

Press Release

September 21, 2009

Planet Water Expeditions Coral Sea to Black Sea 2006 - 2010

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R/V Heraclitus arrives from Brazil in Trinidad



A planetary sailing ship, the Research Vessel Heraclitus has just sailed in from Northern Brazil to Trinidad & Tobago. Heraclitus is an 84 foot research vessel designed and built in 1975 by the Institute of Ecotechnics in California, USA, as a three-masted Chinese junk, with a ferro-cement hull.

Heraclitus is revisiting Trinidad after 22 years- since then the ship has been sailing around South America to Antarctica, rounded Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope and has voyaged around the world twice. The ship has been sailing continuously since 1975,

covering over 250,000 nautical miles on six oceans (including the Antarctic) exploring in the ancient tradition of Sea People, who make Planet Water their home. Heraclitus has made 10 unique expeditions, the first of which was up the Amazon River in 1980 for a two-year ethnobotanical expedition. Other expeditions focused on cetacean and coral reef studies.

In September 2006, the Heraclitus began its current expedition from the Coral Sea (Australia) to the Black Sea (Europe) with an international crew of fourteen. This expedition is focused on ethnospheric (cultural and historical) and oceanic exploration, and is retracing the history of Western European sea people's cultural expansion. The expedition has also been inspired by the ancient Greek myth of Jason and the Argonauts and their sea adventures in pursuit of the Golden Fleece. The crew has been making cultural exchanges and studies through theater, creative arts, presentations and celebrations with people they meet and are keen on meeting Trinidad & Tobago, one of the most diverse and extravagant cultures in the Atlantic.

In Southern Brazil and the wider area of the 'Mata Atlantica' the expedition traced the cultural history of Sea People that took place in the region where Brazil's gold trade began. The crew worked in collaboration with the Fundacao Matutu, located in the Matutu valley and organized a joint sailing voyage around Ilha Grande as an exchange between Sea People and Mountain People and then tracked Matutu's mountain trails on horseback. Other places visited in Brazil included Salvador, Itaparica, Natal and the Parnaiba River Delta, where the

expeditioners conducted a bioregion survey of the island of Croata, also in collaboration with the Matutu Foundation. Throughout their stay in Brazil the crew gave many educational tours and presentations to the public about their explorations and the ship's diverse history.

ROUTE

The next stage of the adventure will be to sail north to meet the cultures of the Caribbean and then cross the North Atlantic to enter the Mediterranean via Tangiers and then to legendary ports including Tunis, Syracuse, Alexandria and Izmir.

The ship is owned by the non-profit Institute of Ecotechnics (www.ecotechnics.edu) and operated by Planet Water Expeditions. Its operations depend upon donations from companies and individuals as well as program fees.

SEA PEOPLE PROGRAM

The Sea People Program on board the Heraclitus offers an experience of a lifetime: the chance to participate in genuine adventure and exploration of oceans and cultures, expand one's horizons, and find new sources of inspiration.

Participants learn to live at sea, get to know other cultures, develop theater and speech skills, as well as learn how to live and work with other people from various backgrounds. Previous sailing experience not required. Applicants need to be in good health, as life onboard can be strenuous, and involves physical labor. All expedition members are expected to fully participate in the operation and maintenance of the ship and the expedition.

In the past thirty-five years over two hundred crew members have participated in the Sea People Training Program from over thirty countries, including most of Europe, Kenya, Solomon Islands, Australia, Venezuela, Mexico, U.S., Canada, South Africa, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago. Crew members come from many backgrounds and have included ecologists, musicians, painters, sculptors, poets, photographers, entrepreneurs, engineers, craftsmen and adventurers. Program cost is \$1200 U.S. per month for the full nine month period.

If you are interested in supporting the expedition or participating in the sea people program, please visit our website www.rvheraclitus.org and contact Planet Water Expeditions – Phone 760 723 2318 or email christinehandte@gmail.com and rio@adventure.org. Contributions are tax deductible through the Institute of Ecotechnics, a 501(c)3 corporation, which owns the ship and supports this program.

