentation, either on a topic of their own choice or one of the journey's topics (see homepage). Previous knowledge of sailing – although beneficial – is not required. On board, participation as well as teamwork is expected. Accommodation is on board the yacht.



Languages: German/English – Costs: 1.000 € p.P. (excl. board cash)

Please note: Travel by sailing yacht offers a wide range of experiences and insights into the maritime world. It does not offer the comfort of a cruise trip and means living under simple conditions in a confined space. Participation can therefore mean getting out of one's comfort zone – mentally and physically. The final route will depend on current wind conditions. Participation costs are the pro-rata yacht charter and insurance. Itinerary to/from Reggio is not included.

Dr. Rupert Breitwieser (Salzburg)
PD Dr. Volker Grieb (Graz)

www.ancient-maritime-world.com/2025/