

# The Byzantine Aegean: A Connecting Sea

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**POSTPONED – New date to be announced soon.**

The Aegean Sea has been a center of states and empires for millennia, acting as a bridge, a transition, or a barrier for the complex coasts and islands that define it. For the Byzantine Empire, the sea was also a heartland, a link to an imagined and idealized past, and a geographic passage between the wider Mediterranean and the Black Sea. For the centuries between Late Antiquity and the Medieval era, however, these shifting values were accompanied by dramatic changes in the Byzantine Empire itself – constant shifts in its boundaries, and serious alterations in state structure, human activity, and settlement patterns. Characterized by its maritime environment, the different islands and coastal areas of the Aegean therefore played crucial roles in economic, social, cultural and political interactions.

Archaeological research has revealed a broad spectrum of material culture that sheds light on various aspects of life in the Byzantine-era Aegean, as well as its social landscape in this period of transformation. In particular, evidence about the development of seafaring and harbour infrastructure – as gateways for communication and movement into this mutable environment – offer unique insights about the increasingly complicated maritime world of Late Antiquity.

Zoom lecture registration:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdeqqpzMiEtJ3lh\\_cns3cJQntlmSHDac6](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdeqqpzMiEtJ3lh_cns3cJQntlmSHDac6)

