



"Ayas" Nautical Research Club was founded in 1985. The range of its activities is quite wide including historical aspects of World and Armenian navigation and shipbuilding, reconstruction of ancient Armenian vessels, study of sea routes, old maps, navigation devices, banners, collecting data on Armenian navigators, making underwater archaeological surveys and research.

Since 1985 the Club has organized 15 exhibitions and has carried out several surveys on Armenian navigation. There are over 5000 books in the Club library.

26 different types of vessels (rafts, leather boats, log-boats, boats and ships) used in historical Armenia, were restored and reconstructed.

Members of the Club permanently participate in international conferences on underwater archaeology and nautical history and have published a number of articles.

The Club has established connections with similar organizations worldwide and is the member of International Society for Nautical Research, International Commission of Maritime History, International Foundation of Disabled Sailing, the Armenian Geographic Society, the Armenian Sailing Federation.



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*Unique Historical Experiment
 "Seven Seas Navigation"
 on "Cilicia"*





Route of Expedition

2004 ■ 2005 ■ 2006 ■



“AYAS” Nautical Research Club had built a replica of XIII century merchant sailing ship of Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, and had sailed by medieval trade sea routes around the Europe, via the Black Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic Ocean.



The ship is being reconstructed in strict accordance with the information found in the medieval manuscripts and miniatures, have used the techniques and technologies available in XIII century.

The travel have equipped with all accessories traditional to the XIII century (navigation tools, merchandise goods, meals, clothes, etc.) replicating the methods of navigation and the lifestyle of medieval sailors.

The main goal of the experiment is to feel and to check haw our ancestors had sailed and operated with this kind of vessels.

As a result of experiment we could note as technical details of sailing and operate of the vessel, as psychological aspects of living aboard of the ship during long term sailing.

The venture would be a way of building links between countries with distinguished sea-faring traditions, where different cultures, religions, traditions have intertwined, influenced and enriched each other.

Common responsibility to safeguard the historical and cultural heritage is our common question.

The Expedition will highlight the significant role of travellers and merchants in establishing connections between cultures and civilizations separated by seas, and the Ship as the Symbol and a mean of unification.