



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SELECT FIVE FROM R.N.O. JOIN ADVENTURE TO AFRICA**

Organisers of the Phoenician Ship Expedition have announced there will be a special addition to the international crew for the next leg of the voyage – five members of the Omani Royal Navy. These five sailors have been selected to represent Oman on Phoenicia’s voyage to recreate the first circumnavigation of Africa in a replica 600 BC Phoenician ship.

The next leg of the voyage will launch from Port Salalah at the end of October to undertake the 2000 mile long passage to Zanzibar, Tanzania. This passage will enable the five R.N.O. members to get a feel for life onboard a replica Phoenician ship and how to deal with the challenges of the open seas onboard a primitive vessel. The five sailors will use this as preparation for the epic Jewel of Muscat sailing expedition which will recreate the historic voyage from Oman to Singapore in 2010 ([www.jewelofmuscat.tv](http://www.jewelofmuscat.tv)).

Philip Beale, former British Royal Naval Officer and Expedition Leader of Phoenicia, commented:

“We are thrilled to welcome the five R.N.O. crew onboard for our next leg to Tanzania and I think they will make a great addition to our crew. All of our team have to endure difficult conditions onboard Phoenicia - with no running water or modern luxuries we are reliant on sheer hard work and nature's elements to help us on our sail to East Africa. I am confident that this will be a great experience for the R.N.O. and put them in good stead for the challenges to come onboard the Jewel of Muscat”.

The crew will benefit from the north east monsoon during the passage to Tanzania, which is expected to take around 4 weeks to complete. Further information and a live satellite link to the ship is available online the Phoenicia website [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)).
- 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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- 6). There will be a multi-national crew of up to 16 people on any one leg of the expedition.
- 7). The next leg of the voyage is due to leave Salalah, Oman at the end of October 2009. The ship will sail out of the Gulf of Aden calling in at ports in, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, the Azores, Gibraltar, Tunisia, Egypt, and Lebanon before returning to Syria in July 2010 to complete the circumnavigation of Africa.
- 8). 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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