

Pantelleria Survey 2023

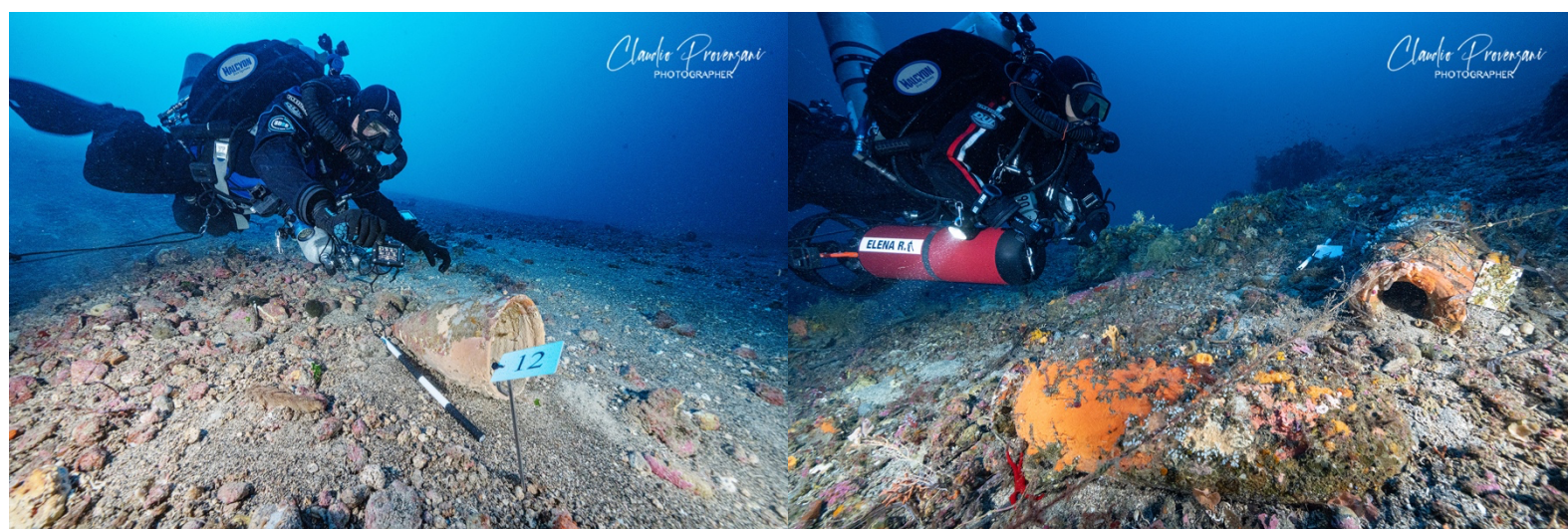
The "Pantelleria survey" project, relating to the archaeological investigations in the seabed overlooking Gadir on the island of Pantelleria, took place last October as part of the now ten-year collaboration between SDSS - Society for the Documentation of Submerged Sites APS, GUE - Global Underwater Explorers and the Superintendency of the Sea of the Sicilian Region, continuing what began in 2022 by SDSS. Unfortunately, the activities lasted only five days this year due to weather conditions that delayed their arrival on the island. The activities involved 7 JJ-CCR divers from the SDSS, also affiliated with the BBX - BigBlueExplorers ASD, with the logistical support of the DIVE X diving and the supervision of the Superintendency of the Sea with Dr. Save Emma.

The Gadir site is of great importance from an archaeological point of view. Already investigated in 2011 by GUE divers who found a few dozen amphorae between 85 and 98 m of depth, it was the subject of a new exploration in 2014 during the "Pacpro Baseline 2014" expedition, during which some dives with the submarine. However, a specific exploration and documentation campaign by the SDSS began only in 2022.



The greatest dispersion of amphorae is found between 85 and 105 m depth. The slightly sloping seabed is characterized by sandy-gravelly sediment up to 100 m deep, where some rocky outcrops begin to appear until they arrive at a slope with a jagged outline, characterized by large boulders alternating with sand flows or formations. This year, 14 team dives took place for 29 dives/man at an average depth of 90-100 m for approximately 60' of bottom time and 4 hours of decompression.

The activity consisted of continuing the video-photographic documentation of the finds present on the seabed last year, using a new system of labeling the finds and exploring a new sector not yet investigated. The video transects performed on specific bathymetric levels were very helpful, allowing greater coverage of the area and useful information about the distribution of the archaeological finds about the characteristics of the seabed



As a preparatory activity, a vertical guideline was positioned from the point of entry into the water of the divers to the study area, and a second perpendicular and metered every 5 m for a total length of 300 m at a depth of approximately 90 m for allow a more accurate study of the various archaeological finds present. Once identified and marked, the archaeological finds were documented with photos and metric references to allow archaeologists a correct identification.

Following the 2023 explorations, it can be confirmed that most of the amphorae are found between 90 and 115 meters deep, while a much lower density is present up to around 80 meters, and several other amphorae below 115 meters, confirming the extraordinary nature of the submerged archaeological site of Gadir which preserves many finds, testimony to numerous historical events that deserve to continue to be studied.

A thank you to our Participants:

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