

KENCHREAI COASTAL AND MARINE SURVEY 2026 ARCHAEOLOGY AND PALEOENVIRONMENT IN GREECE

Directed by Joseph L. Rife, Vanderbilt University

Kenchreai, the port of Corinth on the Aegean Sea, was one of the busiest harbors in southeastern Europe for over a millennium, a beacon on the horizon between land and sea. Frequent ships arrived from distant lands bringing travelers of diverse backgrounds and a bountiful cargo of wine, spices, marble, and exotic goods. Kenchreai flourished for centuries as a crossroads where Greeks, Romans, and easterners lived together in prosperity. Their deities came from all over the world. They possessed not only one of the most famous mystery-cults of the Egyptian goddess Isis, but also one of the oldest Christian congregations in Greece, nurtured by St. Paul. The port contended with the wrath of Poseidon, always shifting with the vicissitudes of the sea and exposed to sudden disasters that could transform the coastline.

Kenchreai was a node of transience, a place of vibrant pluralism but also rapid change.



The **Kenchreai Coastal and Marine Survey (KCMS)** is a four-week summer program that introduces students to the archaeology and natural environment of ancient Greece through field research on an interdisciplinary team of premier scholars. The only program of its kind to combine intensive exploration on both land and at sea, KCMS offers to students at any level a unique opportunity to learn about the past first-hand at one of Greece's most spectacular sites.

Employing state-of-the-art techniques, our goal is to uncover the ancient harbor basin at Kenchreai, the port-town; to reconstruct the paleoenvironment, and to explore the unknown seascape of submerged harborworks and shipwrecks in the westernmost Aegean Sea.

Student team members of KCMS will be trained to engage in various activities: archaeological survey and excavation; artifactual study; drilling, geological survey, and geophysical remote-sensing; and underwater excavation and survey. They will attend seminars led by experts in, for example, pottery, ancient ships, environmental and climate history, and earthquakes. Weekend trips are planned to major sites and museums in the region, such as Corinth, Perachora, Mycenae, Nemea, and Nafplion. The team stays at a comfortable beach hotel near the site.

COST: The participation fee of **\$4,900** covers all educational program expenses and weekly room/board over the program's duration. Airfare to/from Athens, trainfare to/from Corinth, certain weekend meals, and incidental expenses are not included.

DATES: **May 22-June 21, 2026**

APPLICATION: available upon request

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PROF. RIFE AT joseph.rife@vanderbilt.edu.