



VOLOS MUNICIPALITY

ARGO
© VOLOS MUNICIPALITY

the modern Argo

The reconstruction of the mythical Argo, the emblem of the city of Volos, was a challenge for the Municipality, aiming at regenerating the myth. This challenge has been fulfilled through a project with the scientific assistance of Navdomos Institute and the experience of local ship carpenters. The outcome of the project was a realistic version of a 50 oared prehistoric ship of the 14th century b.c. belonging to the typology of the Mainland Naval School, mentioned as "long ships" by Homer himself.

During the construction processes, lasted from 2004 until 2007, ancient shipbuilding techniques were applied and replicas of prehistoric bronze tools were used, in a limited extend.

After the required training of the crew, an experimental, eight weeks, 650 miles, sail was held, testing both the ship and the crew in tough weather conditions and other difficulties and approving the feasibility of such a huge naval operation, such as the Argonaut Expedition.

Nowadays, the new Argo, property of the City of Volos, has taken her place at the starting port of the mythical expedition, participating in the top events of the city and accessible to every visitor.

The physical presence of Argo keeps the old myth alive preserving a precious piece of the world heritage, irrespective of culture, place and time and continues to unite with Volos, all the stopover places along her adventurous journey.

it's true!

VolosPelion

www.volosinfo.gr

Volos Information Centre
Tel: +30 2421030930
email: voloinfo@otenet.gr
Volos Municipality 2013

"In our region, Volos & Pelion, the myth is still alive."

Legend says that in the port of Volos, Jason, the Argonauts and Argo set sail to find the Golden Fleece.

It's true. Even today in Volos, modern Argonauts live and experience everyday the myth in the form of sea-sport activities, sailing and marine activities.

Volos,
City of the Argonauts

GREECE

it's true!

VolosPelion

50 [argonauts oars]

Mast

Height: 8 m
Material: Fir for elasticity reasons

Sail

Area: 55 sq. m.
Material: Woven Sailcloth

Support

Clamps with ropes and sailors knots

Timber

keel - beech
bow - oak
planking - pine
mast - fir

Stern

Section of the deck detached from the Clashing Rocks

Bow

The Goddess Athena adjusted to the bow a piece of wood from the sacred oak of Dodona which had the ability to speak and tell the future

Length

28,5 m.

Width

4,3 m.

External Height

4,3 m.

Construction connected by mortise, tenon and pegs. The brass was expensive and rare material not used nails.



the Myth

The Myth of the Argonauts, the first major naval campaign of the Greeks, was set back to the Bronze Age and is directly related to Iolcos, the dominant city in the shearwater of Pagasitikos Golf, where nowadays, the modern city of Volos is located.

Jason's father was Aeson, the King of Iolcos. Eager for the throne, Aeson's stepbrother Pelias forced Aeson out of power and acclaimed himself King of Iolcos. Young Jason, was expelled away to Pelion mountain where the wise centaur Chiron became his tutor and guardian. Years after, Jason coming down to Iolcos to claim, rightfully, the throne, he lost one of his sandals, crossing the torrent Anavros. Pelias recalled an old oracle saying that a man with one sandal would be the reason for his end. Thus he promised Jason the throne under the condition of a risky mission, expecting that he would never managed to come back. He asked Jason to go to the distant Colchis, in the kingdom of Aea and bring him the Golden Fleece, which ensured wealth and power to its holder. It was the magic pelt of the winged ram, which carried Frixos and Elle, over the Black Sea, according to the myth.



Jason accepted the challenge and the famous ship carpenter Argos, built a very fast and lightweight ship using timber from mountain Pelion named after him as "Argo". The goddess Athena, protector of Jason, adjusted to the bow a piece of wood from the sacred oak of Dodona, who had the magical ability to speak and predict the future.

Jason recruited 50 of the best princes and heroes, such as the famous Hercules, coming from all Greek cities. That's why Argonaut Expenditure considered as the first joint venture of the Greeks.

The journey of the Argonauts had many adventures and difficulties to overcome. They passed by Lemnos, Samothrace, Cyzicus (in Troy) and arrived in Mysia in southern Marmara. Then they sailed to the coast of Thrace and with the help of seer Phineas they passed the Clashing Rocks at the edge of Bosphorus to the Black Sea and finally arrived in Colchis, the capital of Aea.

King Aeetes imposed to Jason feats to overcome unachievable for a human, as a condition to give him the Golden Fleece. With the aid of Medea, daughter of Aeetes, Jason took the Golden Fleece and the Argonauts started the journey back along with Medea, who fell in love with Jason. After a long, adventurous journey, they returned to Iolcos.

Jason reigned many years in Iolcos with Medea and their children, to their tragic end described in the famous tragedy by Euripides. From ancient times until today, the myth of the Argo and the Argonauts, enjoyed a universal appeal and served as an inspiration for many works of art that kept the myth alive.