

Aegean Archipelaogos Mediterranean Sea

Greece has one of the longest coastlines in the world – almost 16.000km.

Aegean Sea, Greek **Aigaíon Pélagos**, a part of the **Mediterranean Sea**, is located between the Greek peninsula on the west and Asia Minor on the east. About 380 miles (612 km) long and 186 miles (299 km) wide, it has a total area of some 83,000 square miles (215,000 square km). The maximum depth of the Aegean is found east of Crete, where it reaches 11,627 feet (3,544 metres).

The island of **Crete**, which is the 5th largest island in the Mediterranean and the centre of ancient Greek **Minoan civilization**, can be taken as marking its boundary on the south. Throughout the Aegean area, numerous Greek islands large and small emerge from its deep blue waters.

Also, the islands of **Thera (Santorini)** and **Melos (Milos)**, in the south Aegean, are particularly interesting. During the 1970s, Thera in particular became a topic of major international scientific importance, having been linked with a possible explanation of the ancient legend of the lost island of **Atlantis**. Thera, has a **volcano** that was last active in 1925.

Generally, **marine life** in the Aegean Sea is very rich and similar to that of the northern area of the western basin of the Mediterranean.

