

HERACLITUS

RESEARCH VESSEL

Our planet is 72% water. Those waters now stand on the cusp of catastrophe.
We urgently need more vessels devoted to ecology navigating our oceans,
chronicling their cultures and protecting the marine environment.
We need an army of ambassadors for our seas.



HERACLITUS is a vessel for global marine conservation, a ship of cultural exchange and a leadership training programme that produces ambassadors for the sea.

She is also the stuff of folklore: a floating symbol of San Francisco counterculture modelled on the designs of ancient Chinese junks but made, in 1974, of the classic 20th-century composite ferrocement. She has been a magical, otherworldly sight on our oceans since first setting sail from the Bay in 1975.

At this moment of unprecedented threat to our seas we have never needed this dream-like vessel navigating and chronicling the waters of our precious blue planet more.





Heracles needs funding

HERACLES went into dry dock in Rosas, Spain, for a full rebuild in 2012 after almost 40 years of nonstop navigation. The vessel, re-engineered to be structurally stronger and more energy efficient, needs a final injection of **\$1.3M** to outfit it and encase the hull in concrete so she and her crew can pursue ever more ambitious and urgent expeditions beginning in 2020.



‘In a sea where most of the vessels are commercial or navy, or sleek, fast super-yachts, HERACLITUS has a clunky, pirate dream fairytale magic to it that most people—young, old, rich people, fishermen—seem to fall in love with. So much of modern life is so driven by commerce and so mediated by technology. HERACLITUS gives people the chance to experience a totally different way of life: to know what it feels like to approach a new continent from the ocean, driven only by the elements; what it is like to turn off all electronic aids and learn how to navigate by the stars, to connect to the celestial bodies and to the universe; allows them to see the ocean up close, rather than through a camera lens. It is vital that we continue to offer people this chance: it ignites in them a genuine passion for the ocean. These people go on to become catalysts for protecting the sea and the cultures it supports.’

CAPTAIN CLAUS TOBER



‘There is a fire burning over the Earth, taking with it ancient cultures, visionary wisdom, plants, animals, languages, all the best of our human nature. Quelling that flame, reinventing the poetics of diversity, is the greatest challenge of the next era. The HERACLITUS is a symbol of that hope. A moving platform of poets, artists, scientists exemplifying, by their own sincerity and intent, our own human quest, celebrating everything that we are.’

WADE DAVIS,

EXPLORER IN RESIDENCE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

ONBOARD HERACLITUS AMAZON EXPEDITION 1981

MISSION

Marine Research & Conservation: we conduct research and action programmes to protect the marine environment and to chronicle the quickening cycle of decline in our oceans' ecosystems.

Education & Leadership: our leadership training programme inspires a new generation of ambassadors for the oceans with a deep affinity, knowledge and enthusiasm for ocean ecologies and cultures and equips them with invaluable leadership- and life-skills.

Arts & Culture: the ship acts as a locus for constant cultural exchange between our crews and visiting cultures: we stage arts initiatives, from plays to exhibitions, and are building a unique archive of the cultures and livelihoods of vulnerable coastal communities.





ORIGINS

In California in 1972 a group of visionary and radical scientists, artists and explorers set out to build a boat to chart the awe and wonder of our earth's waters and to chronicle and counter the growing threats to our marine environment.

With their own hands, and using funds they'd raised running a beatnik cafe, they created a totally new kind of boat, hacking an ancient Hong Kong-style rig with 20th-century techniques to make a ship that was a radical hybrid of ancient and modern, East and West.

Sleeping in sand-dunes beside the construction site, the small group designed and built a boat that would be incredibly robust but, thumbing its nose to a culture increasingly hooked on velocity, which would traverse the planet's oceans deliberately slowly: a boat on which every crossing would be hard-won.



Their vision was to launch a vessel that would give equal emphasis to education and culture, environmental action and research, and whose crew would be drawn from wildly different disciplines, cultures and countries, each of whom would commit not only to the boat's environmental and cultural mission but also sign up to a radical experiment in community living.

It is this unique ethos, origin and purpose that sets HERACLITUS utterly apart from other ships and makes it an incredible, nautical symbol of the best of San Francisco counterculture: a ship purposefully crewed by as broad a spectrum of humanity on our planet as possible, that draws on ancient and modern technologies to advance ecology, and fosters bonds of cooperation, collaboration and tolerance in the process.

HERACLITUS is the sister project to BIOSPHERE 2, the legendary, radical ecological experiment that allowed the study and manipulation of a biospheric system second only in size to the Earth itself, and which demonstrated the web and interconnectedness of all biological life. Both projects were established by Institute of Ecotechnics, which continues to manage Heraclitus.





‘In the open ocean, we are experiencing the currents changing with global warming, and continents of plastic created by waste. I am convinced that we humans must evolve to be able to sustain ourselves as a species. Sailing with a multicultural and multidisciplinary crew to ports and across open seas is our way to understand how to be better stewards of this planet.

We are restoring our precious vessel for generations to come, so they too can understand what it means to live on ‘Planet Water’, but also to keep alive a symbol of the 60s and 70s. It’s an artwork and a living icon.’

KATHELIN GRAY,
DIRECTOR ECOTECHNICS MARITIME



WHAT WE DO

HERACLITUS has sailed our seas for 40 years, travelled 270,000 nautical miles, sailed all the world's oceans except the Arctic, and staged 12 epic expeditions. It has been nautical home to over 500 seafarers from 46 countries aged 3 to 72.

The HERACLITUS conducts conservation research and action missions —protecting ecosystems and biodiversity and documenting the quickening cycle of decline in our oceans from ocean warming, acidification, sea-level rise and extreme weather to coral-reef bleaching, plastic pollution and overfishing.

It has been helmed and lovingly maintained by the successive waves of international and interdisciplinary scientists, artists and explorers that make up its crew and all of whom learn sailing, navigation, rigging, engineering, and cuisine, and participate in the ship's weekly curriculum, of meditation, theatre, poetry, science and cultural symposiums and silent suppers. Almost all of these individuals have been transformed by the experience, and many have gone on to pursue extraordinary careers in everything from marine biology to the arts.

It connects its international crew with coastal communities in a system of equal and reciprocal cultural exchange, chronicles maritime social histories and current affairs, from slave-trade to migrant sea-routes. It is currently building a unique archive of vulnerable coastal communities' cultures to create a body of knowledge of their traditions, history, stories, fairytales and anecdotes—a Grimms' Tales of the Seas.





‘We are at a unique stage in our history.
Never before have we had such an awareness of what we
are doing to the planet and never before have we had the power to do
something about it... we have a responsibility to care for our blue planet.
The future of humanity, and indeed of all life on earth, now depends on us.’

*SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH,
SIR DA, BROADCASTER, NATURALIST*

‘The ocean’s decline is an existential threat to us all... every second breath we
take comes from the oxygen created by phytoplankton and other marine
plants. The decline... [has] dire consequences for the future of many marine
and terrestrial species, including humankind.’

*PETER THOMSON,
THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE OCEANS*

EXPEDITIONS

- 1975—1978 Shakedown Voyages: San Francisco Bay to Panama Canal across Caribbean, North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Red Sea, Indian Ocean
- 1978 Second Voyage: Indian Ocean circumnavigation
- 1979 Third Voyage: Australia to Malaysia
- 1980—1982 Amazon Expedition: Ethnobotanical studies and plant collections
- 1986—1987 Around the Tropic World Expedition
- 1986—1989 Dolphin Release Project, Coral reef and Mangrove studies
- 1987—1989 Expedition to Antarctica, Humpback whale studies
- 1991—1995 Central America & Caribbean Coral Reef Studies
- 1990—1991 Mexico & Florida Biosphere 2 ocean biome collections
- 1995—2001 Indian Ocean & South-East Asia Coral Reef Mapping Expedition
- 2001—2006 Pacific Ocean Coral Expedition
- 2006—2010 Coral Sea to Mediterranean Sea
- 2011- Present Lives and Legends of the Mediterranean Sea



‘After 40 years, the Heraclitus is tired and needs some love and attention to continue her onward voyage and work into the next generation.

If you believe it is important to have a scientific research and cultural exploration vessel, bound to no Nation or vested interest, crewed by citizens of the world to champion the Oceans and bear witness to what is happening here....then please help us and join this unique team.’

*SIR TIM SMIT,
FOUNDER EDEN PROJECT, UK*

An underwater photograph showing two divers in a blue ocean. One diver is in the foreground, slightly to the right, wearing a purple tank and a black wetsuit. Another diver is visible in the background to the left. The bottom of the frame is covered in a dense, textured coral reef. The lighting is natural, coming from above, creating a serene and scientific atmosphere.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Collection of Amazonian ethnobotanical plant species for New York Botanical Gardens
- Investigations for Biosphere 2 of ancient agricultural systems
- Documentation of tribal cultures in a 12 part television series for Zagreb Television
- Contribution International Whale Commission worldwide catalogue of individual humpback whales
- Collection of skin samples of humpback whales in Antarctica for migration studies based on genetics for Cancer Research Institute in Washington
- Collection of weather data for NOAA
- Collection of live corals, fish, mangrove plants for Biosphere 2 ocean system
- Training of candidates for Biosphere 2
- Extensive coral reef research with Dr. Phil Dustan of College of Charleston, Scripps Institute
- Collection of coral core samples for Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University as part of a wider research project on climate change

CULTURAL PRODUCTION

- Documentation oral histories of sea peoples around Mediterranean
- Educational workshops, talks and events
- Trained hundreds of individuals
- Hundreds of theater performances, cultural events and exchanges



An aerial photograph of a boat's wake in the ocean, with a colorful abstract painting on the right side. The text "SAILING ON" is centered over the image.

SAILING ON

In the Spring of 2020 Heraclitus will embark on the Atlantic Sea People Expedition, sailing from Spain through the Straits of Gibraltar down the West coast of Africa to the Gulf of Guinea and on to Brazil and the Caribbean. This ocean has historically been defined by the slave-trade and is now an amphitheatre of forced migration. We will study the cultural traditions of this region's coastal and seafaring people—what unites and what divides cultures and peoples uprooted, and separated by ocean and time. As well as teaming up with local contemporary artists dealing with these issues of politics, identity and belonging, we will carry out ecological assessments of both the coasts and the high-seas.

The journey will include stops on the outlying Atlantic islands: Canaries, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe. Lastly, we will re-enter the Amazon River, and run expeditions to the Rio Negro. This will be Heraclitus's first return to the Amazon since the Amazon River Expedition, 40 years ago and comes at a moment when this region of pristine biodiversity and ancient civilizations has never been under such threat.

RECENT INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Museu Valencia D'Etnologia - Roses Shipyard - Drassanes Tradicionals Despuig - Dedalo -
Factum Arte - Irehom -Render - Estee - October Gallery - Bibliotheca Alexandrina -
Remi Rent - Tucker Designs - Dsire - Fundacio Matutu - Global Ecotechnics

PAST FUNDERS

Detroit Diesel - Northern Lights / Alaska Diesel - Jotun Paints - Roberto Ricci - Sika - Global Ecotechnics -
Birdwood Downs, Australia (sister project) - October Gallery London (sister project) - Shell Oil Oman -
Shell Oil Australia - Carrefour Oman - Whole Foods USA



THE REBUILD

- 75 tons of ready mix polymer cement
- Paint, 2 component epoxy for hull/deck/steel 630 m2
- Deutz/Sole diesel marine engine 300 HP
- New propeller shaft
- New high efficiency propeller
- Solar panels
- Wind turbine
- Anchoring system, 600 feet of 19mm galvanized anchor chain
- 2 x 400 lbs Danforth anchors
- New, improved design of standing and running rigging: sails, masts, ropes etc.
- Diesel generators, 2 x 10 kw, 3 phase
- Dive compressor
- 4 Sets of scuba dive gear
- Small boat, hard-bottom inflatable
- Aluminum tender
- Outboard engines 2 x 25 HP, 1 x 40 HP
- Radar range 32 nm
- Depth sounder
- Chart Plotter/GPS/electronic charts
- Communication Systems: VHF, SSB and Satellite Telephone
- Emergency Diesel Deck Pump 3”
- Emergency Systems: Liferaft, Epirb, Life rings, Lights, Signals, Lifejackets, fire extinguishers





TEAM

- Claus Tober, Captain, Germany
- Kathelin Gray, Ecotechnics Maritime (EM), USA
- John Allen (FLS) , Expedition Chief Emeritus (EM), USA
- Manno Franca, Director EM, Brasil
- Eidmantas Tiukis Bugailiskis, Crew, Lithuania
- Eirini Charalampous, Crew, Cyprus
- Incila Oezmert, Crew, Turkey
- David Anderson, Crew, USA
- Dr. Bibiane Van Langshot, Crew, Netherlands
- Dr. Barbara Stoeckigt, Crew, Germany
- Natalie Harrison, Crew, UK
- Christine Handte, Expedition Chief, Germany
- Dr. Mark Nelson, Chairman Institute of Ecotechnics, USA
- William Freddy Dempster, Engineering, USA
- Ian Goodfella, Architect London, Director EM, UK
- Inesa Rameikaite, Crew, Lithuania
- Lilly Kyser-Taylor, Crew, USA
- German De Los Heros, Mechanic, Argentina
- Nigel Irons, Crew, UK
- Klaus-Peter Eiberle, Captain, Antarctic Expedition, Germany
- Dirk Sikken, Crew, Germany
- Aiyana Tober Harrison, future Crew, Catalonia





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Thank you very much

