

# Antikythera

Coordinates: 35°52′N 23°18′E

**Antikythera** (/ˌæntɪkɪˈθirə/<sup>[2]</sup>) or **Anticythera** (Greek: Αντικύθηρα [andiˈciθira]<sup>[note 1]</sup>) is a Greek island lying on the edge of the Aegean Sea, between Crete and Peloponnese. In antiquity the island was known as ***Aigilia*** (Αιγιλία). Since the 2011 local government reform it is part of the municipality of Kythira island.<sup>[3]</sup>

Antikythera may also refer to the Kythira-Antikythera Strait, through which Mediterranean water enters the Sea of Crete.<sup>[4]</sup>

Its land area is 20.43 square kilometres (7.89 square miles),<sup>[5]</sup> and it lies 38 kilometres (24 miles) south-east of Kythira. It is the most distant part of the Attica region from its heart in the Athens metropolitan area. It is lozenge-shaped, 10.5 km (6.5 mi) NNW to SSE by 3.4 km (2.1 mi) ENE to WSW. It is notable for being the location of the discovery of the Antikythera mechanism and for the historical Antikythera wreck.

Its main settlement and port is Potamós (pop. 34 inhabitants in the 2011 census). The only other settlements are Galanianá (pop. 15), and Charchalianá (pop. 19). Antikythera is periodically visited by the Ablemon Nautical Company ferry *F/B Ionis* on its route between Piraeus (Athens) and Kissamos-Kastelli on Crete.

## History

The earliest known inhabitants (5th or 4th millennium BC) were likely seasonal hunters who traveled there to exploit the presence of migratory birds. The population of the island then changed frequently as it was settled and abandoned several times, including a period of significant influence by Cretan culture during the Bronze Age.<sup>[6]</sup> In antiquity, the island of Antikythera was known as Aegilia or Aigilia (Αιγιλία), Aegila or Aigila (Αἴγυλα),<sup>[7]</sup> or Ogylos (Ὠγυλος).<sup>[8][9]</sup>

Between the 4th and 1st centuries BC, it was used as a base by a group of Cilician pirates until their destruction by Pompey the Great. Their fort can still be seen atop a cliff to

### Antikythera

#### Αντικύθηρα



Antikythera's harbour Potamos



Coordinates: 35°52′N 23°18′E

Country	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> Greece
Administrative region	Attica
Regional unit	Islands
Municipality	Kythira
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Municipal unit	20.43 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> (7.89 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi)
Population <span>(2011)</span> <sup>[1]</sup>	
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Municipal unit	68
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Municipal unit density	3.3/km <sup>2</sup> (8.6/sq <span> </span> mi)
Time zone	UTC+2 (EET)
<span> </span> • <span> </span> Summer (DST)	UTC+3 (EEST)
Postal code	801 00



Antikythera Ephebe; bronze  
c. 340–330 BC, [National  
Archaeological Museum of  
Athens](#)

the northeast of the island. The archaeology of the island has been thoroughly surveyed and the data made openly available for further study.<sup>[10]</sup>

<b>Area code(s)</b>	27360
<b>Vehicle registration</b>	Z
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.antikythera.gr">www.antikythera.gr</a> (http://www.antikythera.gr)

Antikythera is one of the few islands in the Aegean which were never ruled by the [Ottoman Empire](#), as the Ottomans did not consider the small island a worthwhile conquest. Nevertheless, it was noted on Ottoman maps as *Küçük Çuha*, a name that has persisted in modern Turkish.

Antikythera, known as *Cerigotto* in Italian, was administered by the Venetians as part of the [Ionian Islands](#), despite being several hundred kilometres away from the main Ionian archipelago. The Venetians held out in Antikythera until 1800 while the rest of the Ionian Islands had fallen to [Napoleonic France](#) in 1797. It became a British protectorate in 1815 as part of the [United States of the Ionian Islands](#). The island was then ceded to Greece under the [Treaty of London \(1864\)](#).

From 1864 to 1912, Antikythera was the southernmost point of Greece, as Crete and the surrounding islands including Gavdos were then part of the Ottoman Empire.

Antikythera is most famous for being the location of the 1900 discovery of the Antikythera wreck,<sup>[11]</sup> from which the [Antikythera Ephebe](#) and [Antikythera mechanism](#) were recovered. The Antikythera mechanism is an ancient [mechanical calculator](#) (sometimes described as the first mechanical computer) designed to calculate astronomical positions which has been dated to about 205 BC.<sup>[12][13]</sup> Technological artifacts of similar complexity did not reappear until a thousand years later.

## Fauna

---

Antikythera is a very important stop-over site for migratory birds during their seasonal movements, due to its geographical position and certain features (a longitudinal island, with a north–south direction and very low human impact).<sup>[14]</sup> Furthermore, the island hosts the largest breeding colony of [Eleonora's falcon](#) (*Falco eleonora*) in the world.<sup>[15]</sup> The importance of Antikythera for studying [bird migration](#) led to the creation of [Antikythera Bird Observatory](#) (A.B.O) by the [Hellenic Ornithological Society](#). The island, along with its associated islets, has been recognised as an [Important Bird Area](#) (IBA) by [BirdLife International](#).<sup>[16]</sup> The island also has a large population of wild goats.<sup>[17]</sup>

## Climate Observation Center (PANGEA)

---

Following an agreement among European Investment Bank, the Kithira-Antikithira Commission of Inland Property, the National Observatory of Athens,<sup>[18]</sup> the Municipality and the Greek Public, a total fund of 25m euros will be used to install one of the largest Climate Observatory Centers in Europe. The project has also gained the support of Cosmote and Niarchos Foundation.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Notable people

---

- Andreas Anagnostakis (1826–1897) physician

## References

---

1. Romanization: *Antikíthira*  
Ancient Greek pronunciation: [antikýtʰɛ:ra]  
lit. 'opposite Kíthira'
1. "Απογραφή Πληθυσμού - Κατοικιών 2011. ΜΟΝΙΜΟΣ Πληθυσμός" ([http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1210503/resident\\_population\\_census2011rev.xls](http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/1210503/resident_population_census2011rev.xls)) (in Greek). Hellenic Statistical Authority.
2. "Antikythera" (<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/Antikythera>). *Dictionary.com Unabridged* (Online). n.d.
3. "ΦΕΚ Β 1292/2010, Kallikratis reform municipalities" ([http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wGYK2xFpSwMnXdtvSoClrL81-32jgAMSfbnMRVjyfnPUeJInJ48\\_97uHrMts-zFzeyCiBSQOpYnT00MHhcXFRTsb2fGphpq4MKX2ZkaHobySNnvZCNHXvYVvlf80XevW0Q.](http://www.et.gr/idocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wGYK2xFpSwMnXdtvSoClrL81-32jgAMSfbnMRVjyfnPUeJInJ48_97uHrMts-zFzeyCiBSQOpYnT00MHhcXFRTsb2fGphpq4MKX2ZkaHobySNnvZCNHXvYVvlf80XevW0Q.)) (in Greek). *Government Gazette*.
4. Peter Saundry, C. Michael Hogan & Steve Baum. 2011. *Sea of Crete*. *Encyclopedia of Earth*. Eds.M.Pidwirny & C.J.Cleveland. National Council for Science and Environment. Washington DC. ([http://www.eoearth.org/article/Sea\\_of\\_Crete?topic=49523](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Sea_of_Crete?topic=49523))
5. "Population & housing census 2001 (incl. area and average elevation)" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20150921212047/http://dlib.statistics.gr/Book/GRESYE\\_02\\_0101\\_00098%20.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20150921212047/http://dlib.statistics.gr/Book/GRESYE_02_0101_00098%20.pdf)) (PDF) (in Greek). National Statistical Service of Greece. Archived from the original ([http://dlib.statistics.gr/Book/GRESYE\\_02\\_0101\\_00098%20.pdf](http://dlib.statistics.gr/Book/GRESYE_02_0101_00098%20.pdf)) (PDF) on 21 September 2015.
6. Bevan, A.; Conolly, J.; Tsaravopoulos, A. (2008). "The fragile communities of Antikythera" (<https://doi.org/10.5334%2Fai.1007>). *Archaeology International*. **10**: 32–36. doi:10.5334/ai.1007 (<https://doi.org/10.5334%2Fai.1007>).
7.  Smith, William, ed. (1854–1857). "Aegilia". *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Geography*. London: John Murray.
8. Richard Talbert, ed. (2000). *Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*. Princeton University Press. p. 57, and directory notes accompanying.
9. Stephanus of Byzantium, *Ethnica*, O706.3 (<https://topostext.org/work/241#O706.3>)
10. Bevan, A.; Conolly, J. (2012). "Intensive Survey Data from Antikythera, Greece" (<https://doi.org/10.5334%2F4f3bcb3f7f21d>). *Journal of Open Archaeology Data*. **1** (1): e3. doi:10.5334/4f3bcb3f7f21d (<https://doi.org/10.5334%2F4f3bcb3f7f21d>).
11. Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Cerigotto" ([https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911\\_Encyclop%C3%A6dia\\_Britannica/Cerigotto](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Cerigotto)). *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Vol. 5 (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press. p. 761.
12. Carman, Christian; Evans, James (15 November 2014). "On the epoch of the Antikythera mechanism and its eclipse predictor". *Archive for History of Exact Sciences*. **68** (6): 693–774. doi:10.1007/s00407-014-0145-5 (<https://doi.org/10.1007%2Fs00407-014-0145-5>). S2CID 120548493 (<https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:120548493>).

13. Sample, Ian (12 March 2021). "Scientists may have solved ancient mystery of 'first computer' " (<http://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/mar/12/scientists-move-closer-to-solving-mystery-of-antikythera-mechanism>). *The Guardian*. Retrieved 13 March 2021.
14. [The Importance of Antikythera](http://www.ornithologiki.gr/en/osa/antikythera.php) (<http://www.ornithologiki.gr/en/osa/antikythera.php>)
15. Dimalexis, A; Xirouchakis, S; Portolou, D; Latsoudis, P; Karris, G; Georgiakakis, P; Fric, J; Barboutis, C; Bourdakis, S; Ivovič, M; Kominos, T; Kakalis, E (2008). "Breeding distribution and population status of the Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonora*) in Greece". *Journal of Ornithology*. **149**: 23–30. doi:10.1007/s10336-007-0207-4 (<https://doi.org/10.1007%2Fs10336-007-0207-4>). S2CID 42039520 (<https://api.semanticscholar.org/CorpusID:42039520>).
16. "Antikythera island and surrounding islets" (<http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/antikythera-island-and-surrounding-islets-iba-greece>). *BirdLife Data Zone*. BirdLife International. 2022. Retrieved 27 December 2022.
17. "Κοινότητα Αντικυθήρων" ([https://web.archive.org/web/20151007180223/http://www.antikythera.gr/en/culture/articles/agios\\_miron.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20151007180223/http://www.antikythera.gr/en/culture/articles/agios_miron.html)). Archived from the original ([http://antikythera.gr/en/culture/articles/agios\\_miron.html](http://antikythera.gr/en/culture/articles/agios_miron.html)) on 7 October 2015. Retrieved 7 March 2017.
18. "Press Release of NAO" ([http://www.noa.gr/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1266:deltio-typou-deltio-typou-kai-egeneto-fos-sta-antikythera-ksekinise-i-leitourgia-tou-paratiritiriou-geopistimon-kai-klimatikis-allagis-antikythron-paggiaia-tou-ethnikoy-asteroskopeiou-athinon&catid=103:nea-programmaton&lang=el&Itemid=428](http://www.noa.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1266:deltio-typou-deltio-typou-kai-egeneto-fos-sta-antikythera-ksekinise-i-leitourgia-tou-paratiritiriou-geopistimon-kai-klimatikis-allagis-antikythron-paggiaia-tou-ethnikoy-asteroskopeiou-athinon&catid=103:nea-programmaton&lang=el&Itemid=428)).
19. "Published Article on European Research Council" (<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/stories/%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%BA%CF%81o-%CE%BD%CE%B7%CF%83i-%CE%BC%CE%B5-%CF%84%CE%BF%CE%BD-%CE%BC%CE%B5%CE%B3a%CE%BB%CE%BF-%CE%B1%CE%BD%CF%84i%CE%BA%CF%84%CF%85%CF%80%CE%BF-%CF%83%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD-e%CF%81%CE%B5%CF%85%CE%BD%CE%B1-%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1-%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD-%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B9%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BAh-%CE%B1%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B1%CE%B3h>).

## External links

---

- [Antikythera audio pronunciation](http://howjsay.com/index.php?word=antikythera) (<http://howjsay.com/index.php?word=antikythera>)
  - [Official website of the Antikythera Community](https://web.archive.org/web/20141020053001/http://www.antikythera.gr/en/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20141020053001/http://www.antikythera.gr/en/>) (in Greek and English)
  - [The "Return to Antikythera" Dive Official Website](http://antikythera.who.edu) (English) (<http://antikythera.who.edu>)
  - [The Antikythera \(Archaeological\) Survey Project](https://web.archive.org/web/20140731214902/http://www.antikytheraexcavation.gr/) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20140731214902/http://www.antikytheraexcavation.gr/>) (Website in Greek)
  - [Antikythera Bird Observatory](http://www.ornithologiki.gr/gr/osa) (<http://www.ornithologiki.gr/gr/osa>) (Greek Text)
- 

Retrieved from "<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Antikythera&oldid=1156204351>"