

PROJECT AKIS

Underwater Archaeology Field School

Aci Castello (CT) 3 - 24 september 2017

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THE AREA

Inside the Ciclopi Islands Natural Marine Reserve, the seabed between Capo Mulini and Punta Aguzza has never been studied or investigated systematically so far. Several evidences has been identified that can be dated from the period of the Greek colonies to our days. The ancient Akis, after which we named our project, is located in a suggestive contest, thanks to the famous volcano Etna, the near medieval castle and the Ciclopi islands which, according to legend, were hurled by Poliphemus against Ulysses' ship.



THE PROJECT

Under the scientific direction of the Soprintendenza del Mare, the systematic underwater researches in the municipality of Aci Castello (CT) are going to start this year with the first campaign. The purpose of the project is to map every single archaeological element located between the coastline and the bathymetry of -25 m: this will allow the identification of the anchorage areas and the probable landing places related to the urban centers on the coastline.



ACTIVITIES

The field school is aimed at professional archaeologists, students and whoever is interested in underwater archaeology. The work will be organized in many steps: theoretical and practical training, extensive underwater surveys (in particular systematic prospectings of the seabed using innovative technologies), study, photographic and digital record of every finding and final processing of the results. Participants will be divided in teams that will take turns for dives and other activities while constantly supervised by our specialists, so that they can both enjoy every phase of the field school and learn how to teamwork in underwater archaeology. One of the purpose of the field school, beyond the scientific and educational ones, is to organize in the future, in addition to the basic courses, specific sessions with the students which have already taken part to the basic course and is, for this reason, already prepared for other intensive activities. At the end of the course, every participant will get the Archaeology Diver W.a.s.e license and a certificate of participation from the Soprintendenza del Mare.

