

Do you want to acquire/improve your archaeological skills through excavation at a prehistoric mountaintop city and sanctuary in Greece?

KARPHI REVISITED

Excavation at the highest-known ancient settlement site in the Aegean (c. 1200-1000 BC) incorporating an earlier sanctuary (c. 1900-1700 BC)

10 June-20 July 2024 (or a 3-week block 10-29 June or 1-20 July)

Directors: Dr Saro Wallace (Senior Research Fellow, Gerda-Henkel-Stiftung 2021-4); Professor Krzysztof Nowicki (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences).

We need tough and fit archaeology students to take part in our 2024 team at Karphi, Crete (1140m above sea level) in return for an exceptional experience, including advanced training accredited using the Archaeology Skills Passport.

Essential information:

Shared accommodation and €15 per day food weekday allowance are provided. We offer weekend guided trips to sites of interest.

Students must have completed the second year of an archaeology degree.

See our website at www.karphi-revisited-excavation-project.webnode.com

An international team using permission from the Greek Ministry of Culture through the Polish Archaeological Institute in Athens is investigating the unique, world-famous site of Karphi in east central Crete, first excavated in the 1930s. Results of recent new excavations are published in S. Wallace 2020, *Karphi Revisited* (British School at Athens). A five-year project of extensive excavation started in 2023.

You will need to provide your own transport (combination of car, taxi, or bus) to the village of Tzermiado at the start and end of your participation block. Lasithi has **no public transport to the coast** except expensive private taxis and all trips to the coast/beach are at the discretion of the project directors (and incur a participation fee). Thus, we recommend scheduling any beach holidays before or after your participation!

Further details:

Notable characteristics of the Karphi site are its high altitude and the lack of any road access; the road ends half an hour from the nearest village, at the end of a 25-minute hike with gradients of 1:1 to 1:2. Set in the austere landscape of the Selena Mountains, on three peaks of the range, it overlooks the spectacular Lasithi plain, the largest upland plateau in Crete, which has a colourful agricultural use and charming villages, several of which our team stay in. Many expected features of an ancient Cretan site - beaches, palaces, olive groves - are absent. This is because Karphi, like more than a hundred sites now known to have been founded across Crete around 1200 BC, was a brand-new settlement foundation connected to the collapse of the Bronze Age Aegean palatial civilisation. The period c. 1200 BC saw remarkable mobility of settlement across Crete, the Aegean islands and the mainland, often away from the coast, and the relative fragmentation of existing social entities. New settlements, with a wide variety of sizes and layouts, often suggest interest in defence, either through fortification, advantageous positioning, or natural defences. Karphi has all these characteristics, in more extreme versions than the neighbouring site of Papoura. The latter continued after Karphi's abandonment in a burnt destruction to become the main state-type polity (*polis*) of the region to 700 BC.

In the Middle Bronze Age, from c. 1900 BC, the spectacular Karphi peak was used as an open-air cult place for the region: we are exploring remains associated with this too. The wider area is rich in visible archaeological sites of diverse periods, including prehistoric cult and burial caves, ancient towns and villages, monasteries and the remains of traditional farming landscapes.

We are exploring the settlement in three main areas, including a large zone not previously excavated, a zone where there are underlying remains associated with the Middle Bronze Age sanctuary, and a zone containing an isolated building with possible specialised public use.

Applicants should expect to take part in a Zoom or personal interview prior to acceptance and to supply a CV showing evidence of past high initiative in and commitment to work and study situations. **High physical fitness** including a healthy BMI is needed for the daily climb to the site (with equipment). An adaptable attitude and excellent teamworking skills are essential for successful participation.

Activities in which you will train and take part include:

Excavation, planning and surveying

Pottery processing

Visitor interaction/guiding/outreach

Archaeobotanical and faunal finds processing

Creative and reflective activities related to the site and landscape

Please contact Dr Saro Wallace at sarowallace@hotmail.com. Places will be allocated by the end of May 2024. If we have too many good applicants, participation can be scheduled for 2025.